



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

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

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 81, Folder 10, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1980.

FROM....

12/23/80

HYMAN BOOKBINDER

To: Bert Gold

Selma Hirsch

Mort Yarnman

Mose Tannenbaum

Symon Samet

Yehuda Rosenman

Abie Karlikman

Dr. Silverman

Milton Ellerin

The enclosed note from Howard will interest you. I'd been invited to this black-tie dinner, but was out-of-town and Howard substituted.

Do we have ties to John Laub? He obviously has good connections.

With D A R, who needs Jesse Jackson?

B.

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

December 23, 1980

Honorable Gerald Ford  
P.O. Box 927  
Rancho Mirage, Calif. 92270

Dear President Ford:

An absolutely uncancelable commitment out of Washington prevented my attendance at the DAR dinner on the occasion of the opening of the "Jewish Community in Early America" exhibition. So it was my great misfortune not to be able to hear you address that dinner. But I have just read the text and I hasten to send you my deepest thanks for a most moving statement. I really wish I had been there.

Your statement is particularly welcome today when there are altogether too many signs around the world, and to a lesser extent even in this country, that the ugly poison of anti-semitism is surfacing again. I wish every person throughout the world could hear or read your tribute to the contributions made by American Jews to the enrichment of society generally. You can be assured that we in the American Jewish Committee will give it wide coverage.

With the hope that all goes well with you and Mrs. Ford, and with best wishes for the holiday season and the new year, I am

Sincerely,



Hyman Bookbinder  
Washington Representative

HB:dw

## DAR's New Directions

By Joseph McLellan

Reprinted from yesterday's late editions

"If it weren't a fur coat, I'd leave it here," said a silver-haired man who had been standing in line for more than half an hour.

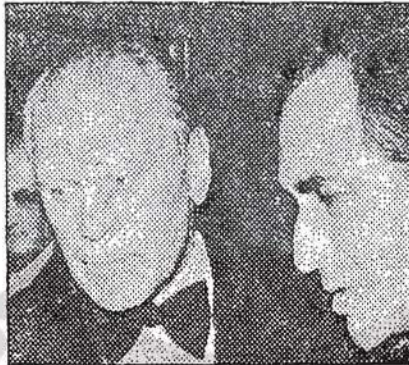
"You can't," said his wife. "It's cold out there."

They were waiting, with hundreds of others, in front of an improvised checkroom in the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, which on Wednesday night began a new career and instantly became a victim of its own success.

About 1,500 visitors flocked to the museum for the opening of the first loan exhibit in its history: "The Jewish Community in Early America: 1654-1830." For the opening ceremonies, which were highlighted by a talk by ex-president Gerald R. Ford, they crowded into a library which might have comfortably accommodated one-third their number. Then, on the way out, they discovered that inexperienced volunteers had not checked the coats in numerical order. It took long minutes to track down each one among the 1,500 hung at random.

The show which attracted so many visitors, from all parts of the United States, marked several radical departures for the DAR, which has never before shown a loan exhibit in its museum and which has hardly publicized the fact that it operates a museum. "We have a sign up that says 'Museum' and 'Open to the Public,'" said Jean Federico, curator of the exhibit, "but it's still very new."

Also new is the subject matter of



Gerald Ford and John Loeb;  
by Harry Naltchayan

the exhibit, which focuses on Jewish life in early America and sharply modifies the WASP image which (perhaps unintentionally) the DAR has acquired through the years. "We have always had plenty of Jewish members," said Federico. "I can't tell you how many, because we don't keep track of that kind of thing." One Jewish member earlier in this century was Adeline Moses Loeb, grandmother of John L. Loeb Jr., who originated and partially financed the exhibit as a tribute to her. "A few years ago," he recalled, "I was filled with bicentennial fever, and I wanted to do something for my grandmother. The DAR officers were very enthusiastic and absorbed most of the expenses."

According to Mrs. Richard Denny Shelby, DAR president general, more surprises may be expected from the organization. "This is the beginning of a new administration," she said. "This is our first step, and you may look forward to more for the next three years."

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** 12/22/80  
**to** Bookie  
**from** Howard  
**subject** DAR sponsoring of Exhibition on "Jews in America 1654-1830"

John Loeb, Jr. a prominent New Yorker Jew, helped finance an exhibition that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) agreed to display and promote. The opening was held last week at the DAR building in Washington with a dinner following at the Corcoran Art Gallery.

The occasion was remarkable for a number of reasons:

1. The mere fact that a group such as the DAR would sponsor a "Jewish" exhibition is significant. Even though they have had Jewish members in the past they are considered to be one of the most "WASPISH" organizations in America.
2. The people who attended. The featured speaker was former President Ford. At the dinner, Edwin Meese (Reagan's top advisor) introduced Ford. Meese, himself, was introduced by Richard Allen. Also, in attendance were Ambassadors from several countries (including Harry Hurwitz, representing the Israeli Embassy); General Rowny, former SALT II negotiator and candidate to head Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; Jeff Gayner, Heritage Foundation Foreign Policy Director and Transition Team member at State (he too was dismayed at Percy's comments re PLO and mentioned that he would like to see a new chairman. His choice, however, would be Helms or Hayakawa. He spoke of Boschwitz in very positive terms); a large number of Congressmen, Senators, and Lady Bird Johnson. Justice Abe Fortas, Al Moses, Les Hyman and Michael Berenbaum were the only "Jewish" people I recognized.
3. It appears that John Loeb, Jr. is a very influential Republican. Not only did he entice the DAR to sponsor the event, but, he managed to "encourage" Meese, Allen and Ford to attend and speak. He may be someone we (AJC) should get to know.
4. Ford's speech was quite good (see enclosed). Dick Allen spoke not only of the Jews who contributed to early America but of Israel and it's need for secure borders and continued U.S. support. David Hyatt, of NCCJ, in the benediction mentioned not only the American Jewish contribution to early America but the meaning of Israel and the plight of Soviet Jewry.

It was a very elegant affair significant not only because of the content of the speeches and the notables present, but, by the fact that a group such as the DAR would recognize, at this time, the accomplishments and contributions the Jewish people have made to American life.

