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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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Folder  
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Pollack, Lester, 1988-1990.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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COMMISSIONER CONTACT SHEET

Name Lester Pollack

Assigned to \_\_\_\_\_

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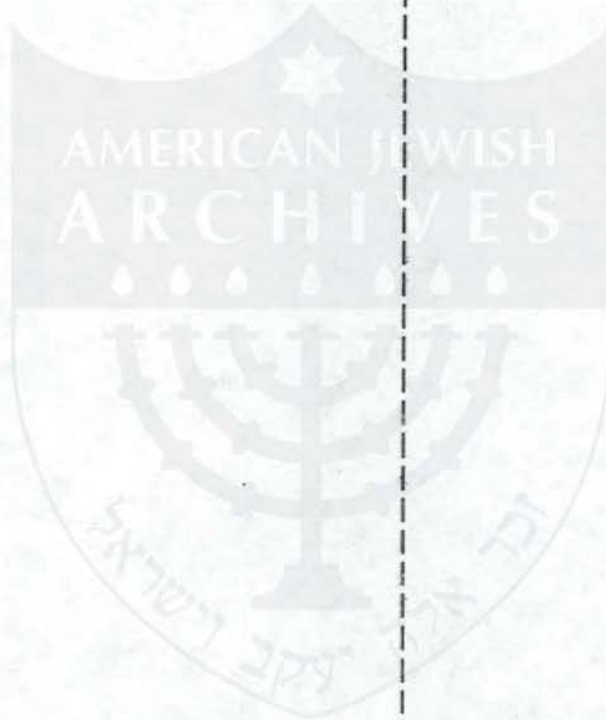
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Date Nature of Contact/Status Next Steps/Action Needed



AJW

AUG 25 1988



15 EAST 26th STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10010

TO: File  
FROM: ARTHUR ROTMAN

DATE: August 15, 1988

Lester Pollack's reactions to August 1st meeting:

He was very impressed with the diversity of the group. He noted a number of new faces - prominent people who normally would not be associated with the topic. The meeting was extremely well handled by the chairman. It is too early to define the end product but certainly the first meeting succeeded in providing the outline of a direction.

Lester hopes that the group will break down into task forces as the present size of the group is too unwieldy for effective interchange.

One of the participants at the meeting spoke several times and was repetitive, which was unfortunate.

Premier Industrial Foundation

4500 EUCLID AVENUE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103

April 25, 1989

Dear Lester:

I am enclosing copies of the tapes of the December 13, 1988 Commission meeting. When you are finished with them, please return them to me.

Congratulations on a successful JWB convention. I found it to be very stimulating. You all did a phenomenal job in putting it together. Looking forward to talking with you soon. My best regards.

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Naparstek  
President

Mr. Lester Pollack  
Lazard Freres & Company  
One Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10020

Enclosures



REPORT ON MEETING WITH LESTER POLLACK, 6/1/89

Submitted by Jonathan Woocher

I met with Lester Pollack in his office. Despite missing the last Commission meeting, Lester appeared very positive about and committed to the work of the Commission.

I reviewed the development of the Commission's agenda, and especially the decision to focus on the areas of personnel and community support. He understood and accepted the rationale for this decision. He raised the question, however, of why, if so many other major substantive areas continue to merit attention, the Commission should not be an ongoing venture. The Commission's goals and the issues of Jewish educational change will remain relevant for quite some time. Therefore, he suggested, the work on personnel and community support might only be the first phase of its activity. He also raised the issue of trying to spawn local replicas of the Commission to continue the work, much in the way in which local JCCs established Maximizing committees after the model of the JWB commission.

I outlined the current thinking regarding a possible mechanism for carrying the work of the Commission into implementation. He strongly agreed that the Commission must produce more than a report. He was less interested in the details of the proposed implementation mechanism. He indicated that at this point he felt the Commission must focus on the substance of what it wishes to say, and that it would be sufficient for Mort to state that the issue of implementation was very much on the minds of the planning group, that a report would not be the final product, and, perhaps, to set up a small group of commissioners to look in more detail at implementation options with a mandate to report back at some subsequent meeting.

He felt that the meeting on June 14 should focus on substance, not process. He suggested that proposed "chapter headings" of a final report be presented by staff for discussion. These would outline the major issues in the two areas the Commission will focus on. Assuming agreement is reached on the topics which the report should cover, he suggested that the Commission subsequently divide into sub-groups, each of which would assume responsibility for one of the major sections. Papers would be prepared for discussion by these groups, and the groups would eventually report back to the Commission as a whole with drafts of the sections.

Lester will be at the Commission meeting on June 14, although he will have to leave at 2:00 pm.

LESTER POLLACK  
ONE ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020

(D)

June 19, 1989

Mr. Morton Mandel  
Premier Industrial Corp.  
4500 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

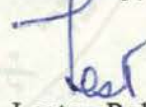
Dear Mort:

I regret that I could not attend the Commission meeting last Thursday. But for an imperative transaction, I had circled the entire day to be with you.

The enclosed press release will indicate what occupied me and prevented me from attending the meeting.

I look forward to being briefed on what took place and to contributing to the work of the Commission in the future.

Sincerely,



Lester Pollack

LP/seb

Enclosure



PAN AM SUBMITS REVISED BID FOR NWA;  
INCLUDES NEW \$200 MILLION EQUITY COMMITMENT

NEW YORK, June 16 -- Pan Am Corporation announced today that it has submitted a revised bid to acquire NWA Inc.

Pan Am said the revised bid includes an additional commitment of \$200 million in equity from Corporate Partners, an investment fund organized by Lazard Freres & Co. and managed by Lester Pollack and Ali E. Wambold. The commitment is in addition to \$400 million in equity commitments made earlier by an investor group comprised of Prudential Bache and the Airlie Group, L.P.

"This new equity has allowed us to make a proposal that is vigorously competitive and attractive to NWA's shareholders, employees and others who have a strong stake in Northwest's long-term future," said Thomas G. Plaskett, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pan Am Corporation. "We are delighted that Corporate Partners shares the view that a Northwest/Pan Am combination makes good business sense."

While Pan Am did not disclose terms of the revised bid, Plaskett said, "We have met with the financial advisors to NWA prior to revising our proposal and believe that our bid addresses the concerns expressed by the special committee of NWA's Board of Directors."

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MORTON L. MANDEL

4500 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103

HLZ ✓  
File ✓

JUL 05 1989

July 3, 1989

Dear Lester:

Thanks for writing me a note recently, advising that you could not attend the last meeting of the Education Commission. The press release you attached to your letter says it all!

We had a good meeting, although we missed you. As you may have heard, we broke the group up into three Discussion Groups, and they each discussed the same agenda and reported back to the Full Plenary at the conclusion of the afternoon. I think we covered a lot of ground, and are moving ahead as vigorously as we can to reach the next milestone. At this point in time, it looks like we will have our final report on or about June 1, 1990.

I hope all goes well otherwise. Let's get together one of these days soon.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

MORTON L. MANDEL

Mr. Lester Pollack  
One Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10020



REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH LESTER POLLACK -- 9/6/89  
By Jon Woocher

Despite missing the last meeting, LP remains very positive about the Commission's direction and especially the notion of the Community Action Sites as catalytic agents for change.

With regard to an implementing mechanism, LP starts with a bias against creating any new Jewish organizations. However, creating an entity with a specific, limited focus, a funding capability, and the mission of providing resources to existing institutions to implement change may not be a bad idea. He would envision this as an "institute for Jewish educational development," national in scope, which would be focused on helping organizations through a targeted learning process and the development of a feedback and networking system.

The JWB Maximizing implementation process may provide a model. Local sites took on different forms and local leadership was kept energized. As a side benefit, even communities not involved as CAS begin to think about the issues.

We need to develop a process roadmap for implementation focusing on the question: how do we energize the communities? JWB's site visits by teams of leaders may be a model. The recommendations must be community-oriented to get action sites to take on action.

The implementing mechanism will have to be proactive to get things going. We can't simply assume that the federation will step forward in each community, but the federation should be the convener.

In general, he prefers to start by seeking the optimal functional ideal, then "scaling down" the process and mechanism to meet real world considerations of turf, etc.

NOTES ON MEETING WITH LESTER POLLACK -- 1/26/90

prepared by Jonathan Woocher

I reviewed the draft recommendations with LP. He was quite supportive of both the general thrust and specifics of the recommendations.

He particularly noted the importance of advocating priority funding for Jewish education even while we meet the immediate crises facing the community.

One area that he urged be emphasized is the need to build lay leadership development into the process of community mobilization (in the community action sites and generally).

With respect to implementation, LP suggested that we think in terms of three phases (using the COMJEE process as a model):

- a) the Commission itself, concluding with its report and recommendations;
- b) an interim period of planning the implementation (which the Commission is not really doing) and testing approaches;
- c) an active implementation phase guided by a permanent implementation body.

I indicated that something like this was being envisioned, which he was pleased to hear.

LP is planning on attending the meeting on 2/14.