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Preserving American Jewish History

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

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Box 106, Folder 13, National Town Meeting [Washington, D.C.].
18 February 1976.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER
42ND STREET AND DEWEY AVENUE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68105

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

May 11, 1976

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402/541-4815

Mrs. Joan Snider

*Division Chief

National Town Meeting
1990 M Street NW
Suite 360
Washington, D. C. 20036

Gentlemen:

I was privileged to attend the Town Meeting on February 18 with the panel of Senator Hatfield, Rev. Cheek and Rabbi Tanenbaum. I have been attempting to purchase NOT QUITE SO SIMPLE and CONFLICT AND CONSCIENCE by Senator Mark Hatfield, THE SUN STOOD STILL by Rod MacLeish, and INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON RELIGION, LAND, NATIONS AND PEOPLEHOOD and SPEAKING OF GOD TODAY IN THE AGE OF AUSCHWITZ AND TERMINOLOGY.

Our sources have been unable to get information regarding the purchase of these books. Could you help me in this matter.

I would be grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Shipp
Joseph C. Shipp, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

May 24th

Rabbi Tanenbaum told me this morning that your office will mail this gentleman a copy of the Colloquium report. You might also give him the exact address for Fortress Press, Philadelphia that publishes 'Speaking of God'.

Thank You

*National Town Meeting
202-223-4458*

*Rosemary T. Mullany
Assoc. Pres.*

Taking the pulse of nation's religious condition

mitzfelder

SH



RABBI MARC TANENBAUM



SEN. MARK HATFIELD

Today's Topic: "Have You Been to Church or Synagogue Lately?" is discussed by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee and Sen. Mark Hatfield (R. Oregon). The speakers answered the public's questions at the National Town Meeting which is held each week at Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. This article was adapted from the debate.

What is the condition of America's organized religion?

By the usual American standards of success in the marketplace, religion is reasonably successful. Despite statistical ups and downs, institutional membership in churches and synagogues rose 46 per cent between 1950 and 1970 while the general population declined. By 1971, religious groups received more than 40 per cent of the total philanthropic giving in our nation. But the criteria for spiritual success is to be looked for elsewhere. Jews and Christians who are faithful to their shared Biblical covenant stake their existence on the central Biblical affirmation that each human being is created in the sacred image of God, that human life is of infinite worth and preciousness, that no human being can be used as an object for someone else's project. In my judgment, the greatest moral, spiritual threat that we face at this moment in history is the actual potential for unprecedented destruction of life that is posed by the nuclear arms race. We now have the capacity, the Soviet Union and ourselves, to destroy each other by some 200 times over. The insane spiraling arms race consumes billions of dollars that are desperately needed for overcoming hunger, poverty and suffering and diverts our attention from the denial of human rights in virtually every part of the world. The condition of religion will be judged ultimately in America's third century by the degree to which we take seriously the instruction of such prophets as Isaiah and translate his vision not into piety and liturgical codes but into actual change of human condition.

What is the future of organized religion?

Probably there will be an increase in diversification of forms in which people will seek to find elements within the established churches and synagogues and adapt them to their own particular needs in their ultimate search for meaning . . . the meaning of human existence. I would bless every effort — that is a serious effort — in which a person seeks to find meaning for one's own life, to create justice and righteousness and a compassionate relationship with another. If the intention is honorable, in the service of truth, love and justice, ultimately the form will prevail.

What is the condition of America's organized religion?

A question put to Jesus might be paraphrased to fit our theme today — "Have you been observing the Sabbath lately?" Jesus used the question as an opportunity to speak about the basic purpose of religious observances. He said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." If the Lord would ask today about his church or synagogue attendance, he might very well respond in a similar vein. If we look at the church as an organization located in a building, we see many indications of declining loyalty to it. Church membership is down for the first time since records have been kept. Church giving did not keep up with inflation last year. Onlookers are aware of divisions within the church over the historical issues of faith and over the current issues — the roles of women and abortion, for instance. Christ's view of the church was purposely to avoid putting the emphasis on structure and organization. He was more concerned about obedience and discipleship than organizational achievements.

For the dispersed church, the building serves mainly as a place for the believer to meet for training and for fellowship and to observe the sacraments. The Church is at its best where people are — in ghettos, needing better housing; in the offices of national leaders, needing fellowship and encouragement; in prison study groups and many other places where people are. The dispersed church is able to escape from the questionable stewardship of building more costly buildings at the expense of a ministry to the poor and to experience a new freedom of service.

What is the future of organized religion?

There is much evidence today that there is a new dynamic in the church. The kind of enlivenment that is occurring spiritually in many of the churches (is occurring) because people have grown tired of the institutional deadness that has gripped too many churches. This does not mean that the church will disappear, the institutional church, but let us be mindful that God is the God of history, his is the sovereign God and his church will prevail. I have every confidence that the spiritual church will be stronger in the future than it is even today.

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)

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C 3,903
D

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Des Plaines, IL
C 3,271
D

HERALD
Palatine, IL
C 6,615
D

JULY -31-76

do send us your travel
expense and know
~~that~~ we wish you well
in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Fred Sutton
Rosemary Mullany
Chris Gatewood

National Town Meeting 1990 M Street, N.W. Suite 360
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 223-4458



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVE

Feb 18, 1976



Dear Rabbi Isaac Laum,
It was a joy having you
on the panel today and we
hope that you enjoyed it
too. I'm sorry that you
had such a dreadful time
getting to Washington. Please

Mobil Oil Corporation

SUITE 1030
1100 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

February 25, 1976

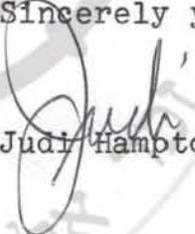
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
165 East 56th Street
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Rabbi:

F L Thank you for participating in our recent National Town Meeting. I know your comments and thoughts helped to make it successful. My thanks also to Mike for accompanying you.

I am responsible for Mobil's consumer programs. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,


Judi Hampton

JH:a1



"For God's sake,
let us freely hear
both sides!"
-- Thomas Jefferson

Wednesday, Feb. 18th
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

CONCERT HALL, KENNEDY CENTER
Washington, D. C.

TOPIC: HAVE YOU BEEN TO CHURCH LATELY? OR SYNAGOGUE?
(The Condition of Organized Religion)

PANEL: Senator Mark Hatfield (R.-Oregon)
Rev. Alison Cheek, "Woman of the Year" Time
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, American Jewish Committee

MODERATOR: Rod MacLeish, Westinghouse Broadcasting

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

Senator Mark Hatfield has served in the U.S. Senate since 1967. Prior to that he served as Governor of Oregon for two terms. His governorship was marked by a program of "payrolls and playgrounds," as economic development of the state moved hand in hand with the state's environmental protection efforts. Hatfield also served as Oregon Secretary of State, State Senator and State Representative. After graduation from Willamette University and Stanford University with a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Political Science, he taught political science at Willamette and also served as Dean of Students. During World War II, he was a Lieutenant J.G., commanding landing craft at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

As one of the earliest opponents of the Vietnam War (his was the only negative vote on this issue at the 1965 and 1966 Governor's Conferences), he maintains a keen interest in foreign affairs. He serves on the Subcommittee funding U.S. foreign assistance programs and is a Congressional leader in efforts to combat world hunger. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he also is deeply involved in all facets of the appropriations process in determining Federal spending priorities.

Senator Hatfield, a leading Christian layman, has been a critic of "civil religion." He has written extensively for religious publications and is the author of two books, Not Quite So Simple (1967) and Conflict and Conscience (1971).

(OVER)

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

ALISON CHEEK: Defiant Deacon

Boat rocking did not come easily to the Rev. Alison Cheek, 48, the Episcopal priest who is both a leader and a symbol in the women's drive for an active role in the clergy. "The Episcopal seminary was good to me," recalls Cheek. "It allowed me to extend my course over six years instead of three so that I could raise my four young children. It hired me as a biblical-language instructor, which eased the financial strain. But it took me forever to stop feeling grateful and start feeling outraged that I felt so grateful."

The transition became complete one spring day in 1972 when Cheek, then a deacon, attended the ordination of a young man. "Before the procession began, I was very pointedly told that only priests, not deacons, could participate in the ritual laying on of hands. I can still remember the embarrassment, rage and grief that surged through me as I stood alone in the pew while my brothers went up into the sanctuary to lay on hands."

Two years later Cheek heard about the planned ordination of women priests in Philadelphia and decided she would rather risk expulsion from the church than relive "the painful humiliation of categorical exclusion." Though the ordinations of Cheek and the ten other women deacons were declared invalid, the issue will not be finally resolved until the Episcopal Convention next September. Meanwhile, Cheek, who lives in Annandale, Va., with her husband, a World Bank executive, is happy about her "freedom in limbo." In November 1974, she became the first woman to celebrate Communion in an Episcopal church in defiance of the diocesan bishop, and last August was installed as assistant priest at the Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation in Washington. Says she: "I am convinced that the only crime I have committed in this matter is to have been born female."

RABBI MARC TANENBAUM

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, has been a pioneering leader and thinker in interreligious relations for nearly 25 years. A modern historian writing recently in Commentary magazine, characterized Rabbi Tanenbaum as "the leading figure among Jewish ecumenists" in the fields of interreligious relations and social justice. Newsweek magazine devoted its Religion section (Nov. 9, 1970) to an interview with Rabbi Tannenbaum describing him "as the American Jewish community's foremost apostle to the gentiles...who has been able to solicit support from all factions of the Jewish community."

A religious historian and authority on Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations, he has written and lectured extensively on the history, theology, and sociology of Judaism and Christianity. Rabbi Tanenbaum is co-editor with Prof. Zwi Werblowsky of the proceeding of the "International Colloquium on Religion, Land, Nations, and Peoplehood," (1971) and is co-editor with Dr. Paul Opsahl and a contributor to "Speaking of God Today in the Age of Auschwitz and Technology" (Fortress Press, 1974).

ROD MacLEISH

Rod MacLeish's commentaries have covered a wide range of topics, from the Middle East, Vietnam and American politics to the joys of classical music. But the Group W (Westinghouse Broadcasting Company) commentator also has a penchant for analyzing social change in America, and doing that succinctly and poetically.

A Commentator since 1966, Mr. MacLeish periodically returns to straight news reporting. He was a Group W combat correspondent during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. He turned that experience into a book on the Middle Eastern conflict, "The Sun Stood Still". More recently Rod MacLeish wrote a book on Washington politics, "A City On The River" and his new novel, "The Man Who Wasn't There", will be published this spring.

Mr. MacLeish organized the Group W Foreign News Service in 1959, and served as its chief for seven years. Still the only fully-staffed overseas news unit of any station group, the service maintains headquarters in London and offices in Paris, Bonn, Tel Aviv and Saigon.

NATIONAL TOWN MEETING

John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

February 18, 1976

"THE CONDITION OF ORGANIZED RELIGION"

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director
of the American Jewish Committee
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The question, "What is the condition of religion in America today?" is somewhat like the question, "How is your wife?" - to which one comedian answered, "compared to what?" By the usual American standards of success in the marketplace, religion is by and large successful. Despite statistical ups and downs, institutional membership in churches and synagogues rose 46% between 1950 and 1970 while population growth slowed. By 1971, religious groups received more than 40% of total philanthropic giving in our nation.

But the criteria for spiritual "success" is to be looked for elsewhere - namely, what difference does it make to be a Jew or a Christian today in the kind of world in which we live? Jews and Christians stake their existence on the central Biblical affirmation that each human being is created in the sacred image of God, that human life is of infinite worth and preciousness, that no human being can be used as an object for someone else's project, or program, or ideology, or revolution. My late blessed teacher Rabbi Abraham Heschel has written that "Judaism has no concrete symbol for God. The only symbol for God is the human personality, and we experience the Divine Presence in our midst only through the ways in which we manifest toward one another the Divine attributes of justice, love, truth, moral integrity, caring, and compassion."

National Town Meeting
Page 2
February 18, 1976

There are many signs of such reverence for life all about us - the decisive role that religious leaders and groups played recently in mobilizing food aid for millions of starving people in the world is but one such sign. The generous response in aid to the victims of the Guatemala tragedy is another and but the latest sign of such caring. But from such expressions of moral and spiritual health, we do not suffer. Rather from social pathology, callousness, dehumanization are we threatened and our spiritual equilibrium and very survival depend on our confronting and overcoming such brutalization of the human spirit. In my judgment we face today the greatest moral, spiritual, and human threat in recorded history and that is the actual potential for the unprecedented destruction of human life that is posed by the nuclear arms race, the spread of nuclear reactors throughout the world without adequate safeguards, the spiraling arms race - all of which consume billions of dollars that are desperately needed for overcoming vast hunger, poverty, and suffering, all of which divert our attention and concern from the denial of human rights in virtually every part of the world - in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Soviet Union, and elsewhere. Thus, the condition of religion, authentic Biblical religion, will be judged ultimately in America's third century by the degree to which we are effective in mobilizing our collective moral resources to build a universal conscience and international will - in the East

National Town Meeting
Page 3
February 18, 1976

and West, in the North and South of the world's peoples - that will press for simultaneous, universal nuclear disarmament, and the conversion of investments in instruments of death for the support of life-sustaining purposes.

The challenge of the Prophet Isaiah speaks to us now:

"Wash you, make yourselves clean
Put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes
Cease to do evil, learn to do right
Seek justice, relieve the oppressed
Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."
(1:16)



MHT:RPR

76-700-16

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76-700-16

1 through 23 was 1974 Series



1975 Series

24. April 9 The Presidency: What Limits? What Improvements?
Senator Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.)
Senator Richard Schweiker (R.-Pa.)
Moderator: Ruth Clusen, League of Women Voters
25. April 16 The National Mood: What's The Current Mix of Nostalgia and Alienation All About?
Clare Boothe Luce
Eugene McCarthy
Moderator: Sander Vanocur, TV Commentator and Writer
26. April 23 Where is Consumerism Headed?
Ralph Nader
Senator Carl Curtis (R.-Neb.)
Moderator: Josh Darsa, National Public Radio
27. April 30 Is Congress Adequately Overseeing the FBI?
Senator Lowell Weicker (R.-Conn.)
Laurence Silberman, Former U.S. Deputy Attorney General
Moderator: Patricia Harris, former Ambassador to Luxembourg
28. May 7 Is the Independent Vote Killing The Two-Party System?
Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. - Historian
Lou Harris - Pollster
Richard Obenshain, Co-chairman, Republican National Committee
Moderator: Robert Novak, Political columnist
29. May 14 Where is the Women's Movement Headed?
Betty Friedan
Congresswoman Marjorie Holt (R.-Md.)
Moderator: Peggy Cooper, WTOP TV

30. May 21

How Can the Right of Privacy Be Better Protected?

Congressman Barry Goldwater, Jr. (R.-Calif.)
Dr. Lewis Branscomb - IBM Chief Scientist and Vice Pres.
Congresswoman Bella Abzug (D.-N.Y.)
Moderator: Josh Darsa, National Public Radio

31. May 28

How Fares the Economy and All the Squabbles Over It?

Eliot Janeway, Author and economist
Congressman Lee Hamilton - (D.-Ind.)
Marvin Kosters - American Enterprise Institute
Moderator: Jim Newman, Associated Press Radio

32. June 4

What Kind of Life for our Older Citizens?

Senator Charles Percy - (R.-Ill.)
Hobart Jackson, Founder, National Caucus on Black Aged
Dr. Arthur Flemming, HEW Administration on Aging
Nelson Cruikshank, President, National Council of Senior Citizens

33. June 11

Where is Environmentalism Headed?

Senator Gaylord Nelson - (D.-Wisc.)
John Quarles - Deputy Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency
Shirley Scheibla, Washington Editor Barron's
Moderator: Jim Bishop, Newsweek

34. June 18

How Well is Our Supreme Court Functioning?

Senator John Tunney - (D.-Calif.)
Congresswoman Barbara Jordan (D.-Texas)
Congressman Charles Wiggins (R.-Calif.)
Moderator: Warren Weaver, N.Y. Times Supreme Court Report

35. June 25

How Do the Freshmen Congressmen Look Six Months Later?

Congressman Timothy Wirth (D.-Colo.)
Congressman Larry Pressler (R.-S.D.)
Congresswoman Martha Keys (D.-Kans.)
Congresswoman Millicent Fenwick (R.-N.J.)
Moderator: Martin Nolan (Boston Globe)

36. July 2 The American Future
James J. Kilpatrick - Commentator
David Halberstam - author
Moderator: Nicholas von Hoffman, writer and commentator
37. July 9 Should Federal, State and Local Employees Have the Right to Unionize?
Senator Strom Thurmond (R.-S.C.)
Jerry Wurf - President American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Moderator: W. J. Usery, Jr., National Director of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service
38. July 16 Is There Too Much Government Regulation?
Senator Robert Taft, Jr. (R.-Ohio)
Congressman Brock Adams (D.-Wash.)
Helen D. Bentley - Federal Maritime Commission, Chairwoman
Moderator: Eileen Shanahan, N.Y. Times
39. July 23 Have We or Haven't We an Energy Policy?
Frank G. Zarb - Federal Energy Administrator
Representative Al Ullman (D.-Ore.) Chairman, Ways & Means
Moderator: Roberta Hornig, Washington Star
40. July 30 TV and Our Children
Joan G. Cooney - Producer, Sesame Street & Elec. Co.
Congressman Torbert MacDonald (D.-Mass.)
Richard Wiley - Chairman, FCC
Moderator: Sally Quinn, Washington Post
41. August 6 How Does America Look to the Rest of the World?
Adelbert de Segonzac - Bureau Chief, France-Soir
Vladimir Vashedchenko - Bureau Chief, Tass
Simon Winchester - Manchester Guardian
Moderator: Marilyn Berger, Washington Post

42. August 13 Changing Human Relationships
- Dr. W. H. Masters - Director, Reproductive Bio.
Research Center
Mrs. Virginia Johnson - Co-director
Elizabeth Janeway - Author
Moderator: Shana Alexander, Newsweek
43. August 20 Unemployment, Productivity and the Work Ethic
- Studs Terkel, Author and TV commentator
George Will, Columnist
Moderator: Julius Duscha, Director of Washington
Journalism Center
44. August 27 Thomas Jefferson Revisited: How Relevant?
- Fawn Brodie, Author of Jefferson: An Intimate
Biography
Gary Wills, Columnist and author
Moderator: Josh Darsa, National Public Radio
45. September 10 The Humane City: Urban Hope
- Carla Hills, Secretary of HUD
R. Buckminster Fuller, Design Scientist
Congressman Morris Udall (D.-Ariz.)
Moderator: William Raspberry, Washington Post
46. September 17 Appraising the Washington Press Corps
- Elie Abel, Dean, Columbia School of Journalism
James Bellows, Editor, Washington Star
Moderator: Edwin Dale, New York Times
47. September 24 When Should America use Nuclear Weapons?
- Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D. -Col.)
Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, US Navy Ret
Moderator: Helen Thomas, UPI

48. Oct 1st Beyond Personalities: What Kind of Leadership
Does America Need?

I. F. Stone, Publisher and critic
Kevin Phillips, author, columnist
Senator James B. Pearson (R.-Kansas)

Moderator: Linda Mathews, Los Angeles Times

49. Oct. 8th Whom Would You Nominate for President?

Patrick Buchanan, St. Louis Globe
Hunter Thompson, Rolling Stone, national correspondent
R. W. Apple, New York Times

Moderator: Jack Germond, Washington Star

50. Oct. 15th How Can American Education Be Improved?

Terry Sanford, Pres. of Duke U.
Dean Clarence Manion, Manion Forum

Moderator: Barbara Newman, National Public Radio

51. Oct. 22d Equality and Excellence: Reconciling two Basic Public Goals

William Rusher, Publisher, National Review
Sen. Claiborne Pell, (D.-RI)
Rep. Yvonne Burke, (D.-CA)

Moderator: Roger Wilkins, New York Times

52. Oct. 29th American Attitudes Toward the Military

Rep. Les Aspin (D.-Wisc.)
Adm. Thomas Moorer, Center for Strategic Studies

Moderator: Bonnie Angelo, Time

53. Nov. 5th Character in Politics and Public Office

James David Barber, author, "The Presidential Character:
Predicting Performance in the White House"
Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center
Dr. Walter Judd, former Rep. (R.Minn.)

Moderator: Robert Hurleigh, Mutual Radio Network

54. Nov. 12th Henry Kissinger -- An Ongoing Appraisal

Rep. Michael Harrington (D.-Mass.)
Joseph Kraft, Syndicated columnist
Warren Nutter, former Asst. Defense Secretary.

Moderator: Leslie Gelb, New York Times

55. Nov. 19th The U.N. and a New World Economic Order

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.)
Pauline Frederick, former U.N. correspondent, NBC
William Safire, New York Times

Moderator: Josh Darsa, National Public Radio

56. Nov. 26th Give Thanks for What?

Jimmy Breslin, journalist
Rep. Jack Kemp (R.-N.Y.)

Moderator: Art Buchwald

57. Dec. 3rd A Critique of Congress

Rep. John Anderson (R.-ILL.)
Rep. Bob Eckhardt (D.-Texas)

Moderator: Catherine Mackin, NBC

58. Dec. 10th Investigating the CIA

William E. Colby, Director, CIA
Rep. Otis G. Pike (D.-N.Y.)

Moderator: Walter Pincus, Washington Post

NATIONAL TOWN MEETING

John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

February 18, 1976

"THE CONDITION OF ORGANIZED RELIGION"

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director
of the American Jewish Committee

The question, "What is the condition of religion in America today?" is somewhat like the question, "How is your wife?" - to which one comedian answered, "compared to what?" By the usual American standards of success in the marketplace, religion is by and large successful. Despite statistical ups and downs, institutional membership in churches and synagogues rose 46% between 1950 and 1970 while population growth slowed. By 1971, religious groups received more than 40% of total philanthropic giving in our nation.

But the criteria for spiritual "success" is to be looked for elsewhere - namely, what difference does it make to be a Jew or a Christian today in the kind of world in which we live? Jews and Christians stake their existence on the central Biblical affirmation that each human being is created in the sacred image of God, that human life is of infinite worth and preciousness, that no human being can be used as an object for someone else's project, or program, or ideology, or revolution. My late blessed teacher Rabbi Abraham Heschel has written that "Judaism has no concrete symbol for God. The only symbol for God is the human personality, and we experience the Divine Presence in our midst only through the ways in which we manifest toward one another the Divine attributes of justice, love, truth, moral integrity, caring, and compassion."

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There are many signs of such reverence for life all about us - the decisive role that religious leaders and groups played recently in mobilizing food aid for millions of starving people in the world is but one such sign. The generous response in aid to the victims of the Guatemala tragedy is another and but the latest sign of such caring. But from such expressions of moral and spiritual health, we do not suffer. Rather from social pathology, callousness, dehumanization are we threatened and our spiritual equilibrium and very survival depend on our confronting and overcoming such brutalization of the human spirit. In my judgment we face today the greatest moral, spiritual, and human threat in recorded history and that is the actual potential for the unprecedented destruction of human life that is posed by the nuclear arms race, the spread of nuclear reactors throughout the world without adequate safeguards, the spiraling arms race - all of which consume billions of dollars that are desperately needed for overcoming vast hunger, poverty, and suffering, all of which divert our attention and concern from the denial of human rights in virtually every part of the world - in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Soviet Union, and elsewhere. Thus, the condition of religion, authentic Biblical religion, will be judged ultimately in America's third century by the degree to which we are effective in mobilizing our collective moral resources to build a universal conscience and international will - in the East

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and West, in the North and South of the world's peoples - that will press for simultaneous, universal nuclear disarmament, and the conversion of investments in instruments of death for the support of life-sustaining purposes.

The challenge of the Prophet Isaiah speaks to us now:

"Wash you, make yourselves clean
Put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes
Cease to do evil, learn to do right
Seek justice, relieve the oppressed
Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."

(1:16)



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"For God's sake,
let us freely hear
both sides!"
-- Thomas Jefferson

Wednesday, Feb. 18th
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

CONCERT HALL, KENNEDY CENTER
Washington, D. C.

TOPIC: HAVE YOU BEEN TO CHURCH LATELY? OR SYNAGOGUE?
(The Condition of Organized Religion)

PANEL: Senator Mark Hatfield (R.-Oregon)
Rev. Alison Cheek, "Woman of the Year" Time
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, American Jewish Committee

MODERATOR: Rod MacLeish, Westinghouse Broadcasting

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

Senator Mark Hatfield has served in the U.S. Senate since 1967. Prior to that he served as Governor of Oregon for two terms. His governorship was marked by a program of "payrolls and playgrounds," as economic development of the state moved hand in hand with the state's environmental protection efforts. Hatfield also served as Oregon Secretary of State, State Senator and State Representative. After graduation from Willamette University and Stanford University with a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Political Science, he taught political science at Willamette and also served as Dean of Students. During World War II, he was a Lieutenant J.G., commanding landing craft at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

As one of the earliest opponents of the Vietnam War (his was the only negative vote on this issue at the 1965 and 1966 Governor's Conferences), he maintains a keen interest in foreign affairs. He serves on the Subcommittee funding U.S. foreign assistance programs and is a Congressional leader in efforts to combat world hunger. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he also is deeply involved in all facets of the appropriations process in determining Federal spending priorities.

Senator Hatfield, a leading Christian layman, has been a critic of "civil religion." He has written extensively for religious publications and is the author of two books, Not Quite So Simple (1967) and Conflict and Conscience (1971).

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

ALISON CHEEK: Defiant Deacon

Boat rocking did not come easily to the Rev. Alison Cheek, 48, the Episcopal priest who is both a leader and a symbol in the women's drive for an active role in the clergy. "The Episcopal seminary was good to me," recalls Cheek. "It allowed me to extend my course over six years instead of three so that I could raise my four young children. It hired me as a biblical-language instructor, which eased the financial strain. But it took me forever to stop feeling grateful and start feeling outraged that I felt so grateful."

The transition became complete one spring day in 1972 when Cheek, then a deacon, attended the ordination of a young man. "Before the procession began, I was very pointedly told that only priests, not deacons, could participate in the ritual laying on of hands. I can still remember the embarrassment, rage and grief that surged through me as I stood alone in the pew while my brothers went up into the sanctuary to lay on hands."

Two years later Cheek heard about the planned ordination of women priests in Philadelphia and decided she would rather risk expulsion from the church than relive "the painful humiliation of categorical exclusion." Though the ordinations of Cheek and the ten other women deacons were declared invalid, the issue will not be finally resolved until the Episcopal Convention next September. Meanwhile, Cheek, who lives in Annandale, Va., with her husband, a World Bank executive, is happy about her "freedom in limbo." In November 1974, she became the first woman to celebrate Communion in an Episcopal church in defiance of the diocesan bishop, and last August was installed as assistant priest at the Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation in Washington. Says she: "I am convinced that the only crime I have committed in this matter is to have been born female."

RABBI MARC TANENBAUM

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, has been a pioneering leader and thinker in interreligious relations for nearly 25 years. A modern historian writing recently in Commentary magazine, characterized Rabbi Tanenbaum as "the leading figure among Jewish ecumenists" in the fields of interreligious relations and social justice. Newsweek magazine devoted its Religion section (Nov. 9, 1970) to an interview with Rabbi Tannenbaum describing him "as the American Jewish community's foremost apostle to the gentiles ...who has been able to solicit support from all factions of the Jewish community."

A religious historian and authority on Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations, he has written and lectured extensively on the history, theology, and sociology of Judaism and Christianity. Rabbi Tanenbaum is co-editor with Prof. Zwi Werblowsky of the proceeding of the "International Colloquium on Religion, Land, Nations, and Peoplehood," (1971) and is co-editor with Dr. Paul Opsahl and a contributor to "Speaking of God Today in the Age of Auschwitz and Technology" (Fortress Press, 1974).

ROD MacLEISH

Rod MacLeish's commentaries have covered a wide range of topics, from the Middle East, Vietnam and American politics to the joys of classical music. But the Group W (Westinghouse Broadcasting Company) commentator also has a penchant for analyzing social change in America, and doing that succinctly and poetically.

A Commentator since 1966, Mr. MacLeish periodically returns to straight news reporting. He was a Group W combat correspondent during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. He turned that experience into a book on the Middle Eastern conflict, "The Sun Stood Still". More recently Rod MacLeish wrote a book on Washington politics, "A City On The River" and his new novel, "The Man Who Wasn't There", will be published this spring.

Mr. MacLeish organized the Group W Foreign News Service in 1959, and served as its chief for seven years. Still the only fully-staffed overseas news unit of any station group, the service maintains headquarters in London and offices in Paris, Bonn, Tel Aviv and Saigon.

1975 Mobil Oil Corporation

National Town Meeting

Tonight at 8:30 pm, tune in to
National Public Radio, WNYC-AM (830)

Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon)

Rev. Alison Cheek

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

"The Condition of Organized Religion"

Moderator: Rod MacLeish,

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THE NEW YORK TIMES. 2/18/76

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