



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 108, Folder 25, National Association of Jewish Legislators
[Slingerlands, N.Y.]. 8 July 1980.



July 14, 1980

Staff Advisory Committee

Marc H. Tanenbaum

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LEGISLATORS

As you can see from the enclosed correspondence, I was invited to speak before the National Association of Jewish Legislators on July 8th, during their annual meeting at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. This meeting was held in connection with the annual convention of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

It was an eye-opening experience for me and I want to share some of that with you because I believe that this group has important programmatic implications for AJC in both the domestic and foreign policy areas.

I learned that there are some 250 Jewish legislators in the 50 states, a substantial number of whom are Senate Presidents or Speakers or state party leaders. It is apparent that they are quite important influences in shaping legislation that deals with many of our concerns - energy, prayer in the public schools, abortion, OPEC Investments in the U.S., issues affecting Israel and Jerusalem, defense questions, etc.

I was asked to make a presentation on the issues that are outstanding on the agendas of the Catholics, ~~Protestants~~, evangelical Christians, Greek Orthodox, black Churches, Hispanic Catholics. Essentially, my presentation was based on the enclosed statement which was an overview of the present state of relationships between Jews and various Christian bodies.

The discussion that followed was lively and without exception each of the state legislators asked if they could be in touch with us in terms of obtaining our statements, our studies, research findings, which they could use as the basis of their own political activity in their various state legislatures.

I would suggest that at an early date either at a Sac or a special meeting of all the department heads that we talk about this network and some organized, systematic, and effective way of relating to it during the coming program year.

Also, I think there are important possibilities for relating in an organized way by our Chapters with local state legislators, all of whom warmly welcomed the possibility.

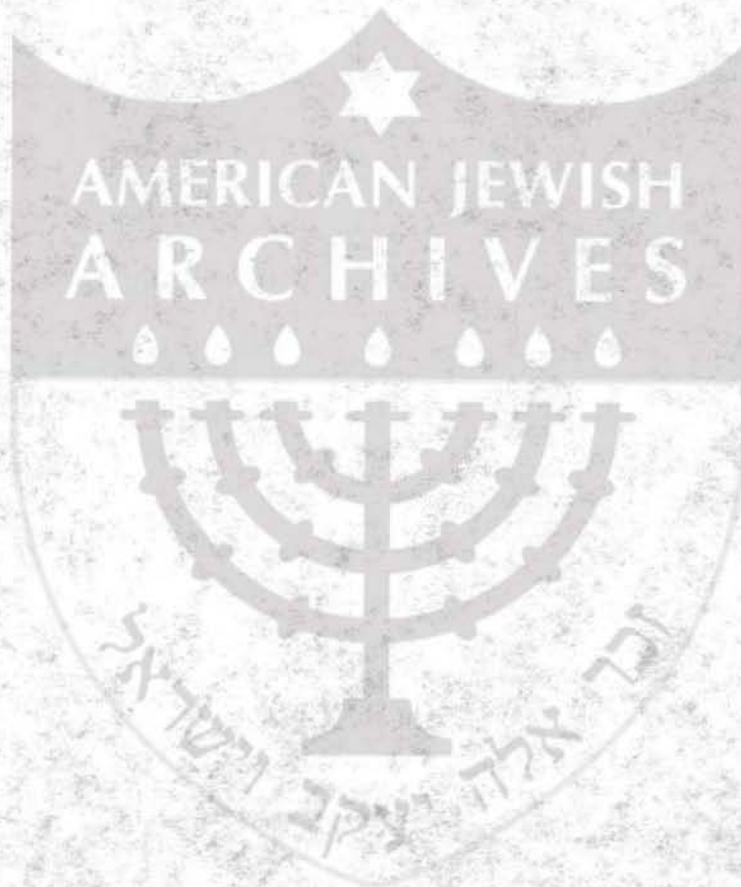
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I would suggest, therefore that either Bert, Selma, or Ira determine to call us together at a mutually convenient time. In the meantime I ~~have written~~ the President of the Jewish legislators group and have made available to him copies of AJC's Statements on the Middle East, Soviet Jewry, Jerusalem, and related questions which they asked for at this time. Also in addition, there is a possibility of organizing a state legislators' tour to Israel through Inge Gibel's desk and I took the initiative in trying to get that project started with them for the coming year.

MHT:RPR

Enclosures

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LEGISLATORS

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April 4, 1980.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum,
National Director of Interreligious
Affairs,
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New York City, N.Y.

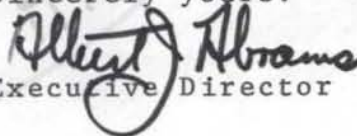
Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

This is to extend to you a cordial invitation to speak to our members at our annual meeting at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City on Tuesday, July 8, at a time convenient to you between 9 A.M. -noon. A brief presentation of the status of Jewish relationships with the non-Jewish community in the USA would be timely. Perhaps a 15-minute presentation followed by questions would be in order.

Our members come from coast to coast, and constitute legislative leaders and rank-and-file legislators in the 50 state legislatures. Nonpartisan in nature, we are not a "Jewish caucus" but rather work in behalf of Israel and domestic issues through research and education of our members. Because of the experience and power of our members, they know how to use such information in the public arena.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours.


Executive Director