

Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 84, Folder 5, Jewish Family, 1977.

m. Tanenbaum

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77-750-24

ONE TO AN OFFICE

PLEASE SHARE

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date February 15, 1977

to Area Directors

from Yehuda Rosenman

subject Data Gathering for AJC Program on Jewish Family Concerns

To help you to implement the data gathering suggestions in our recently distributed Guidelines on Family Programs, we are enclosing a questionnaire and a first report of "hearings" conducted by the St. Louis Chapter.

You may wish to reproduce the questionnaire in full or any part of it and you can use it in a variety of ways:

1. You may wish to distribute it to our own membership or to any group by mail. Information derived can serve as the basis for a future meeting with local agencies to determine unmet needs.

2. The questionnaire can be distributed, filled out and discussed at a Chapter meeting, or at any other group meeting.

3. Some of the questions may serve as a guide to individual or group hearings on family problems, the role of Jewish agencies (Questions 17-21), the family as a transmitter of Jewish identity (Part II), etc.

We thought that the St. Louis initial experiement of hearings to deal with specific issues related to the family and its role in Jewish life could also be useful to you.

However you choose to gather data, we would very much appreciate receiving copies of the material. Your efforts are an important source of grass roots information to us and we will be most grateful for your help.

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE Jewish Communal Affairs Department

Questionnaire on the Jewish Family

PART I. FAMILY PROFILE

Please read the instructions to each question carefully. State frankly what you believe is the best answer to each question. Remember that this is not a test but a survey. There are no right or wrong answers. Only your answers are desired. Please do not discuss your answers with your spouse or anyone else before you return this questionnaire. We, on our end, shall treat your responses in the strictest confidence. After coding it into a computerized form, we shall use it only in combination with the responses of many others for the purposes of statistical analysis.

We hope that you will find the questions personally thought-provoking and answering them, satisfying. We are grateful for your kind cooperation with this survey and look forward to your prompt response.

CURRENT FAMILY PROFILE

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ı.	Are you married?		Yes	No	
3	Including yourself, how large is your immediate family living in the same household? (E.g. 5 per- sons)	1.		- * * - * \$2. *	
2.	How many children do you have with your present spouse?		Son(s) Daughter		
3.	Have you ever been previously married? CHECK YOUR ANSWER	3. 3.	YES []	ио []	
	AMERICAN JEW	ISF			
4.	IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO Q. 3 What was the religion of birth of your previous spouse(s)?	E S	5		
5.	IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO Q. 3	5a.	Son(s)		
10) 107	How many children did you have with your previous spouse(s)?	1.100	Daughter		
6.	How old were you on your last birthday?	6.	/		
7.	Where were you born?	7.			
8.	Where were your parents born?		Father:_ Mother:_	• •	
9.	What is your current occupation?	9•			
10.	What is the level of schooling or academic degree you've completed?	10.			
11.	From what age until what age did you receive any form of Jewish edu- cation? (E.g. from 10-13 years) FILL IN TYPE OF SCHOOLING	11,			

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KINSHIP NETWORK

12. In the appropriate spaces below please CHECK or FILL IN with which and how many of your relatives did you celebrate the following Jewish holidays during the past year.

A. Rosh Hashona	E. Chanukah	TOTAL:
B. Yom Kippur	F. Purim	Fill in the total number
C. Sukkoth	G. Pesach	of times you saw each dur-
D. Simchat Torah	H. Shevuoth	ing the past year, regard-

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Not Ap- plicable		I	1	B	3	C		D		E		F		G		H		TOTAL	
[]	Spouse AMER	٦]	E	9	C	3	۵	j	C]	۵]	[]	C]		8
Ĺ Ĵ	Child(ren)	C]	C	Ĵ	E]	E]	Ē]	Ľ]	C]	Ε]		
[]	Grandchild(ren)	1	j	5]	E	3	Ĵ	3	C]	E	3	E]	C]		С
Ċ.,	Parent(s)	ſ]	E]	T	3	ľ]	Ē]	C]	E]	C]		
[]	Grandparent(s)	E]	ſ]	[]	T	3	C	3	٢]	E]	٢.],		
[]	In-Law(s)	Ľ]	Ľ	J	C]	Ľ	ן	E]	C]	E]	Ε]	19 - K	
[]	Brother(s)	C]	2	.]	E	J	Ľ	נ'	C]	E	3	E	<u>ן</u>	Ľ]		
[]	Sister(s)	C]	۰Ľ	נ	Γ]	Ε]	٤.	3	E	ן	E]	E]		
[]	Aunt(s)	E]	Ľ	3	Ľ	נ	٢]	[]	E	ן	٢]	Ε	ן	2 1541 20	
[]	Uncle(s)	Ċ]	Ē]	Ē	-]	1	Ĵ	Έ]	C]	٢]	٢].		E.
C]	Cousin(s)	Ē	J	Ľ]	, E	3	.[]	C]	۵]	۵]	٢]		
	ALONE	E]	C]	Ţ	J	C]	۵]	C]	C]	[]		UK
÷.	DID NOT CELEBRATE	٠C]	٢]	E]	٢]	.Γ]	Ŀ]	Ľ]	Ľ]	*	
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- 13. Thinking of all the people with [whom you spend your leisure time for purposes of recreation and [enjoyment, what proportion of those people (excluding your [spouse) are related to you either by birth or marriage? CHECK [
- [] None

[] Less than one quarter

less of occasion

[] Between 25-50 percent

[] Between 50-75 percent

[] All or nearly all

ATTITUDES & PRIORITIES

14. Do you regard yourself as a member of any synagogue and/or branch of Judaism? CHECK ANSWER

> IF 'YES' PLEASE FILL IN WHICH TYPE (E.g. Reform, Conservative, etc.)

15. Do you regard yourself as a member of any other Jewish organization?

IF 'YES' PLEASE FILL IN WHICH ONE(S)

- []YES []NO
- [] Uncertain

- []YES []NO
- [] Uncertain
- 16. In terms of your own personal values and feelings, how important do you consider the following? CHECK ANSWER
 - A. Very Important
 - B. Somewhat Important
 - C. Uncertain of its Importance
 - D. Mostly Unimportant
- E. Completely Unimportant
- F. Some Negative Importance
- G. Strong Negative Importance

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	Your own observance of Jewish holidays	D	3	ſ	3	C	27	C	3	۵	ן	۵]	[]	I
	Your own observance of Jewish rituals	C]	E	3	E	J	٤	נ	٤	נ	٤	ן	[]]
	Your own participation in Jewish prayer	٢]	[)	E]	[3	E]	٢	ן	[]	1
12	That your children re- ceive a solid Jewish education	E	ן	٤]	[]	E	ן	٤]	٤]	[]	
	That your chidren be as religious as you are	Ľ]	۵]	Ľ]	٢	ן	Ε]	۵	ן	[]	ł
	That your children marry within the Jew- ish faith	Ē]	[]	C	.1	Ľ	۱	Г	۱	נ	٦	רח	I

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- 17. Have you experienced any serious family problems in the last couple of years (e.g. severe conflict between parents and children, between husband and wife, marital troubles, divorce, troubled children, etc.
- 18. What do you see as the precipitating causes of these problems and needs?
 - AMERICAN JEWISH
- 19. Have the problems affected your involvement with the Jewish community or Judaism in any way?
- 20. Have you turned to any agency of the Jewish community for help in connection with the problem(s)? (e.g. Jewish Family Service, synagogue rabbi, other). If "yes" how helpful did you find the agencies or people you have turned to.

21. On the basis of your own experience with family problems do you feel that the organized Jewish community is failing to meet any special needs? If "yes" what needs and how do you think the community could help meet these needs? THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE Jewish Communal Affairs Department

Questionnaire on the Jewish Family

PART II. FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Please fill in your answers to the following questions in the space that is provided. Brevity and legibility will be greatly appreciated.

A. WHAT DO YOU RECALL WITH THE MOST FONDNESS ABOUT THE WAY YOUR PARENTS EXPRESSED THEIR JEWISHNESS?

B. WHAT DO YOU RECALL WITH THE MOST DISPLEASURE ABOUT THE WAY YOUR PARENTS EXPRESSED THEIR JEWISHNESS?

C. WHAT ASPECTS OF JUDAISM OR JEWISHNESS DO YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL IN TRANSMITING TO YOUR CHILDREN?

D. WHAT ASPECTS OF JUDAISM OR JEWISHNESS DO YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN LEAST SUCCESSFUL IN TRANSMITTING TO YOUR CHILDREN?

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F. WHAT ASPECT OF THE 'JEWISH EXPERIENCE' DO YOU FEAR WILL BE LOST TO THE GENERATION OF YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN?

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G. WHAT NEW DIMENSIONS OF THE 'JEWISH EXPERIENCE' IN AMERICA DO YOU SEE DEVELOPING WHICH WILL MAKE JEWISHNESS QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT, AND PERHAPS BETTER, FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR YOUR GENERATION OF JEWS? CURRENT ISSUES IN THE PUBLIC ARENA HAVE DIVERSE IMPACTS ON THE QUALITY OF JEWISH LIFE. USING YOUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS GUIDE, HOW WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES HAVE EFFEC-TED THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN YOUR OWN FAMILY.

A. Very fa					omewhat un- avorably				
B. Somewhat	at favor	ably	E. V	erv ur	favor-				
C. Can't :	ceally t	ell		bly					
					e i i				
AMERI	CAN	JEV	VI&H	D	E				
			FS						
Liberalization of public attitudes towards the	n La g				12				
use of marijuana	E]	נ נ נ	[]	[]	τ.]				
Liberalization of public	a site	-	in alle	. A					
attitudes towards sex	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]				
The women's liberation		- 7-							
movement	[]	[]	£ 3	[]	.[]				
The new Eastern religious		-							
movements	[]	[]	[3]	[]	[]				
The prominence of Israel			~	* <u>1</u>					
in the world political arena	C 3	11	1	[]	נין				
The popular use of birth control	250	22			12.4 (22) ·				
control		[]	[]	[]	[]				

AJC/JCAD February 1977

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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE St. Louis Chapter

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PROCEDURE OF JEWISH COMMUNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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1. The first hearing on the experience of Jewish singles in St. Louis was held in December. I would like to share with you some of the testimony from the twenty-five singles who participated. There was agreement that post college Jewish singles in St. Louis do not have a natural vehicle for meeting each other. They do not attend synagogues or Jewish community center programs in any significant numbers. Hillel Foundation seems to be the only community institution attracting serious numbers' of young singles. However, this is not appropriately their function. Their primary responsibility is to students on and off campus. Only those with a "turned on" Jewish consciousness are likely to turn to Hillel as a social gathering place. For these two reasons, Hillel should not be seen as the focus for meeting the needs of Jewish singles.

Early in the hearing, it became clear that there are really two distinct singles groups with somewhat different needs. The first, young singles, who have never been married, and the second group, those who are single again as a result of divorce, loss of spouse or separation. Several attempts are being made in St. Louis to create organizations of the latter group. The social gatherings are generally unbalanced with few, if any, males present. This past fall, the Jewish Adult Institute, coordinated by the Central Agency for Jewish Education, together with reform and conservative comgregations, offered a class in "Alternative Single Jewish Life Style." One hundred fifty signed up, 120 women, 30 men. By the fourth week of the program, it had dwindled to fewer than 50 people, with only 6 men involved, all of whom were over 60. There was much speculation as to why men are not seen in significant numbers when opportunities such as this are provided. There was general agreement that there are simply fewer available single men. Divorce most often occurs in middle age, with a man turning to another woman and leaving his wife unattached. There are more widows than widowers because women tend to outlive men, single men seem less willing to respond to organized methods for their social needs, while it is socially acceptable for women to turn to community gatherings to meet those needs. 1

We learned that the B'nai B'rith organization is currently trying to form a co-ed singles lodge. They are recruiting a total of 100 people in order to form the lodge and they will accept no more than 55 women. 1 1 · · · 1. 34

Several women in their late 40's indicated the need for a match-maker service, not necessarily for the purpose of marriage, but to facilitate introductions without the interference of family and friends. The younger contingent were most turned off by this concept for themselves, but could appreciate the potential which such a service might provide for those who are "single again."

While there appears to be an awaking among some synagogue leaders to the need to reach out and include singles in synagogue life, that institution continues to be viewed by most singles as "mainly for families" and a place where "singles stand out like. sore thumbs." With an increasing number of Jewish singles in the total Jewish population, it was indicated that synagogues and organizations should actively recruit these people to membership. One woman said in her experience, young singles seemingly "don't exist" in relation to the organized Jewish community between college and mapriage. They don't see themselves in terms of their Jewishness and the institutions are not geared for attracting them.

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page two Procedure of Hearings Jewish Communal Affairs Committee

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It was suggested that since singles would demand less of the institution than do families, a reduction in the membership rate should be made available.

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In response to the needs of post college singles, who have never been married, there was general agreement that the vast number of singles known to the group testifying don't feel that its "in" to be demonstrably Jewish. Therefore, Jewish Institutions probably won't be able to reach these allenated singled. Efforts to meet the needs of Jewish singles would have to become the "in" thing. No formula for success has yet materialized, perhaps because, as one person put it, "movements are catchy things. Identifying with a group requires a very delicate chemistry which seems to be differ from person to person, particularly in this age group."

There seems to be a desire for a social gathering place which would be free of institutional identification, such as exists in Los Angeles, New York and other cities - Israeli coffee houses, folk dance clubs, etc.

Several suggestions were made that dinner parties and travel opportunities might get response from some singles. Several people suggested Havurotas an alternative life style for singles. Such communal endeavors might meet the need for expanded family, the most fertile atmosphere for Jewish experiences, which are missing for most singles.

There was some discussion about the increasing acceptability of single life style, coupled with a growing distrust and disbelief in the institution of marriage. Few young singles seem to aspire toward marriage, yet none of those testifying were committed against marrying "should the right opportunity come along."

One suggestion for those seeking to facilitate introductions of Jewish singles in a more natural way was the retreat model. Weekends could be programmed in camplike or resort settings, specially for singles with an effort to recruit males.

11. Our second hearing, which was scheduled to be on the topic of mobility and the expanded family, had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

III. Our third hearing which was held in January was on the subject of "Social and Economic Pressures Affecting Childbearing Decisions." Four couples, who have been married between 3 and 8 years, all of whom are as yet without children, testified before representatives of the Jewish Communal Affairs Committee on their personal impressions regarding this topic. There was agreement that people are marrying later in life and thus they have a shorter number of years when it is medically safe for the mother to bear children. This contributes to a smaller number of children being born. Selffulfillment has become the priority of this decade and is reinforced by the media, family, friends and most Jewish institutions. This phenomenon was described by several. participants as a form of prolonged adolescence; while deciding to have children means ... "really growning up." Birth control has contributed to the delay in child bearing as well as the decreased number of children. Couples marrying today don't assume that inc, are necessarily going to "make it" together. There is a clear awareness that more marriages fail than succeed and that it can happen to us, so we better be sure, before we have kids. The femist movement has reinforced the notion that caring for a family entails a feeling of "being trapped."

page three Jewish Communal Affairs Committee Procedure of Hearings

The Jewish Community Center and synagogue programs in St. Louis are primarily oriented to families with children, as they should be. As a result, childless couples are usually not drawn to the program and thus do not receive the reinforcement for child bearing which has certainly been a major contributing factor in the decision of couples in the past. The fewer women in one's circle who are pregnant, the more lonely and awesome the prospect of a pregnancy seem. Conversely, as in the kibbutz, some Black neighborhoods and other settings with high birth rates, when everyone is having bables, it's a lot easier to be like "everyone else." The peer pressure can be helpful in deciding to go ahead.

Those in their 30's today have been trained to act with responsibility and that has come to mean waiting until you are sure you can provide for all the needs of your children before having them. It was postulated that in periods where survival was an issue, many children were born to help share the burden. In a setting such as America in the 70's, physical survival issues are almost non-existant for middle class Jews. Those who have children do so for self-fulfillment, Joy and similar motivations, all of which seems to dictate against more than one or two children.

The constant mobility of families has created a situation where the natural support systems such as solid neighborhoods, friendship groups & extended family are very scarce and unreliable commodities. Bearing the responsibilities of raising children without these supports is discouraging at best.

Several suggestions were made that might serve to encourage childbearing:

1. Personnel policies which would allow for work sharing could make it possible for both marriage partners to continue pursuing their respective careers while still allowing the time for one partner to be a successful and supportive homemaker.

2. Jewish organizations such as the American Jewish Committee, should be more selective in their promotion of executive sulte projects, particularly in utilities and larger corporations which are known to require transfers every few years. If we want to be promoting family stability, we should not contribute to the factors, such as mobility, which threaten it.

3. Havurot should be cultivated and promoted to help provide replacement for the natural support systems which are missing.

4. Baby sitting cooperatives have proven to be functional solutions to the needs of couples in the 1970's to have a private social life and still assure that children are cared for.

5. Synagogues and Jewish Centers should seriously consider programming aimed at childiess couples, members or not, which might help them work through some of their doubts and insecurities about having children.

Following Verbit's discussion with us on February 13th, we will conduct further hearings on related issues. Information gathered in these hearings and recommendations that emerge from the national study on Jewish Family Life should serve as a basis for consulting with Jewish Federations, synagogues and constituent agencies.

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Abstract: The Family and American Pluralism

The current discussions on the state of the family, while realistically dealing with the fact that the American family is in trouble, does not adequately recognize that family life is culturally diverse. While increasing evidence points to the persistence of ethnicity even extending into the third and fourth generations, family life is not being examined in a culturally pluralistic context.

Experts on family life are well aware that the cultural legacy which is transmitted from one generation to the next in often subtle, unnoticed ways is fundamental to the attitudes, values and emotional patterns of children in families. These family life styles differ from one ethnic group to another even when class is held constant. Each ethnic group selects from the traditional behavior patterns those which it will reinforce and this influences the capacity of the ethnic family to cope or not cope effectively with the larger society.

Consequently, we have chosen to make the focal concern of this paper the distinct family life styles that have been developed by basic group identity and are now being affected by contemporary social forces.

The recent interest in the family has been due in part to the alarming rise in family breakdowns - high divorce rates, child abuse, alcoholism, drug addiction, and mental illness. These dramatic statistical facts coupled with the impact of changing roles and attitudes have caused many to assert that the demise of the family is right around the corner. Yet others insist that while the family may be in trouble, it is still the most important unit in our society and it is time the country's policies and programs support family life.

The family as an issue is a highly emotional one, one which is surrounded by conflicts in basic American values. As James Gannon in the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> writes: "A culture which glorifies individual independence, mobility, selffulfillment and self-gratification isn't one which fosters the family values of authority, loyalty, self-denial and sharing." In addition, the family policy issue is highly politicized and polarizing because of what people perceive as continued interference on the part of government into daily lives.

There is a need for a strategy to depolarize issues of family policy. The old vacuum of concern about the family that had existed for so long is turning into a flood of healthy new interest. But care must be taken. We must develop an approach that will enable us to discuss family policy in a socially sensitive way.

Cultural pluralism is that approach. Its major components, which will be covered in this paper are:

- National family policy must build in options that are sensitive to diversity among groups (cultural, regional, etc.).
- 2) The basic definition of family must be broadened to include a variety of family life styles in addition to the nuclear family. (Communal families, single-parent families, extended families).
- Creating an awareness of the diversity of family life, particularly the distinct characteristics that sustain healthy and supportive environments.

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- The relationship of ethnicity, family and neighborhood as informal support systems must be better understood.
- 5) Culturally compatible formal delivery systems which support natural helping (informal) systems must be developed.

This approach provides a new framework for discussing the politics of American family policy. At the same time, it is an avenue for insuring effective policy and programs responsive to the diverse needs of all American families.

AMERICAN JEWISH



INSTITUTE ON PLURALISM AND GROUP IDENTITY

of

The American Jewish Committee 165 East 56 Street New York, N.Y. 10022

FEB 2 4 1977

To: AJC PROFESSIONAL STAFF

From: Ir

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Irving M. Levine 🗸 📄

For Your Information

The attached letter and speech from Dr. Sheila Kamerman are examples of what IPGI is working toward in the area of "family policy." The Columbia University School of Social Work | New York, N.Y. 10025 MCVickar 622 West 113th Street

Cross-National Studies of Social Service Systems and Family Policy

February 1, 1977

Irving M. Levine, Director National Project on Ethnic America The American Jewish Committee 165 East 56 Street New York, NY 10022

Dear Irv,

As you requested, I am enclosing a copy of the speech I made at the Lilly Endowment Conference on the Family.

You asked, subsequently, whether the priority program I urged was a universal program or a selected program-for the poor only. I left with a feeling that my response to you was inadequate and that, therefore, you probably misunderstood my position.

First, I am strongly committed to a universalist perspective in social policy. Not only do I agree with Titmuss' statement that services for the poor tend to be poor services, but I also believe that services that are only for the poor lead to conflict and divisiveness between the working class population and the poor, and to feelings of resentment on the part of the working class towards the poor. Moreover, and of equal importance, I believe that average, ordinary families living in today's complicated world may be as much in need of help as the poor. In other are, of course, several other arguments supporting this position but I'm sure you know them as well as I do, or better.

Second, the priority items I recommended could be implemented in toto as part of a universal program. In other words, family or children's allowances could be the approach taken to provide a family-focused income maintenance program. The maternal and child health program by definition would be a universal program. Finally, the third priority item, an interrelated program of benefits and services for employed parents with young children, would include: paid leaves after childbirth and paid leaves for caring for an ill child at home-for all employed parents (where both parents work or there is only one parent); preschool programs for all children age 3 to 6; and supplementary after-school programs available to all children of employed parents.

However, if political pressures required some variation, I would accept any of several alternatives to welfare reform for my income maintenance item, as long as one component of such a program was inclusion of two-parent families and low income employed or employables. I would not compromise on the universal nature of a maternal and child health program. As to the third priority item, there too I would not compromise on the universal position, generally, although certain adaptations could be made to take account of resource limitations or the need for the gradual phasing-in of such a program. To be more specific, clearly the parental leaves should be for all employed parents. I could accept, however, public preschool and supplementary school programs that were phased in by focusing first on children most in need (including poor, oneparent, handicapped, children of working parents, etc.). I would expect such programs to be heavily subsidized but would also have no difficulty with charging small incomerelated fees.

I hopes this makes my position clearer. Obviously, all I provided in my speech are broad policy and program recommendations. Program specifics, including choices of options, costs, etc., would still have to be delineated.

Needless to say, I would be glad to discuss any of this further with you.

Cordially, Spile

Sheila B. Kamerman Co-Director

SBK:caf

cc: Mr. Joseph Giordano

Somewhat Recised for Actual Presentation

LILLY ENDOWMENT, INC. CONFERENCE ON THE FAMILY WASHINGTON, D.C.

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JANUARY 26-28, 1977

"FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR POLICIES"

GEITING SPECIFIC: PRIORITY ITEMS FOR A NATIONAL FAMILY POLICY SHEILA B. KAMERMAN

DURING THE LAST DAY AND A HALF WE HAVE BEEN TOLD A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY AND THE NATURE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES DIRECTED AT THE FAMILY. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVEN SOME SUGGESTIONS AND SOME WARNINGS. WHAT, THEN, CAN I ADD?

GIVEN MY PARTICULAR INTERESTS AND THE POINT ON THE AGENDA AT WHICH THIS SESSION TAKES PLACE; GIVEN THE FACT THAT WE ARE MEETING HERE IN WASHINGTON, ONE WEEK AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION, I BELIEVE I WOULD BE REMISS AND IRRESPONSIBLE IF I DID NOT USE THIS TIME TO MAKE SOME VERY SPECIFIC RECOM-MENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTIONS THAT WOULD FIT UNDER THE RUBRIC OF FAMILY POLICY.

I DOUBT THAT ANY OF US HERE NEEDS TO BE REMINDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER PROMISED THAT IF HE WERE ELECTED HIS ADMINIS-TRATION WOULD AIM, SPECIFICALLY, AT ASSURING FAMILIES "A DECENT CHANCE TO BE STRONG AGAIN" AND THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO ELIMINATE THOSE GOVERNMENT POLICIES WHICH HAVE TENDED TO UNDERMINE FAMILIES AND FAMILY LIFE. WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS WHERE THIS ADMINISTRATION COULD--AND SHOULD--BEGIN IF THERE IS A REAL COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE.

LEST I BE MISUNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, I WANT TO MAKE THREE. THINGS VERY CLEAR AT THE ONSET:

FIRST, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE WITNESSING THE DEATH OF THE FAMILY, UNQUESTIONABLY, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL HAPPENING TO THE FAMILY. NEW TYPES OF FAMILIES ARE EMERGING AND TRADITIONAL FAMILY ROLES ARE CHANGING. BUT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE CHANGES ARE ALL BAD. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THERE ARE MORE ONE PARENT FAMILIES TODAY, THERE ARE ALSO MORE CHILDREN IF THE DIVORCE RATE IS RISING, LIVING WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT. IS NEAR ITS PEAK SO IS THE MARRIAGE RATE, IF GROWING INTEREST IN PARENT AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IS ANY EVIDENCE, THERE IS AT LEAST AS MUCH CONCERN WITH BEING A GOOD PARENT TODAY AS PREVIOUSLY, AND MAYBE EVEN MORE. FINALLY, IF THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR CHILD CARE AND CHILD REARING AS MORE MOTHERS ENTER THE LABOR FORCE, WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT IT IS THE WAGES OF MANY OF THESE WOMEN WHICH (WHEN ADDED TO THE LOW OR MODEST WAGES OF MILLIONS OF FULLY EMPLOYED MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS) HAVE CARRIED FAMILY INCOME BEYOND POVERTY, AND CONTRIBUTED TO PROVIDING A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THEIR FAMILIES. FURTHERMORE, AS WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO

LEARN, IT IS THE EMPLOYMENT OF MANY OF THESE SAME WOMEN THAT HAS CUSHIONED FAMILIES AGAINST THE TRAUMA OF UNEMPLOYMENT WHEN THE MALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD LOSES HIS JOB.

SO ALTHOUGH THERE IS A GREAT DEAL HAPPENING TO THE FAMILY, THE EVIDENCE IS NOT YET IN AS TO WHAT IS BAD AND WHAT IS GOOD. CERTAINLY, WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED, BUT WE NEED NOT PANIC. I CERTAINLY AGREE WITH MARY JO BANE THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE FAMILY IS HERE TO STAY. WHAT WE MUST BE CLEAR ABOUT IS WHERE GOVERNMENT ACTION IS APPROPRIATE, AND WHICH ACTIONS WILL BE EFFECTIVE.

SECOND, AND I CANNOT EMPHASIZE THIS STRONGLY ENOUGH, I AM NOT ADVOCATING A SINGLE, INTEGRATED, UNIFORM, NATIONAL FAMILY POLICY FOR THE U.S. A PLURALISTIC, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY REQUIRES A BROAD, FLEXIBLE POLICY STANCE, MOREOVER, THERE ARE VARIATIONS IN FAMILY STRUCTURE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE ONE PARENT AND TWO PARENT FAMILIES, AND BOTH MARRIED AND CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS. THERE ARE ALSO VARIATIONS IN FAMILY ROLES, THE MOST OBVIOUS ONE BEING THE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED MOTHER AND THE MOTHER WHO REMAINS AT HOME, PUBLIC POLICY SHOULD NOT SUPPORT ONE FAMILY TYPE ONLY; NOR SHOULD IT SUPPORT ONLY ONE SPECIFIC ROLE FOR EACH FAMILY MEMBER. PEOPLE HAVE THEIR OWN PREFERENCES AND VALUES AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEM. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC SUB-GROUPS. BEYOND ALL THIS, THERE ARE GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE AND DIFFERENCES IN VALUES, INEVITABLY, PUBLIC POLICY WILL AND SHOULD REFLECT THESE DIFFERENCES.

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Third, I do not believe that the family is merely a passive object, buffetted about by the push and pull of various forces. I think that American families do have the capacity to shape and influence their own destinies, and that the family, as an institution, can and does play a role in initiating social change as well as in responding to it. When we develop policies and programs that are directed at the family and family members, we should not undermine this capacity. What becomes critical is that the policies and programs we establish should assure families the options and choices they so rightly want and deserve. Indeed, we need to find an approach to policy making that allows--and even encourages--families to help shape the options.

HAVING EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH WHAT I AM NOT SAYING, WHAT IS IT THAT I AM SAYING?

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE FAMILY IS CHANGING AND THAT THESE CHANGES ARE THE RESULT OF INTERACTION AMONG FORCES BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE FAMILY. LIKE ALL CHANGE, SOME OF THESE CHANGES WILL HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES AND OTHERS MAY HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS. AND IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME YET BEFORE WE ARE SURE WHICH ARE WHICH. WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT CERTAIN CHANGES PLACE GREATER DEMANDS ON THE FAMILY'S CORE TASKS OF NURTURE, CARE, SOCIALIZATION AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF CHILDREN. AND WE ALSO KNOW THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS UNDERMINE STILL FURTHER THE FAMILY'S CAPACITY TO MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXAMPLE, WE KNOW THAT CONDITIONS SUCH AS POVERTY, DISCRIMINATION, ILL HEALTH, INADEQUATE OR NON-EXISTENT CARE FOR CHILDREN, ARE CLEARLY BAD AND IMPEDE AND UNDERMINE THE FAMILY'S CAPACITY TO FUNCTION. WE KNOW, TOO, THAT CERTAIN ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN TO AT LEAST ALLEVIATE THESE CONDITIONS. IF OUR COMMITMENT IS TO HELP FAMILIES HELP THEM-SELVES, THEN WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE THESE ACTIONS.

THERE IS SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH NOW IN PROCESS ABOUT THE FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATED TO THE FAMILY. IMPORTANT WORK IS BEING DONE AND OTHER WORK SHOULD BE DONE. DEBATE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIETAL CHANGE FOR THE FAMILY WILL CONTINUE. As we have seen in the course of this conference, there are few FIRM ANSWERS TO HARD QUESTIONS AND HONEST DIFFERENCES DO EXIST. BUT CERTAINLY WE KNOW ENOUGH ALREADY AND ARE IN SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT TO TAKE A FEW BASIC ACTIONS.

I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SUGGEST WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE INAPPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH THE FAMILY OR INVASION OF INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY. NOR WOULD ANY OF THIS CREATE DEPENDENCY OR INTERFERE WITH INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. ON THE CONTRARY, OUT OF LEGITIMATE CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WE NEED TO TAKE STEPS SUCH AS THESE TO STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY IN ITS PRIMARY ROLE OF SOCIALIZING CHILDREN, PROVIDING NURTURE AND CARE, AND ASSURING THEM ECONOMIC SUPPORT. WHAT I OFFER FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, NOW, IS A THREE-POINT, HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAM WHICH COULD PROVIDE SOME OF THE BASIC COMPONENTS OF A NATIONAL FAMILY POLICY. I THINK OF THIS PROGRAM AS PROVIDING A LAUNCHING PAD, A TAKE-OFF POINT, OR A SOCIAL MINIMUM FOR FAMILIES.

MY SPECIAL CONCERN TODAY IS FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN FIRST AND PARAMOUNT IN DEVELOPING POLICIES THAT STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY, IS THE NEED FOR A FAMILY-FOCUSED INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM THAT WOULD HELP POOR, LOW-INCOME AND WORKING CLASS PARENTS WITH THE COSTS OF RAISING CHILDREN.

To let you know how urgent this is, let me remind you of a few facts: Of the 56 million families in the U.S. in 1975, 10 percent had incomes below the poverty level. Of even greater concern, 16 percent of the total number of children under age 18, 11 million children, lived in these poor families. Moreover, almost half of these children-over 5 million--lived in two parent families. Although children living alone with their mother are at particular risk of poverty, having two parents, including an employed father, does not guarantee children freedom from poverty.

AT THE VERY LEAST, A FAMILY-FOCUSED INCOME MAINTENANCE PRO-GRAM SHOULD INCLUDE COVERAGE OF TWO PARENT AS WELL AS ONE PARENT FAMILIES, THE WORKING POOR AS WELL AS THE UNEMPLOYED POOR, THE ABLE-BODIED UNEMPLOYED AS WELL AS THE PARTIALLY DISABLED-UNEMPLOYABLE, AND PARENTS WITH VERY YOUNG CHILDREN. There are different approaches to developing such a program. One possibility would be instituting a children's or family allowance, similar to programs already in place in over sixty industrialized countries other than theU.S. An alternative which could also achieve the desired objective, would be any of several widely discussed proposals for welfare reform. Obviously, the merits of different alternatives cannot be discussed here today, nor would this be the appropriate forum for making a particular choice. The point to be stressed, is that in whatever approach is taken, the overriding goal should be to ease the financial burden of caring for children and rearing them and to assure children that they do not grow up in financial want and need. Such an income maintenance program must be the cornerstone of any national family policy for children and families.

Second, and of almost equal importance, would be the development of a program of maternal and child health services, covering all of the country's children, guarranteeing comprehensive checkups during the first few years of life as well as appropriate treatment when and as needed. Such a program would include prenatal and postnatal care and general pediatric services, provided in clinics as well as by health visitors or other visiting home health personnel. The early problem identification and subsequent treatment in a universal program has enormous health pay-offs, as clearly documented in the many industrialized

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WESTERN COUNTRIES WITH SUCH PROGRAMS. IN CONTRAST, THE PRESS REPORTED JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT OUR OWN EARLY PERIODIC Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Program, has reached less than 10 percent of the eligible poor children in several industrialized states.

AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN DOING SOCIAL SERVICE AND FAMILY POLICY RESEARCH IN A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE, WHEN I FIRST BEGAN SOME YEARS AGO, I WONDERED WHY THESE COUNTRIES DID NOT HAVE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL EPSDT PROGRAM FOR POOR CHILDREN THE WAY OUR CONGRESS MOVED TO ESTABLISH ONE LATE IN 1967. SUBSEQUENTLY, I ALSO WONDERED WHY MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES SEEMED TO HAVE SUCH SPLENDID COVERAGE OF PRE-VENTIVE CARE AND DID NOT NEED TO CREATE SPECIAL NETWORKS OF SCREENING FOR CHILD ABUSE. THE ANSWER IS THAT MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL FAR POORER THAN OURS, TAKE FOR GRANTED UNIVERSAL COVERAGE THROUGH A PUBLIC PROGRAM OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES. SUCH COVERAGE INVOLVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A WHOLE RANGE OF PRENATAL, POSTNATAL AND GENERAL PEDIATRIC CARE INCLUDING PERIODIC CHECKUPS IN THE FIRST SEVERAL YEARS OF LIFE. IT EXPLAINS, IN PART, WHY COUNTRIES POORER THAN OURS CAN AND DO HAVE MUCH LOWER INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

HASN'T THE TIME COME TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION IN THE U.S.? IT IS A FAR CLEARER TARGET THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON THE HEALTH CARE HORIZON AND IS ATTAINABLE WITHIN CURRENT RESOURCE AND PERSONNEL

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CONSTRAINTS. A LEADING HEALTH ECONOMIST RECENTLY POINTED OUT THAT MEDICAL CARE FOR CHILDREN IS READILY PREDICTABLE, RELA-TIVELY CHEAP, REASONABLY LIKELY TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH, AND WHAT IS MORE, A LITTLE SPENT NOW ON CHILDREN WOULD SAVE RE-SOURCES IN THE TREATMENT OF ADULTS IN THE FUTURE. NO OTHER SERVICE CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR SUCH A BASIC CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM. IS THIS NOT A TRUE PRIORITY?

Third, We need series of policies and programs directed at the growing number of families with young children in which the sole parent, or both parents are employed outside the home. Currently, responsibility is fragmented among many agencies, bureaus and jurisdictions and there is no clear locus for leadership and planning. This must be attended to before policies can be developed and implemented.

WHAT I AM REFERRING TO HERE, IS THE NEED TO ASSURE CHILD CARE THROUGH A WIDE VARIETY OF OPTIONS; EVEN THE OPTIONS ARE NOT CONCEIVED OF NOW WITH SUFFICIENT IMAGINATION.

Once AGAIN, TO REMIND YOU OF THE FACTS WHICH UNDERSCORE THE URGENCY OF THIS NEED, 45 PERCENT OF THE MOTHERS OF CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 3 AND 6 WORKED IN MARCH, 1975. IN FACT, WELL OVER HALF WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR. OF THE MOTHERS OF CHILDREN UNDER THREE, OVER ONE THIRD WORKED IN 1975. AND MOST OF THESE MOTHERS WORKED FULL TIME. WE NEED TO RESPOND TO NEEDS WHICH ARISE FROM THESE CHANGING PATTERNS OF FAMILY LIFE. A PARTIAL LIST OF ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY OVERALL RESPONSE WOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING: AND HERE I SHALL JUST LIST BRIEFLY:

1. PAID MATERNITY OR PARENTAL LEAVES ENABLING AN EMPLOYED PARENT TO REMAIN HOME FOR THE FIRST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS AFTER CHILDBIRTH TO CARE FOR A NEWBORN INFANT.

2. PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGED THREE TO COM-PULSORY SCHOOL AGE, AVAILABLE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS FOR ALL PARENTS WANTING TO USE THEM, AND DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SOCIALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL EXPERIENCES FOR ALL PARTICIPATING CHILDREN.

3. ADEQUATE COVERAGE BY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS ON SCHOOL DAYS, WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS, FOR THE CHILDREN OF WORKING PARENTS, SUPPLEMENTING BOTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS WHICH DO NOT COINCIDE WITH WORKING HOURS AND DAYS;

4. PAID LEAVES OF SEVERAL DAYS PER YEAR, PERMITTING EMPLOYED PARENTS TO REMAIN HOME TO CARE FOR AN ILL CHILD.

GIVEN THE INCREASING LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF MOTHERS, SUCH PROGRAMS ARE A NECESSITY, NOT A LUXURY. FURTHERMORE, THEY WOULD REPRESENT A RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE, GOOD INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. CLEARLY, THIS, TOO, IS A HIGH PRIORITY. TO SUMMARIZE, MY THREE PRIORITY ITEMS ARE:

1. A FAMILY FOCUSED INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM;

2. A UNIVERSAL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM; AND

3. A GROUP OF INTERRELATED BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR WORKING PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

What I have presented is not by any means a comprehensive national family policy. Nor does it represent all that I would consider priority items for action. I have not even mentioned such other priorities as employment, which, it seems clear the administration has begun to address, and which I expect my colleague URIE Bronfenbrenner to discuss. Nor have I mentioned the problem of housing, which also certainly needs attention. But these could be a beginning.

We have heard other important proposals at this conference. Many of the things which I have described are being done elsewhere, in countries which are far poorer than we are. Many of them, as indicated, are good social investments. If our discussions of the family is more than rhetoric, we will start on some of these priorities and start on them right now.

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(One to an office - Please share)

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date March 16, 1977

to Area Directors

from Yehuda Rosenman

subject Discussion Guides and Colloquium Papers

Enclosed please find the 4th and 5th discussion guides on Jewish issues with the accompanying pieces of literature on which the discussion guides were based.

I wish to further clarify what I explained in my memo of 12-14-76, namely, that during the year 1977, we will publish a total of ten discussion guides. These guides are essentially divided into two series:

- . Series 1 deals with general Jewish issues with specific emphasis on Jewish family concerns. So far, we published three such discussion guides:
 - (1) The Jewish Family
 - (2) American Jews and Israel
 - (3) Jewish Women The Religious Dimension

The 4th discussion guide in this series, "The Changing Roles of Men & Women" is enclosed.

There will be two more discussion guides in this series:

Homosexuality - The Jewish Perspective This will be published in April or May 1977, and the last one will be on the Effects of Intermarriage which will be based on the report of our intermarriage study and will be published in the fall of 1977, probably in October.

Series 2 of the discussion guides consists of four guides based exclusively on the six publications of the Colloquium on Jewish Education and Jewish Identity. You have already received the first three Colloquium publications and one discussion guide titled: Does Jewish Schooling Matter. Enclosed is the fourth Colloquium publication, titled: Issues in Jewish Identity and Education with a discussion guide for this publication. The next two Colloquium publications with discussion guides will be forthcoming as follows: The Social Context of Jewish Identity will be published in April and Determining the Goals of Jewish Education (the 6th and final Colloquium publication) will be published in May.

The literature and discussion guides in both series are intended for discussion groups, conferences, workshops, for our own AJC Chapters as well as for other interested groups in your community. For your information, we are sending copies of the Colloquium publications to local Jewish Federations and Bureaus of Education. Please be advised that we make available only one courtesy copy to a group of the Colloquium publications. The cost of any additional copies up to 50 is \$.75 per publication and \$.50 per publication for 50 or more copies.

Please let me know whether you have already used or are planning to make use of this material and discussion guides.

Many thanks and kind regards.

YR/h