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**MS-831: Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation Records, 1980–2008.**  
Series B: Commission on Jewish Education in North America (CJENA). 1980–1993.  
Subseries 2: Commissioner and Consultant Biographical Files, 1987–1993.

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Box  
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Lamm, Norman, 1988-1989.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
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Commissioner Contact Sheet

Name Norman Lamm Assigned to AH  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Off. phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Telex \_\_\_\_\_

Comments Influential, President of Yeshiva University,  
interested in Personnel - re YU training function

Date	Nature of Contact/Status	Next Steps/Action Needed
7/10/88	AH visit - Pre 8/1 interview	
8/3/88	AH Phonecall - Follow up on 8/1	
10/17/88	AH Phonecall - Pre 12/13 inter.	
12/9/88	AH visit - Pre 12/13 discussion	
4/3/89	AH wait - ci de	AH will visit 4/89

COMMISSIONER CONTACT SHEET

Name Norman Lamm Assigned to AH  
Mailing Address Yeshiva University  
500 West 185th Street Off. phone 212-960-5280  
New York, NY 10033 Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Telex \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments Influential, President of Yeshiva University, interested in personnel -  
YU training function

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**Mandel  
Associated  
Foundations**

1750 Euclid Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44115 • (216) 566-9200

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Jack N. and Lilyan Mandel Fund  
Joseph C. and Florence Mandel Fund  
Morton L. and Barbara Mandel Fund

June 21, 1988

COPY

Dear Dr. Lamm:

I am pleased that you will be serving as a member of the Commission on Jewish Education in North America and look forward to working with you in my capacity as director.

With the first Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, August 1, my colleagues and I are actively involved in meeting preparations. At that meeting we would like to distribute a brief biographical sketch of each commissioner. I would appreciate your sending me information on your background. Please send it, as soon as possible, to Premier Industrial Foundation, 4500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103.

You can expect to hear from me regularly during the months ahead. If you have any questions or comments about the Commission, I can be reached at (216) 391-8300.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Naparstek

Dr. Norman Lamm  
President  
Yeshiva University  
500 West 185th Street  
New York, NY 10033

THE COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION EDUCATION IN NORTH AMERICA  
FOLLOWING-UP ON THE FIRST MEETING:

PHONE CALLS WITH COMMISSIONERS.

1.COMMISSIONER: NORMAN LAMM

2.PHONER: ANNETTE HOCHSTEIN

3.DATE: AUGUST 3, 1988

4.SPIRIT: INVOLVED, FACTUAL, PLEASED. LITTLE TRACE OF THE  
ORIGINAL SKEPTICISM. MY FEELING: HE WANTS THIS TO  
SUCCEED.

5.THE CALL:

RABBI LAMM THINKS THE MEETING WAS HANDLED VERY WELL, THOUGH HE  
BELIEVES DAY-LONG MEETINGS ARE NO GOOD. THEY REPRESENT A GENUINE  
SACRIFICE FOR HIM.

HE SUGGESTS THAT WE SHOULD NOW NARROW THE FOCUS TO 5 TOPICS.  
CONCENTRATING ON THE THE TEACHERS. THIS IS THE REAL MAIN  
PRIORITY. NO MATTER HOW IMPORTANT OTHER TOPICS ARE, NONE IS AS  
IMPORTANT AS THIS: UPGRADING TEACHING; TEACHER SALARIES; TRAINING  
INSTITUTIONS.

THE PROCESS TO DECEMBER: WE SHOULD DO THE WORK.  
COMMISSIONERS SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR IDEAS, THEN WHEN WE HAVE  
SUFFICIENT DATA FOR SELECTING TOPICS A LETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO  
ALL TELLING THEM: WE SEEM TO FIND CONSENSUS ON THE FOLLOWING  
TOPICS. THEREFORE WE SUBMIT TO THEIR ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING  
LIST OF PRIORITIES.

RABBI LAMM COMPLAINED ABOUT THE DAY-LONG MEETING, SAYING IN  
ESSENCE THAT THEY REPRESENT TOO GENUINE AND BIG A SACRIFICE. HE  
URGES US TO MAKE MEETINGS SHORTER.

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THE COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION IN NORTH AMERICA  
TOWARDS THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

INTERVIEW OF COMMISSIONER

1. COMMISSIONER: DR. NORMAN LAMM
2. INTERVIEWER: ANNETTE HOCHSTEIN
3. DATE: APRIL 3, 1989
4. SETTING: DR. LAMM'S OFFICE AT YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
5. DURATION: 1 HOUR
6. SUMMARY:

As in previous meetings with Lamm, the conversation centered primarily on what the Commission would yield for the training institutions. The message - essentially unchanged since our first meeting - is : " we must get going. Meetings and talking are time consuming and there has been plenty of that. In the meanwhile we do not have the funds needed to pay our faculty or to give scholarships to our students"...

We discussed possible demonstration sites. We discussed how training programs might be built up and strengthened through their role in training for demonstration centers. Norman Lamm was quite interested in the training possibilities of such projects.

When addressing the content of training (what the training of Jewish educators should consist of), the issue of the goals of education came up. I expected N.L. to deal at this point with the ideas of Centrist Orthodox education. Instead, he chose to make a strong point of the pluralistic nature of YU's Azrieli School of Education: "It is an ideologically neutral program; in fact it is a content-neutral program which concerns itself primarily with administration."

N.L. believes the Commission should immediately undertake a best-practices program, both for seeing what can be replicated and for finding out what works well and is good.

He repeated his view that efforts should be made to develop day-high-schools, because "this is the age when you can most influence the young person". He urged that excellent model-high-schools should be established

Altogether Lamm is supportive of the Commission and its work, but impatient with its process, hoping it will yield concrete outcomes soon.

2300 ✓



15 EAST 26TH STREET · NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010-1578

## TELEFAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

To: Ginny Levi Date: Sept. 20, 1989  
 Fax #: 216-391-8327 Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 From: Art Rotman Re: Visit with Lamm 9/25

Number of pages (including this cover page): 1

Please notify us if transmission is incomplete.

Tel.#: (212) 532-4949

Fax #: (212) 481-4174

After discussion with Seymour Fox, we recommend the following agenda:

1. Brief progress report on the Commission to date.
2. Approaches being made to Schorsch and Gottschalk, as well as Lamm.
3. Main thrust of the meeting:
  - How to involve the Orthodox constituency in the outcome of the Commission's work?
  - In particular, how to involve the Torah U'mesorah schools (the overwhelming majority of all day schools in North America)?
  - What should our approach be?
  - Will we need to explain why they were not involved in the work of the Commission?
  - With whom should we meet?
  - Will they be interested in being involved in Community Action Sites?
  - Etc.
  - Lamm has expressed great interest in getting more resources for training. Can we (should we) give him any encouragement?



15 EAST 28TH STREET · NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010-1579

September 27, 1989

North American Commission on Jewish Education

Meeting with Yeshiva University Chancellor, Rabbi Norman Lamm, on Monday, September 25, at Dr. Lamm's office.

Presence on Commission

Dr. Lamm suggested that each of the three seminary heads be accompanied by their senior staff person having responsibility for Jewish education. In the case of Yeshiva University, this would be Vice Chancellor Bob Hert.

Torah U'Mesorah

Rabbi Lamm endorsed the idea of involving the Torah U'Mesorah Schools in the work of the Commission and its successor. He cautioned that we not try to bring up any ideological questions but rather the approach should be that our only interest is to see to it that, whatever they do, the Commission would try to assist them to do it better.

Hasidim

Each of the Hasidic movements has its own school and in some cases these are very large. These, too, should be involved in the process in the same way as the Torah U'Mesorah Schools. Al Schiff has contact with these schools. It was suggested that, after the October meeting of the Commission, the various heads of each of these Hasidic schools, or at least the larger ones, be brought together. At the same time, we could bring in other representatives of the Orthodox movement, such as the rabbis and synagogue groups. Rabbi organizations are the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. Such a meeting could be convened either by Mort Mandel as the Chairman of the Commission, or Dr. Lamm would be willing to do so. Again, the theme here would be that we are "anxious to help." The total number at the meeting should be between ten and twenty.

In response to Dr. Lamm's question, Mort Mandel described the work of the Cleveland Commission as a model of the Community Action Sites, which the Commission is interested in developing. This would require considerable funding and MLM was confident that it could be done. As to the Commission's successor, this could either be a continuation of the Commission, meeting perhaps once a year to oversee this development, or a separate entity set up for the purpose.





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TELEFAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

To: Ginny Levi Date: Sept. 28, 1989  
Fax #: 216 391 8327 Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
From: Art Rotman Re: Interview with Dr. Lamm

Number of pages (including this cover page): 2

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Tel.#: (212) 532-4949

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Sent to mcm, H12, MG  
VFL, JR, AH

Put in contact book

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