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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

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

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 83, Folder 11, Homeless, 1982-1983.

January 30, 1983

"MAYOR KOCH, RELIGION, AND THE HOMELESS"  
WINS RELIGION COMMENTARY  
RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM\* OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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The time is past due for Mayor Koch and the religious leaders of this city to bury their polemical hatchets over the agonizing issue of the homeless.

I happen to believe that Mayor Koch is a good mayor. But he does the cause of the homeless a serious disservice by haranguing the churches and synagogues for allegedly failing to be the prime movers in taking care of the thousands of homeless who suffer in our cold streets and subways. Our houses of worship can and should provide beds and food on an emergency basis. But churches and synagogues simply are not equipped to provide long-term permanent housing and jobs. Those are the responsibilities of our city government and the business community. It confuses the issues and inhibits cooperation for the Mayor to pass the buck to our religious groups.

With other Jewish citizens of New York, I am particularly upset over his recent scapegoating of synagogues. Mayor Koch reportedly said, "not a single synagogue has taken in any homeless," thereby suggesting that Jews, unlike Christians, are callous to human suffering.

As Mayor and as a Jew, he should know better. He should have known that the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, the central Jewish agency for social welfare, has been operating four major shelters for the homeless and conducts an active social services program for them. The Federation and the New York Board of Rabbis are cooperating in those programs.

The Mayor will better serve the cause of the homeless if he brings religion, business and government together, rather than pit them against each other.

Mayor Koch, I plead with you, make love, not war for the sake of the homeless and for the sake of all of us who care.

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\*Rabbi Tanenbaum, who is national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, presents a weekly religion commentary over WINS-Westinghouse Broadcasting Company.

December 26, 1982

"JUDAISM AND CARE FOR THE HOMELESS"

WINS RELIGION COMMENTARY

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM\* OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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"If tens of thousands of homeless people in America were displaced by earthquake or some other natural calamity, a national emergency would be declared...But in the face of this emergency the nation sleeps."

That statement was made last week by the Coalition for the Homeless, an interreligious group that has become deeply concerned over the growing number of homeless Americans. These domestic refugees are now estimated to number a half million to two million men, women, and young people displaced by growing unemployment and neglect. Thousands sleep on cold streets or subway cars, and suffer from hunger and illness. In New York City alone, there are about 36,000 such homeless.

Last week, Christian and Jewish leaders joined at a press conference convened by Episcopal Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. The religious leaders committed themselves to help provide temporary food and shelter. But they insisted that the problem is so great that only the government has the resources to provide permanent low-cost housing and jobs. Mayors, governors, and the President cannot be allowed to shift the buck primarily to Churches and Synagogues. The city government must be brought to provide warehouses for food banks and buildings more suitable for homeless shelters than church basements.

In Judaism, the great principle, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" means that the poor and homeless are to be considered your brother and sister and must be treated in a compassionate manner.

In this season of good will, you can help by calling the Coalition for the Homeless at 212-807-6653. Peace on earth should not tolerate people sleeping on the ground.

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\*Rabbi Tanenbaum, who is national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, presents a weekly religion commentary over WINS-Westinghouse Broadcasting System.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

January 3, 1983

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

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

I thought you would be interested in  
the enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Koch".

Edward I. Koch  
Mayor

mg  
encl.

Tel: 566-5090

315-82

For Release:  
Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1982

STATEMENT BY MAYOR EDWARD I. KOCH

On Christmas Eve, seven prominent religious leaders rightfully called attention to the plight of the homeless. I share their concern. I applaud them for asking "Houses of worship which have the facilities to develop shelters to open their doors" to the homeless. I also share Episcopal Bishop Paul Moore, Jr.'s view that "this problem will only be solved by public policy."

However, I take sharp exception to other comments made by Bishop Moore and by two of the other participants, the Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Senior Minister of the Riverside Church, and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee. By linking the failure of all levels of government together, they fail to take account of the extraordinary efforts already made by the city. In 1978, New York spent \$7 million to help the homeless; in the present year we are spending more than \$38 million. No other city program has increased by nearly as much. In addition, we have committed \$15 million in capital construction funds to build and rehabilitate shelter facilities. Today there are ten shelters and two outreach facilities, compared to only three shelters in 1978. To accuse New York of "dodging responsibility" seems hardly fair.

I was particularly disturbed by Reverend Coffin's comment that he personally hates "churches, synagogues and mosques to become havens in a heartless world, and by caring for victims of that world, increase its heartlessness," and by Rabbi Tanenbaum's remark that the problem "is of such a magnitude that only the city can take care of it." Certainly, the primary responsibility is government's -- federal and state as well as city; but just as certainly the real answer to the misery of the homeless

(more)

does not lie with government alone. It has to involve the spiritual as well as the material health of religious institutions.

Probably nothing bothered me as much as the disparaging comments made about the city's present efforts. Bishop Moore at one point said that where the Franciscan Residence on East 24th Street spent under \$7 a day, the city spent more than twice that amount for "less humane" surroundings. The Franciscan Residence -- which is a permanent, not a transient residence -- actually spends \$13.18 per resident per day. The roughly equivalent city facility, Camp LaGuardia, spends \$10.97. The average cost of a city-run transient residence is \$20 per person per day, a figure that includes guard service as well as health care and mental health services. When the Episcopal Mission, of which Bishop Moore is Board Chairman, proposed turning its former foster care facility into a transient shelter, it said the cost per person per day would be \$29.57. Unfortunately, the Episcopal Mission withdrew its proposal, partially because the local community objected.

My intention is not to start a debate with these religious leaders, but simply to set the record straight. I need and welcome their assistance with this problem. The homeless need their help. Over the next several months the city will be opening additional shelters. I hope that our churches and synagogues will be doing the same. We will face opposition, often fierce opposition. But by working together, by making common cause of the need to help the most desperate of our fellow New Yorkers, we will overcome that opposition and will once again confirm New York's commitment to decent and humane treatment for all of its citizens.

##

The Bishop of New York

The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore Jr.

1047 Amsterdam Avenue New York N.Y. 10025 (212) 678-6953

January 12, 1983

The Honorable Edward I. Koch  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Ed:

Thank you for sending me your press release on our press conference on the homeless. I was away the week after Christmas, and didn't see your comments. The figures I used were given to me by people whom I trusted, if they were inaccurate, I apologize. I do feel strongly that the public sector, be it city, state or federal government must take care of the poor. Whether or not New York's doing more than anyone else, as long as there are homeless in the streets, with nowhere to go, I think our obligation continues.

However, I hope that in the next two or three months that the churches, the private sector and the city will be able to cooperate in an overall long-range program to meet this emergency.

We ourselves are not doing as much as we should. But I believe the Episcopal Church is doing more than the other denominations, except for the Catholics.

Good luck to you in the coming months and years. We have a lot of work to do together, and I look forward to cooperating as much as we can.

Sincerely,



Bishop of New York

PM:bp

cc: Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • Plaza 1-4000

**date** December 21, 1982  
**to** Haskell L. Lazere  
**from** Joanne Hoffman  
**subject** The Homeless and the Jewish Homeless

As you know for several months now I have been involved in a task force comprised of Jewish organizations of the Upper West Side of Manhattan which was developed to address the immediate need for a thoughtful and coordinated approach to the problem of homelessness - particularly as it concerns that community's elderly and Jewish populations. My involvement with the task force has been quite extensive and, as things develop, will undoubtedly become more so. After last week's Chapter meeting where our Board gave our Urban Affairs Committee the "hechsher" to go ahead in this effort, I thought that it would be helpful to bring you up to date on the work of the task force and the particular role I believe our Chapter could play in addressing this growing problem.

OVERVIEW OF PROBLEM

The thousands of men, women and children comprising New York's homeless population presents an increasingly tragic and intractable problem. Government and community efforts to address this crisis situation and investigate alternatives have, thus far, been inadequate and voluntary efforts on the part of church and other humanitarian groups are newly organized and suffer from a lack of community coordination, resources and support. Many of the existing programs which do not provide shelter have had little or no success in maintaining even minimal continuity of contact with the homeless they serve. The problem is indisputably profound.

A recent New York Times survey estimates that 36,000 people are currently homeless in New York City with the number expected to increase over the winter. Of this number, only 3,500 (approximately 10%) are accommodated by City facilities (i.e. shelters). It is clear that vast numbers of homeless people living on the streets are not being served by anyone. Although there is no figure to isolate the extent of the Jewish homeless in NYC, statistics show that 3 to 4% of the 3,000 men sheltered by the City are Jewish. There are no statistics for women. The percentage of Jews in private shelters is somewhat higher.

JEWISH COMMUNAL EFFORTS

Jewish community councils, local synagogues and social service agencies are beginning to report homelessness as a growing problem for our community - and not just our elderly community. While little has been done by the organized Jewish community to address this concern, some very modest efforts have begun. The Crown Heights JCC has recently purchased a building which they hope to convert



into a men's shelter and the Council of Jewish Organizations of Boro Park, realizing how homelessness is impacting on their own community, recently developed a task force to examine the matter. Also, the Federation has opened an interim care "respite" facility for the recently homeless of the Lower East Side and the Met Council on Jewish Poverty has been gathering statistics (informal as they may be) on homeless Jews as reported by their local Jewish community councils.

The Upper West Side of Manhattan has been (and continues to be) a very problematic area for elderly and vulnerable Jews in need of housing. The City's housing development patterns prompting mass conversions of SROs, hotels and low income apartment dwellings into luxury cooperatives has literally forced people living in these residences out into the streets and local synagogues and social service agencies have expressed serious concern over the number of Jews represented among this displaced population.

While not going into the specifics of the project proposal, the West Side Task Force on the Homeless is attempting to deal with both the short term problem of providing temporary emergency shelter and the long term problem of securing either interim or more permanent housing for those individuals who are capable of living on their own. Realizing that the homeless population is varied and that as a group with limited resources, we are not equipt to deal with the more chronic homeless populations, the task force has limited its target population to the elderly who are at immediate risk but who (in time) will be capable of making the transition from the street back into the community.

#### LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

With regard to the short term, we have approached every synagogue on the Upper West Side to request that they make space available during the evening to take in as little or as many homeless elderly as they can accommodate. Negotiations with the synagogues are beginning with formal requests being made to synagogue boards. We are also looking into the possibility of renting blocks of apartments in the few hotels that still exist in the area, to temporarily house individuals.

The long term problem is clearly a more complicated one. Toward this end the task force would like to open an interim facility that would be a kind of transitional residence for those homeless who, with some support, will be capable of placement into permanent housing. As I discussed with you, we do have a benefactor who has put money into an escrow account for a homeless project for Jews on the Upper West Side. This account is being held by the Metropolitan NY Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty.

Needless to say, the problem that is most prominent in this effort is the lack of available space for both long term and short term efforts. The task force has been working with Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) in trying to identify in-rem buildings that we might consider renting or purchasing for an interim facility, but so far none of the sites recommended by HPD have been suitable. Our fear is that with dramatic cutbacks in federal housing programs, including a freeze on 202 money for senior citizen housing and the virtual elimination of section 8 subsidies, coupled with a totally incoherent

statewide housing system and a city policy which has demonstrated negligence in dealing with the housing needs of the poor and middle income, the situation will get worse before it gets better. (So much for politics)

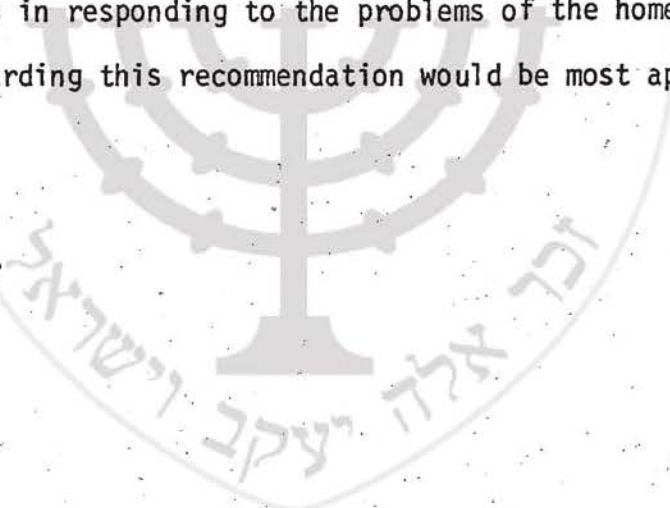
ROLE OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER

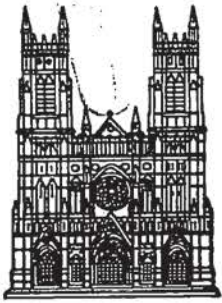
The long and short of it is that we will do what we can to get as many of these people off the streets and into some form of safe shelter. As I expressed earlier, I am hoping that the New York Chapter - now that we have formal approval from the Board - will begin to play a more active role in the area of the homeless and more directly, the Jewish homeless. Specifically, I see the Chapter being involved in two ways - first, as an advocate on behalf of the homeless and second, as a resource to local Jewish community groups that are in need of technical assistance. As you know, Herb Mandel has made his expertise as an architect available for reviewing building sites and Marty Gallent has been helpful in steering us to people at HPD. At different times during the course of my involvement in this project I have called upon various other board members, including Fran Levenson and Anita Miller, for direction and advice and Sam Rabinove and Andrea Klausner have made their legal services available to the task force until such time as we get an attorney from our Chapter to take on this responsibility. In essence, I am suggesting that we consider developing a technical advisory group, using the professional and intellectual resources of some of our Chapter members, to assist local Jewish community groups in responding to the problems of the homeless.

Your comments regarding this recommendation would be most appreciated.

JH:df

cc: Evan Bayer  
James Greilzheimer  
Herbert Mandel  
Seymour Samet





# CATHEDRAL NEWS

22 December 82

RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL FOR CHRISTMAS RESPONSE TO  
HOMELESS AT PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 24, 10 A.M.  
AT CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

A year ago, Mayor Koch summoned the religious community of the City to assist in giving shelter to the homeless. Since that time, this problem, all over the country, has reached a crisis.

The struggle for dignity and shelter of thousands of New Yorkers can no longer be ignored. The Thanksgiving Food Forum with the civic and religious leadership of New York called attention to the plight of the thousands who are hungry in New York City. Now at Christmas time, in cooperation with the Coalition for the Homeless, the Partnership for the Homeless, and the Council of Churches, the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine is calling a press conference to awaken the conscience of each citizen of this city to the absolute responsibility we have to care for our fellow human beings who have no place to live but the streets. The time to work toward fair and decent housing for each and every soul is now. The basic self-respect of our city is on trial. "There but for the Grace of God go you or I."

We call upon religious, political, business, and social leaders and the people of this city to join together with real commitment to find the solution to this most shameful injustice. Working together, the development of low-cost

permanent housing for those now homeless is an achievable goal. The Coalition for the Homeless suggests using the St. Francis Residence on East 24 Street, Manhattan, as the model we should seek to replicate city-wide. At this facility, where the residents help to maintain their home, about 100 people live in a decent, dignified environment. What is most remarkable about the St. Francis Residence is its economy. The Franciscans purchased their building for \$550,000 and spent an additional \$300,000 to renovate it, at a capital cost of \$850,000 -- for 100 rooms, or \$8,500 per room. In contrast, New York City is spending nearly \$7 million of city tax levy dollars to build 400 dormitory beds for men on Wards Island -- a capital cost of \$17,500 per bed. Even more significant than the comparative capital costs is the fact that operating expenses for the St. Francis facility, met in part by rents paid by the residents from their own entitlement checks, are just under \$7 a day. The city's shelter program spends over twice this amount for accommodations which are far less humane. Our brothers and sisters who find themselves without a home are not looking for a hand-out. What they need is what we all need -- a chance to work to support themselves and others. Residences such as St. Francis' offer this opportunity.

While the strategy for the establishment of permanent housing is being developed, we implore Houses of Worship which have the facilities to develop shelters, to open their doors. Those that cannot provide physical shelter must assist those that can. If we cannot offer a blanket or food or money, then we can offer our time and care.

more ...

The Coalition for the Homeless is a group of concerned citizens and organizations who have come together to address the problems of homeless men and women in New York City, believing that decent shelter is a fundamental right in a civilized society. Please contact them, ((212) 460-8110) for more information on how temporary and permanent shelters can be developed.

The Partnership for the Homeless is working with Churches throughout the city, helping them to respond to the crisis of homelessness. ((212) 807-6653)

The most important thing that each of us has to give is the room and the warmth in our heart for another human being who is suffering and struggling without food and shelter. Their struggle for self-respect is our struggle. If all we give is a moment of true concern, we have given what is most important and most needed. Once this moment is shared, the proper action will follow.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,

CONTACT: Marc Greenberg  
EARTH COMMUNITY/FOOD FORUM

Karima Temple  
794-2030

Bishop Moore's Office  
678-6953

24 Dec 82

CHURCH LEADERS TAKING PART IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE

The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr.  
Bishop of New York, Episcopal

The Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin  
Riverside Church

The Rev. Carl Flemister  
Head of the American Baptist Church

The Rt. Rev. Roy Nichols  
Bishop, Methodist

Nur al Jerrahi  
Halveti Order of Islam

The Rt. Rev. Joseph Sullivan  
Bishop, Roman Catholic

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
American Jewish Committee

... among other religious leaders

ALSO:

Kim Hopper  
Coalition for the Homeless

Peter Smith  
Partnership for the Homeless



Dr. Robert L. Polk  
Executive Director

FOR PRESS RELEASE

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
POSITION AND ACTIVITY ON THE HOMELESS

As the economic climate continues to worsen, New Yorkers see more and more men and women who are in need of a warm bed and a decent meal -- the very basics of survival. We must be moved by the misery, deprivation, loneliness and despair of these people.

As a partial response to the needs of the homeless, the Council of Churches of the City of New York is actively involved in the Partnership for the Homeless, a nonprofit organization that has been formed in cooperation with the New York City Board of Rabbis, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York. The first priority of the Partnership is to provide the legal and technical advice and follow-up support necessary to help concerned churches and synagogues establish their own emergency shelters this winter.

In October, the Partnership gathered together some 500 persons in "Winter '83 Action Day" to stress the necessity of informing the religious community of the plight of the homeless in the City. The Council's role in this event, was to help inform the Protestant Community about this seminar.

The Council also supports the efforts of other organizations which are advocates for the homeless. One such important resource is the Coalition for the Homeless, comprised of citizens and organizations who come together to address the problems of homeless men and women living on the streets and in the shelters of New York City.

The Council deplores recent accounts in the press implying that the homeless are mentally ill, and has called for the publicizing of its rebuttal statement which indicates that while some mentally ill patients are, unfortunately, homeless, not all homeless are in need of treatment for mental disorders.

The Council, through board action in 1982 continues to challenge the City to provide shelter and food for the Thousands of newly poor, and to support the Churches in their attempt to serve the needs of the homeless.

Rev. Robert L. Polk, D.D.  
Executive Director  
Council of Churches of the City of New York

December 12, 1982



**Thanksgiving Food Forum  
Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine  
New York City  
Winter, 1982**



**The myth that there is not enough food for everyone must be dispelled.** There is a surplus of food in this country today. Nevertheless, estimates of the number of people in New York City alone without enough to eat range upwards of 60,000. Many of these are people caught in circumstances beyond their control. This number includes working men and women and their families unable to make ends meet and those who have lost their jobs, as well as people discharged from institutions. Despite skyrocketing inflation and rising unemployment, many social services including the Food Stamp Program, the most basic safety net now provided by any level of government, are being severely cut.

The purpose of this booklet is to give an overview of the emergency hunger situation in New York City and to suggest specific guidelines which could begin to eliminate hunger citywide. These programs provide essential emergency assistance and must be supported.

The root cause of hunger is poverty which can only be addressed by making our deepest commitment the meeting of human needs.

### **Need One Person Go Hungry In New York City This Winter?**

"Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?"

And the King will answer them, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you did it unto Me."

Matthew 25:37-40

**How can one person help to ease the hunger crisis in New York City?**

**By assisting City Harvest in utilizing food resources now being wasted**

**By running food drives and supporting local emergency food centers**

**By preventing further budget cuts in Government Aid programs**

**Where can information on citywide emergency food aid be obtained?**

**The Food & Hunger Hotline is the only citywide information and referral, advocacy, and organizing center dealing with food programs and food issues. The Hotline receives hundreds of calls a month from people needing help with their basic survival needs and directs those individuals to emergency food centers throughout the city. During the last year, calls to the Hotline for emergency food assistance increased by over 100%.**

**The Hotline has the most up-to-date information on all food and food-related services in New York City and offers presentations to groups on food and hunger issues and on how to run emergency food centers.**

**The Hotline Advocacy Project seeks to increase access to public and private food assistance programs and to ensure that program participants receive the benefits to which they are entitled. These programs include government aid, nutrition counseling, food co-ops and buying clubs, farmers markets, and food legislation.**

**The Hotline needs volunteers to answer their phone and financial support. The Hotline is also seeking to obtain a teletype machine with which to set up a program to offer emergency food aid to the deaf.**

**The Hotline is located at 17 Murray Street, Fifth Floor, New York, New York 10007; (212) 406-2300; 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

### Where is emergency food available?

A Food Pantry is a privately-run program which supplies emergency non-perishable food to individuals or families who are without the funds to purchase such food. The pantries range in size, from a closet or room full of food serving ten families per month, to a full-scale operation serving close to 500. In New York City, most of the over seventy pantries are run by a religious or community organization as part of a series of community services. Statistics compiled from the twenty pantries keeping record in 1981, found that over 25,000 families a year were being served. Some pantries offer assistance on a continuous basis, while others provide assistance to each family as little as three times per year. Some accept walk-ins while others insist on screening by another agency.

A Soup Kitchen is often run in conjunction with a food pantry. A simple hot meal is offered to the needy on a fairly regular weekly basis. Most soup kitchens depend upon donations of fresh food.

Most emergency food centers do not advertise. If they did, their stores of food would be quickly exhausted. Most are heard about through churches or helping agencies that people go to when in crisis. Many people are referred to pantries and soup kitchens through the Food and Hunger Hotline which does advertise. After screening the call, and trying to help the caller deal with the root of their problem, the Hotline then calls the center in the person's neighborhood to see if assistance is available. Referrals may also be made by local hospitals and social services as well as churches and community centers. In most cases, it is best that a pantry is called in advance to OK the recipient.

People are in need of emergency food for many reasons. These include: late or missing Food Stamps, welfare checks or social security, benefits being cut off without notification, checks or Food Stamps being stolen, unexpected medical expenses, fires, robberies, or other crises leaving families with depleted funds.

If you or someone you know is in need of emergency food, call the Food & Hunger Hotline at (212) 406-2300.

**About 20% of all food produced in the United States is lost or wasted every year. How can this food be used to feed the hungry?**

City Harvest is based on a simple, practical idea that there is enough edible but wasted food in New York City to feed its people. Restaurants, supermarkets and caterers, routinely throw out edible food that can no longer be sold. City Harvest collects this needed food on a regular basis and distributes it to emergency soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries around the city. This food recycling concept, pioneered in New Haven, Connecticut, a city of 140,000 people, now feeds over 3,000 daily. In New York, a city of 7 million, the task of distributing surplus food to the poor and hungry is one of vast dimensions. City Harvest needs support to enlist the aid of merchants throughout the city and drivers with vans or station wagons. With this program, thousands of people now hungry can be fed.

To contact City Harvest, write to Helen Palit, P. O. Box 38, 229 East 85th Street, New York City, N.Y. 10028; (212) ~~410-2264~~. HAR-VEST

**How do Food Pantries obtain emergency food?**

Food is donated, for the most part, through food drives organized by religious, community and business organizations. Excess food donated by corporations is made available to pantries through local food banks. Food is also purchased in bulk from local markets through funds donated. All this food is generally canned and boxed since most pantries do not have facilities to store or offer fresh foods. One of the most effective ways to support a local pantry is to organize a food drive.

**How are Food Drives organized?**

Food Drives can be run in many creative ways, for example: employees of companies or corporations can organize monthly donations of one can of food per person; schools can gather food at events organized by students; congregations can bring their surplus each weekly service; bakeries can be asked to overbake; supermarket shoppers can add one extra item to their purchases.

For assistance in setting up and operating a food pantry, contact the Food & Hunger Hotline at (212) 406-2300.

## **What Government Aid is available and why is it inadequate?**

Government Aid Programs, even before recent budget cuts did not fully accommodate the needs of the poor. Every citizen is urged to take action by contacting the local, city, state, and federal representatives and demanding that they fully support legislation which ensures the poor the basic needs which are their right.

For fiscal year 1983, spending is to be reduced by \$900 million for food stamps, \$700 million for medicaid, and \$500 million for aid to dependent children. These budget cuts total \$2.1 billion.

### **The Food Stamp Program**

**The Food Stamp Program is:** the only food program in this country which is intended to serve the entire family and which is available to all who are poor. It has substantially reduced malnutrition over the last 10 years. Food Stamps are coupons which can be used as cash at stores that accept them for purchasing food products.

**Eligibility:** Households with incomes below a minimum level are eligible. Those receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependant Children) are usually eligible.

**Application for Food Stamps:** must be made at a local Food Stamp Office. Persons on SSI who are homebound can mail in their applications. Persons on Public Assistance are taken care of at Local Income Centers.

**For Food Stamps within 3 days:** Applicants should apply for Expedited Services.

**Addition Programs:** EAF (Emergency Aid to Families) and EAA (Emergency Assistance for Adults) are offered by the New York City Department of Social Services.

More than one million people in NYC received Food Stamps. Of these, 600,000 are children and 120,000 are elderly or disabled.

**An additional 500,000 are eligible but are not receiving Food Stamps due to the repeated violations of some Food Stamp Offices and the complexities and the indignities experienced in trying to secure these benefits.**

Due to stricter eligibility requirements, families receiving Food Stamps in NYC decreased from 107,639 in May 1981 to 53,498 in October 1982 — a 50.3% drop.

**For Food Stamp information contact:** The Department of Social Services, 250 Church Street, 9th floor, New York, New York 10013; (212) 533-6386.

## **Special Supplemental Food Program For Women and Children (WIC)**

**WIC is:** a preventive health program that provides special nutritious food supplements to low income pregnant women, new or nursing mothers, and babies and children up to 5 years. WIC distributes vouchers which may be traded for the prescribed food at a local store which accepts them.

**Eligibility:** All mothers and children are eligible if they are low income and at nutritional risk.

**Application for WIC:** Locally the program is administered by health facilities, either government or private non-profit organizations which are funded by the New York State Department of Health.

In 1981, though many more women, infants and children were eligible, due to limited funds, approximately 100,000 were served. The remainder were placed on a long waiting list.

The budget for 1983 has WIC combined with Maternal and Child Health as a block grant, which suggests the desire of the Administration to reduce the budget for both these programs.

**For WIC Information, contact:** New York State Department of Health, Tower Building, Empire Plaza, Albany, New York 12207; (518) 474-4374

## **Nutrition Programs For The Elderly**

**Provides:** On average, one meal, five days a week, to senior citizens at centers or in their homes through Meals On Wheels. Many elderly who live alone do not eat nutritious food even if they can afford it.

**Eligibility:** All persons over 60 years of age are eligible. The program is particularly for low-income elderly, but not limited to them.

There are approximately 1,300,000 people in NYC over 60 and an estimated 300,000 over 65 with incomes under the poverty level. Due to limited funding, only about 40,000 meals are served daily. Future funding is unclear at this time.

**For information on Nutrition Programs for the Elderly, contact:** New York City Department for the Aging, 2 Lafayette Street, New York, New York 10007; (212) 577-0826, (212) 577-0800 (Meals-on-Wheels)

## **Field Offices:**

209 Joralemon Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
(212) 855-1208

26-41 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10453  
(212) 584-1328

Administrative Office Building  
Saint George Ferry Terminal  
Staten Island, New York 10301  
(212) 981-1680

120-55 Queens Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, New York 11415  
(212) 544-1265

See Directory, The Caring Community

## Child Care Food Program (CCFP)

**CCFP is:** a program which provides nutritious meals to children participating in non-residential child-care institutions such as group or family day-care, Headstart, recreation centers, settlement houses and after-school programs.

**Eligibility:** Eligible programs serve children of low-income families, between birth and 12 years, and handicapped children to age 15.

**Participation:** Child care institutions that wish to participate must be licensed, tax-exempt, public or private non-profit groups, and must be approved as sponsors by USDA regional office.

**Additional Provision:** Meals can be arranged for groups running programs for children up to 18 years, and for children attending after-school activities.

The CCFP received an approximate 30% or \$130 million reduction in funding in fiscal year 1982. Nutritious meals for children away from home all day can no longer be guaranteed.

With severe cutbacks in day-care services in New York City, thousands of children who need the benefits of CCFP cannot participate because they are not enrolled in a regular day-care program.

**For information on CCFP, contact:**

Child Care Food Programs  
USDA/FNS Regional Office  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 19-102  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 264-4864

Agency for Child Development  
240 Church Street  
New York, New York 10013  
(212) 553-5383

## School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

**Provide:** Federal and State funds for children to eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch in any public, private or parochial elementary, junior or senior high school.

**Eligibility:** All school age children are eligible. All children of unemployed parents are entitled to free school breakfast and lunch. The government pays more money for children of low-income families.

**Additional program:** The Summer Food Program was designed by Congress to assure that those children who receive free and reduced-price meals during the school year, also receive nutritious meals during the summer months. Due to budget cuts, the future of this program is in doubt.

Less than 33% of schools which now offer Lunch, offer the Breakfast Program. By educating the community, by setting up district and school food committees and organizing low-income and other parents around this issue, these programs could benefit thousands more children. The Administration has proposed further cuts in Child Nutrition Programs for fiscal year 1983.

**For information on the School Lunch and Breakfast Program, contact:**

The Office of School Food Services  
50-01 Northern Boulevard  
Long Island City, New York 11101

### How can food be purchased at a lower cost?

Community Food Co-operatives are a way for people to work together to have access to nutritional food at relatively lower prices through coordinated buying power. The savings can be 15-30% on the families grocery bill yearly. Besides offering low food costs, co-operatives help develop community spirit, this can help bring people together to work on other problems such as housing, health care, and transportation. The cost to a member is the wholesale price plus the expense of obtaining the food. All the work is done by members of the club. Food Stamps and WIC coupons are often accepted at the co-op and this can be arranged by the Food and Nutrition Service local office.

### How are food co-operatives formed?

15 or 20 households are enough to start a buying club and to purchase in bulk quantities. A larger membership increases the buying power of the club. Most co-ops meet once a week.

For information and help on setting up a Food Co-operative, see Directory: Community Food Buying Service.

### There are approximately 30,000 acres of vacant land in New York City. How can this land and the hundreds of flat roofs be used to ease the hunger crisis?

Community gardening is a viable way of providing food at lower costs and raising consciousness about the right uses of environment. Tools, seeds, land or water rights to plant gardens can be donated by local businesses, city government and civic organizations. Any time three or more people gain permission to garden on land they do not own, it can be called a community garden. Some existing gardens are on city-owned lots, other are on private property, some are leased at a nominal fee, some are rented, and some are free.

Organizing a community garden helps senior citizens in particular, who may not be able to plant their own garden, but would like to participate. The community can donate extra crops to people in nursing homes, child-care facilities and to other families. It has been estimated that a relatively small plot (25' by 30') can save a family up to \$300 per year on home grown produce.

For information, see Directory: The New York City Neighborhood Open Space Coalition



## Directory

The following is a list of organizations, by no means comprehensive, dedicated to feeding the poor and hungry and informing them of their legal rights, and working to improve services available. All these groups need help and resources to sustain the crucial work they are doing.

### Brooklyn Coalition Against Hunger

873 Pacific Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11238  
Contact: Virginia Vereecke  
(212) 622-6001

Membership is composed of representatives of food pantries, operated by religious groups and community agencies. The coalition locates food pantries in each postal zone of the borough so that referrals may be more quickly handled. Each pantry agrees that food will be shared should one pantry's supply become low. Borough-wide gatherings of food are organized by the coalition.

### Bronx Association of Food Pantries

Contact: The Food & Hunger Hotline

### The Caring Community, Inc.

St. Joseph's Church  
371 6th Avenue  
New York, New York 10014  
(212) 989-2050

A non-profit corporation composed of approximately 20 churches, synagogues, and social service agencies in the Greenwich Village area. Under government funding, Caring Community sponsors a luncheon program for the elderly (over 60 years) at four sites:

At St. Joseph's Church  
(Address as above)  
Site Manager: Pilar Bell  
Serving Time: 12:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Pompeii  
25 Carmine Street  
New York, New York 10014  
(212) 989-3620  
Site Manager: Lucy Cecere  
Serving Time: 1:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Church  
487 Hudson Street  
New York, New York 10014  
(212) 989-4260  
Site Manager: Susan Dewitt  
Serving Time: 12:15 p.m.

The Caring Community, Inc.  
Multi-Service Senior Center  
20 Washington Square North  
New York, New York 10011  
(212) 260-6250  
Director: Paul Rounsaville  
Serving Time: 11:45 a.m.

There is a suggested fee of 50¢ per meal at all four centers. The Caring Community has a Meals On Wheels Program to enable older adults who are in need of some assistance to remain at home rather than in an institutional setting. Receiving a hot meal daily can help make this possible.

### City Harvest

P. O. Box 38  
229 East 85th Street  
New York, New York 10028  
Contact: Helen Palit  
(212) 410-2264 HAR-VEST

**Community Food Buying Service (See Community Co-operative Buying)**

17 Murray Street, 4th Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
Director: Ros Everdell  
(212) 349-8155

The Community Food Buying Service purchases and delivers fresh quality fruits, vegetables, and dairy products at significant cost-savings to senior and day care centers, food co-operatives and other community-based food and meal programs.

**The Coalition For The Homeless**

105 East 22nd Street  
New York, New York 10010  
Contact: Amy Haus  
(212) 460-8110

The Coalition for the Homeless is an advocacy group dedicated to ensuring decent, humane shelter. The coalition works directly with voluntary shelters, assisting in legal matters, providing technical help, fund raising, and the coordination of volunteers and donated goods such as food and clothing.

**The Door**

618 Sixth Avenue  
New York, New York 10011  
Contact: Renata Wilms - Lunch program  
Annie Hauck - Nutrition Counseling  
(212) 691-6161

The Door, a program of ICIS (International Center of Integrated Studies), is a community youth center which offers a wide range of youth services including nutrition and a broad spectrum of health counseling. Dinner is offered between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to teenagers free ages 12 to 18 who are enrolled in The Door's programs. Ages 19 to 21 pay 40¢.

**East Harlem Interfaith and Welfare Committee Hunger Project**

2050 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10029  
Contact: Lydia Lopez  
(212) 427-1500

The East Harlem Interfaith Welfare Committee is a coalition of individuals, churches, and voluntary agencies working to solve the most difficult problems confronting welfare clients while advocating for changes in the welfare system. For details of food banks and satellite programs, please contact the committee. Financial resources and food are decreasing rapidly as emergencies increase.

**Food & Hunger Hotline**

17 Murray Street, 5th Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
Contact: Donna Lawrence  
Allen Kahan  
Linda Johnson  
(212) 406-1900 (office)  
(212) 406-2300 (hotline)

**Interfaith Cooperative Food and Hunger Project**

Kingsbridge-Riverdale-Marble Hill-KRMH

Sponsored by Riverdale-Yonkers

Society For Ethical Culture

4450 Fieldston Road

Bronx, N. Y. 10471

Contact: Dr. Mathilda Furman

(212) 548-4445

Program structured to collect emergency food and funds providing stop-gap assistance until governmental agencies can take over. Volunteer helpers package and deliver non-perishable foods to those who are desperate.

**Manhattan Coalition Against Hunger**

c/o Trinity Lutheran Church

168 West 100th Street

New York, New York 10025

Contact: Reverend Backe

(212) 222-7045

A group of Food Pantries and Kitchens in Manhattan that meet on a regular basis to coordinate their efforts to provide emergency food and to try and deal with some of the underlying causes of hunger.

**Ministry on Hunger In The Bronx**

Council of Churches, Bronx Division

332 East 149th Street, Suite 603

Bronx, New York 10451

Contact: Reverend Timothy Birkett

(212)585-1900

Operates soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the borough. Obtains food directly from the Department of Agriculture and authorizes churches in the Bronx to run a children's hot meal program. Family counseling, nutrition counseling, and advocacy work with welfare for Food Stamps, and social services are available. Call for the location of Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries. Meals for the needy who are homebound are available.

**The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition (See Community Co-operative Gardening)**

110 W. 34th Street

New York, New York 10001

Contact: Tom Fox

(212) 736-8439

The Coalition consists of 52 organizations, some of which are listed below, and 14 individuals who are dedicated to the concept of community participation in the planning, design, maintenance and operation of a New York City Open Space resources.

**Green Thumb-NYC**

Dept. of General Services

49 Chambers Street, Rm. 1020

New York, New York 10007

(212) 233-2926

**Horticultural Society of New York City**

128 West 58th Street

New York, New York 10019

(212) 757-0915

**Housing Conservation Coordinators**

777 10th Avenue

New York, New York 10019

(212) 541-5996

**Trust for Public Land**

234 West 31st Street

Bronx, New York 10471

(212) 549-2055

**Queens Federation of Churches**

86-17 105th Street

Queens, New York 11418

Contact: Kevin Murphy

(212) 847-6764

The federation serves to coordinate churches and groups in Queens. Every month a particular section of Queens is solicited to collect non-perishable foods and a local church is selected as a drop-off point for each area. Requests for food on behalf of families are accepted through local pastors and social agencies.

**Resurrection House**

Food For Thought Program

57 East 129th Street

New York, New York 10035

Contact: Vivian Dixon

(212) 348-3535

Lunch is served every Wednesday around 12:30 p.m. Counseling and referrals are given on: jobs, parental care, education, personal problems, etc. The food pantry is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to distribute non-perishable foods, five days a week.

**Riverside Church****Pastoral Ministry and Food and Justice Task Force**

490 Riverside Drive at 122nd Street

New York, New York 10027

For information on the Pastoral Ministry and social service, contact Alice Davies, (212) 222-5900 X313. For information on the Food and Justice Task Force, an educational and consciousness-raising program, call Fran Massey, (212) 546-7761.

**West Side Campaign Against Hunger**

The Church of St. Paul

and St. Andrew

263 West 86th Street

New York, New York 10024

Contact: Peter Arndtsen

(212) 362-3662

WSCAH has an outreach and advocacy program to enroll eligible persons in programs such as Food Stamps, SSI, Women, Infants & Children (WIC), and other supportive programs. WSCAH has an outreach program into single room occupancy hotels, predominately a west side feature, where poor people are often the residents. All individuals who come to WSCAH are interviewed. Clinics are held to inform residents of their legal rights and to provide nutrition counseling for persons who are on minimum food budgets. WSCAH operates an emergency food bank Monday through Friday. Emergency food packets, each of which contains a three-day supply are available through referral through a social agency. WSCAH will make presentations to other community or religious groups. Statistical records are available for reference.

**The West Side Social Services Alliance**

490 Riverside Drive at 122 Street

New York, New York 10027

Contact: Alice Davies

(212) 222-5900 X313

A coalition of churches, synagogues and other organizations on the west side of Manhattan providing a variety of social services.

**The Working Group On Domestic Hunger & Poverty**  
National Council of the Churches  
of Christ in the U.S.A.  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10015  
Contact: Mary Ellen Lloyd  
(212) 870-2307

Works with a broad spectrum of church and community people, attempting to achieve an equitable distribution of food, land and economic resources.

### Soup Kitchens

At present, most of the locations serving cooked food in New York City do not wish to be publicized because they are already operating to capacity. Those below represent a cross section and are willing to be listed. For the location of the emergency food center in your neighborhood, contact The Food and Hunger Hotline at (212) 406-2300.

#### **Bowery Mission**

227 Bowery  
New York, New York 10002  
Contact: Reverend Alfred Gordon  
(212) 674-3456

Meals served every day except Saturday with services before.

#### **Broadway Presbyterian Church**

601 West 114th Street  
New York, New York 10025  
Contact: Donna Buyske (Wednesday)  
Luke Hill (Friday)  
(212) 864-6100

Meals served twice a week.

#### **Catholic Campus Ministry**

Columbia University In The City Of New York  
Diakonia  
110 Earl Hall  
New York, New York 10027  
Contact: Father Paul Dinger  
(212) 280-5110

Every Friday from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the basement of Broadway Presbyterian Church, Diakonia volunteers provide a hot nourishing meal for 120 to 200 neighborhood people. A companion lunch was begun by students from Union Theological Seminary on Wednesdays and helps serve the increasing number of needy people in this neighborhood and on the streets.

#### **Catholic Worker Soupline**

36 East 1st Street  
New York, New York 10003  
Contact: Jane Sammon  
(212) 254-1640

Days of soupline subject to change. Clothing given out.

**Emmeus House**

160 West 120th Street  
New York, New York 10027  
Contact: Francis Henly  
(212) 662-7507

A community of homeless people offering temporary shelter to other homeless people, running a midday meal, 6 days a week, mostly from donations. Clothing as available is given out.

**Everything For Everybody Food Bank**

170 Avenue B (Corner 11th Street)  
New York, New York 10009  
Contact: Jack Scully  
(212) 260-4377

Whatever food they get they give out to people in the community.

**Holy Name Day Center For Homeless Men**

18 Bleeker Street  
New York, New York 10012  
Contact: John Cooney  
(212) 226-5848

Senior citizen lounge. Coffee and sandwiches served seven days a week. Clothing given out.

**McCauley Water Street Rescue Mission For Men**

90 Lafayette Street  
New York, New York 10013  
Contract: Charles Ross  
(212) 226-6214

Gospel services every evening after which a meal is served. Breakfast served to those who stay the night in the dormitory.

**St. Bartholomew's Church**

109 East 50th Street  
New York, New York 10022  
Contact: Reverend Judy Baumer  
(212) 751-1616

Breakfast served one day a week. Clothing and food given out.

**St. Francis of Assisi Monastery**

135 West 31st Street  
New York, New York 10001  
Contact: Brother Albert  
(212) 736-8500

Sandwiches and coffee given outside for whomever needs it.

**St. James Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen**

865 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10021  
Contact: Reverend Smyth  
(212) 288-4100

Food is served once a week to 30-40 people.

**St. Joseph's Church Soup Kitchen**

370 Sixth Avenue

New York, New York 10014

Contact: Frank Kelly

(212) 741-1274

Soup and bread given out to area residents.

**Yorkville Common Pantry**

316 East 88th Street

New York, New York 10028

Contact: Helen Pallit

(212) 410-2264

Lunch is served twice a week to the community in the area from 59th to 100th Street, and from 5th Avenue to the East River.

**For further information, contact the following groups and offices:**

**The Community Food Resource Center, Inc.**

17 Murray Street

New York, New York 10007

Contact: Agnes Molnar

(212) 349-8155

Developed in response to severe problems of hunger and malnutrition in New York City and the need for a central point of focus for food related issues, collating information on federal food programs and local self-help ideas. The aim of the center is to expand access to wholesome healthy food at a reasonable cost.

**The Cornucopia Project**

Rodale Press

33 East Minor Street

Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049

Contact: Robert Rodale

(215) 967-5171

**The Food Law Project**

335 Broadway

New York, New York 10013

(212) 431-7200

**FRAC — Food Research and Action Center**

1319 F Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

(202) 393-5060

**Second Harvest**

National Food Bank Network

1001 North Central, Suite 303

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Contact: John Van Heugel

(602) 252-1777

**United States General Accounting Office**

Washington, D.C. 20548

(202) 275-6241

**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Food and Nutrition Service  
14th and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
(202) 447-8384

**World Hunger Year, Inc.**  
350 Broadway, Room 209  
New York, New York 10013  
Contact: Jack Clark, Publication: Food Monitor  
(212) 226-2714

**Additional Resource Material**

**An Embarrassment of Riches:  
Increasing the Distribution of Surplus Commodities To Those In Need**  
Available from the Research and Liaison Unit  
Office of the Controller  
City of New York  
The Municipal Building  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 566-0983

**Children and Hunger - Poverty and Disease In East Harlem In 1981**  
by Dr. Anna Lou DeHavenon  
A statistical survey of the food emergency in East Harlem  
Available from Lydia Lopez  
East Harlem Interfaith and Welfare Committee Hunger Project  
2050 Second Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10029  
(212) 427-1500  
(Postage Contribution \$1.00)

**Community Food Resource Guide**  
Available from  
The Community Food Resource Center, Inc.  
17 Murray Street  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 349-8155

**Findings & Recommendations Of The New York Nutrition Watch Committee (NWC)**  
The findings of Evangeline Gouletas-Carey (co-chairperson) and  
Alan Pifer, president Carnegie Corporation of New York (co-chairperson)  
(518)473-3330  
Available from Jo-Ann Lamphere  
New York State Dept. of Health  
Room 2412, Tower Building  
Albany, New York 12237

**Food Co-op Handbook (to be printed this year)**  
Food Co-op List can be obtained from the Community Food Buying Service  
17 Murray Street  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 349-8155



**Food Policy**

**A New York City Crisis**

Available from The Office of Council Member  
The Honorable Ruth W. Messinger  
(212) 566-0709

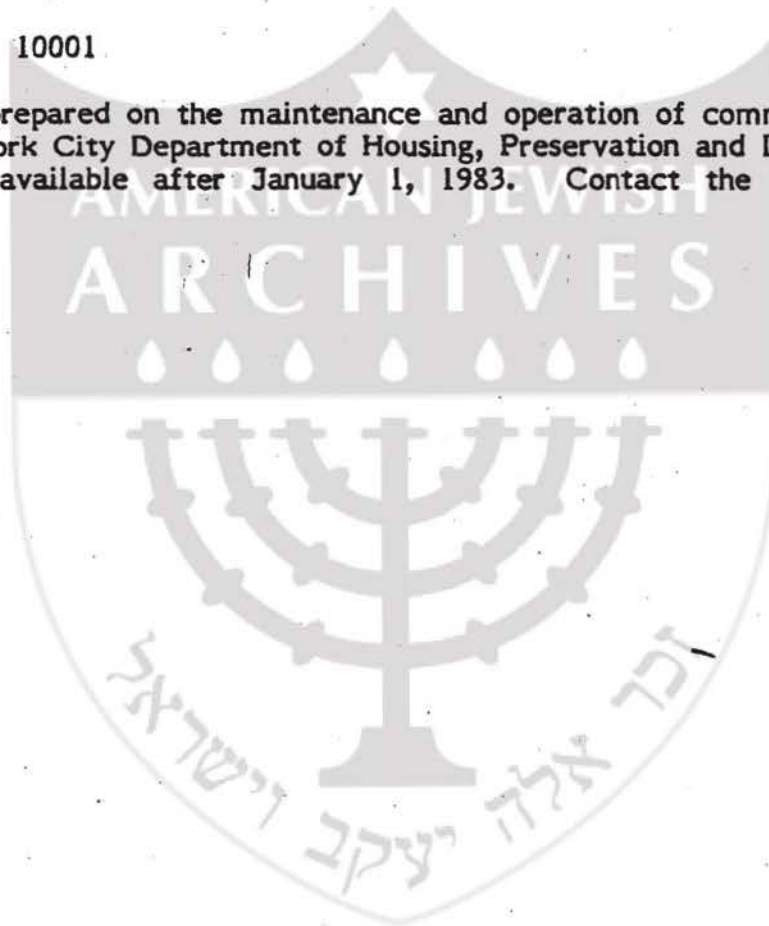
**The Hunger Action Agenda**

Available from The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. - The Working  
Group on Domestic Hunger and Poverty  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10015  
(212) 870-2307

**The Neighborhood Open Space Coalition**

110 W. 34th Street  
New York, New York 10001  
(212) 736-8439

A manual has been prepared on the maintenance and operation of community gardens and  
parks for the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development. This  
publication will be available after January 1, 1983. Contact the above Department  
(212) 566-4440.



This booklet has been prepared by: The Earth Community of the  
Cathedral of St. John the Divine and In The Spirit Foundation

Special thanks to: Harrison J. Goldin, Comptroller of the City of  
New York

# COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

105 East 22nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010  
(212) 460-8110

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum  
FROM: Robert M. Hayes  
RE: Homeless Families -- Hotel Conditions  
DATE: October 12, 1983

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I am enclosing a copy of a Board of Estimate resolution which would require the City of New York to enter into contracts with the major hotels used to shelter homeless families. The resolution would require these hotels to meet minimal qualitative standards, and would mandate that the City begin some comprehensive planning to meet what has become a periodic "crisis" surrounding homeless families.

We and other groups which work with homeless families have reviewed this resolution and we believe it to be sound. I urge you to contact members of the Board of Estimate this week to urge approval of the measure. On October 20th, a vote will be taken on this resolution. If you have any questions, please call Larry Klein, a Coalition Consultant, at 496-6442. Please advise Mr. Klein of contacts -- positive, negative or neutral -- which you have with the Board of Estimate members.

R.M.H.

RMH/gr  
Enclosure

BOE Resolution on Homeless Families

WHEREAS, many homeless families are placed by the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in facilities which are in violation of City housing, health and fire codes, lack adequate security, and do not have minimum safety devices, such as window guards, required by law for the protection of children; and

WHEREAS, many of the facilities used as temporary shelters by the City lack kitchen facilities, are infested with insects and mice, are inadequately heated, lack any play areas for children, are severely overcrowded, and lack appropriate furniture and bedding; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous reports documenting the substandard conditions in shelters for homeless families, including the Citizens Committee for Children report, No One's in Charge (January 1983), the City Comptroller's January 1983 Audit of City shelter services for homeless families, and the New York State Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Advocacy Council Medical Survey (August 1983); and

WHEREAS, HRA has set no standards governing the provision of of social services to homeless families; and

WHEREAS, the number of homeless families seeking emergency housing from the City has dramatically increased in the past year from 950 families in temporary shelter in June 1982 to 2,042 families in June 1983; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Administration is projecting that if the current trend continues the number of homeless families in City shelter will increase to 3,200 in June of 1984, and a severe winter could further increase the number to 4,000 families during the winter of 1984; and

WHEREAS, the City is now spending an average of \$1,200 a month per household to shelter over 2,000 families in 50 hotels and shelters at a total projected annual cost in FY 84 of \$40 million to federal, state and local government, nearly twice as much as FY 83 expenditures; and

WHEREAS, HRA and HPD now pay for shelter of homeless families on a per diem basis with private hotels, without the benefit of contracts stipulating minimum safety and health requirements, as well as mandated services, and furnishings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Estimate has jurisdiction to hold public hearings on matters benefiting the public interest and make recommendations to the Mayor in regard to matters of City policy pursuant to New York City Charter Section 67(2) and (3);

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Estimate requires the following changes:

1. Within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution, HRA and HPD will draft a model contract to be entered into with private hotels which are expected to be paid by the City in excess of \$10,000 in FY 84 to shelter homeless families. The model contract shall include the following provisions:

- (a) Require that the hotels comply with all applicable City housing, fire and health code provisions, as well as State law and regulations governing shelter for homeless families.
- (b) Establish minimum standards for security services at hotels used as temporary family shelters which will include, but not be limited to, establishing a minimum ratio of security guards to hotel guests, requiring a uniformed and appropriately trained and licensed security staff, and mandating that a security plan be developed within 30 days of the signing of the contract at each hotel and submitted to HRA and HPD for approval.
- (c) Require the hotel owners to provide a play area for children at each hotel sheltering more than 20 families within 60 days of the signing of the contract with the City. The HRA and HPD shall make the appropriate arrangements to adequately staff the play areas.
- (d) Establish the minimum square footage required for each person housed in a hotel.
- (e) Establish minimum furniture and bedding requirements for each person housed in a hotel.
- (f) Require periodic extermination of vermin and rodents as necessary to maintain the premises in reasonable condition.

2. Within 90 days of the adoption of this resolution, HRA and HPD shall enter into contracts with all private hotels which are expected to be paid by the City in excess of \$10,000 in FY 84. The contracts shall be submitted to the Board of Estimate for approval.

3. Within 60 days of the adoption of this resolution, HRA and HPD shall establish a plan to provide access to kitchen facilities or, in the alternative, nutritious meals to all homeless families housed in temporary shelters.

4. Within 60 days of the adoption of this resolution, HRA and HPD shall provide the Board of Estimate with a site specific plan

to house the 3,000 to 4,000 families projected by HRA to seek temporary shelter from the City in the winter of 1984.

5. HRA shall establish specific guidelines governing the provision of social services at the hotel, and it shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (a) The establishment of an appropriate ratio of social workers to clients.
- (b) A protocol mandating referrals for permanent housing, education, health, food and other social services within two weeks of residence at a temporary shelter.
- (c) Case records on all clients shall be kept noting referrals and follow-up.
- (d) HRA shall quarterly review a sampling of records to insure that appropriate records are provided. Reports shall be shared with the Board of Estimate.

6. Within 60 days of the adoption of this resolution, HRA shall develop a plan to establish emergency intake centers for homeless families in each borough. The centers will provide housing referral services and food for displaced families.

7. Within two weeks of the adoption of this resolution, HPD and/or HRA shall begin inspecting all rooms provided to homeless families within 24 hours of occupancy to determine whether there is any violation of contractual standards. Expeditious action will be taken to correct all defects. No hotel will be paid for rooms that contain conditions in violation of the contract.

8. HRA shall coordinate its activities with private relief agencies.

9. The Board of Estimate Health and Human Services Committee shall meet every two weeks regarding this issue until contracts with the hotels are passed by the Board to hear HRA and HPD report on their activities to comply with the resolution.



# The American Jewish Committee

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

*Bigel  
+ Coalition for Homeless*

January 31, 1983

Mr. Jack Bigel  
President  
N.Y. City Partnership  
230 West 41st Street  
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Bigel,

At the suggestion of our mutual friend, Mr. Jack Rudin, I take the liberty of sending you a copy of my recent letter to Mayor Koch.

This was written in response to a statement he had earlier issued relative to the question of the relationship of religious groups to the problem of the homeless.

Jack Rudin suggested that it might be useful if we could meet in the near future. I would like that very much.

I am working closely with Bishop Paul Moore and other leaders in the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish communities and would welcome a chance to share with you some of our approaches to this urgent human problem.

One of my tasks is that of trying to arrange a meeting between the Coalition for the Homeless with leaders in the business and civic community. Perhaps we can talk about that when we communicate with each other during the coming days.

With warmest good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

cc: Bishop Paul Moore  
Mr. Jack Rudin

bc: Don Feldstein

Enclosures *Koch letter, N/L F&P - Wms 1/3/83*



# The American Jewish Committee

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

January 25, 1983

The Honorable Edward I. Koch  
Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

My dear Mr. Mayor,

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to send me the press statement regarding the press conference convened by our good friend, Bishop Paul Moore.

I regret very much that you perceived our statements as reflecting negatively on your efforts to provide a constructive solution for our city's tragic homeless people.

Let me say at the outset that I regard myself as a great admirer of yours. I have no hesitation in saying that I consider you one of the most creative and effective mayors in the history of New York.

Had you been at the press conference, you would have heard that all the religious leaders acknowledged that the city and you personally have given genuine leadership in coping with this pressing human concern. But with all the efforts that have been made by the city, business, and religious institutions, the hard fact remains that thousands of human beings continue to founder in our streets and subways and desperately require shelter, food, and jobs.

In fact, today, as I walked down Lexington Avenue and 57 St., I saw an elderly man lying in front of a bank, in 18 degree cold, wrapped in newspapers and plastic, looking as if he were freezing to death. There are thousands like him.

The homeless are citizens and the institutions of the civic order have primary obligations to relieve their tragedies. Nevertheless, I believe with Paul Moore that this must be a cooperative effort of all the major sectors of the society, not just City Hall, not just religious agencies. The Partnership for the Homeless, as I understand it, is intended to achieve that cooperative purpose.

The Honorable Edward I. Koch

-2-

January 25, 1983

My sincere hope is that we can find more effective ways than in the past to create structures that will maximize that joint undertaking. In that purpose, you have my complete cooperation.

With warm good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

MHT:RPR

cc: Bishop Paul Moore  
Jack Rudin

Enclosures







# SERIOUSLY SPEAKING

By HY VILE  
Candid Columnist

Many times, I have wished that I had the insight and the sources to write better than I do. I thought of this while reading "The State of the Jews, 1982," an address by Dr. Gerson Cohen, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, given at the 92nd St. "Y" in New York City recently. An abbreviated digest of the speech appeared in a recent issue of Moment magazine.

The presentation is scholarly, thoughtful, and provocative. Dr. Cohen analyzes the current situation of the Jewish people in the world today, from the view of Jewish normalcy, a people's agony and glory.

There is no question of the importance of the issues he raises. What has transpired is fact. What they mean is opinion and what they conclude is judgment. In each of these categories, Dr. Cohen brilliantly sets the stage. He points out that in 1982, the Jews behaved like a normal nation, referring to the "Operation Peace for Galilee."

Normalcy requires a Jewish State, an army, diplomatic corps, sovereignty. After almost 2,000 years, the Jewish State is a reality, with its own foreign policy, a state that deals as a sovereign nation with other sovereign nations.

Jews have ceased to be a marginal group whose fate depends largely on their usefulness to, or the whims of their overlords. Jews have ceased to be members of a tolerated fringe. They are a "normal" sovereign people. In 1982, the Jewish State may have aroused Jewish anger and/or guilt, but it has not slowed the growth of Jewish self-esteem.

Jews are now perceived by themselves to be part of "real" life. We now have a say in to

of classical Jewish subjects. The narrow-minded notion that Jews have a law, ritual and religion, but no real culture has at least been put to rest.

*Seriously speaking*, Dr. Cohen has diagnosed with keen perception the subject of the normalcy of the Jewish people vis-a-vis their position in the world. His viewpoints and presentation merit study and examination. We can all learn from what he writes.

## Commentary

By

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

A SEVEN ARTS FEATURE



### CARE FOR HOMELESS AMERICANS

"If tens of thousands of homeless people in America were displaced by earthquake or some other national calamity, a national emergency would be declared . . . But in the face of this emergency, the nation sleeps."

That statement was made last week by the Coalition of the Homeless, an interreligious group that has become deeply concerned by the growing number of homeless Americans, now estimated at a half million to two million men, women, and children.

Displaced by growing unemployment and neglect, thousands sleep in the cold streets or subway cars, and suffer from hunger and illness. In New York City alone, there are an estimated 36,000 such homeless. Last week, Jewish and Christian

### Slim Gains in Israeli Women's Movement

TEL AVIV (ZINS) — Women constitute 50% of the franchised voters in Israel, but in the present Knesset they only hold 6.5% of the seats. There is not a single woman with ministerial rank, and only one of the 11 female MKs is a deputy minister.

In 1980, the Israeli work force included women in 36% of the jobs. However, there were less than 8% in executive or managerial positions.

At Israel's leading universities, more than one-fifth of the faculty is female, but only 4% of the full professors are women.

The working mother is now a common sight in Israel, with 105,000 Jewish women currently employing domestic help or babysitters for their children.

### Federation Plans 'Super Sunday '83'



Jewish Federation Super Sunday session chairmen met recently at the home of Robin Carr, to discuss plans for Super Sunday '83. Seated (l. to r.) are: Gail Himmelstein; Jeffrey Marks and Robin Carr, the chairmen, and Louise Hipsh. Standing: Tom Isenberg, Phil Hodes, Stewart Stein, Shelly Neiburger, Floyd Freiden, Jeanette Wishna, and Ron Goldsmith, campaign liaison. Not pictured: Elaine Tell, Socki Berg, Debby Eskanos, Harry Himmelstein, and Shel Roufa.

Jewish Federation Super Sunday session chairmen are recruiting volunteers from the community to staff 50 telephones for 2-hour shifts, on Super Sunday '83, to be held on Sunday, Jan. 23, at Temple B'nai Jehudah. The day-long effort will seek to contact the Jewish community for pledges to the 1983 Federation campaign.

More than 150 volunteers have been recruited, and Robin Carr

and Jeffrey Marks, chairmen, are pleased with the progress of plans for the day.

Jewish organizations throughout Greater Kansas City are also being asked to participate and to send volunteers, who will receive training prior to their telephone duties.

For information, or to volunteer, call Susie Goldsmith at the Federation office, 421-5808.

### Bronfman Upholds Jewish Right to Dissent on West Bank Policies

JERUSALEM, (JTA) — "The ties between Israel and the diaspora — as permanent as they are — are more strained today than at any other time in the history of the Jewish State," according to Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress.

"To deny this is to bury our heads in the sand, thus leaving our

leader castigated the use of such terms as "fascist", "traitor", "blood libel", "enemy of the Jews", "anti-Semite", "Jewish self-hatred" or "new Holocaust" in the internal debate going on in Israel and in the diaspora.

Many American Jews See Merit In Reagan Plan

He stated in that connection

JOEL A. GALLOB  
516 11th St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

1/24/83

Editor  
The Jewish World  
1029 Brighton Beach Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dear Editor:

I see that New York's esteemed Mayor this past week publicly took the city's synagogues--and thus, its Jews--to task for not helping shelter the homeless. There are, I think, several responses that should be made to his words.

First, one might recall that many of the homeless were made so by the Koch Administration's staunch support for J-51 tax reductions for the converters of various kinds of properties--most notably single-room-occupancy hotels--into luxurious places to live. Now I know that the rich need a decent place to stay, too, and some abandoned buildings were indeed converted to useful life; but the thousands of elderly men and women thus made roofless was a high price with which to buy such upscale housing. J-51 has finally been reigned in (even if the battle is far from over)--but for these frozen senior citizens, it is a bit too late.

Secondly, one would hope that the Mayor went public only after having privately met with the Jewish community's machers. If they had told him to buzz off, then he might have had the right to publicly scath the city's synagogues. My own sense of this is that Mayor Koch probably did nothing of the sort. He is known, after all, for shooting from the lip. Perhaps The Jewish World might want to send one of its reporters on the trail and find out what, if anything, did happen in this regard.

Even had the Jewish leadership been unwilling to help the homeless, the Mayor should have balanced the value of such a public scathing, if any, against the legitimitization of anti-Semitism his words might provide. And even granting him the benefit of all the possible doubts, he should probably have gone mano-a-mano with the community's leaders again... and again and again if need be, bringing to bear quietly the threat of the power of the Mayorality. But in private!

As Koch's attacks on the city's minority leaders and communities, and his sometimes less than subtly racist remarks have shown, such clarity of judgement regarding the common good is not his. That he should now stoop to subtle anti-Semitism tells us of the trouble we all--Jews, and non-Jews--are facing. It is, perhaps, but another replay of an ancient fact--that when the flames of race and group hatred are raised, they sooner or later come around to burn the Jews.

(next page please)

And finally, I would ask, the source of the question for the moment disregarded, what have we as a community done for the homeless? Why aren't the synagogues doing what the churches are already doing--providing shelter to those who are homeless, heat and food to those hungry and cold? And what might the answer to such questions tell us about the state of our own values?

Sincerely,



Joel Gallob



cc: Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
Rabbi Jim Rudin  
Murray Zuckoff  
Issachar Miron  
Ben (& Ray) Gallob  
Jacques Traveres CHIPS (Christian Help in Park Slope)  
Sr. Mary Haggerty, Campaign for Human Development

# COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

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105 East 22nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010  
(212) 460-8110

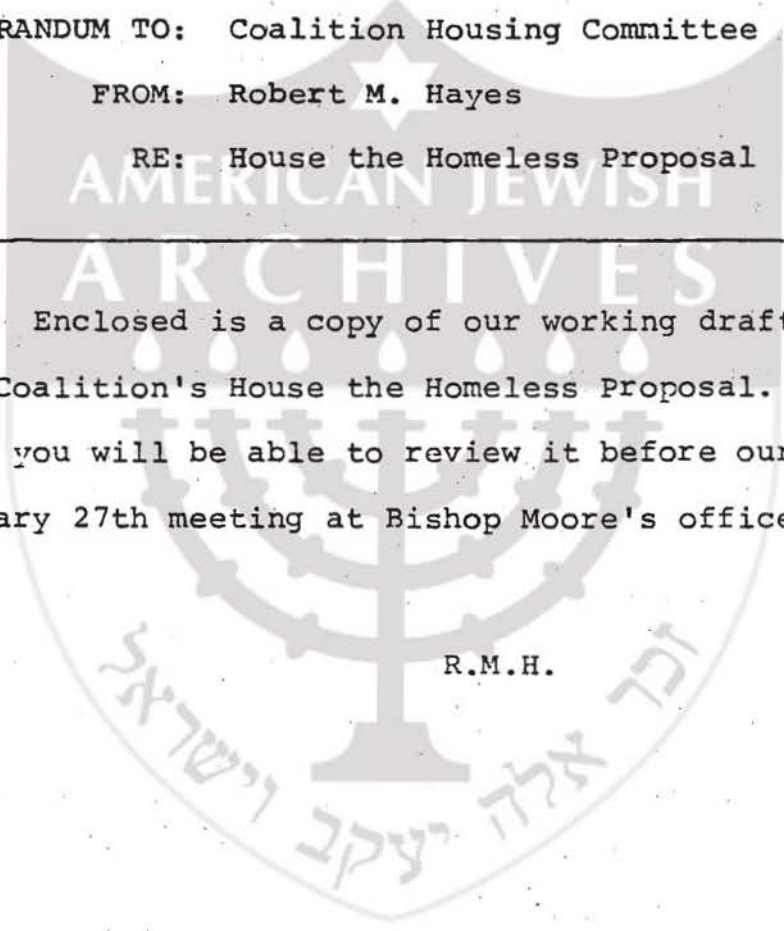
January 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Coalition Housing Committee  
FROM: Robert M. Hayes  
RE: House the Homeless Proposal

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Enclosed is a copy of our working draft of the Coalition's House the Homeless Proposal. I hope you will be able to review it before our January 27th meeting at Bishop Moore's office.

R.M.H.



I. OVERVIEW

The Housing Committee of the Coalition for the Homeless has formulated a concrete approach to provide decent, permanent housing for people who are now homeless. The choice of this approach may not be taken to imply that the growing need for emergency shelter has been satisfactorily met. Rather, it is a recognition that in the absence of suitable housing, emergency shelters are doomed to function inappropriately as permanent living quarters.

The proposal focuses on the City's current in rem housing stock as an underused resource to house the poor. The City's Department of Housing, Preservation and Development ("HPD") presently is renovating 100 units per year in this stock for permanent housing for homeless women. The Human Resources Administration ("HRA") has expressed interest in expanding this program. The Coalition proposes a substantial expansion of this program by renovating in one year an additional 1,200 units as permanent housing for up to 2,300 homeless people. These units will be reclaimed from vacancies in City-owned rooming houses, from buildings managed by the Division of Property Management, and from vacancies in buildings managed by the Division of Relocation Operations.

The projected cost of renovating 1,100 of these units is \$7,300,000 -- an average of \$6,600 per unit. This capital expenditure compares favorably with the recent construction of the 400 bed shelter on Wards Island. That shelter was built at a cost of \$7 million, or \$17,500 per bed. The Coalition's proposal will create rooms and apartments, not just large dormitories. In addition, the Coalition proposes the purchase and renovation of two vacant City-owned buildings which would provide another 100 units at a cost of \$1,500,000. The project will be financed through a combination of public and private sector funds: the City (using federal funds), the State and the private sector.

This effort will reclaim vacant City apartments at a much faster rate than is presently being done by the City, and will thereby significantly enhance the current operating ability and future long-term viability of this stock. Moreover, in addition to improving the housing stock, rental income from these renovated units will provide additional general funds revenue for the City.

Providing appropriate housing for a population as diverse as the homeless will require attention to the

need for a broad range of support services. This proposal addresses this consideration by matching the sponsorship of social service agencies to a mix of residences.

In sum the Coalition is proposing a joint venture by public agencies, private agencies and advocates that will move beyond the stop-gap measure of temporary shelter in a serious attempt to address the most basic need of the homeless: permanent housing.

## II. THE PROBLEM

Significant accomplishments have been made in recent years in the provision of public shelter in New York City. In 1979, 1,600 beds were available for homeless men and 47 for homeless women. Today, some 4,100 men and 600 women seek and receive shelter nightly from the City, a number equivalent to that registered in the Depression Spring of 1932. Total demand is expected to exceed 5,500 in 1983. This does not include the hundreds sheltered in private facilities, the 250 men and women who seek refuge in the two City-funded drop-in centers, nor those who claim the streets as their only home.

Despite the significant increase in shelter beds, the number of homeless on our streets has not diminished.

Social service outreach teams report new contacts daily. Drop-in centers and private shelters have imposed limited stay restrictions. Soup kitchens and breadlines report record numbers of hungry people.

Misfortune among the homeless poor has become commonplace. The media regularly report on the latest street casualties. For example, on September 23rd, a woman and her two small children were discovered living in an elevator equipment room on top of a Brooklyn housing project. And then, on Thanksgiving day, a homeless man burned to death when his ramshackle hut caught fire on a streetcorner in lower Manhattan. In January three homeless men froze to death on the streets of New York. These cannot be dismissed as isolated occurrences. There is little dispute that the situation of the homeless poor in New York City -- despite extraordinary public and private efforts to alleviate it -- is a desperate one.

A number of factors contribute to the demand for emergency shelter. Beginning in the mid-seventies, the postwar trend of a decline in skid row populations was reversed. The national recession (particularly a new rise in unemployment among young, minority and



unskilled workers), a severe shortage of low-income housing (typified in New York City by the loss of some 32,000 low-rent SRO units in the last eight years), and the poorly implemented deinstitutionalization of thousands of former psychiatric patients, all conspired to force upward the number of homeless poor. Public assistance benefits have failed to keep pace with inflation, imposing further hardship on poor households and forcing some onto the streets. In the 1980's, cut-backs in federal social service and relief programs have added to the problem. And, newly intensified federal review procedures have meant that many recipients of disability benefits, unaware of their right to protest the ruling or unable to do so, have been dropped from relief rolls. Severed from all sources of income, some end up encamped on City thoroughfares.

New York City's responsibility for the homeless is unique in the strength of judicial guarantees which apply to it. A lengthy four year class action suit has clarified the terms and conditions of official shelter policy. The Callahan consent decree of 1981 reaffirmed a legal right to shelter, and established qualitative standards for all public shelters. The result is already impressive -- the City now operates

eight shelters for men and four for women, and additional facilities will be in place before the end of 1983. But a comprehensive plan for dealing with the full complexity of the problem does not exist. Homelessness is more than simply the absence of shelter. It also entails a radical state of deprivation and disconnectedness. The homeless need more than shelter -- itself no more than an emergency holding action. They need homes.

It is in this context that we urge New York State and New York City to move from a court-mandated shelter policy to a carefully formulated housing policy for the homeless. We offer four reasons for doing so:

1. The economics justify it. The City and State are currently spending \$38 million to operate the City's municipal shelter system, or approximately \$600 per month per bed in facilities for men and nearly \$900 per month in shelters for women. When this is combined with the capital outlays incurred in increasing the capacity since 1979, it is clear that a City faced with severe fiscal troubles must consider cost-saving alternatives to its present course.

Permanent housing for the homeless offers such an alternative. Capital costs for the proposed project are significantly lower than comparable costs for shelter -- \$6,600 per unit as compared to the \$17,500 per bed spent on the new Keener facility. Operating costs would also mean considerable savings. Setting individuals up in households of their own would transfer the burden of supplying food, supervision, laundering and certain other personal-care costs from the Human Resources Administration (HRA) to the individual -- or in some instances to not-for-profit social service agencies. Some individuals will continue to rely on public assistance, but at a decidedly lower cost to both City and State. Basic public assistance levels are almost half of what the City and State presently spend per individual per month in a shelter facility. Moreover, some individuals will find employment, while others will qualify for federal entitlement programs, such as veterans' benefits or Supplemental Security Income.

Further, investment of capital in the City's in rem housing stock is an investment in the City itself. Abandoned housing is turned into a valuable asset which is still owned by the City.

2. A housing policy for the homeless is also justified by consideration of effective social service delivery. Permanent housing is a necessary precondition for securing most entitlements, for rendering regular clinical attention, for providing supportive services, and most important, for stabilizing the lives of those most severely damaged by life on the street. From a clinical standpoint, the attainment of safe decent housing is a sine qua non of lasting therapeutic intervention.

3. Emergency shelter can never be more than a temporary respite from the street. And yet, for thousands of New Yorkers, it has become a relatively permanent form of accommodation. If the public shelter system is ever to be restored to its original purpose, accessible housing must be created to relieve the inappropriate -- but necessary -- use now being made of it.

Sheltering the homeless without a complementary initiative in housing creates a vicious cycle -- the shrinking supply of low-income housing creates homelessness through displacement; homelessness intensifies demand for shelter; demand for shelter draws scarce resources away from housing. The City

can ill afford to let this cycle continue. A new approach is essential.

4. Finally, if the City's goal were housing rather than shelter, the longstanding issue of community opposition might well be mitigated. The salvaging of existing neighborhood property, converting it into permanent housing, is more acceptable to community residents than the sudden intrusion of warehouse-like shelters.

### III. PROJECT GOALS

The project's major objectives are two:

1. to mobilize a coalition of public and private agencies, not-for-profit sponsors and advocates, in order to provide a range of permanent housing for homeless individuals; and
2. to devise procedures and mechanisms for matching sponsors, potential housing resources, support services and evaluated needs.

### IV. PROJECT CONCEPT

#### A. Renovation of Existing Housing Stock

1. Identification of Available Property Resources.

This proposal relies exclusively on the development of property already owned by the City. We seek the renovation of 1,200 vacant units to provide

for up to 2,300 homeless individuals (including families). The City owns approximately 3,000 occupied buildings containing about 6,000 vacant units. Among these are some 200 buildings with an occupancy rate of less than 50% and 80 rooming houses with an average occupancy rate of 75%. Of the 1,200 proposed units, 200 will be in rooming houses, 900 in occupied multiple dwellings, and the final 100 will be created out of two vacated, multiple dwelling buildings.

Ownership of all but the two vacant buildings will be retained by the City as will operating costs and management responsibilities. Overall operating costs will not be significantly raised by the increase in occupancy and the additional rental income should be adequate to cover any increased costs.

Given the continuum of social services needs among the homeless poor, units will be selected to provide a range of housing configurations: single units in rooming houses for homeless individuals who are capable of running households with few or no support services; scatter-site apartments in "Division of Property Management

Buildings"\* for those needing access to a network of social services; clustered apartments and rooms in "Bureau of Consolidation" buildings \*\* for those in need of a more supportive living arrangement (including on-site supervision). The two apartment-hotel complexes created from the two vacant buildings would house individuals in need of more extensive on-going support services.

## 2. Development Costs.

The estimated cost of renovating and repairing this array of housing is \$7 million, plus an additional \$1.5 million for the rehabilitation of the two vacant buildings. The average cost of repairing rooming house units, according to HPD's Rooming House Repairs Program, is \$2,000. Two hundred units are planned at a total cost of \$400,000. The scatter-site apartments are larger and self-contained, and are therefore more expensive to renovate.

\* The Division of Property Management ("DPM") is responsible for managing the majority of the City's in rem housing stock. DPM manages approximately 3,000 occupied buildings.

\*\* The Bureau of Consolidation manages buildings which are to be vacated because of safety hazards or severely deteriorated conditions.

Office of Property Management (OPM) figures indicate that these units will require approximately \$4,000 to repair, or \$2.4 million for the proposed 600 units. The clustered units will be developed in under-occupied consolidation buildings and will therefore require some system repair or replacement. As a result, these units should cost an average of \$15,000 each, or \$4.5 million for the 300 units proposed. Although the renovation of the two vacant buildings will involve far more extensive work, including the replacement of one or more major systems, we estimate the cost per room once again at \$15,000 since the systems work will be spread over so many more units. The total development cost of these two sites are projected at \$1.5 million.

B. Support Services

This matching of housing configuration, support services and need is a critical ingredient of this proposal. As is true of any disenfranchised group, the homeless evince a variety of needs for outside aid. At one end of the spectrum are those persons requiring little more than brief assistance in securing employment, entitlements



or temporary help in linking up with local provider agencies. At the other end are those who, while able to carry on more or less normal routines of daily living without regular assistance, are nevertheless sufficiently disabled to require support or assistance on an intermittent or permanent basis. This could include: entitlements advocacy, information and referral counseling, physical and mental-health services, alcoholism and substance abuse treatment, meal and nutrition programs, job training and placement, and recreation.

C. Non-Profit Sponsors

To ensure that such services are readily available the Coalition will identify individual social service agencies to act as sponsors for specific units or groups of units. In all but the 200 rooming house rooms, the individual agency will be the lease holder. In some cases, the resulting service-housing complex could be licensed under State Department of Social Services ("DSS") or State Office of Mental Health ("OMH") auspices.

Service linkages will vary in intensity according to need. The modest level of support required by tenants in the scatter-site apartments is best

exemplified by the supervised apartment program of Fountain House. (See Appendix A)

At the other end of the service spectrum would be a supportive apartment-hotel modeled after the St. Francis Residence. St. Francis serves a population composed primarily of ex-psychiatric patients. On-site teams provide assistance with the daily problems of managing medication and budgeting income. An in-house work program employs some of the tenants, who run the meal program and supervise the evening lounge. Regular clinical attention is provided by visiting professionals from local hospitals. An extensive array of back-up clinical and social services ensure that should more sustained attention be required, it will be available. Other housing/service models include the "community residences" certified by OMH and the "residence for adults" regulated by DSS. (See Appendix B for description and operating costs of several of these models). Sponsoring agencies would arrange for supportive assistance to tenants, including case management, clinical attention, and referrals to other services and resources as appropriate.

The sponsor would also assume responsibility for relocation of tenants, should the initial placement prove unworkable.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Mechanism

The Coalition's proposal requires the active participation of many public and private agencies. The Coalition proposes to establish an independent entity, "CHAPTER II, Inc.," to coordinate the project.

CHAPTER II will set up a working board of directors that will include representatives from all of the participating sponsors, funders and private and public agencies. The board will appoint a task force to facilitate the approval of all contracts among HPD, HRA, OMH, DSS and sponsors, between private funders and the City. Task force members should have sufficient authority within their agencies to expedite timely approvals, and to sign a letter of agreement with CHAPTER II committing their agency to the basic principles of the project.

The major responsibilities of CHAPTER II would include:

1. Coordination of the site identification process with the City's housing representatives, community leaders and interested social and religious agencies. Vacant rooming houses, rooms and apartments in Central Management buildings and in Consolidation properties will be canvassed to determine their availability and appropriateness. In addition, two vacant buildings will be selected for development.
2. Development of procedures for soliciting and selecting sponsoring agencies.
3. Initial development of screening criteria and referral procedures for prospective tenants.
4. Monitoring of the entire project. This would entail maintaining a central registry of support services for use by sponsors, fostering resource and information sharing among sponsors, and providing on-going technical assistance to sponsors.

B. Outline of Implementation Process

As potential sites are identified, CHAPTER II will contact community board and other social and religious agencies in the areas in which the apartments are located to initiate discussions about the intended use of the sites.

At the same time, CHAPTER II will identify private funding sources -- religious groups foundations, corporations and individuals -- and will negotiate with them to define their role in the overall project.

CHAPTER II will also make the initial selection of the non-profit sponsors which will lease the scatter-site apartments, the clustered apartments, and the two self-contained facilities. It will provide technical assistance to these groups to help them formulate program plans and devise screening criteria. It would further act in a liaison capacity between private sponsors and public agencies.

The Task Force will then review and approve sites, sponsors and proposed programs. Once approvals are secured, formal letters of agreement between sponsors and public agencies will be drawn up. In some instances, sponsoring agencies may sign

service contracts, modeled on existing service providers contracts (e.g. Community Access, West Side Cluster) with HRA and OMH. Lease arrangements will be worked out between HPD and the sponsoring agency for each type of housing.

Prospective tenants for rooming house units will be selected by HRA and private shelter operators. (A fair distribution of referrals between public and private sources will be worked out during the planning stage.)

Such individuals will be capable of independent living. Where appropriate, HRA will help secure entitlements. CHAPTER II will monitor placement for a period of six months.

During this period, HPD will be repairing and renovating the selected vacant units. In buildings where major layout changes are to be made, HPD will rehabilitate units to architect's specifications.

Given the time lag between agreement to purchase the two vacant buildings and completion of various legal review procedures\*, it is difficult to project when rehabilitation work will commence. We expect that significant amounts of the rehabilitation work will be done with private capital, with the allocation of community development state funds dependent upon fiscal year considerations.

While we assume that each public agency will establish its own monitoring mechanism for the programs in which it is involved, CHAPTER II will act as overall monitor for this project for a period up to six months after the placement of the last individual in the program.

Within one year of the completion of the project, CHAPTER II will issue an evaluation report. This report will assess the performance of all participating groups, and will further specify financing mechanisms, capital outlays, methods of meeting costs, quality of life improvement in tenants' living, and the effect of the project on the shelter system.

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\* Including the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) required for changes in use or ownership of City property.

VI. FINANCING

To finance the needed repairs and renovations, we propose that the City, State and private sector underwrite expenses in a ratio of 4:4:1 -- the City and State each responsible for \$4 million; the private sector, for \$1 million. Given current demands on a shrinking public fisc, it is highly desirable that a private share be included.

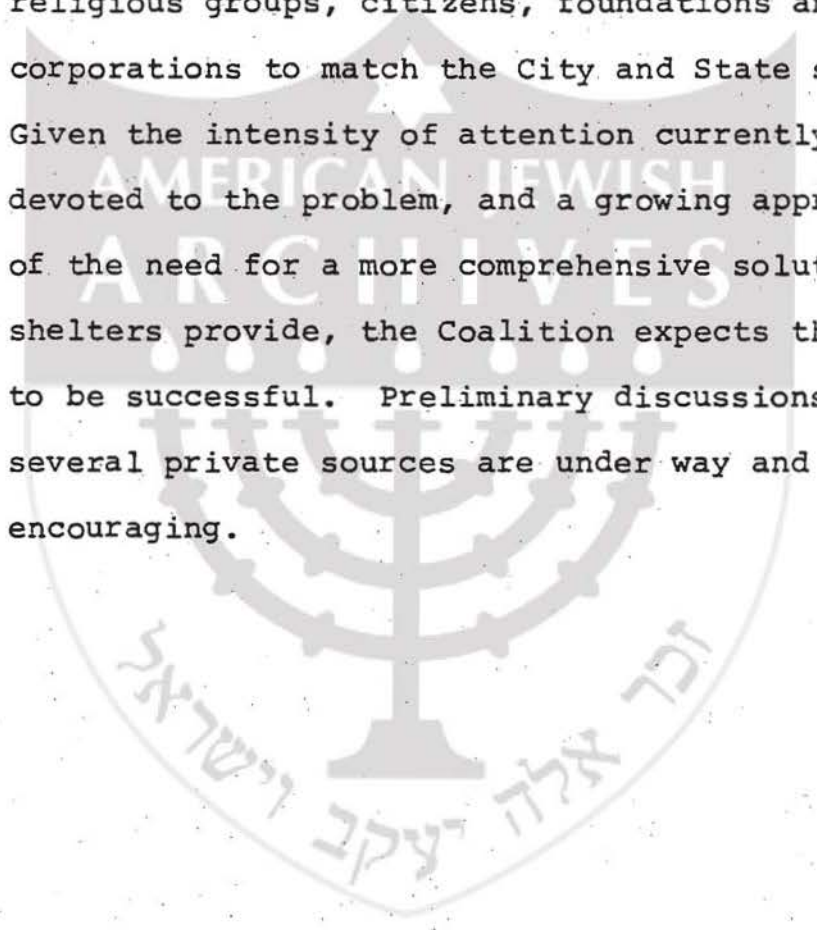
The City Share: We suggest that a portion of the City's Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds be set aside from the CD-Year 9 allotment. Currently, CDBG funds are being used in a similar fashion by HPD and the Mayor's office of SRO Housing. This proposal would expand and accelerate those efforts. In addition, we urge the City to allocate a portion of their weatherization funds, as well as some of their audit disallowance funds.

The State Share: The Coalition proposes that a portion of State Development funds be earmarked for this project -- specifically that some portion of the capital funds available to OMH and to DHCR be set aside. Additionally, the Coalition will seek a portion of the Governor's discretionary funds, some of the Special Needs Housings Funds, and an allocation of State weatherization funds. Finally, the



Coalition will pursue the passage of other legislative measures which could make capital funds available to projects such as this one.

Private Sector Share: Funds will be sought from religious groups, citizens, foundations and corporations to match the City and State shares. Given the intensity of attention currently being devoted to the problem, and a growing appreciation of the need for a more comprehensive solution than shelters provide, the Coalition expects this appeal to be successful. Preliminary discussions with several private sources are under way and are encouraging.



APPENDIX A

Fountain House Description and Budget

[to come]



APPENDIX B

[to come]



## JUDAISM AND CARE FOR THE HOMELESS

by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

"If tens of thousands of homeless people in America were displaced by earthquake or some other national calamity, a national emergency would be declared...But in the face of this emergency, the nation sleeps." That statement was made last week by the Coalition of the Homeless, an interreligious group that has become deeply concerned by the growing number of homeless Americans now estimated at a half million to two million men, women, and children. Displaced by growing unemployment and neglect, thousands sleep in the cold streets or subway cars, and suffer from hunger and illness. In New York City alone, there are an estimated 36,000 such homeless. Last week, Jewish and Christian leaders joined together at a press conference in New York at which they called on religious, political and business leaders to make a real commitment to find decent shelter for homeless men and women, a good number of whom are the elderly Jewish poor. In my remarks at that press meeting, I underscored how central to Judaism is the concern for the poor <sup>and homeless.</sup> The Rabbis declared that the poor remains your brother and sister and is to be treated in a brotherly and compassionate manner. The great principle of "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" means that it is our personal and communal duty to see to it that our fellow human beings do not suffer. Homeless Americans call for our support, now.

# Rabbi Rebutted by Koch In Dispute on Homeless

By MICHAEL GOODWIN

Mayor Koch, in a continuation of the dispute over New York's homeless population, has taped for a radio station a sharp rebuttal to a critical commentary by a rabbi.

The response is to comments by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee and a commentator for WINS-AM. In statements broadcast on the station last Sunday, Rabbi Tanenbaum accused Mr. Koch of "scapegoating" synagogues and of "suggesting that Jews, unlike Christians, are callous to human suffering," because Mr. Koch had said the Jewish community was not doing enough to shelter the homeless.

The Mayor, according to a transcript of his rebuttal, which was taped Thursday for broadcast on WINS today, accuses Rabbi Tanenbaum of "playing fast and loose with the facts."

"Rabbi Tanenbaum says that I have harangued churches and synagogues for failing to be 'prime movers' in caring for the homeless," the Mayor says. "This is false. Rabbi Tanenbaum says that churches and synagogues are not equipped to provide long-term permanent housing and jobs for the homeless. This is true. But who asked them to? Not I. Not the City of New York."

## 'Time to Bury the Hatchet'

Mr. Koch said he requested only that religious institutions provide "temporary shelter on an emergency basis."

In his conclusion, the Mayor, in response to the rabbi's suggestion that the "polemical hatchets" on the issue be buried, says: "It is indeed time to bury the hatchet. But, Rabbi Tanenbaum, the place to bury a hatchet is not in someone else's neck."

The American Jewish Committee is an organization of Jews concerned with the civil and religious rights of Jews worldwide. Rabbi Tanenbaum heads the group's programs for better understanding and cooperation with other religions in this country, Latin America, Western Europe and Israel. He has been a commentator on WINS for 10 years and has been with the committee 22 years.

Mr. Koch, in an interview yesterday in his City Hall office, said he had gone to the station and taped the rebuttal because he had found Rabbi Tanenbaum's

remarks "outrageous." The Mayor said that he had been listening to the radio last Sunday and was "flabbergasted" when he heard the commentary, which was broadcast three times.

The catalyst for the exchange, the latest of several between the two men, was a speech Mr. Koch gave last month at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, on West 68th Street. The Mayor, who is Jewish, said that among the institutions providing beds for the homeless, "there is not a single synagogue."

At the same time, the dispute with Rabbi Tanenbaum, who said he was a Conservative Rabbi with no direct affiliation with a synagogue, is part of a larger one Mr. Koch is engaged in with representatives of several religious denominations regarding responsibility for sheltering the thousands of people who live on the city's streets.

## Government Is Accused

During the last year, Mr. Koch has repeatedly called on religious groups to "open their doors" and allow homeless people to sleep in churches and synagogues during the winter. He has said that the city would, in addition to operating its own shelters, provide beds, food and medical care to any religious group that obliged him.

In response to the requests, last Christmas Eve, Rabbi Tanenbaum; the Revs. Paul Moore Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Church in New York, and William Sloane Coffin, senior minister of the Riverside Church, had a news conference in which they faulted the city's efforts for the homeless and said that religious institutions, although obligated to help, should not be asked to solve problems caused by government.

On Thursday, Mayor Koch met with 11 leaders of Jewish civic and religious organizations. Afterward, Mr. Koch and the participants said they were satisfied that any "misunderstandings" had been removed. The Mayor said his speech should have probably stressed that Jewish groups provided many valuable services to the poor.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that he had not been invited to the meeting and that he had no desire to attend it.

Several synagogues have announced to plans to take in homeless people. Scores of the homeless are being housed in about 20 churches.

## News Summary

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1983

Mayor Koch will broadcast a rebuttal today to a Jewish leader over the issue of sheltering the city's homeless. Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, accused the Mayor in a recent broadcast over WINS-AM of "scapegoating" synagogues. [27:1.]





Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom in Roslyn Heights, said that the Mayor's criticism of the Jewish community was an "outrageous provocation and falsehood," and he called on Koch to issue a public apology to the community.



Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, asserted that Mayor Koch's singling out of the synagogues and the Jewish community was unfair. "Those who are anti-Semitic will seize upon it and make the most of it," he said.

## Jewish leaders respond to Koch with anger & dismay

By STEWART AIN

There was angry reaction last week to Mayor Koch's criticism of the Jewish community for not "doing more to fulfill its responsibility to (contribute to) the quality of life in New York."

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein ripped into Koch, terming his statement "reprehensible" and an "outrageous provocation and falsehood." He called on Koch to issue a public apology to the Jewish community, saying that by his statement Koch was suggesting that "Jews are parasites — they only take and don't give."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, said Koch's remarks only provide ammunition for the anti-Semites amongst us.

"We just went through the trauma in Lebanon, during which there was the impression that the Israelis were callous to heinous suffering and carried out a genocide against the Palestinians," Tanenbaum said. "The war statement endorsed the distorted image that Jews are barbarians. Now, here at home where the Jews have made such a significant contribution to the quality of life, the mayor is saying the Jewish community is callous and indifferent. It constitutes a defamation. One expects better from the chief executive of a city. He knows the battles we are fighting."

### Statement Was Unfortunate

Rabbi Norman Kahan, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, said Koch's statement "implies that the Jewish community is selfish, and that's unfortunate." But he hastened to add that he doesn't believe the mayor "meant what he said."

"I don't believe he meant to defame the Jewish community," Kahan said. "I think he spoke out of frustration. The remark was unfortunate and I don't think he should have said it. If you talk too many times, there are some things that upon reflection you realize you should not have said. It's not the first time he's put his foot in his mouth and it probably won't be the last."

Kahan said that he and other Jewish leaders hope to meet with Koch to "convey my strong feelings that the statement should not have been made and was ill-considered."

"This is a matter that affects not only the synagogues but the entire Jewish community of New York and our country," Kahan said.

### Koch Was Let Off Easy

Sternstein said he received phone calls from persons

in other parts of the country who had heard news reports of Koch's statement and couldn't believe what they heard. He said also that he was surprised that there was not an immediate and vociferous uproar over the statement.

"I don't believe the mayor should be allowed to get off so easily," he said. "He should be slammed for it. Those statements leave a residue. They are fraught with danger and can drop noxious seeds which can sprout. People can come along later and say that the synagogues — meaning the Jewish religious community — do not contribute to the city's cultural and religious development."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, said he will be among those meeting with Koch to discuss the comment. He said he plans to "clarify the record as to what the Jewish community has done and to convey our concern regarding his statement. The reaction to that statement in the Jewish community is very extreme. The community is concerned by the implications as to how non-Jews will perceive the role of the Jewish community."

He pointed out that the Jewish community's contribution to the quality of life is far greater than its numbers reflect. He said that contribution permeates every "realm of society, including the political arena. The mayor and his predecessor are Jewish, for instance."

### New York Policy on Homeless

Koch's comments came during an address at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan on the occasion of the synagogue's 75th anniversary. The thrust of his comments dealt with the city's efforts to shelter the homeless. He pointed out that the preceding night the wind-chill factor in the city was zero and for those without a roof over their heads, "such weather poses a threat to life itself."

He said that since he took office in January 1978, the city has expanded its programs to shelter the homeless and that it now provides "the widest range of services for the homeless in the nation." Other cities, he noted, are turning away the homeless when their shelters are full. One city, he said, is so hostile to the homeless that it enacted a law making it illegal to lie down in public. And there are even proposals to declare garbage public property and to spray it with kerosene so that the homeless will not pick through it in search of scraps of food to eat.

But New York City, he insisted, has a policy of not

turning away the homeless from city shelters. Since 1978, the city has opened nine shelters and out centers, and now provides more than 4,700 beds for the homeless. The cost of running these shelters increased from \$6.8 million in 1978 to \$38 million this year.

This expansion has come at a time of much community opposition. He noted that 600 angry protesters demonstrated against the opening of a shelter in a former public school in Harlem.

(Last week, Koch disclosed that of the 59 community boards he approached in the city and asked to recommend sites that could be used for shelters, only six responded with recommendations. A total of 27 others said they were studying the situation and 26 failed to reply at all. He pointed out that he sent them that request last November.)

### Religious Community Forms Coalition

In his remarks, Koch also took note of the fact that the city's religious community has responded to his request that churches and synagogues be used for shelters by forming the coalition for the homeless. He said that "16 religious institutions are now operating shelters for 169 homeless people." These shelters provide a haven for those who don't consider themselves homeless but who are "down on their luck because of a loss of a job or similar problem. They are more likely to go to a local shelter sponsored by a religious group."

Koch said he agrees with those who contend that the "primary responsibility for the homeless lies with government." But he insisted that the "answer does not lie with government alone." He said he knows the coalition will do more and he promised that the city will also do more.

"And it is also true that every person in this room tonight could be doing more to help the homeless," he said. "We hear a lot about church and state. Let's take a moment to talk about temple and city. Among the religious institutions now providing beds for the homeless, there is not a single synagogue. They are all churches."

"We hope that a synagogue will be among the institutions opening on Monday. Several more synagogues have also expressed willingness to take part in the partnership program. But we all know that the Jewish community could be doing more to fulfill its responsibility to the quality of life in New York."

Hoenlein pointed out last week that in reading the mayor's comments in their entirety, they don't so as bad as they do when taken out of context. He said that newspapers that covered the remarks by excerpted the last paragraph of criticism leveled at the Jewish community.

### Omitted Jewish Efforts for Homeless

Tanenbaum took Koch to task for failing to note the contribution of the Jewish community toward the problem of the homeless. He said that Koch should have mentioned in his remarks the fact that the Jewish community has worked on this problem for the past few years.

"There is something unfortunate in the way he dealt with the issue," Tanenbaum said. "The organized Jewish community is different from the Protestant and Catholic community, which carries out its charitable and social welfare work under the umbrella of the church. The Jewish community is based on a community principle in which there is a distribution of labor. Much of the community's social work is done by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies — providing family life services, services for the indigent, the poor, nursing homes, etc."

"At the very moment that the mayor is accusing the synagogues of doing nothing, he should have known that Federation had created a task force two years ago, the Task Force for the Homeless. It set up four shelters in the city, at the Educational Alliance on East Broadway, on Ward's Island, one on the West Side and the other in downtown New York."

Tanenbaum pointed out also that the Federation staff is working with the city's Human Resources Administration to "provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care and psychiatric help to a good number of the homeless."

"That's the contribution of the Jewish community to the homeless. It was a cheap shot to imply that the Jewish community has not done anything. It has not done enough, but it has done more than the mayor implied."

### Substantial Civic Problem

He pointed out that there are an estimated 36,000 homeless in the city, and about 2 million homeless nationwide. In the city, there are an estimated 2,500 homeless Jews, he said.

"This is becoming an increasing phenomenon caused in large measure by unemployment," he said. "And a large number of them are young people. A population

of this number is a substantial civic problem. All of those people are suffering from physical, emotional and possibly mental difficulties. They should be seen first as persons who are citizens. Municipalities, state and federal governments must provide for the needs of its citizens."

Tanenbaum insisted that the City of New York "must provide for its homeless just as it does for potholes and other problems."

The issue of caring for the homeless, especially in extremely cold weather, "raises deep moral questions," Tanenbaum said. "Churches and synagogues have a moral obligation not to stand by while people are suffering in the street or dying."

He said he recently was walking along Lexington Avenue at 9 a.m. when he spotted a man wrapped in newspaper with plastic around them lying "frozen stiff on a grating. I walked over to him along with some other persons to see if there was a breath of life left in him. There was and we called the police to take him to a shelter."

Two days later, he said, he spotted a bag lady sitting in the subway as she had for several days.

"There are very great human tragedies like that," Tanenbaum said. "People are suffering and eating out of garbage cans. It's a tragedy. There is so much food thrown away at a bar mitzvah or communion breakfast that it could be used to feed thousands."

*Spoke at Christmas Eve Press Conference*

Tanenbaum was one of the clergymen who spoke out on Christmas Eve to remind the city of the homeless still roaming the streets. He said the purpose of the press conference was to spotlight the fact that although there were 36,000 homeless in the city, there are enough shelters for only a few thousand of them.

"We said the city should not rest until it provided for everyone," Tanenbaum said.

Koch lashed into one of those at the press conference, Rev. William Sloane Coffin, for saying that he didn't want to see "churches, synagogues and mosques become havens in a heartless world, and by caring for victims of that world, increase its heartlessness."

Tanenbaum said he didn't wish to debate that issue, but only to stress that he believes the issue must be looked at in a "calm and analytical way."

"We thought it was not helpful for the mayor to shift the burden to the churches and synagogues," he said. "If every church and synagogue provided for 10 persons, it would not solve the problem. I don't think that's helpful and it is counterproductive. I don't know how many synagogue and church basements the mayor has been in, but I have been in a lot. I can tell you that they don't have beds, showers or facilities to provide for hundreds of people on an ongoing basis."

He said he believes that churches and synagogues should do more, but only "on an interim, ad hoc basis to help people in desperate condition who can't be helped by any other means. But while we are working to relieve suffering, the city has to provide low income housing for these people and to provide them with jobs."

*Koch Responded to a Loaded Question*

Regarding Koch's statement, Tanenbaum pointed out that Koch's remarks were based upon a question posed to him by Rabbi Balfour Brickner in which Koch was asked to speak on whether the Jewish community was fulfilling its responsibility to the quality of life in New York. Thus, Tanenbaum noted, it was a loaded question to begin with. But he said he expected "somebody as knowledgeable as Koch to know that the Jewish community is involved in the effort and that Jews are helping through Federation. To single out the synagogues and say that the Jewish community is not involved is unfair. What has been done in terms of the image of Jews is terrible."

"Those who are anti-Semitic will seize upon it and make the most of it. Those who know the Jewish contribution will dismiss it as polemic excess."

Tanenbaum noted that Federation officials are now conferring with rabbinic groups to develop closer ties in dealing with this problem. He stressed that "synagogues are not hotels or hostels. They can help people in need if there is an emergency, like an earthquake, in which people are blasted out of their homes. In such cases, churches and synagogues open their doors to provide emergency shelters."

He said he recognizes that there is a fear that the doors of the synagogues and churches may be opened to "people who are violent and who will rape and rob. The fear of crime is great here but you can't punish thousands of decent people because of them."

He suggested that what Koch should do now is tell the churches and synagogues that the city is faced with "a moral earthquake" and convince them to respond on that basis alone.

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## New York Clergy Fault Government For Failures in Housing Homeless

By SUSAN HELLER ANDERSON

Seven of New York City's most prominent religious leaders said yesterday that governmental authorities had failed to aid the homeless, whose numbers were described as having reached "crisis proportions."

At a news conference at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Muslim leaders said they recognized an obligation of houses of worship to help the homeless. But they asserted that such aid was primarily the responsibility of government.

"The number of poor and homeless has reached crisis proportions," said

Many Americans are having a grim holiday, finding shelter where they can and searching for jobs that often do not exist. Page 8.

the Episcopal Bishop of New York, Paul Moore Jr. "This problem will only be solved by public policy."

The other leaders at the news conference were the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, senior minister of Riverside Church; Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee; the Rev. Carl Flemister, head of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York; the Rev. Joseph Sullivan, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn and head of the Catholic Charities in that diocese; the Rev. James Morton, dean of St. John's Cathedral, and Lex Hixon of the Masjid al Farah Mosque.

A year ago, Mayor Koch called on religious organizations to help shelter the homeless. The Partnership for the Homeless, an interdenominational

coalition, was formed four months ago and has set up 113 beds in 10 churches and synagogues.

With a goal of 500 to 1,000 beds by April, the group hopes to furnish 335 beds in 31 religious institutions by mid-January.

"At this time last year, there was not one bed," said Peter P. Smith, chairman of the coalition, who joined the religious leaders at the news conference.

Bishop Moore said operating expenditures for the homeless at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on West 11th Street were under \$7 a day, though the city spent more than twice that for "less humane" surroundings.

Yet the religious leaders criticized governmental officials for indicating that religious institutions alone could help all the homeless, whose number governmental and private estimates say will reach 80,000 in New York City, and from half a million to two million nationwide, this winter.

Recalling that President Reagan had suggested that each religious institution in the country care for 10 welfare families, Bishop Moore said, "This is bald-faced as a solution."

"I'd hate to see churches become a

Continued on Page 8, Column 1

## New York Clergy Fault Government For Failures in Housing Homeless

Continued From Page 1

substitute for public action," said Mr. Coffin.

On the national level, Bishop Sullivan said, the clergy's job is to help change "the priorities of this country."

Bishop Moore accused Governor Carey of "dodging responsibility."

"Ex-mental patients — a large part of the homeless population — are the direct result of state policy," Bishop Moore said, referring to the system of releasing mental patients as quickly as possible from state institutions.

The religious leaders were also critical of Mayor Koch.

"The Mayor could do a lot more beyond calling on the religious community," Mr. Coffin said. "He could help us set up warehouses for food banks. He could provide buildings more suitable to the homeless than churches." Calling the situation in New York City

"morally obscene," Rabbi Tanenbaum said, "In the midst of this incredible city of wealth and power and opulence, we have a group of domestic refugees — the homeless." He agreed that "this problem is of such a magnitude that only the city can take care of it."

### City Houses 4,225 Homeless

"New York City is doing more for the homeless than any other city in the country," Mayor Koch said yesterday. Last night, the city housed 4,225 homeless people, the Mayor said, while churches and synagogues housed 100.

"We can do more," the Mayor said, "and so can the religious institutions." Mr. Coffin urged government officials to shift national budget priorities away from the "insane arms race."

What the clergymen want, Bishop Moore said, "is a government policy for the homeless," followed by "measures to improve unemployment and to find permanent housing."

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## Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations  
 By David Horowitz  
 A World-Union Press Feature

## Care For Homeless Americans

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

"If tens of thousands of homeless people in America were displaced by earthquake or some other national calamity, a national emergency would be declared... But in the face of this emergency, the nation sleeps."

That statement was made last week by the Coalition of the Homeless, an interreligious group that has become deeply concerned by the growing number of homeless Americans now estimated at a half million to two million men, women, and children.

Displaced by growing unemployment and neglect, thousands sleep in the cold streets, or subway cars, and suffer from hunger and illness. In New York City alone, there are an estimated 36,000 such homeless.

Last week, Jewish and Christian leaders joined together at a press conference in New York at which they called on religious, political and business leaders to make a real commitment to find decent shelter for homeless men and women, a good number of whom are the elderly Jewish poor.

In my remarks at that press meeting, I underscored how central to Judaism is the concern for the poor. The rabbis declared that the poor remains your brother and sister and is to be treated in a brotherly and compassionate manner. The great principle of "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" means that it is our personal and communal duty to see to it that our fellow human beings do not suffer. Homeless Americans call for our support, now.

## Begin's Benevolent Autonomy Plan Stands

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- It might be wisdom for President Reagan and his aides in the Defense and State Department to go back a bit in history and review the happenings in the Middle East crescent since World Wars I and II culminating in the rise of a number of sovereign Arab states as well as the League of Nations Mandate setting up a Jewish National Home in the whole of Palestine, embracing both sides of the Jordan. Mr. Reagan must realize that the present must be judged in the light of those happenings.

He may also go back somewhat further in history and refresh himself on what is inscribed and decreed in the world's most reliable and accurate historic chronicle -- the Bible which does not lie!

But coming closer to our own times, the President may be reminded of the fact that the Palestinians -- who were never offered the opportunity for self-determination during the rigid and cruel rule of his recent visitor King Hussein over the territories which he occupied in an aggressive war -- rejected the chances of sovereignty offered them by the UN partition decision of 29 November 1947 which approved the establishment of two states, one Arab, another Jewish, in the already illegally-partitioned Palestine -- the British-sponsored Hashemite Transjordan.

Set against any kind of a mini-Jewish nation, the Mufti-inspired Palestinians along with their Arab neighbors, in violation of the UN Charter, went to war being certain that within a few weeks the beleaguered isolated Jewish settlements would be demolished and the Jews driven into the sea. But, take note, Mr. Reagan, the Unseen Power, had something else in mind and the world knows what happened.

The Israelis proclaimed their State and issued their proclamation of independence, which, among other things, called for friendly relations with their Arab cousins in a spirit of genuine coexistence.

However, according to the decree, in her proclamation of independence, Israel ever seeks to live at peace with her neighbors both within and outside the nation. Following the Camp David accords which, among many other issues, outlined a plan for Palestinian autonomy in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Menachem Begin presented his own 26-point autonomy plan, a benevolent plan that would grant the Palestinians "powers of self-government in a great number of spheres; administration of justice; agriculture; civil service; education and culture; health; housing and public works; internal transportation; communication and posts; labor; manpower and social welfare; municipal affairs; local police; religious affairs; industry; commerce and tourism." Some of these powers, of course, would have to be

exercised in coordination or consultation with Israel. In essence, the powers that Israel has agreed to transfer cover almost 85% of the normal functions of organized society.

Because of PLO threats and pressures from some Arab states, and even a bit of prodding by the U.S. and other Western countries, the Palestinians have rejected this benevolent offer in the same manner they rejected the UN Partition plan, a plan which today Arab delegates here at the UN continue to espouse as a second stage involving Israeli withdrawal being presently content with a first stage withdrawal to the 1967 boundaries -- a scheme aimed at the eventual fulfillment of their inner ambitions, the destruction of Israel.

In the light of Arab intransigence, "it would have been in Israel's interest to incorporate Judea, Samaria and Gaza immediately after the Six Day War," says Peter E. Goldman, director of Americans for a Safe Israel, in the current issue of "Congress Monthly." "It is still in Israel's interest to do so today," he emphasizes. "Not only would this strengthen the Jewish State, but it would make the Arabs living in Judea, Samaria and Gaza more cooperative, in the Arab world there is great respect for firmness and determination, and the present ambiguity about the future of the area prevents many of the local Arabs from cooperating with Israel. They fear the return of Jordan or the PLO."

Should the Palestinians and their friends continue to resist Israel's 26-point autonomy plan, then they will be forfeiting the powers of self-government which that plan offers them and annexation may well become a reality. There's still time for them to come to their senses and hold out their hands in genuine friendship and meet with the Israelis in a common effort towards the building of a strong bond of co-existence.

## KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN MIGHT JOIN PEACE TALKS

(Continued from Page 1)

prompted by statements by William Quandt of the Brookings Institution and by Sen. Paul Tsongas (D. Mass.), both of whom were in Israel recently.

Quandt, who was the National Security Council's Mideast expert in the Carter Administration, predicted in a lecture in Tel Aviv that Hussein would shortly announce his intention to join the peace process. Quandt, who met with Hussein before coming to Israel, said the King would seek to obtain maximum support from other Arab leaders before entering the peace talks. The monarch was also reportedly willing to join the talks because he realizes that maintaining a passive attitude would cause him more harm than becoming involved. According to Quandt, Jordan would send a delegation to the talks which would include Palestinians who are not members of the PLO but are accepted by that organization.

This view was strengthened by Tsongas. He told reporters that "specifically, a decision has been made (by Jordan) to negotiate as soon as the environment is correct." He said he was informed of this in conversations with top Egyptian leaders before he arrived in Israel. "The most important part" of the "correct environment" is the situation in Lebanon, according to Tsongas who left for Amman for talks with Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan. The Senator will return to Israel after his meetings in the Jordanian capital for talks with Premier Menachem Begin.

The King, who visited Washington in December where he met with Reagan and reaffirmed his support of the President's peace plan, is expected to visit Washington again later in January or early in February. Begin is scheduled to visit Washington during the third week in February. He was to have met Reagan last November but was forced to cancel because of the death of his wife, Aliza.

Most observers in Jerusalem and Washington believe that if Hussein joins the peace negotiations, his chances of getting U.S. weapons would improve considerably. Until now, the King has spurned the Camp David peace process. He still considers himself bound by the 1974 Arab League summit conference in Rabat, Morocco, which designated the PLO to be the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Arab League summit in Fez, Morocco, last September did not rescind that decision.

## King of One Liners



**HENNY YOUNGMAN**  
 ...Man of Many Talents.

MY WIFE WILL BUY ANYTHING MARKED DOWN.  
 SHE BROUGHT HOME TWO DRESSES AND AN ESCALATOR.

# Mayor Koch stands by criticism of synagogues



Mayor Koch: "One of the mitzvahs is to help the poorest of the poor, and in this city, that happens to be those who need shelter."

By NEIL BARSKY

Mayor Koch stood by his remarks that the Jewish community is not doing its part to help the homeless in New York City, in an exclusive interview with the *Long Island Jewish World* last week.

The week before, the mayor angered Jewish leaders (see accompanying story) when, in a speech at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, he asserted, "We all know that the Jewish community could be doing more to fulfill its responsibility to the quality of life in New York." Specifically, Koch referred to the fact "not a single synagogue" was providing a bed to the homeless.

The day after the Mayor's remarks, Rabbi Norman Kahan, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, announced that three metropolitan area synagogues would be opening facilities within two weeks. He also said there were synagogues — not members of the New York Board of Rabbis — that already housed the homeless.

The Mayor insisted to the *Long Island Jewish World* that "to the knowledge of our people, there are none."

The Mayor also said that he is aware of the Jewish community's efforts, and maintained that there is excellent communication between his office and the Jewish community. "Anybody can get off the hook," he said. "In the meanwhile, what I said is there is no synagogue that yet provides floor space. As of ten o'clock on a Thursday morning, that apparently is still the case."

The following is a transcript of the interview:

*Long Island Jewish World:* What is your assessment of the Jewish community's reaction to your speech at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue last week?

Mayor Edward I. Koch: It depends on which Jew you talk to, doesn't it?

*LJW:* I had in mind leaders of Jewish organizations.

Koch: I thought (New York Board of Rabbis President) Rabbi Norman Kahan was rather nice in his comments (See *LJW*, Jan. 28, 1983).

Let's get it straight what happened here. Back in December of 1981, I sent out a letter to churches, synagogues and mosques in New York asking whether they wouldn't help us with the homeless. What we asked them to do was to assist — not to take the place of — the City of New York.

Now what exactly is it that we ask the churches and synagogues to do? Simply to provide floor space

and volunteer personnel. We provide the beds, the linen, the blankets, the showers, the food, the delousing, the medical care. Nothing is requested of the churches and synagogues other than floor space. We got very few responses to that letter back in 1981; in fact, three churches opened their facilities.

I heard Bishop Paul Moore (St. John the Divine) say he was shocked that I would ask churches to do it. I was shocked that he was shocked. I thought that was the traditional role of the clergy. Apparently I was wrong about that.

In any event, just by chance I received a letter from Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, which is one of the leading synagogues in the country, to come and tell that particular synagogue what it is they're not doing that they could do. And I thought to myself, isn't this a golden opportunity? I'm doing what they want me to do. They don't want me to come up there to be praising, they want me to tell them the *emes* (truth), and I did that.

What was interesting about that is that there was a

wonderful response in the audience. But one gentleman got up and said, "Before you ask us to take people into the synagogue, why don't you take them into your home?" Well, I'm not asking these people to take these shopping bag people into their homes. That's a red herring . . .

My remarks seemed to get Rabbi Brickner very upset and he responded by saying, "I want everybody to know how much we've done," and then he recited a host of things the Jewish community has done, all of which are wonderful, but which had nothing to do with the homeless.

*LJW:* What about the many Federation of Jewish Philanthropies programs which provide housing for the destitute?

Koch: Not one of them has anything to do with the homeless. (Brickner) mentioned the fact that they have raised 50 million dollars to build a project up in Harlem. They have. It has nothing to do with the homeless.

*LJW:* Aren't many of the Jewish community's

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# Synagogues & homeless

continued from previous page  
programs rehabilitative? Don't they contribute to a kind of preventive homelessness?

Koch: Wonderful. But not one homeless person as of that moment (when the speech was made), or as of this moment, has slept in a synagogue for an evening's shelter. Not one.

LJW: According to Rabbi Kahan there are synagogues, not part of the Board of Rabbis, that have always provided beds for the homeless.

Koch: To the knowledge of our people, there are none. It may be that the synagogues are doing these good works and don't want people to know it, and therefore are concealing their activities. But not one synagogue, including the three Rabbi Kahan mentioned will be helping, has yet to do it. You bring them by name, and I'll be happy to praise them.

There are two synagogues who say they'll be doing it sometime in February, and two others who have rather ill-defined plans, and no others that I know of.

I'm not saying the synagogues should be doing more than the churches. I'm saying they should be doing what we used to call a mitzvah, by bringing in those people who are the most helpless.

LJW: Some critics have pointed out that it is unfair to compare synagogues and churches because of the different roles they play in their communities. Churches serve more as meeting places; they are open 24 hours a day and a priest or a nun frequently resides there. A synagogue, these critics claim, is more of a house of prayer — they don't have the facilities to house the homeless, and the Jewish community provides for the poor through the constituent agencies of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. When you consider the Jewish community in its totality, and then say — as you did last week — that "the Jewish community can be doing more to fulfill its responsibility to the quality of life in New York," aren't you ignoring the great number of education programs which keep people off the streets?

Koch: Don't get into a red herring. I believe the Jewish community does a lot of good things. I'm



Mayor Koch: "I was invited to speak at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue to point out an infirmity. Apparently, I did it rather well."

directing my comments — as I have to the churches, the mosques and the community boards — to those religious leaders who say they don't want to do anything.

The fact of the matter is that it's their traditional role to help. If you're saying that the synagogues believe it's not their role to provide physical space to the homeless, then let them say it so their constituents can debate that.

I happen to be Jewish and someone who believes in God, and believes you will someday meet your Maker and be judged on whether you have fulfilled the mitzvahs. One of the mitzvahs is to help the poorest of the poor, and in this city, that happens to be those who need shelter.

And if you want to tell me it's the universally held view that synagogues must never take in the homeless at night, I would dispute that. The fact that Rabbi Kahan has announced that, in fact, that's what they were planning on doing even before I mentioned it means there apparently is a split opinion in the community.

LJW: Had you been aware that the New York Board of Rabbis planned on announcing that three synagogues would open facilities to the homeless the next day, would you have made the same remarks the evening before?

Koch: I would have said that I hope they will speed it up.

LJW: Many in the organized Jewish community

think there was a lack of communication between your office and their agencies.

Koch: There is no lack of communication. Anybody can get off the hook. In the meanwhile, what I said is there is no synagogue that yet provides floor space to the homeless. As of (looks at his watch) ten o'clock on a Thursday morning, that apparently is still true. After all the brouhaha.

LJW: Much of the "brouhaha" can be traced to the front-page story in the New York Times on January 20. Did the story present a fair reflection of your views?

Koch: I think so. I can't think of any misstatements. (Everybody) says, "Why is he attacking us?" I'm not attacking anyone. I'm simply saying to this city and the people living here that we're in trouble and more people have to help. I'm invited to discuss how the Jewish community can be helpful and they don't like it.

LJW: Other critics have maintained that as a Jew, you could criticize the Jewish community more easily than could a non-Jewish mayor. One official said to me that "if the Mayor's name had been O'Brien and he made those remarks, there would be accusations of anti-Semitism."

Koch: If I can't discuss in an open way the infirmities of the various sectors of our society, then I can't be mayor. You mean only a black mayor can talk about Harlem and only an Italian mayor can talk about Italians? That's ridiculous. The mayor is the

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mayor of all the people. I happen to be a mayor who is Jewish, not a Jewish mayor, and I don't have any compunction against discussing the Williamsburg community, or the Chinatown community. Isn't that the way it should be?

**LIJW:** How would you assess the Jewish community's overall contribution to the quality of life in New York City?

**Koch:** I think the Jewish community has provided an enormous contribution to New York, and if somebody wants to invite me to discuss that on another occasion I'd be happy to say so. That's not what I was invited to speak at the Stephen Wise Synagogue for. I was there to point out an infirmity. Apparently, I did it rather well.

**LIJW:** In light of information brought to your attention since your speech, do you stand by it?

**Koch:** (Looks at his watch.) It's now five after ten, to the best of my knowledge no synagogue has taken in any homeless.

Where I go there are large numbers who say they are pleased with what I said. I'm sure there are others who don't like what I said, but they don't tell me. The key to this is that Bishop Paul Moore doesn't like what I say about the churches.

**LIJW:** Are you saying that if no one likes it, that means you are being fair?

**Koch:** You know who does like what I said? The Roman Catholics, because to a greater extent than any other group they are opening the churches and taking in the homeless, to their credit.

**LIJW:** How would you assess your administration's performance in taking care of the homeless?

**Koch:** We're very proud of what we've done. There is no other city in the country that has done what New York has done. We have gone from a budget of \$7 million when I came to a budget today of \$39 million, and it will be about \$50 million dollars beginning July 1, 1983. That is seven times the budget. I don't know of any other mayors in New York who went out to the streets to talk to the homeless.

**LIJW:** No other mayor was told by the courts he had to provide shelter for anyone needing shelter.

**Koch:** Yes, but we are only required to find shelter for those who ask for it. All of the efforts to get people off the subways have nothing to do with the court order. We go out and actively solicit them.

**LIJW:** In cancelling their meeting with you this

week, various Jewish leaders said the issue was a losing battle and that responding to it would be like responding to the question, "Do you still beat your wife?"

**Koch:** Losing battle for whom?

**LIJW:** The Jewish community.

**Koch:** You mean I've won this battle?

**LIJW:** Are you aware that your remarks upset many Jews who felt you were ignoring the work the community has been doing over the years?

**Koch:** They shouldn't be upset, because I love them.

**LIJW:** You may love them, but they think that by focusing attention on what you call an infirmity, you are unfairly singling them out.

**Koch:** I don't run this city as a mayor on the basis

of, "Are you going to do this because you're Jewish, or black or Hispanic or Italian?" We do what we do on the basis of what is fair. We have over 150 different ethnic groups. All I can be expected to do is treat them all fairly and equitably. I never hesitate to criticize any group, whether they are black or Hispanic or white, because I do it on the basis of what we are asking people to do. Regrettably, when I do that, someone in some community says, "Huh! He's picking on the whites or the blacks or the Hispanics or the Jews." There's nobody left you can talk to anymore.

**LIJW:** Do you regret your remarks?

**Koch:** Certainly not. (Looks at watch.) It's now ten fifteen and still not a single synagogue to my knowledge has housed the homeless.

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