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MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 14, Folder 10, *Christian Century* poll, 1978.

WORLDVIEW

170 EAST 64th STREET / NEW YORK, N.Y. / (212) TE-8 4120

July 11, 1978

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum.
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

You wrote in mid-February saying you didn't know if I was among those who proposed your name as being among "the influentials" in the Christian Century poll, but thanked me on the presumption that I deserved such thanks. Your presumption was correct; I did propose your name. And it was most gracious of you to take the time to comment on it.

If I'd had time to say more than hello to you when you dropped in to see Peter Berger, I would have asked you about the pastoral letter on human survival that you signed along with a number of other people. Neuhaus criticized it fairly harshly in the pages of Worldview, and you may have seen his comments. I was equally critical of the statement and was surprised to see your name, along with others whose opinions I respect highly, as signatories. My own view is that pastoral statements as hyperbolic and exaggerated as that do a disservice to the gravity of the questions they purport to deal with.

But enough of that. I really wanted to thank you for your gracious note.

Cordially,


James Finn
Editor

THE *Lutheran*

THE MAGAZINE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2900 Queen Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. 19129
Phone (Area Code 215) 848-6800

F- Christian Century poll

March 21, 1978

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director, Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee, Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Thank you for your note, which you probably sent to all of those who contributed to the "Christian Century" poll of religious influentials. I think one of the fine things that came out of this survey was the realization that we do interact upon one another and that we are influenced not only by those of our own faith but also by others. It seems to me that we have much to learn from one another and some good things that we should share. When we can do this without sacrificing our own traditions and our convictions, it seems to me that we have achieved one of the goals of ecumenism. With sincere thanks for your letter and good wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

Albert P. Stauderman

Albert P. Stauderman
Editor

APS:mv

Christian Century File

January 31, 1978

Rev. James M. Wall, Editor
THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY
407 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605

My dear Jim,

I have just returned to the office and have had a chance to read the poll that you conducted regarding "influential" religious personalities.

To find myself listed fourth on the poll, between Jimmy Carter and Father Ted Hesburgh, precipitated the most acute case of ambivalence that I have know in months if not years. But I must be frank enough to say that that's a happy kind of ambivalence that I can indulge in and enjoy without too much searching of conscience.

In point of fact, I take that acknowledgment as much as a tribute to the work of my colleagues at the American Jewish Committee as well as in other Jewish organizations who have given so much of their spirit and their energies to the objectives to which I have tried to dedicate my life.

Beyond everything else, I want to tell you how much your friendship and spirit or moral courage and honesty has meant to me over these years and this is a good occasion to reaffirm my deep respect and feelings of fraternal kinship with you.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Xmas Century Post

JOHN SLAWSON ■ 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • PLaza 1-4000

January 30, 1978

Dear Marc:

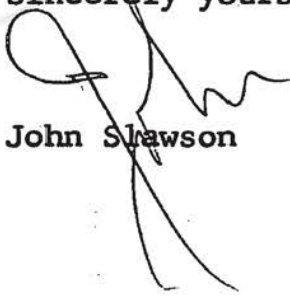
I congratulate you heartily on your selection by your peers, as one of America's most influential people in the field of religion.

I was delighted to commend you only recently for your extraordinarily constructive achievements with the Evangelicals.

It was fortunate, indeed, for the Jewish community of America when you made your decision to come to the A.J.C. on that memorable day in March, 1961.

Warm regards.

Sincerely yours,


John Slawson

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
AJC

Christian poll lists Tanenbaum among top ten

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national inter-religious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, was named as one of the most in-



Rabbi M. H. Tanenbaum

fluential people in the field of religion in the United States in a poll conducted by the Christian Century Magazine, an influential ecumenical weekly. He was fourth in a list of 10 people in the poll of 35 religion writers and editors, 18 from secular news media and 17 from the religious press.

The first was Evangelist Billy Graham, second was Martin E. Marty, an associate editor of the Christian Century and a professor of history of modern Christianity at the University of Chicago, and the third was President Carter.

Respondents termed Tanenbaum "the most recognizable Jewish name," a man who "has had much to do with Christian-Jewish relationships in this country," as one who "has more contacts than anyone else within and without Judaism," and as a person who helped forge "the Jewish-Evangelical detente."

According to the Christian Century which reported the results in its Jan. 18 issue, this was the first time in recent years that a Jew and a rabbi made the poll.

FROM....

Javensbaum

HYMAN BOOKBINDER

1/23/78

Dear Marc!

I called to congratulate
you on that remarkable
tribute by the Religion
Editors. Wow!

I have renewed
respect for the press
now!

Bushie

cc: Mont
Ryt
Selwa

Washington Representative, American Jewish Committee
818 18th St. N.W. N.W. -- Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: AC 202 -- 298-8787

F- Christ Anthony Poll

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20 January 1978

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
Dear Marc -

We're proud of you!

yes

Harry J. Alderman
2284-D Via Puerta
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Christian Century
Poll

January 16, 1978

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
Director, Interreligious Affairs Dept.
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Marc:

I was so pleased to read in today's L. A. Times that a poll, sponsored by Christian Century magazine, naming the ten most influential persons in U.S. religion today, included you. Congratulations! Surely no one in the American rabinate deserves that recognition more than yourself for all your tireless work in the field of interreligious relations. The AJC must feel a special pride - as do I in having been your colleague in former years.

I know that you have been in Los Angeles in the recent past, and I would have liked so very much to see you on these occasions. Unfortunately, being car-less and unable to drive, it is virtually impossible for us to travel to L.A. for any evening event - it is one of the few disadvantages we have, living in this lovely community.

All good wishes to you and your colleagues, and the very best for the civil New Year!

Cordially,

Harry



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

February , 1978

I don't know whether you were among those who proposed my name to be included among "the influentials" on the Christian Century poll - but on the presumption that you might have, I just wanted you to know of my deep personal gratitude.

It was one of the nicest and more meaningful things that has happened to me during my 25 years of service in the cause of promoting friendship and understanding between Christians and Jews here and abroad, and I did not want your participation in that cause of massaging my ego to go by unacknowledged.

This is a good moment also to share with you my conviction that whatever progress has been made in ecumenical and interreligious relations is in large measure due to the connecting links that you friends of the media have made possible. You are in fact the "secret weapon" of ecumenism and Jewish-Christian solidarity.

For all these acts of friendship, my warmest appreciation. I hope I will find some way in the near future to reciprocate your many kindnesses to me and my work.

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures

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THE MINNEAPOLIS

STAR

425 Portland Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55488

Feb. 17

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

Yes, I was one of those polled who proposed your name. You were clearly a favorite.

I thought the composite list was excellent, but I missed four of the choices (the obvious ones)--Jimmy Carter, Martin Marty, Anita Bryant and William Thompson. In their places, I had Ruth Carter Stapleton, Robert Schuller, Cynthia Wedel and Cardinal John Wright.

I appreciate your kind words and trust our paths will cross again before long.

Sincerely,



Willmar L. Thorkelson

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February 3rd, 1978

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs Dept.
American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 E. 56th Street
New York, New York
10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

I was pleased to note in the JTA that in a poll conducted by the Christian Century Magazine, you were fourth out of a list of ten most influential people in the field of religion in the United States.

I just wanted to express my congratulations to you on a distinction so well deserved.

Best wishes in all your endeavours.

Very sincerely,

Chas. Balinsky

Mrs. Charles Balinsky
National President

CB * zs



the christian CENTURY

an ecumenical weekly

EDITORIAL OFFICES

407 South Dearborn Street
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February 13, 1978

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director - Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, NY 10022

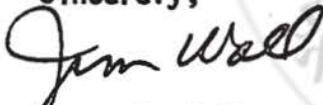
Dear Marc:

Your inclusion among the influentials was well deserved--I wasn't surprised.

And thank you for your kind words. We haven't had much opportunity to talk lately as the Middle East heats up--let's remedy that soon.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,


James M. Wall
Editor

JMW/ek

AMERICAN JEWISH

ARCHIVES



MARSHALL, BRATTER, GREENE, ALLISON & TUCKER

430 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022 • (212) 421-7200

January 31, 1978

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

I was delighted to see that the poll of the Christian Century Magazine named you as the fourth most influential person in the field of religion in the U.S. Congratulations.

With kind regards.

Cordially yours,

James Marshall

JM/sk

memorandum

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

FO-SFB
date February 6, 1978
to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
from Ernest Weiner
subject NUMBER FOUR - MOVING UP FAST

My friend, Father Dick Mangini, Editor of The Catholic Voice, the Diocesan newspaper for the Oakland Diocese, treated the story on the most influential leaders in religion fully.

You should be aware that our mutual friend, Gerry Sherry, is a little concerned that you beat out all his Catholic brothers and I told him it is only the beginning.

Best personal regards.



cc: Mort Yarmon
Harold Applebaum

Encl: 1