



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 83, Folder 16, Income inequality, Undated.

"The Economics of Equality"

Meeting held May 16: Edward D. Moldover (New York) presiding

Agenda: Where does AJC belong in controversies over welfare problems? Should we support Federalization of welfare? income maintenance? job training for mothers? day care centers? the concept of government as the employer of last resort? What can AJC do to head off conflicts between Jewish welfare professionals and welfare clients or workers of other backgrounds--blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, American Indians?

Sense of the meeting: AJC has a definite role to play in problems of the poor; should involve itself more intensively and specifically with social welfare issues.

A statement calling for such involvement is adopted; specific program recommendations to be referred to Domestic Affairs Committee.

Conclusions:

- Launch an educational program to dispel old myths about public welfare, among AJCers and others.
- Influence and support constructive changes in welfare system; help develop new approaches.
- Aid the Jewish poor--"the 'Other America' of the Jewish community."

Percentage of net national income spent on Social Welfare

Denmark -	15%
Norway-	11.6%
Sweden>	17.1 %



GNP - \$846 Billion

Median Family Income - \$8,000/yr.
(\$2,000 more than Swden)

Affluence Everywhere

60 million autos
70 million TV sets (10 million color)
\$500 billion common stock
2/3 U.S. families own homes

In midst affluence another nation: 170 million not poor
29,700,000 below poverty line (3 times population of Belgium)
family of four on \$3,335

10 million Americans Chronically malnourished
poor 15% U.S. population - 2 out of 3 white
11 million rural poor - 9 million are white (2 million catinos)

70% of nation's citizens live in cities, towns - more than 60% urban
nearly 1/2 are 21 or younger; 1/4 55 or older

1/3 of all Americans 65 or older - 5,400,000 are poor

Westchester - of 212,000 families (1 of wealthiest) 44,000 are poor

1/2 America's poor live in 16 southern and border states (which hold
less than 1/3 of total U.S. population)

Since 1940, 4,000,000 Negroes and uncounted poor whites left for north.

Hunger, U.S.A. - inadequate nutrition can account for organic brain
damage, retarded growth and learning rates, increased vulnerability
to disease, withdrawal, apathy, alienation, frustration and violence."

Infant mortality rate at high among poor
active T.B. 4x greater

Unemployment 3.5% for U.S., 100 cities among poor. 7%. 71% of
poor have 4 or more children (vs. 1.35 for U.S.) 2/3 poor married,
live with husbands - 1/2 husbands do not hold regular jobs.

other 1/2 hold full-time that do not lift above poverty (40%
are illegitimate

Oppression - credit furniture, dentists, opticians
supermarket (pay twice as much for

\$8 billion a year spent - reaching 8 million poor holding action.

17 to 57 costs \$140,000 - argue for guaranteed annual wage.



Toronto

Pochu

Blair Park

MYTHS

Sjabod-0114

SC-5-1881

it in it jk plc: 1/10
1/10 1/10 1/10 1/10
with 1/10 1/10 1/10

BLACK POWER - VIOLENCE - self-determination -

Black Economic Development

United Black Appeal

- Black Capitalism vs. C.O. [50 million - EDA] - } (Prot. str. -
Capacite lib

Nixon - 100 million Calif. RIOTS - Kenyatta

BLACK SEPARATISM

Jewish Separatism

new ideology - pluralism (not integration, Separatism)

BLACK ANTI-SEMITISM -

rational - Exploiter - Merchant - Customer { Federal program }

irrational - third world - Soviet Union - Arab League

Biafra - obscene (Yemen, Sudan)

RIOTS - KENYATTA, KARENGA, CERUI SONGS COOPER

WHAT TO DO:

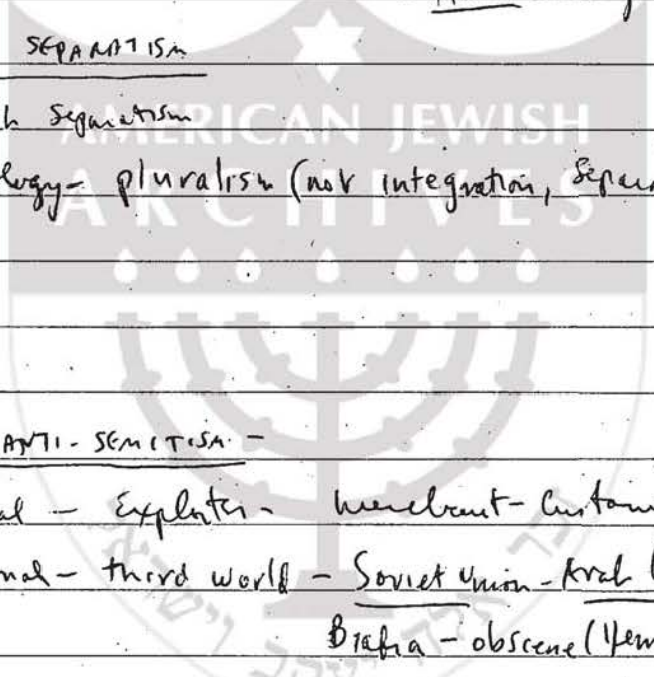
KNOWLEDGE - INFORMATION INSIGHT

HUMAN RESOURCES - EDUCATION

ACTION - JOBS, EDUCATION, HOUSING

WHITE SUBURBS

20A -
no contact
with problem
- hysteria
- polarization
- program
(self-fulfilling
prophecy)



meet Jews / Young for - low an 0

- ORDER OF CHANGE, ~~for~~ modern - technocratic D. 10/11
- Passive state of mind
- generation gap, black-white, rich-poor, developed-undeveloped
- Paradox - UN - nationalism, Jewish - Christian

J-X - decline of anti-S - Stember - vs. uprising

Soviet Union, Arab League, black extremists

- Anti propaganda in churches, universities, media
overseas missions - majority friendly
journalism,

expensive news clips

anti-Jew - anti-S - P.L.O.

Black-Jews -

black power - militants vs. nationalist

self-determination -

U. B. A.

Econ Self-devel.

black Separation - Jewish, C, P,

instrumental (elite based not on status or funds)

Black anti-S.

Extremists - 3rd world - Abu - HIT

political - constant leaders

Majority - less anti-S. than whites - appears

tensions-hostility - merchant-customer

(Seattle - " ON RECORD AS OCCURRED)
situation 11/8 5/7/55 2/1/56

WHAT TO DO

- 1) dialogue - Ocean Hill Bronx with
- 2) knowledge - myths - black class
- 3) Autonomy - Jobs, education, housing.