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**MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.**

Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995.

Subseries 1: Sermons, Speeches and Writings, 1949-1982.

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Herbert H. Lehman Testimonial Dinner. Herbert A. Friedman  
speech. 22 January 1956.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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Each person is the prisoner of his own thoughts and experiences. We who have been living and breathing with the Special Fund for months know it intimately. We sometimes forget that others are less familiar with its implications. Let me tell you about it.

The Special Fund was conceived at a time shortly after the ugly rioting in Morocco last summer, when it became apparent that ever larger numbers of Jews would be seeking an exodus. The circumstances of mob violence, political upheaval and economic strangulation which prevailed in Morocco are well known to you. There was a surging stream desirous of leaving North Africa for Israel and it became obvious that the proceeds of the campaign at its 1955 level would in no way be able to cope with this.

The regular annual appeal must take care of what could be called the "bread-and-butter" needs. Its entire revenues must be devoted to the continuous absorption and colonization of those hundreds of thousands who have come to Israel over the past years and are not yet fully self-sufficient. The regular campaign could not begin to take care of the new immigration, when it hardly had the full capacity to take care of the old. There are still people in maabarot, still people unemployed, still people in need. We Jews in the outside world, generous as we were, have not provided for the

past several years, enough to take care of the total immigration -- and the people of Israel have had to take up the slack. Last year the slack was between 31 and 34 million dollars. Thus, early in September we started to plan for some supplementary effort. The supplementary campaign came to be called the Special Fund, in the sense that it would be a special effort to find the extra money which would enable the Jewish Agency to handle the extra immigrants. We anticipated the annual rate to jump from 30,000 to 45 or 50,000.

On 27 September Egypt announced its arms deal with Czechoslovakia, and a second crisis was conjoined with the first. As though the problem of finding extra money for more immigrants were not enough to tax our ingenuity, we quickly learned that Israel would be unable to participate with funds in handling the flood from Morocco. The reason was obvious. Re-armament would have first call on every Israeli dollar. Who could gainsay this? Should Israel buy guns or build houses for immigrants?

~~And should not we, who cannot buy the guns, at least build the houses?~~

*Israel could not take up the slack, nor could we expect her.*

And so the Special Fund acquired a double urgency. It must be

large to give heart and courage to those who were being rescued by it -- it must be large to give relief to a beleaguered Israel, ~~which could not be~~

expected to contribute to it.

*we pay for immigration  
I shall pay for her 3000 -  
we must find relief  
financial.*

*all financial begins with an  
enabling act*

*The SF is  
an enabling  
act*

~~In October the UJA Study Mission went to Israel and saw both~~

~~problem situations developing very clearly -- the security and the~~

~~immigration. From Jerusalem a call was issued for an extraordinary~~

~~meeting in New York for November 18. More than 300 of the foremost leaders~~

~~of the American Jewish community passed the historic resolution authorizing~~

~~the establishment of the Special Fund. If you saw the faces in the room~~

~~that day and looked at the list of names you would automatically realize~~

~~that the group assembled was of such importance as to lend complete authority~~

~~to its mandate.~~

*Pay for immigration*

Two paragraphs are of especial interest.

Paragraph 6: That contributions by individuals to the Special Fund be made, and accepted, over and above and without reduction of their respective contributions to the campaigns to be conducted in 1956.

Paragraph 7: That, over and above the Special Fund, the Welfare Funds of America agree that the UJA share from the regular Welfare Fund campaigns to be conducted in 1956 in no case be less than the UJA share of the 1955 campaign proceeds. (End of quote).

The spirit and intent of these statements are crystal clear.

Individual and community support of the Special Fund must in no way lessen their backing of the regular campaign. In fact, later in the dinner, when each contribution is announced to the Special Fund, it follows that the individual making the gift is, in addition, pledging to contribute at least as much to the regular 1956 drive as he did in 1955.

All our efforts, both as communities and individuals, are literally being watched this evening. What we will do here later on will demonstrate to the world just how much the Jews of America are concerned with the present plight of the people of North Africa, with the problems plaguing the people of Israel.

Our fellow Jews throughout the United States are watching what we are doing, ready to follow our example.

The enemies of the Jewish people are watching what we are doing, hoping to see a slackening of our support for the causes of freedom and democracy.

The men, women and children of North Africa are watching what we are doing, knowing that their futures are in our hands.

Finally, the people of Israel are watching what we are doing, praying that we will help them to keep the gates open to the tens of thousands who seek sanctuary on their shores.

who are watching us

We must show ~~them~~ all that we are equal to the demands of this  
cataclysmic era of human history. ~~At the same time, by our response~~  
~~tonight, we can indicate our respect, our pride, and our deep love for a~~  
~~great American, our own Senator Herbert H. Lehman.~~

The bread & butter campaign must  
be sustained.

The offers of the Special Fund  
at this special hour ~~if you are interested~~ must be  
filled.

The greatest honor can be  
done ~~to Sen. Lehman~~ <sup>our greatest quest</sup> if we  
act nobly, grandly, ~~hugely~~,  
The greatest honor can be paid, ~~gallant~~ <sup>gallant</sup> ~~direct~~.  
Match courage with courage,  
giving with giving.