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Marc H. Tanenbaum and Meir Kahane on "Sherrye Henry Show"

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SHERRYE HENRY: -- Jewish law. He is certainly talked about in Israel and in this country; according to the New York Times in a piece about him recently, he is one of the most talked-about Israeli politicians. This morning we're going to hear from the rabbi, and we're also going to hear from a representative of those in this country who disagree with his views. Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum on the American Jewish Committee. All that after this, on WOR Radio 710. I'm Sherry Henry. Of course, everybody remembers we're going to be in Flemington on Wednesday. That is New Jersey Day. Please come out and see us, live, right there, broadcasting from the town of Flemington. Well, Rabbi Meir Kahane -- it's his turn now. He is going to be followed, as I said earlier, by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum. The Jewish leadership of the country does not want to sit in the studio with Rabbi Kahane, so we're setting this up so it's a serial broadcast. Rabbi Kahane was kind enough to come [01:00] here, and he is first today. Your recent policies -- and let me just give a quick quote so everybody knows where we are. "I don't say we have to do something about the Arabs.

I say we have a problem, and here's my answer: throw them out." Tell the listeners here in this country why you say that.

MEIR KAHANE: Because there is a terrible problem. It's a problem that the Jewish leadership, which does not want to sit in the same room with me, simply doesn't want to get across to Jewish people, or to anyone else. The problem is that the state of Israel was created as a Jewish state. Now, a Jewish state means at a very minimum, a state with a majority of Jews; otherwise it's not a Jewish state. For 2,000 years we suffered as a minority. And so Hertzl and other leaders arose and created Zionism. Which was -- let the Jews have their own country where they can be masters of their own fate and sovereignty. Now, that means a majority. But [Western?] democracy means -- it doesn't matter who you are; [02:00] if you're Jewish, or non-Jewish, or Jewish, whoever is the majority is the majority. The problem is that the Arabs in Israel are multiplying at a tremendous rate. So the question that I throw out -- and this is why Rabbi Tanenbaum won't sit in this room with me, because I would turn and ask him this question: You, as a Democrat, would you be prepared to allow the Arabs, through democracy, through coexistence, peacefully, through Judaism as you see it, to be a majority, and do away with a Jewish

state through babies rather than through bullets? So I say no. I say no. If there is a contradiction, and there is, then after 2,000 years, I choose Zionism. I choose a Jewish state, and I want the Arabs out. I don't hate Arabs. I love Jews.

HENRY: Rabbi, there's another way, isn't there? You can take the occupied territories and work out the Camp David accords and somehow or other allow those Arabs, those Palestinians, [03:00] their own land, and then they won't be voting members of the state of Israel and you won't be outnumbered.

KAHANE: Well, leaving aside --

HENRY: And you can use the rule of law to do it instead of picking people up and throwing them out.

KAHANE: Well, let me first of all say that if I did move the Arabs out it would only be through the rule of law. It would only be through (inaudible) law. Nevertheless, what you say would seem to be logical, but there's only one problem: leaving aside the tremendous dangers that this would leave Israel in, having an Arab state with a tiny Israel, whose coastline is now 12 miles wide, and trusting to the Arab ethics and kindness such as we see daily in Beirut, the fact of the matter is that they would remain inside Israel, some 750,000 Arabs who have no intention of

going anywhere. They consider that country theirs. And every day, when (inaudible) in [Galilee?], the northern part of the state of Israel [04:00] autonomy for the Galilee, we would save 20 years, we would save 30 years. But in the end, we're up against the same problem. There is going to be a Northern Ireland within Israel within five years. We have Jews killed now every single week. We'll have Jews killed every single day. And more than that, we'll have Arabs killed, and I don't want to kill Arabs and I don't want them to kill Jews. I want them out, living in any one of their 22 countries. That's all I ask: give us our one country.

HENRY: Well, you want to do it, as you say, by the rule of law. You would have the (inaudible) pass a bill. How would you do that? Where would you oust them to?

KAHANE: To Jordan. Jordan, for all practical purposes, today has an overwhelming majority of what you call Palestinians, or Arabs who fled Eretz Israel, the land of Israel. The West Bank -- I would move them to the East Bank of the Jordan. Jordan itself is an illegitimate state. The East Bank of the Jordan [05:00] was originally given by the League of Nations as part of the Jewish state, (inaudible). The British violated international law, ripped away that

East Bank, created a public state -- and even so, I accept that. Let them live there. I truly wish them well.

HENRY: Suppose the state of Jordan says, "We don't want them here?"

KAHANE: Well, I'm not going to ask them.

HENRY: But you're going to pass a bill and just ship them over.

KAHANE: We'll hold the bridges for three days and we'll skip them over. Just as the Poles and the Czechs expelled 12 million ethnic Germans in 1945, after they learned, to their horror, in the late '30s, what a fifth column is inside their midst. And they expelled 12 million from (inaudible), Sudetenland, and Danzig. No one ever cried out about that except the Germans. But the world ratified it at Potsdam. Truman, (inaudible), and Stalin ratified it.

HENRY: Rabbi Kahane, what's the difference [06:00] in doing what you suggest doing and the -- South Africa throwing out its majority of blacks and saying, "Out of the country" -- the Catholics being thrown out of Northern Ireland, the Jews being thrown out, in effect, in a number of countries in... in Europe during the '30s?

KAHANE: Well, I'm sure that Rabbi Tanenbaum, who has no answer to the problem that I've raised, will of course raise this question. And of course there's a tremendous difference.

First of all, South Africa is not the homeland of the whites. The whites came there 200 years ago, 250 years ago, to an area which is a black country. They had no right to throw anyone out. In Northern Ireland, no one is throwing anyone out.

HENRY: No, I'm suggesting it might solve their problem, though, or some --

KAHANE: Yes, but however --

HENRY: -- people might think it would solve their problem.

KAHANE: -- however, the Roman Catholics and the Protestants have equal rights to that country, [07:00] since both come from the same people, the same language, they're exactly the same in everything except in their faith. In the case of Israel --

HENRY: How about in the case of the Jews during the '30s

KAHANE: All right --

HENRY: Didn't they have a right to stay?

KAHANE: Of course they had a right to stay, because the Jews in Germany did not say, "When we become the majority, we'll take this country back." The Jews in Germany who maybe wanted to be the best Germans possible. But the Arabs -- and let's respect the Arabs; the Arabs claim it's their country. The Arabs claim that the Jews stole it from them. We say no. We lived there long before there were Arabs. And

we were driven out of our country 2,000 years ago, and not for one day did you cease to pray three times daily to go back to that country. We came back to our country to find a people in it who claims that we're thieves, [08:00] and who dreams of the day when they would drive us out. That's the tremendous difference. The Arabs have 22 countries. If, when Hitler drove the Jews out, the Jews would have had their own country, well, that would have been different. We had no place to go. And above all, the Jews in Germany wanted nothing better than to be good citizens of Germany, whereas the Arabs -- do you think that there's one Arab in Israel who delights in living in a country which is officially called the Jewish state? Which has a law of return that is passed not by (inaudible) but by (inaudible), which applies to Jews only? Whose Independence Day celebrates the Arab defeat? Whose national anthem speaks of the soul of a Jew yearning? Of course not. I understand the Arab. (inaudible) content for him.

HENRY: Rabbi Kahane, the (inaudible) has now passed what has been called "the racism bill." And we know now that that is designed to outlaw people who incite others to racism [09:00] and who negate Israel's democratic character.

KAHANE: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

HENRY: And it goes along with a three-year jail term, I believe. What is going to happen to you if you keep saying the things you're saying, which certainly --

KAHANE: Well --

HENRY: -- seem to fall into this category? Do you expect to jail?

KAHANE: No, I don't expect to go to jail. I expect to be in the next Knesset, with about 15 to 20 seats, as most polls show now.

HENRY: How do you get past the bill?

KAHANE: Well, first of all, it is a bad bill in terms of legally being constructed. It doesn't define racism. What kind of word does "racism" mean in a bill which doesn't define it? It can mean anything. To me, racism is a very simple concept. Racism says that I am better than you and you can never be as good as I. Judaism says if any Jew wishes to convert and become Jewish, he is as good as I am. That is not racism. [10:00] In fact, in (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

HENRY: But if you don't convert to Judaism you are not as good as I am.

KAHANE: Right, and the Pope truly believes that if you're not a Roman Catholic, you're not as chosen. And I would imagine that every faith believes that it has truth. Otherwise it



isn't faith. When Catholics and Jews argue, it isn't like the Mets and the Yankees. That's -- I think (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

HENRY: Are you a racist?

KAHANE: Of course not! In fact, I would vote for any anti-racist bill which would define it properly.

HENRY: Well, another definition of racism is not allowing other people the rights and privileges that (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

KAHANE: That's not true. The state of Israel was created and is defined as a Jewish state. Is that racism? According to your definition, it is. According to the UN, it is. So I think that when they passed this bill quickly, and it was passed by people who were more afraid of my taking [11:00] votes from them than out of any principle, they made a tremendous mistake. And they opened that door wide to confirming what the UN said.

HENRY: So what are your plans? What are your future political plans? How do you plan to get elected again with this law on the book?

KAHANE: First of all, I think that you don't know what that bill says, and I haven't met anyone here who has. There's a third ban in that bill, and that is anyone who doesn't recognize the Jewish character of Israel. Now, consider

carefully the insanity of that bill. On the one hand it says someone who doesn't recognize the Jewish character of Israel cannot run and will go to prison for three years. And someone who doesn't believe that Arabs have the same rights to be the majority will be banned. I (inaudible) that under this bill, no party can possibly run. It's just (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

HENRY: What are you going to do -- in other words, take your problem to the courts?

KAHANE: Of course. But more than that, we are simply going [12:00] to take our platform, and for every single paragraph, we are simply going to take a verse from the Bible or a portion of the Talmud. If they want to declare Judaism racism, let's see them do that.

HENRY: Rabbi Kahane, let's say you can get around this bill through the laws --

KAHANE: Oh, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

HENRY: -- let's say you can. What are your personal plans? Do you want to be Prime Minister? Do you want to take over (inaudible) as the party of the right? What do you want to do?

KAHANE: I want to save the Jewish people from themselves.

HENRY: Are you the Messiah of the state of Israel?

KAHANE: Of course not! Of course -- now, isn't that a foolish -- with all due respect, that's a foolish question.

HENRY: Well, I said it because that's what your supporters call you.

KAHANE: No, I don't think that that's true. I think that (inaudible) was also called that in the heat of, you know, ecstasy, exultation. I think if you listen to some people speak about John F. Kennedy, my God, he borders on it. I think that people [13:00] tend to, especially in our times, need father images and need guidance. Because there are no leaders. So of course I want to be the Prime Minister. Of course, of course.

HENRY: Do you have a timetable?

KAHANE: No. No. I would like to be one tomorrow, but I'm not a prophet. So I would assume that in this next election we will be a very strong third-largest party in Israel. No nationalist (inaudible) can be formed without the (inaudible), which is my party.

HENRY: Well, is it possible that because of your strong appeals to a radical-right solution here and the expulsion of all the Arabs, that you might force the state of Israel to do what it has been unwilling to do so far, and that is peaceably settle the problem of the occupied territories?

In other words, might not you be working against yourself by forcing Israel to come to a solution?

KAHANE: First of all, why do we use these labels? "Are you the radical right?" Maybe it's a radical left solution. [14:00] Maybe it's a radical middle solution. It isn't a radical anything. I pose for you a certain problem. Don't call it names. There is a problem. What is the solution? I say this is the solution. If you don't like it, don't call it "radical" or "right" or "center." Say "I don't like it and I have a better one." And then, if I hear a better one, I'll be happy to adopt that. Secondly, peace will not come to Israel, because the problem that I raise has nothing to do with the West Bank, and I thought that I had made that clear. The problem has to do with the Arabs who live inside the State of Israel, who will become gradually one-third of the country and 40% of the country and then a majority of the country. It has nothing to do with the West Bank. The West Bank [saves?] us 20 years, 25 years. That is our problem. And I do hope that when you speak to Jewish leaders on this problem, just ask them a question: "According to you, do the Arabs, in theory --" and don't let them get away from it by saying, "It'll never happen." [15:00] "In theory, do they have a right to be the majority?" That's the problem. That's the problem. Peace

will not come to Israel, because the problem is not Meir Kahane. I didn't start the 1948 war or the '57 war or the '67 war or the '73 war. The problem lies in the existence of the state of Israel per se. And there are no Arab moderates. There are two kinds of Arabs: clever ones and stupid ones. And the so-called "moderate" ones are clever. They mean what the extremists say, but they don't say it.

HENRY: Rabbi Kahane, I have time, because we've decided to give equal time here, just for one more question. I certainly will ask Marc Tanenbaum whether or not he thinks the Arabs have a right to be a majority in the state of Israel. But your last question -- you haven't liked a couple of my other ones; you're not going to like this one either -- if you take some of the main characteristics of your policies appeal to violence in certain instances to handle the problem, some would say a contempt for the rule [16:00] of law; you disagree with that -- calls for an expulsion of a certain group, though, that's very -- that's something we would agree on. And even the use of uniformed squads to accompany you: some would say that has a Hitlerian appeal. Do you see any similarity between you and --?

KAHANE: No. No. For example, you said, "appeal of violence." I can't imagine any people in any country in any faith in

anyone who doesn't appeal to violence when it feels it's necessary. During World War II, we certainly didn't throw flowers at the Germans. And you can ask Rabbi Tanenbaum --

HENRY: Does that mean you intend to appeal to violence in the future?

KAHANE: No, no. I think violence is a terrible thing if it isn't needed. I think it's a necessary thing if it is needed. And as far as the other things are (inaudible), it's incredible... I certainly -- our people don't [17:00] wear uniforms. They wear T-shirts. Every youth group in Israel has uniforms. Every single one has uniforms. Boy Scouts have uniforms. It is a uniform that shows a certain kind: we are members of this and this group. We don't want violence; quite the opposite. If I were the prime minister of Israel, not one Arab would ever be injured in Israel, because they wouldn't be there. But if they stay there, they'll be killed by Jews and they'll kill Jews. Is that what you want?

HENRY: Sir, is it possible that there's going to be bloody outbreaks between Jews? Amongst Jews? Moderate Jews and radical Jews? And is that what you want?

KAHANE: No. That's a terrible (inaudible) -- we have never, in Israel, begun any physical violence against Jews, ever, no matter what the newspapers say. Last Monday, in (inaudible)

town near Tel Aviv, I was stoned by members of [18:00] leftist groups, and I was hit here, on the ear, and you can see it. Now, that wasn't in the papers here, but had we gone and had we done that to some group, my God, what the New York Times would have said. Now, I don't want to ever lift my hand against a Jew, but I want you to know that the question that you just asked is the most painful of all questions. They want to lift hands against us. And if you want to know what McCarthyism is, well, the senator from Wisconsin had nothing on the left in Israel. There was incitement to kill Meir Kahane every single day.

HENRY: Are you afraid?

KAHANE: Of course I'm afraid. I don't (inaudible) worrying about it -- of course not. I mean, I do my thing. But know that that's what's happening in Israel. When someone gets up in there with that outrageous analogy between Kahane and Hitler, it's an outrageous thing. [19:00] Certainly there are 10,000 young leftists who suddenly deem it to be a great, great commandment, perhaps, to eliminate Kahane. The incitement is terrible, and I would hope that Rabbi Tanenbaum will come out against that too.

HENRY: I'll ask him.

KAHANE: OK. Thank you.

HENRY: Rabbi Meir Kahane has been with us for the first half of the program. Coming back with Rabbi Tanenbaum, I'm Sherry Henry, WLR, Radio 710.

(music)

HENRY: And that's where you are, at 710 on your AM dial. I'm Sherry Henry. You've been hearing Rabbi Meir Kahane, explaining why he thinks the Arabs ought to be thrown out of the state of Israel. Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international relations for the American Jewish Committee, has been listening and he's here to comment. Let me go straight to the heart of what he said; we won't waste any time, Rabbi Tanenbaum. He says, "Ask the rabbi -- do you want the Arabs to be a majority in the state of Israel, and if [20:00] you do and they are, how do you handle it?"

MARC TANENBAUM: Well, I think the formulation of it is misleading, and it's intended to feed the fears of a Jewish community that doesn't want to think about reality. That's like asking the question of whether the United States will ever become a Jewish society. The plain fact of the matter is that the overwhelming majority of the people of the United States are Christian. There are roughly 220, 230 million people in the United States. The United States will always be a Christian society by virtue of that fact. And the fact remains that the state of Israel has only a



minority population of Arab of 17%. There's been a great deal made about the growth of Arab population in Israel, and that if given full citizenship and free rights to vote in the [21:00] Parliament that the Arabs one day will become the majority and take over the Jewish state and convert it into whatever Arafat or others want it to do. But the plain social statistics simply don't support that. There's a study done by (inaudible), a former deputy mayor of Jerusalem, who at one time was concerned about that problem, who indicated that the population rate of growth, while somewhat higher in the part of the Arab population, both within Israel and the West Bank has stabilized. And that, in fact, this is an inflated threat, the purpose of which is to incite Jews to fear and to look to Meir Kahane as their Messiah who's going to save them from a cataclysm of Arabs overwhelming the society.

HENRY: Well, if the statistics don't support it, let's just take a theoretical situation and say that within 20 years you could have a majority of Arabs. The question still exists, doesn't it: is it possible for the state of Israel to have a majority of Arabs as the democracy it is and still be a Jewish state?

TANENBAUM: Well, [22:00] I don't like to yield to that sort of theoretical speculation, because I think that it creates

the contradiction that I don't think the vast majority of the people of Israel or the Jewish community wants to deal with -- namely that in order to establish and maintain a Jewish state, that somehow it must be an anti-democratic state. I think that is simply an unacceptable thesis to the overwhelming majority of the Israeli people and the American Jews. Yeah, theoretically, if one were to speculate, like science fiction -- if one were to speculate that through democratic processes that the Arab population of Israel, which now numbers some 700,000 in a population of nearly 4 million Jews in Israel -- that if someday it were to overwhelm and outdistance the Jewish population of Israel, were to go through a democratic process and were able to elect a majority of people in the Knesset, etc., then theoretically one would have to accept that possibility. [23:00] But the alternative possibility is worse. The notion that to have a Jewish state it must be somehow a kind of either South African apartheid state, where it must be a fascist state in which the rights of all citizens -- in fact, it would contradict the very Declaration of Independence of the state of Israel, whose first assertion is that all citizens of Israel, regardless of race, ethnic origin, tribal relationship, are regarded as full, equal citizens. And the plain fact of the matter

is -- the other side of the issue -- while I think that there's enough truth in what Rabbi Kahane says in that there are many Arabs who feel that Palestine, Israel is their country. And that is the heart of the problem. It is the heart of a problem. The fact that there are Arab rejectionist states who refuse to accept Israel's existence and want to try to liquidate the state, I think that's the basis of Kahane's appeal, the fact that that goes on regularly. But the plain fact of the matter is that the vast majority of the Arab citizens of Israel live in [24:00] full equality in the state of Israel today with political, economic, and all other kinds of opportunities, that the quality of their life is vastly superior to that of Arabs in surrounding states, and by and large live in very good and amicable relationships with the vast majority of their people, and I'm not talking theoretically. I have been to Arab villages in [Afula?] and in that area. I have seen Arabs working together with Jews. There's a program called Interns for Peace, where young Arabs and young Jews in Israel are working together to try to improve the quality of life of both of their people in their villages, and are committed loyal citizens to the state of Israel. Therefore, I think it's a matter of not allowing this rhetoric, which really becomes demagogic rhetoric -- you

select a part of the truth and inflate it into a caricature and then use that caricature to inflict fear on the part of the people for the purpose of allowing Meir Kahane, as he said, to become the Prime Minister of Israel.

HENRY: Well, sir, do you think that the racism bill is the best way to deal with him? I mean, now you have a situation where [25:00] either the bill will work as it has been passed, proposed and passed, and indeed he will go on and say what he says and will be jailed -- that's if the bill works, right? And what, turned into a martyr for the cause? I mean, what is the logical conclusion now of the racism bill?

TANENBAUM: Well, Sherry, there are several things to say. First of all, Rabbi Kahane presents himself in the most moderate tones today and sounds very reasonable. The fact of the matter is that since he settled in Israel in 1971, he's been arrested more than 20 times. He served three months in prison under the Preventive Detention Act in 1981. One of the reasons for the adoption of this latest bill against racism has to do with the fact that his followers, the Kach party, in [Kyriet Arba?], recently introduced a law into the municipality of Hebron and Kyriet Arba which called for the firing of all of the Arabs working for the municipal government and replacing them

with Jewish citizens. [26:00] And the attorney general of the state of Israel, in light of this law which was adopted, made the following statement: "The open racism of this accord, without shame and cover, threatened the principle of equality before the law, threatened the entire judicial system, the social establishment, the democratic system, and the cultural life in Israel." And that law was nullified. And some of his own followers in [Gusht Monim?], when they recognized what a betrayal this is of the democratic character of Israel, in fact nullified the law themselves, finally. But Kahane supported this. And those measures -- and Kahane, walking down the streets the day after his election, leading a crowd and screaming "Death to the Arabs," so outraged and terrified Jews in Israel as to what this man is leading to that that has led to the sense that something has got to be done. There's now another measure in Parliament which is to take away his Parliamentary immunity. In December of last year, a measure was passed which does not allow him to go to Arab communities, [27:00] because he has been creating incitement to violence -- verbal violence which precedes physical violence. And the government of Israel and the people of Israel, who were committed to democratic values - - out of the depths of Jewish tradition, not just because

they're secular democrats, out of the depths of respect for life and respect for social peace, have refused to go along with what Kahane stands for. He talks about how he's going to have so many more (inaudible) Knesset. There are a variety of polls. And one of the most recent polls shows that while he may have increased some interest, among young people especially, mainly because of the great frustration over Jordan and the PLO and there's a sense that they don't really want peace, that he will get some enlarged vote among the younger population. But there is nothing in terms of what he is claiming for himself, in terms of vastly large support in Israel.

HENRY: Well, do you think then that the racism bill is proper and he should be, [28:00] if he continues to say what he does, jailed? And is that the best way to handle it?

TANENBAUM: Well, I think that there is both (inaudible) and the United States, all Western constitutional democracies, laws against incitement to violence. Laws against preaching hatred that could lead to violence and the disturbance of the public order. It's altogether appropriate for Israel to adopt that bill, especially in light of the actualities of what this man has been doing in Israel.

HENRY: Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, we're coming back. I'm Sherry Henry. This is WOR, Radio 710. (break in audio) --

information that Vincent Price spoke about, call 1-800-551-7800. 1-800-551-7800. I'm Sherry Henry with Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum from the American Jewish Committee. We're still (inaudible) on the comments of Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was here the first half of the program. The possibility -- is it one -- [29:00] of Jews fighting Jews in Israel because of this incitement to racism and this incitement to violence, particularly because, too, that the supporter of Meir Kahane seem to be the very young, who are frustrated and who don't perhaps see another way out: can you see the possibility of blood being shed among Jews?

TANENBAUM: We're very much concerned about what is going on between the Orthodox group and the non-Orthodox groups in Israel, especially the left-wing secular groups. I read -- I've been following some of the debates in the Knesset, and both sides are now talking about a civil war, a war of fratricide, brother against brother. Kahane recently wrote a column in which he predicted there was going to be a civil war. He said he would like to stop it, but his method of stopping it during the course of a recent debate in the Knesset, which was reprinted in the Jewish press, you know, he called a member of the Knesset an "anti-Semitic roach." And of course they returned the compliment. Israel has a very [30:00] real problem in terms of democratic method,

process -- that is to say, learning how to disagree agreeably. Learning civil debates, civil discourse. And Rabbi Kahane, while he sounded so moderate and reasonable in this discussion here, when you look at what he does in the Knesset and the way he organizes marches and confrontations in front of Arab villages and in front of other Jewish groups, is inciting to violence daily, regularly, in Israel. People of Israel are not mobilizing, nor is the government mobilizing, to deal with his threat, because he's a nice moderate man who's being misunderstood. They see him assaulting the basic democratic institutions - - the basic civil quality of an open democratic society. That he is exploiting democracy for non-democratic purposes. I think he's doing that in the United States as well.

HENRY: Well, that's -- why is he here, in your opinion?

[31:00]

TANENBAUM: Well, it is clear he's come to this country to build, first of all, political support for his program in Israel. He's also here to raise funds for the next elections. He's not the only person who does that. People from all kinds of countries do that, including Israel. But this is a fundraising campaign for his own political purposes in Israel, and that is why all of the major Jewish



organizations affiliated with the National Jewish Committee Relations Advisory Council, made a decision last week to issue a joint statement on behalf of the whole of American jury repudiating his policies, his fanatical, ideological policies, and his violent, undemocratic methods. We want the Jewish communities around the country to know that when he comes to a community asking for support of his policies and asking for financial support that they'd better know what they're buying with that package, and know in detail how much violence and how much of a threat to democracy he represents in the state of Israel.

HENRY: Well, regardless of how much money he raises or doesn't raise for his future elections, [32:00] what do you think the kind of rhetoric that he is espousing will do to your support in Congress and among non-Jews in America?

TANENBAUM: Oh, I think members of Congress know exactly what he represents. I mean, they're all very sophisticated people. They see versions of Kahane in other countries that we deal with. They've seen problems in the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and they know that Mubarak represents that government and not the Muslim Brotherhood. There are very close relationships between prime minister (inaudible), Amir, Rabin, (inaudible), and members of -- (break in audio) I think we have a pretty good grip on who

Kahane is and what he represents, and there'll be no confusion about that. If anything, they will want to strengthen Israel's democracy, strengthen Israel's economy so that a demagogue cannot exploit the frustrations which grow out of a difficult economy for his own political reasons.

HENRY: Well, that's certainly one of the underlying reasons for frustration today, is that very difficult economy.

[33:00] But another is the lack of action with the occupied territories and those 3 million Arabs who are sitting there in limbo. I'll ask you the same question I asked Rabbi Kahane: is it possible that because of him and his rhetoric and the possibility of violence that you both speak of -- is it possible that it will move the Israeli government to finally begin to do something about this state of limbo that has existed so long? Wouldn't that be one way of getting rid of his influence within the government?

KAHANE: Sherry, the -- Meir Kahane is far more a creation of the PLO than he is a creation of the Jewish people and the state of Israel. The refusal of the PLO and Arab-rejectionist states to move seriously toward a negotiated peace settlement [34:00] with Israel is the reason that Meir Kahane is possible. People who, after all, have lived all their lives -- young people fighting five wars since

1948 -- have reached an enormous sense of frustration. Many of them are open to Kahane's appeal that the Arabs are your enemies unto death and the only way to deal with them is to kill them, drive them out, etc. So that in a sense, it is Arab extremism that has bred the Jewish extremism of Mayor Kahane. And I think that's what has to be focused on. The fact remains that the PLO, to this day, with all the talk of moderation, is still killing innocent Jewish men, women, and children, week after week after week. And the fact that the government of Israel has not been able to defend against that has made it all the more possible for Kahane to appeal to extremist elements or even frustrated elements in Israel. I think that the issue that we have to face is that the peace process [35:00] must be continued. The games that are being played now by King Hussein with Jordan trying to smuggle in the PLO directly into negotiations will not work, and that we will have to continue. The important thing to remember is that we're not going to have an instant peace pact. Part of the frustration is simply mounted when we begin to feel we can get a quick fix. I think the issues of peace initiatives are on the right track. It's going to take a long period of time to find the right elements to put them together. The real question now is on the back of the Arab leadership. If Hussein is really

seriously interested, he could sit down tomorrow and work out the terms with Israel. But Hussein has never had the courage to do that. Sadat said he never had the courage. And the tragedy is there's no Arab leadership to really sit down and negotiate peace with, aside from what Mubarak and Egypt represent.

HENRY: Coming back.

(break in audio)

HENRY: -- for listening, everybody. Back tomorrow, as usual, after the 10:00 news. Ken Dolan comes along now, and of course, you're listening to WOR, Radio 710.

M: -- willing to sit down and talk. And our initiative is quite complete in terms of our ideas on how negotiations might proceed and different aspects of a negotiation on the different issues that were under--

END OF AUDIO FILE