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Box 78, Folder 3, American Jewish Committee - National  
Executive Council meeting, 27-30 October 1983.

# NEWS

FROM THE

# COMMITTEE



**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE** Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 751-4000

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

## NEWS AND FEATURE STORIES AT THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

October 27-30, 1983

Bellevue Stratford Hotel  
Broad and Walnut Streets  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102  
215-893-1776

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TV-Radio: Amy Goldberg  
Haina Just

### NEWS EVENTS

Thursday, Oct. 27

3:30 p.m.  
Museum of  
American  
Jewish  
History

Welcoming Reception, hosted by AJC's Philadelphia chapter. Speakers: Emily W. Sunstein of Philadelphia, Associate Treasurer, national AJC; Richard Berkman, President, Philadelphia chapter. Official launching of new book, "Jewish Life in Philadelphia, 1830-1940," to be presented by George Ross, Philadelphia Chapter Chairman, to Howard I. Friedman, AJC's National President.

5:00 p.m.  
Congress  
Hall

A commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (actual anniversary date is Dec. 10). Jane Alexander, who portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt in the Emmy-Award-winning films "Eleanor and Franklin" and "The White House Years," will present a reading of selected quotes on human rights from Mrs. Roosevelt, Archibald MacLeish, Helen Gahagan Douglas and others; and Marciarose Shestack will read from the works of Andrei Sakharov.

6:30 p.m.  
Grand  
Ballroom

Plenary dinner. A major address on "U.S. Policy in Lebanon and the Middle East," by Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth W. Dam.

- more -

Howard I. Friedman, President; Theodore Ellenoff, Chairman, Board of Governors; Alfred H. Moses, Chairman, National Executive Council; Robert S. Jacobs, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Donald Feldstein, Executive Vice President

Washington Office, 2027 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • Europe hq.: 4 Rue de la Bienfaisance, 75008 Paris, France • Israel hq.: 9 Ethiopia St., Jerusalem, 95149, Israel  
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CSAE 1707

7:45 p.m.

Concurrent meetings of AJC's commissions:

Prime  
Minister  
Room

National Affairs Commission. "New Challenges in Education: Achieving Standards of Excellence" - an address by Peter Liacouras, President, Temple University. Followed by two respondents: Joan Schine, Projects Director, Center for the Advanced Study of Education; and Marcienne S. Mattleman, Professor of Education, Temple University.

Tecumseh  
Room

Interreligious Affairs Commission. "A Candid Look at Relations Between American Churches and the American Jewish Community" - an address by Dr. Claire Randall, General Secretary, National Council of Churches.

Skyline  
Room

Jewish Communal Affairs Commission. "The Image of the Family on TV" - an analysis of how family relations are portrayed in situation comedies in prime time on national networks, by Harry Kovsky, TV content analyst.

Friday, Oct. 28

9:30 a.m.  
Clover  
Room

Opening plenary session. "Confronting Modernity: A Continuing Jewish Dilemma." Keynote speech by Chaim Potok, rabbi-novelist-philosopher, on the problems of maintaining Jewish values in a secular society. Followed by two reports: Dr. Samuel Heilman, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Jewish Studies Program and Center for Jewish Studies, Queens College, City University of New York, will discuss his just-published study, "Inside the Jewish School - A Study of the Cultural Setting for Jewish Education"; and Dr. Rela Geffen Monson, Professor of Sociology and Chairman of the Faculty, Gratz College, will report on her study of Jewish college students' attitudes toward marriage and family.

12:15 p.m.  
Grand  
Ballroom

Luncheon. In an address titled "The Quest For a National Agenda", Alfred H. Moses, prominent Washington attorney, former Special Advisor and Special Counsel to the President of the United States, and Chairman of AJC's National Executive Council, will explore some of the compelling issues confronting the AJC in developing domestic programs. Also, announcement by Theodore Ellenoff, Chairman of AJC's Board of Governors, of a new AJC project - a six-point program geared to curbing intergroup tensions in the 1984 elections. Mr. Moses' talk will lead into the afternoon plenary session -- see next item...

1:45 p.m.  
Clover  
Room

"Group Politics and The National Agenda." An exploration of minority group interests in the United States, and an assessment of their potential impact on the 1984 elections.

The Changing Black Agenda - M. Carl Holman, President,  
National Urban Coalition

The Gender Gap - Mary Jean Collins, Vice President,  
National Organization for Women

Ethnicity and Traditional Values - Michael Novak,  
Resident Scholar in Religion and  
Public Policy, American Enterprise  
Institute



Saturday, Oct. 29

10:00 a.m.  
Clover  
Room

Sabbath services. Conducted by Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Director of Community Programs, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

12:30 p.m.  
Grand  
Ballroom

Luncheon. "Human Rights and Religious Freedom." Two addresses: Ambassador Max M. Kampelman, who headed the U.S. Delegation to the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation In Europe, will keynote the session with a talk on "Human Rights After Madrid." The Jewish dimension of international human rights will be presented by Jerome J. Shestack, former U.S. Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, former President of the International League for Human Rights, and former chairman of AJC's Foreign Affairs Commission.

7:30 p.m.  
Grand  
Ballroom

Annual National Executive Council Dinner.

Presentation (posthumously) of AJC's American Liberties Medallion to Senator Henry Jackson. To be made by Maynard I. Wishner, Honorary National President of AJC.

Helen Jackson, the Senator's widow, will accept the award.

Tributes to Senator Jackson will be offered by Sister Ann Gillen, Executive Director, National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, and Senator Arlen Specter (R., Pa.).

Presentation of AJC's Distinguished Leadership Award to Philip I. Berman, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Hess's Department Stores, Inc. To be made by Richard J. Fox, National Vice President of AJC.

Howard I. Friedman, AJC's National President, will give the presidential address.

Sunday, Oct. 30

8:00 a.m.  
Clover  
Room

Breakfast. "American Jewish-Israeli Relations." Two presentations: "An Israeli Perspective" by Mordechai Gazit, former Israeli Ambassador to France, now Israel Consultant of the AJC's Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations; and "An American Perspective" by Bertram H. Gold, AJC's Executive Vice President Emeritus, and Director of the Institute.

10:00 a.m.  
Clover  
Room

Closing plenary session. Ambassador Meir Rosenne, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, will present an address on "The Middle East Peace Process - Problems and Prospects."

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*Marc Tannenbaum*

# The American Jewish Committee

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

September 12, 1983

TO: AJC Leaders

FROM: Alfred H. Moses, Chairman  
National Executive Council

RE: National Executive Council Meeting, October 27-30, 1983  
Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

Details of this year's NEC meeting agenda are summarized in the enclosed "Highlights." This agenda was developed with the active participation of a local planning committee chaired by Ruth Septe and Robert Fox. The result, a compelling synchronism between the real and symbolic images of the city of Philadelphia and AJC's own concerns, promises us an exciting weekend.

Also enclosed are two Backgrounders to set the context for the Friday morning plenary on "Confronting Modernity: The Continuing Jewish Dilemma" and the Friday luncheon plenary on "Group Politics." In addition, we are including a Domestic Affairs Commission Report on national service which will be considered during the Friday afternoon session. We look forward to your participation in the meeting; if you have not already registered, please return the enclosed reservation forms promptly.

On behalf of all the officers of AJC, I do want to extend best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to you and your family.

*Alfred H. Moses*

AHM/pcb  
Encls.

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HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, President ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chair, Board of Governors ■ E. ROBERT GOODKIND, Treasurer ■ Honorary Presidents: MORRIS B. ABRAM, ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, RICHARD MAASS, ELMER L. WINTER, MAYNARD I. WISHNER ■ MARTIN GANG, RUTH R. GODDARD, ANDREW GOODMAN, RAYMOND F. KRAVIS, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD ■ Executive Vice-Presidents Emeriti: JOHN SLAWSON, BERTRAM H. GOLD ■ HOWARD A. GILBERT, Chicago; ALAN C. GREENBERG, New York; ROBERT H. HAINES, New York; JOHN D. LEVY, St. Louis; ROBERT L. PELZ, Westchester; LEON RABIN, Dallas; GORDON S. ROSENBLUM, Denver; DAVID F. SQUIRE, Boston ■

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE  
October 27-30, 1983 • Bellevue Stratford Hotel  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

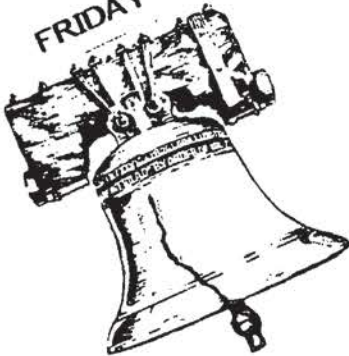
HIGHLIGHTS

- 3:00 P.M. Transfer from the hotel to the opening reception via the quaint Fairmont "Trolleys"
- 3:30 P.M. **Welcoming reception**, hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter, at the **Museum of American Jewish History**...release of chapter-sponsored publication, **Philadelphia Jewish Life: 1830-1940**.
- 5:00 P.M. **Congress Hall** in Independence Park, first meeting place of the U.S. Congress, will be the setting for a centennial **tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt**...Actress **Jane Alexander** will read from Mrs. Roosevelt's writings on human rights and TV host **Marcia Rose Shestack** from Andre Sakharov's work...release of the new Jacob Blaustein Institute publication, **The Right to Know One's Human Rights: A Road Toward Individual Freedom**.
- 6:30 P.M. **Dinner and welcome**.
- 7:45 P.M. **Concurrent Meetings** of AJC's **national program commissions**...Domestic Affairs...Foreign Affairs...Interreligious Affairs...Jewish Communal Affairs. (Details will follow.)
- 7:30 A.M. **Concurrent breakfast meetings**: National Membership Cabinet...National Committee on Women's Issues...Energy: Community Action Projects...Orientation for new National Executive Council members...Commission of the Institute on Pluralism and Group Identity.
- 9:30 A.M. Plenary: **Confronting Modernity: The Continuing Jewish Dilemma**...Keynote address by **Chaim Potok**...reports on two new AJC studies -- **Dr. Samuel Heilman** on Jewish education and the family...**Dr. Rela Monson** on Jewish college students' attitudes toward marriage and family.
- 12:30 P.M. Luncheon: **Group Politics & the National Agenda**...**Alfred Moses** will explore some compelling issues confronting AJC in developing domestic programs...**Judi Goldsmith**, executive director of NOW, will consider the **gender gap**...**Roger Wilkins** has been invited to address the **changing Black agenda**...and **Michael Novak** of the American Enterprise Institute has been asked to provide his particular perspective on these issues.

THURSDAY



FRIDAY

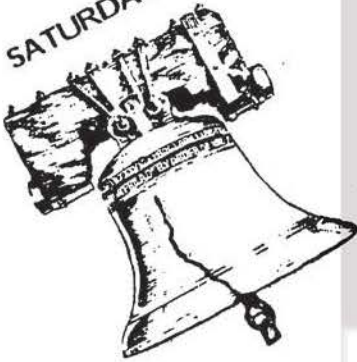


FRIDAY (cont'd)

2:30 P.M. Plenary: **The 1984 Elections - Prospects and Opportunities...**a panel of key AJC leaders will examine the issues...discussion and action on AJC's position paper on **universal national service** will follow.

DINNER **Hospitality** at the homes of **Philadelphia AJC'ers**.

SATURDAY

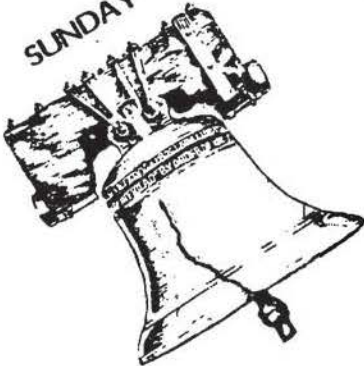


10:00 A.M. Sabbath Service conducted by **Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer**...following the service, the Community Services Committee will sponsor a discussion, led by AJC's Washington Representative, **Hyman Bookbinder**, of AJC in the Communities: **Election Year Strategies**.

12:30 P.M. Luncheon: **Human Rights & Religious Freedom: Outlook for the Future**...Ambassador **Max Kampelman** will keynote.

7:00 P.M. **Community-wide dinner**...presentation of Distinguished Leadership Award to **Philip Berman**...address by AJC President **Howard I. Friedman**...pre-dinner festivities will include an appearance by Philadelphia's famous **Mummer's Band**.

SUNDAY



8:00 A.M. Breakfast: Resolutions and other business between bites of bagels and lox.

9:30 A.M. Plenary: **American Jewish-Israeli Relations**...Address by **Meir Rosenne**, Israel's new Ambassador to the United States...a dialogue with young Israeli leaders, in the U.S. on an AJC-sponsored visit...**Mordechai Gazit** will moderate.

NOON **Adjournment**

OPTIONAL  
EXTRA

The Philadelphia Chapter has arranged a two-hour **tour of the Fairmont Park sculpture gardens** for early Sunday afternoon. A **box lunch** is included.





# BACKGROUND

October 27-30, 1983 • Bellevue Stratford Hotel • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## CONFRONTING MODERNITY: THE CONTINUING JEWISH DILEMMA

(9:30 A.M., Friday, October 28, 1983)

"I have only the hope that somehow in the writing, a small light will be shed on a nagging question: How is it that after almost four thousand years of tense, fructifying, and often violent culture confrontation--with ancient paganism, with Greece and Rome, with Christianity and Islam, and, for the past two hundred years, with modern secularism--how is it that after all this, Jews still exist and are still--as I am here--attempting to understand and interpret their history?"

Chaim Potok, Wanderings, pg. XIV

For the medieval Jew, the definition of Jewish identity was clear and unambiguous: "I am a Jew by virtue of my faith and my non-participation in the faith and community of the majority." Modern society, by emancipating the Jew and offering him the opportunity to participate in a majority culture, has created a paradox: how to assert Jewish identity while participating freely and fully in the surrounding society?

In America, where freedom is guaranteed by law and few obstacles are placed in their way, Jews have moved rapidly to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities. But, the material and social success resulting from integration into American society has also subjected Jews to the same trends and influences that affect American society generally. Late marriage, high divorce, low fertility signify trouble for the American family, and the impact has been strongly felt by the Jewish family. Some observers suggest that contemporary emphasis on individual self-fulfillment is working to undermine traditional Jewish values of communal involvement, volunteerism and commitment to family and peoplehood.

The question of intermarriage, in particular, dramatizes the dilemma of modern Jews. The increased incidence of intermarriage is a natural outgrowth of the success of Jewish emancipation. While few Jews would argue for intermarriage, opposition to it seems to contradict our advocacy of a free and open society.

The Jewish attitude toward education is another example of the dilemma. In his study of Jewish education, commissioned by the American Jewish Committee, Dr. Samuel Heilman advocates creating Jewish boarding schools as self-contained communities. Heilman's recommendations build on the growth of the day school movement--one of the most visible phenomena of post-war Jewish life. Proponents of day schools argue that if Jewish tradition is to be viable in the modern American context, some degree of separation from the broader society is necessary. Yet, some ask whether a commitment to day schools or Jewish boarding schools is at odds with the Jewish community's long-standing commitment to promoting quality



public education. Others believe that there is no contradiction between supporting a strong system of public education and exercising the freedom to maintain voluntarily supported private and sectarian schools, and some urge public funding for such institutions.

Similarly, the situation on college campuses exposes the contradictions inherent in Jews' relationship to modernity. The end of admissions quotas and the opening of Ivy League universities to Jews signified the triumph of equality. More than any other ethnic group, Jews have availed themselves of higher education. Ironically, the traditional Jewish commitment to study was reshaped in America to a commitment to excellence in secular education while Jewish education suffered from neglect. By the late 1960's, the campus was perceived as a "disaster area" for Jewish identity.

A study undertaken by Dr. Rela Monson for AJC indicates that, although today's Jewish students are oriented to building families and project little hostility to the concepts of Jewish identity and peoplehood, they do not see marrying a non-Jew as a deterrent to building a Jewish home. Surprisingly, this attitude may be found even among those of strong Jewish background. In a society where Jews can express their Jewish identity in a variety of ways ranging from marginal affiliation to quasi-isolation, the option of isolation is perceived as a viable one by only a small fragment of the Jewish community. Contemporary Jewish thought has struggled to define grounds on which Jewish tradition can be sustained without rejecting modern culture. The challenge is to find a meaningfully Jewish lifestyle without retreating to the culture of the ghetto. We do not have the answer to the questions raised by Chaim Potok but, clearly, greater communal energies must be marshalled to address them.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Historically, the AJC embodies the principle of co-existence with the demands of modernity without the loss of Jewish identity. How can we better communicate that experience, particularly to younger or unaffiliated Jews?
2. In the light of AJC studies on intermarriage, should strategies to advance the integration of intermarried couples into the Jewish community be a priority for AJC?
3. Does a successful transmission of the Jewish heritage require some degree of separatism from the values of the surrounding society? How can AJC help define the parameters of such cultural separatism?
4. If strengthening Jewish education requires our priority attention, should the Jewish community expend less energy in support of public schools?
5. What strategies should we adopt to ensure that the public schools convey "Jewish values?"





# BACKGROUND

October 27-30, 1983 • Bellevue Stratford Hotel • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

GROUP POLITICS AND THE NATIONAL AGENDA  
(12:30 P.M., Friday, October 28, 1983)

As the 1984 presidential election approaches, there are early and distinct signals that group identity issues may become crucial in both the preliminaries to the election and probably to the outcome of the election. This has been dramatized by intensive voter registration campaigns in the Hispanic and Black communities.

Fears that conflict over race, ethnicity, sex and religion may become unusually dominant in the coming presidential race are surfacing. The controversies over the so-called "gender gap," the possible candidacy of Jesse Jackson or another Black presidential aspirant, the size of the Hispanic vote, the potency of the fundamentalist Protestant political movement, and questions of whether Ronald Reagan can again attract a high percentage of Jewish voters in key Northern states, are already being seriously discussed--even before the official campaign is underway.

Pessimists point to the high visibility of racial and ethnic conflict in the recent Chicago mayoral campaign, and the possibility that this pattern will repeat itself in communities across the country. Optimists say that group polarization need not be the rule and point to the Philadelphia Democratic mayoral primary, where--despite a similar situation--the race of the candidates did not become an issue.

Traditionally, the American Jewish Committee has analyzed voting patterns in national elections as a way of monitoring varied responses to issues of importance to the Jewish community, with particular sensitivity to manifestations of bigotry and anti-semitism.

The 1984 elections present AJC with new opportunities. In communities, we must initiate coalitional activity focusing on fair campaign practices, encouraging pledges by candidates to avoid and repudiate bigotry in their campaigns. On the national level, we are challenged to help achieve a balance between the assertion of legitimate group interests and a recognition of our shared need "to ensure the general welfare." We also can opt to strengthen coalitions with minority communities by supporting their voter registration efforts vigorously. These strategies will permit us to evaluate the priorities of major ethnic groups and promote rational debate about alternatives for achieving social stability and economic growth, thereby reducing the danger of destructive intergroup conflicts.



## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. National service and industrial revitalization are issues that have broad popular support and therefore might provide a framework for intergroup cooperation. What other issues can AJC identify that can help to depolarize the political process in 1984?
2. How can AJC help legitimize the validity of "group interest" politics while pursuing our commitment to consensus politics?
3. What are the risks and benefits of AJC support for higher voter registration in minority communities?

September, 1983  
#83-100-97





## THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

October 27-30, 1983 • Bellevue Stratford Hotel

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### NATIONAL SERVICE

A REPORT FROM THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION

(2:30 P.M., Friday, October 28, 1983)

The American Jewish Committee believes that its commitment to a just and stable society can best be met through support of public policies that are unifying, that cross party, ideological and regional lines and around which Americans of different racial, religious and ethnic groups can rally. Such programs can revitalize the sense of mutual cooperation and service to others that has always been a goal of American democracy.

National Service may meet these criteria. It is based on two concepts: that an essential component of a young person's learning and maturing consists of a contribution to the larger society and that society can and should be structured to facilitate such activity.

A carefully structured National Service proposal, tied to post-service higher education and training benefits, similar to the G.I. Bill, can help qualified young people prepare to meet new technological demands. This is particularly important if America is to regain and maintain our position of economic leadership in the world.

The issue has never been the subject of a full national debate. Therefore, the National Education Committee and the Domestic Affairs Commission recommend:

1. that the American Jewish Committee support the concept of National Service, involving young people from all ethnic, racial, socioeconomic and regional groups.
2. that we begin a national dialogue, involving other ethnic, civic, religious, business, government and labor groups, to work towards a carefully planned National Service proposal.
3. that we support legislation in the U.S. Congress to create a Presidential or Congressional Commission to study and initiate pilot programs to implement National Service.

These recommendations are made in full recognition of the fact that cost considerations may make implementation a long-range goal, and that other serious problems may include concerns of organized labor and the military. But we believe that the potential educational, economic and social advantages are so strong that the concept merits nationwide consideration.

Under National Service, young people from 16-22 would be expected to participate full time, for one or two years, in some kind of structured, effective



service to the community, state, region or country. For example, they could help to fill a host of service needs, including but not limited to work in hospitals, programs for the elderly, community health and recreation centers, in schools, pre-schools and day care, etc., as well as on the land or other environmental projects and on the rebuilding of our roads, bridges and other infrastructure needs. In return, they would receive some kind of post-service assistance, such as help in securing employment or higher education benefits, along the lines of the post World War II G.I. Bill.

These corollary benefits to the participants are particularly needed now. Massive technological changes have created a demand for a highly educated, motivated and skilled citizenry. But there have been federal cutbacks in grant and loan programs and rapidly rising tuitions. National Service could provide a new way to help qualified young people from all economic groups finance college and graduate education.

Thus, the needs of individuals and of the society can be met in a mutually beneficial and productive way. In addition to furthering their own educational or employment goals, young people can experience the satisfaction of service to others. Pride developed in seeing the fruits of their own voluntary service may result in the continuation of that commitment long after participating in a program of National Service. The value to America goes beyond provision of needed services and can help rebuild faith in the ability of the nation's wide variety of individuals and institutions to grow and prosper together in a spirit of cooperation.

A 1981 Gallup Poll reported that public support for National Service had risen from 66% for and 33% against in 1979 to 71% for and 24% against in 1981, with the greatest growth in support coming from persons 18 to 24 years of age. During 1969-1983, proposals of varying kinds were introduced or supported in the House and Senate by Republicans and Democrats representing a spectrum of their party's views. As late as 1982, Sen. Tsongas (D. Mass.) and others continued to propose a Commission on National Service to study this and other proposals for a National Service Act. This year the Senate passed a sense of the Congress resolution supporting the concept.

Support also comes from prestigious national figures and groups, among them Father Theodore Hesburgh, Mildred Jeffrey (former Chair of the National Women's Political Caucus), Roger Landrum (Potomac Institute), Jacqueline Grennan Wexler, Harris Wofford (Peace Corps), Willard Wirtz, Mayor Koch of New York City, and Kingman Brewster, former President of Yale University, as well as from the 1981 Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime, the National Commission on Resources for Youth, the Ford Foundation and others. Brown University, for example, created its own National Service Scholarship Program for students who completed a year or more of full-time service to the elderly, disabled or disadvantaged, etc. Other universities are trying similar programs.

The idea of National Service has been studied and reported on by the Potomac Institute, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Robert F. Kennedy Institute, the National Service Secretariat, the Ford Foundation and others. In addition, the experiences of the C.C.C., Vista, the Peace Corps, and the Job Corps, etc. in America, as well as programs in West Germany, France, Kenya, Nigeria and Indonesia, provide some general background and data for consideration.

In our review of this work, several major questions and issues were identified. On the first group, there appears to be general conceptual agreement.



1. What kinds of service will be acceptable?

Beneficial results of National Service would depend on the quality of the individual's experience while serving and the value to society of the actual service rendered. The work to be done must be really needed and the program efficiently organized. It could encompass work in day care for young children, tutoring, care for the infirm or aged at home or in hospitals, renovation and reconstruction of neighborhoods, bridges and roads, ecology and arts, etc.

In communities where public safety is a problem, National Service participants could be involved in working with neighborhood groups, on safety patrols, working with troubled youngsters and with the elderly.

National Service assignments should complement the public sector. The area and type of work should be chosen by the individual but must be consistent with the manpower and service needs of community society, not "make work." National Service assignments will supplement, but not supplant, existing public service jobs. They may, in addition, provide services not previously offered, but for which a need is recognized.

2. How should National Service be administered and funded?

National Service could be administered as a public corporation or foundation chartered and funded by Congress (less reimbursements from private sponsors). National officials such as the Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Services, Labor etc. would be involved, but leadership would be drawn largely from the private sector. The private sector, both profit and non-profit, can also serve as employer, organized to use, supervise and pay the young people. The use of the skills of private sector executives as well as sponsors' facilities may be a way to keep costs down. Present federal programs providing opportunities for youth service could remain in effect and be incorporated as part of the overall program.

In order to facilitate private-public partnerships, and to attract private as well as public funding, National Service programs could be organized locally through the establishment of local National Service Corporations, composed of citizens with experience in volunteer service, education, business, labor and religious organizations. Alternatively, a strong organizational base can be established through use of existing groups experienced in working with young people in jobs, education and training programs.

The Corporation should also be responsible for assisting young people to choose the most appropriate form of service. In this process, professional organizations such as the American Medical Association, the N.E.A. and the AFT, the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, environmental organizations and other business, professional, civic and service organizations along with their local counterparts, should be asked to cooperate by drawing up lists of service needs and opportunities. It is clear that some of the needs of the private and voluntary sectors would be met by National Service, thus providing an incentive for effective cooperation.



3. In order for National Service to become a unifying force and a catalyst for the revitalization of a spirit of cooperation and service, it is necessary that it involve young people of both sexes from all ethnic, racial, socio-economic and regional groups. How can this be assured?

It cannot be guaranteed, but all policy decisions must be made with this as one primary goal. Success in meeting this goal will depend on the design of the overall programs. A variety of incentives, including education and employment credits, is one answer. Programs targeted solely to meet the needs of poor, unemployed or minority youth do not break a pattern of racial and socio-economic segregation. National Service, available and attractive to all groups, can deal with this and can eliminate the inevitable stigmatizing of narrowly targeted programs.

On other issues the answers are less clear. Among them:

1. Should National Service be universal?

Some proponents believe that, to be truly effective, National Service should be required. They say all young people should perform some kind of community service, including but not limited to the military. In view of serious questions about whether this would be Constitutional, politically feasible and desirable, a large group of supporters recommend that this issue should not be decided now. During the gradual development of a voluntary system, they argue, the idea of mandatory service should be carefully explored and debated. In the meantime, voluntary National Service could be made as attractive as possible through a variety of incentives for participation and in the framework of the goal of responsibility to the community and its critical needs.

2. What should be the relationship of National Service to the military?

There is no consensus. Some believe that a civilian youth service should exist independently of the military. Others think that military service should be an option within National Service. They reason that the problems of the present All Volunteer Service might then be resolved and that a viable voluntary alternative to universal military service would be provided.

3. Further questions to consider are:

If there is a military draft, should civilian service be considered as a fulfillment of the obligation to serve in the military? If so, and in view of the fact that more young people surveyed say they would elect civilian community service if given the option, how could the needs of the military be assured?

National Service may be an expensive program, depending on how much is paid to young people and on the sources of funding, but properly conceived and executed, it can provide an excellent return on investment and can be a step toward a more productive and prosperous society. Based on the experience of the G.I. Bill and its payback from a lifetime of taxes collected from a better educated, more qualified and higher paid work force, there is reason to believe that a National Service program would eventually pay for itself in the value of its work and service projects alone. It might more than pay for itself if additional economic benefits such as increased employability of participants and decreased reliance on income transfer programs are considered.

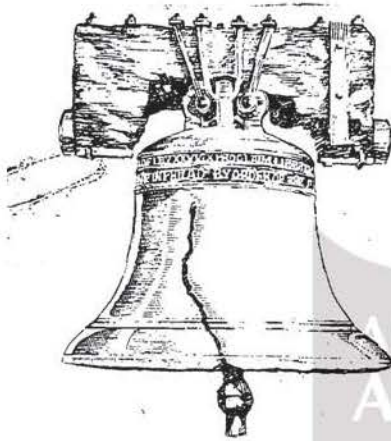
In addition to the practical economic considerations, National Service offers the opportunity to strengthen the sense of mutual cooperation and understanding necessary for the functioning of a fair, vital and open democratic society. Just as this country's system of universal free public education serves both the individual and society, National Service can improve the quality of life of our communities and of the individuals who comprise them. It merits serious consideration by the American Jewish Committee.

EF/pg1

September 1983  
83-100-98







the american jewish committee  
national executive council meeting

bellevue stratford hotel  
philadelphia

october 27-30, 1983

## REGISTRATION FOR WEEKEND EVENTS



### GENERAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- \* Registration fees and meal charges must be paid before your reservations can be processed.
- \* REFUND OF REGISTRATION FEE IS BY WRITTEN REQUEST ONLY. Refund requests postmarked after October 20 will be subject to a \$25 per person late cancellation charge.
- \* WE ARE OFFERING A SPECIAL PACKAGE which includes the Saturday dinner, the 4 other plenary meal sessions and the Registration Fee--at \$160 per person. Please use the form on the reverse side to make your reservations.
- \* PLEASE NOTE that all hotel reservations are guaranteed to the hotel. If you cannot come and do not cancel, the hotel will bill you for one night.
- \* Registrants' badges, tickets, kits and information about your host and hostess for Friday night HOME HOSPITALITY may be picked up at the AJC Registration desk at the hotel when you arrive in Philadelphia. Tickets will not be mailed in advance.

**MEAL SESSION RESERVATIONS**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)  
 SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEKEND PACKAGE**

No. of Persons    Per Person    Total

Registration Fee and 5 Plenary Meals	_____	\$160	\$ _____
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**OR CHOOSE THE PLENARY MEALS YOU WILL ATTEND**

Thursday Dinner	_____	\$ 30	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	_____	20	_____
Saturday Luncheon	_____	20	_____
SATURDAY DINNER *	_____	40	_____
Sunday Breakfast	_____	18	_____
REGISTRATION FEES: Weekend	_____	\$ 50	\$ _____
OR Daily	_____	20	_____

**OTHER MEAL SESSIONS**

Friday Continental Breakfasts --			
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CABINET	_____	\$ 8	\$ _____
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES	_____	8	_____
Saturday Breakfast (for TRUSTEES ONLY) --			
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	_____	\$ 12	\$ _____

**Enclosed is total remittance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*Seats for the SATURDAY DINNER are pre-assigned; in order for your name to appear on the seating list or for your seating requests to be honored, we must receive your reservation no later than October 26.

CANCELLATIONS OF MEAL SESSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

**HOME HOSPITALITY**

In order to plan Home Hospitality on Friday evening,  
we need to know if you will participate.

HOME HOSPITALITY: No. of places 1 ( ) 2 ( )

Please check here if no hotel reservation is needed. To insure accommodations, we must receive your hotel reservation by October 3.

**BELLEVUE STRATFORD HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Singles \$75    95    Doubles & Twins \$95    115    Suites \$225    250

Please circle desired rate. If unavailable, the next available rate will be assigned. These rates are exclusive of state and city sales and occupancy taxes.

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note:** All reservations are guaranteed. "No shows" will be billed by the hotel.