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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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Wexner, Leslie, 1988.

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American Jewish Archives website.

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MORTON L. MANDEL

4500 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103

June 23, 1988

Dear Les:

Having been unable to reach you by telephone during the last few days, I thought I would save time by writing to you. I will be in Israel and will not be back until July 5th.

I would like to invite you to join me in a new initiative. The Mandel Associated Foundations is in the process of organizing a Commission on Jewish Education in North America. The Commission will function in cooperation with the JWB and JESNA and in collaboration with the CJF.

The purpose of this Commission is to bring together the best lay and professional minds we can assemble to make a positive impact on the quality of Jewish education in the United States and Canada. The enclosed Design Document should help to clarify the thinking behind the establishment of the Commission.

We believe that Jewish education needs a great deal of improvement if it is to make its appropriate contribution to the constructive continuity of the Jewish people. We believe that our Commission has a good chance to bring about important results, because American Jewish leadership is now sufficiently concerned to make this a high priority, and because there are important new financial resources available for Jewish education if we show how these resources can be utilized to good effect.

I hope that you will serve as a member of this Commission. The Commission will meet four to six times over a period of eighteen months to two years. It will have the benefit of a professional staff and consultants who will do the research directed by the Commission, and staff the Commission and its subgroups. The first meeting of the Commission is scheduled to be held between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 1 at the JWB offices in New York City. In the event that you are interested, please hold that date.

Thus far everyone asked has agreed to serve including  
Mona Ackerman, Mandell Berman, Jack Bieler, Charles Bronfman,  
John Colman, Lester Crown, David Dubin, Stuart Eizenstat, Joshua  
Elkin, Eli Evans, Max Fisher, Alfred Gottschalk, Rabbi Irving  
Greenberg, Robert Hiller, Carol Ingall, Mark Lainer, Norman  
Lamm, Sara Lee, Seymour Martin Lipset, Robert Loup, Matthew  
Maryles, Florence Melton, Donald Mintz, Lester Pollack, Charles  
Ratner, Harriet Rosenthal, Esther Leah Ritz, Alvin Schiff, Ismar  
Schorsh, Daniel Shapiro, Yitzak Twersky, and Bennett Yanowitz.

I know that you can be an important addition to the work of the  
Commission and I hope that you will wish to participate. I will  
be in touch with you following my return from Israel.

Sincerely,



MORTON L. MANDEL

Mr. Leslie Wexner  
Wexner Foundation  
25 East 78th Street  
New York, NY 10021

Enclosure

