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RABBI CHARGES NEEDS OF ORTHODOX JEWISH POOR OVERLOOKED IN CITY'S ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAM; DEMANDS POOR JEWS BE INCLUDED

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)--A Brooklyn rabbi who served as a delegate to the citywide Council Against Poverty said today that the needs of Orthodox Jewish poor based on their traditional lifestyle and religious requirements were being "overlooked" in the city's anti-poverty program. Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, consultant to the YM-YWHA of Williamsburg, told the American Jewish Congress:

"Given the reality that anti-poverty programs deal with blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans and Indians not only as poor people but as members of their ethnic communities, we must insist that poor Jews be included on the basis of very Jewish needs." Most of the government agencies dealing with the poor do not recognize the Jewish poor as a disadvantaged group, Rabbi Weinberger declared. "It is up to the organized Jewish community to make it clear that Jews have a poverty problem too—one that demands treatment in a very different framework from programs for other groups."

Rabbi Weinberger, speaking at a meeting of the AJCongress National Governing Council, stated, "If we accept the premise that a poor black man is poor because he is black, we must also recognize that many poor Jews are poor because they are Jews." He explained that these "special Jewish needs" were based in large part on Orthodox requirements to eat kosher foods, observe the Sabbath, send children to religious schools, confine their study to Jewish religious tracts and raise large families.

Rabbi Weinberger, spiritual leader of Young Israel of Brooklyn, continued: "The city's poverty corporations do not improve lives or living conditions. They provide jobs and develop indigenous leadership, both vital to the black and Puerto Rican communities. But community action is not what the Jewish poor need. Among Orthodox Jewish young people, and particularly in the Hassidic community, the need is to develop the kinds of skills that will permit them to find jobs they can hold consistent with their lifestyle, cherished customs, religious observance, mode of dress—even in the choice of a community in which to live," he observed.

Another speaker at the meeting--Richard Ravitch, chairman of the AJCongress Commission on Urban Affairs--said that efforts to bring the Jewish poor into anti-poverty programs in no way represent an attempt to compete with other minority groups for the meager funds available to fight poverty. "Only if the white community, including the Jewish community, recognizes its legitimate stake in the poverty program and joins blacks and Puerto Ricans in demanding adequate financing for the war against poverty will the program receive the measure of support it must have to succeed," he declared.

SPECIAL TO JTA

BROOKLYN COLLEGE SURVEY ASKS STUDENTS FOR ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE Jewish, Christian Student Groups Protest

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)--The major Jewish and Christian student organizations at Brooklyn College have expressed concern over the distribution of an official college survey which asks students to list their ethnic origin and their religious preference.

In an ad which recently appeared in one of the college's student newspapers, the Kingsman, the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation and the Newman Center asserted that "such questions in an official university document...constitute an invasion of one's privacy."

The ad urged "all students not to answer those sections in the questionnaires...dealing with ethnic or religious preference." The eight-page questionnaire booklet has been distributed to students at the college under a cover letter from the school's president, John W. Kneller.

His letter states that the survey is part of the college's efforts to develop "a plan of change" and that the information, which will be kept "confidential," will help "expand educational opportunity for all persons, regardless of their racial, religious or economic background." The survey, which will become part of a centralized computer-based file, will, according to Kneller, enable the school to modernize its record-keeping system.

The questions about ethnic origin and religious preference, as well as the one asking the student's sex, are marked with an asterisk to indicate that answering them is optional. But Rabbi Frank A. Fischer of the campus' Hillel Foundation, charged that the college "has no right asking" such questions "in the first place." The survey, he said, provides the school's administration with information "that we have no way of judging what it will be used for."

Rabbi Fischer said the administration has stated that the information about religious preferences is needed, for instance, to set up a common academic calendar which would accommodate the holidays of different religious groups. But he said, he believes the survey might be used to insure greater ethnic and racial integration at Brooklyn College, whose student body he estimated to be about 70 percent Jewish.

The college has one of the largest concentrations of Jewish students in any of the public colleges in the city. Figures commonly used last spring approximated that of a total student body of about 28,000 in the day and evening sessions, some 18,000 were Jewish. Around 5,000 of the Jewish students were said to be Orthodox.

No Quotas Intended

"I think it bothers the Board of Higher Education very much" that only 15-20 percent of the total student body at the college is non-white, Rabbi Fischer stated. He said he opposes the use of ethnic or racial quota systems as the basis for re-distributing students among the campuses of the City University of New York.

Brooklyn is one of ten senior colleges in the CUNY system. At present, all those graduating from high schools in New York City who have an 80 percent or better grade-point average, or are in the top half of their graduating class, qualify for admission to a senior college. Applicants are asked to specify which senior college they would like to attend and assignments to the various schools are made on the basis of high school academic achievement. If, for example, there aren't enough places at Brooklyn College for all those wishing to go there, students with the best scholastic records get their first choice.

Lawrence Noonan, executive assistant to Pres-

ident Kneller, said Dr. Kneller is "emphatic" that the information in the survey "not be used to impose any type of quotas on the institution." Noonan said the survey would allow the college "to meet the needs of the students better," and would "reduce the amount of paper work that students have to fill out. He said the information has been previously "asked in a variety of places and ways," including official college forms. He pointed out that the questionnaire of the American Council on Education also includes questions about religion.

Students Should Be Alerted

Father John J. O'Sullivan, director of the Newman Center which is comprised of a number of Christian groups, said "I don't necessarily think it (the questionnaire) is an invasion of privacy." He added that he would have "no problems" answering any of the questions. Nevertheless, he said, students "should be alerted to ponder" whether the questions are indeed an invasion of privacy even if they are marked with an asterisk.

"One of the problems," he said, "is that kids are so programmed to answering questions that you have to say 'watch it kid.'" If alerted to think about it, he said, "some kids might consider it an invasion of privacy." Father O'Sullivan said the information about ethnic and religious backgrounds could be used to improve the school's educational program. He said he would not be opposed if the questionnaire led to a more integrated Brooklyn College student body.

Fear Government Snooping

A number of student leaders have focussed attention on other questions in the booklet. The booklet asks each student to list his or her extracurricular activities at the college, and those students who wish to be considered for financial aid are expected to fill out a page devoted to financial background. Students fear that the records will become available to government investigative agencies such as the FBI. In his letter to the students, Dr. Kneller assured them that the information "will not be available to outside persons or agencies without your permission." However, the files will be subject to government subpoena.

Dr. Kneller met last week with a group of student representatives and, according to Noonan, assured them that the information obtained will not be used to impose any type of quotas on the school and that special precautions have been taken to ensure the confidentiality of the information. Noonan stated there has been "a lot of misunderstanding about" the questionnaire.

First of 5-Part Study

He asserted that the survey was "designed to help the student" and that the files will contain only what the student wants in them. He said the students will have regular opportunities to review the information in their own files and to update it either by adding to or deleting from what they previously recorded.

Despite the anxiety expressed by some on the college's campus, at least one student, an editor of the Kingsman, played down the controversy. In a telephone interview, he said that students who did not want to fill out the forms really didn't have to. There's "so much red tape," he said, that the administration "can't follow up" on who fills it out and who doesn't.

The survey is the first of a five-part study. Future questionnaires will deal with courses, school facilities, non-student personnel, and the budget. The cost of the survey will come to more than \$100,000. Part of the funding, somewhat less than

half, will come from the Board of Higher Education and the rest from the college's operating budget. None of the other city colleges have yet undertaken such a project, but, Noonan noted, the survey has "applicability" to other institutions.

TRADING IN U.S. DOLLARS CONTINUES AS USUAL FOLLOWING DEVALUATION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Trading in US dollars continued as usual this morning following the announcement of an 8.57 percent dollar devaluation. Trade in other foreign currencies was suspended pending clarification of the monetary situation and an announcement of new rates of exchange expected tomorrow. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir told newsmen today that there will be no further devaluation of the Israel pound which continues to be pegged to the dollar. The IL was reduced 20 percent last Aug.--from 3.50 to 4.20 to the dollar.

Sapir said the lifting of the 10 percent import surcharge, announced yesterday by President Nixon, should spark greater efforts by Israel to increase its exports to the US. He said Israel's goods will also have a better chance of competing in Europe because of the more favorable rate of exchange, though the amount of improvement will depend on the new exchange rates to be announced. Israeli businessmen and industrialists predicted today that imports would be more expensive and exports, in some cases, increased. Abraham Shavit, deputy president of the Israel Manufacturers Association foresaw a general price increase for imported raw materials.

He said the removal of the American import surcharge would have little effect on Israel since most of its exports to the US were exempted anyway. Avner Ben Yakar, president of the Chamber of Commerce, said the American devaluation would have little impact on Israel's economy inasmuch as the free exchange rates since last Aug. were more or less similar to the present new rate. Importers of electrical appliances foresaw a steep increase in their price. They said appliances from West Germany would be much more expensive than others. The new rate of the West German mark is expected to increase the prices of imported West German cars by several hundred dollars.

FORMATION OF JOINT VATICAN-JEWISH LIAISON COMMITTEE HISTORIC FIRST

PARIS, Dec. 19 (JTA)--The first joint group in history representing world Jewry and the Roman Catholic world embarked on an historic project here this week--the improvement of mutual understanding between Jews and Catholics through ongoing cooperative efforts in areas of common concern and responsibility. The Liaison Committee for Jewish-Catholic Cooperation met at the Paris headquarters of the Jewish Consistory Dec. 14-16 to outline its aims and map a continuing program for the next three years.

The committee was formed at a meeting a year ago at the Vatican. In the interim the Vatican designated five high ranking Church figures to meet with five Jewish leaders designated by the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations.

According to a communique issued at the close of the meeting here, the joint body agreed to appoint small working groups of scholars to study "The ways in which the relationship between religious community, people and land are conceived in the Jewish and Catholic traditions," and "the promotion of human rights and religious freedom." The first topic is of extreme sensi-

sivity in that it will raise the religious significance of Judaism to the land of Israel.

According to Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, director of inter-religious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and who at the meeting served as the body's co-secretary, the joint studies will occupy the next three years after which the committee will review its accomplishments and decide in which directions to continue.

Members of the Jewish delegation were Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, of Englewood, N.J., chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultations; Gerhart Riegner, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva; Rabbi Henry Slegman, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America; Rabbi Tannenbaum and Prof. Zvi Werbowski, chairman of the Jewish Council for Inter-religious Contacts in Jerusalem, a private Israeli group. The communique stated that relationships between the two faiths had been discussed and that the meeting was conducted in "a spirit of frankness and cordiality."

ISRAEL STILL AWAITING U.S. CLARIFICATION ON INTERIM ACCORD

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA)--The Cabinet met only briefly today and Premier Golda Meir reported on the recent conversations of Foreign Minister Abba Eban with Secretary of State William P. Rogers and United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring. She also briefed the Cabinet on Friday's talk between Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco. Mrs. Meir's statement was not discussed by the Cabinet. A full scale discussion of foreign policy matters is expected when Foreign Minister Abba Eban returns from the US.

Israel is still waiting for a clarification of the American position with regard to an interim agreement to reopen the Suez Canal, according to informed sources here. Premier Meir's recent visit to Washington apparently did not elicit clarification nor, it appears, was the matter made any clearer in Rogers' telephone call to Eban in New York last week. Rogers also telephoned Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad.

Israel has been seeking clarification of the US stand ever since Rogers' Oct. 4 speech to the United Nations General Assembly in which he outlined six points described by him as "parameters" for discussions between Israel and Egypt over an interim settlement. One point that Rogers made, which was especially alarming to Israel, was that a compromise was possible on the issue of an Egyptian troop crossing of the Suez Canal after Israeli forces pulled back from the east bank. Rogers also indicated that the US would be satisfied with a time limit on the cease-fire while Israel insists on an unlimited one.

Phantom Issue Played Down

Israel is also uncertain how the US stands on Egypt's demand that an Israeli pull-back from the Suez Canal must be the first step toward a phased withdrawal from all of the Sinai. It is understood here that Israel's main concern is whether Rogers' six points represented a position which the US would introduce at some point in Egyptian-Israeli talks or whether they were merely a general statement of views which, once stated, would not come up again as the US resumed its role of mediator.

Rogers' phone call to Eban, which State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey disclosed last Friday, did not appear to contain anything new on the subject, although this too is not clear, Israeli sources said today. The conversation was described here as having been in "a constructive spirit." (McCloskey

said the phone calls to Eban and Riad concerned the matter of an interim agreement but that beyond reestablishing and maintaining contact with the parties, "nothing is in motion so far." The State Department official added, however, that there will be "follow-ups" in "the next little while" by Assistant Secretary of State Sisco.)

Another matter still unclear, at least to the Israeli public, is the status of Israel's long-standing request for more US Phantom jets. Cabinet ministers have apparently decided to play down the Phantoms question which was a burning issue here before Mrs. Meir's trip to Washington, and received much attention and much comment by Cabinet members and other public figures. Since Mrs. Meir's return the word appears to be to evade questions on the subject and adopt an attitude of "diplomatic silence," a position that is sometimes taken to allow the other side to fulfill delicate promises outside the glare of public scrutiny.

LINDSAY ADMINISTRATION SAID TO FAVOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE ROLE IN PROJECT

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)--The New York Federation of Reform Synagogues reported this weekend it had received assurances from the Lindsay administration that it would accept formation of a citizens committee to have a major role in establishing all policies concerning the proposed 840-unit low-income housing project which has split the predominantly Jewish community in Forest Hills, Queens.

Rabbi Robert J. Marx, director of the New York Federation, and Mrs. Anita Miller, housing consultant to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, told a meeting of the group's executive board several days ago that Simeon Golar, chairman of the City Housing Authority, agreed to that proposal at a meeting last week in his office.

Formation of such a committee was endorsed by the Reform Federation's board representing 116 Reform synagogues in the greater metropolitan area, and earlier in the week by the New York Association of Reform Rabbis. Both bodies had previously endorsed the concept of "scatter site" housing followed by the city administration and the Forest Hills project specifically.

Supporters Of Project Praised

Rabbi Marx said the new committee would be made up of Forest Hills residents, representatives of local community organizations and prospective eligible tenants of the huge housing project. Rabbi Marx said Golar told him and Mrs. Miller such an advisory group would serve as a model for future public housing programs throughout New York City.

The proposed advisory committee would deal with tenant selection within the framework of housing authority guidelines, security for the project and the neighboring community, social service programs for the project tenants and local area residents, tenant information and training, management, maintenance and eviction policies, schools and transportation methods.

Rabbi Herbert Rose of Jericho, president of the Association of Reform Rabbis, praised the "courage" of those clergymen and laymen of all faiths "who have spoken out and supported the project, often in the face of bitter opposition." A statement approved by the Reform Federation's board noted that the UAHC has adopted at its recent convention a resolution favoring the scatter-site approach, including Forest Hills.

**Black Response To Project Controversy;
CAMPUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REFERS TO
'SICK-WHITE JEW-BOY'; AMSTERDAM NEWS
ARTICLE REFERS TO 'FRUSTRATED MOBS'**

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Black response to the controversy raging around the planned Forest Hills low income housing project raised implications and allegations of Jewish racism in articles that appeared in two newspapers in New York during the past four days. One, by William H. Banks Jr., in the New York Amsterdam News, the largest black newspaper in America, compared the protests of Forest Hills residents who are predominantly Jewish, to "the twisted snarling faces of white Southerners we saw in the early 1960s who were protesting the integration of Southern schools."

The other appeared in Voice of Seek, a Queens College newspaper issued for minority group students receiving special academic help. Written by George Hopkinson, a student, it stated, "Once again the white bigots are predominantly Jews" and that "Jews and other white imps from the Mayflower cannot decide where Black people are to live."

The article in Voice of Seek (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) was the subject of a complaint Friday lodged by students with Dean E.R. Covert. SEEK was established by City University New York several years ago to help entering minority students--mostly Black--reach the scholastic levels of other students and is funded from student fees.

Michael Green, president of the Queens College Interclub Council and one of the students who filed the complaint, said a poem published in SEEK had the lines, "Sick-white Jew-boy" and "liberal Jew style." He said the publication of the material violated a Board of Higher Education by-law that "no group or organization with a program against the religion of a particular group or against a particular race shall be permitted to organize or to continue at any college or school" of CUNY.

Ignores Jews Supporting Project

Green also contended that the disputed material ignored a regulation of the Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order of City University which requires "members of the academic community and other persons on the college grounds" not to "use language or take action likely to provoke or encourage physical violence." Hopkinson said he would not comment on the charges before consulting with his lawyer. Dean Covert promised to meet tomorrow with Green to discuss the charges. He said a statement on publications from the Manual of General Policy for the City University reaffirms "the traditional policy of opposition to and abhorrence of any manifestation of racial or religious prejudices in the college."

David Agronin, president of the college Council of Jewish Organizations, asserted that the implication of Hopkinson's article was that all opponents of the Forest Hills project were Jews and that only Jews oppose it. He pointed out that no mention was made "of the fact that many prominent Jewish leaders and organizations have come out in support of the project."

The article by Banks in the Amsterdam News contained no overt references to Jews. The writer, in fact, strongly opposed the concept of scatter-site housing on grounds that it weakened Black political power in the inner cities by the dispersal of Black families. Urging Blacks to oppose that concept, Banks wrote, "This course of action will not represent capitulation to the racism displayed in Forest Hills. The frustrated mobs in Forest Hills and elsewhere will continue to pay for the

failures of this city as long as their only solution is to flee mindlessly to its high priced fringes."

**SECURITY PRISONERS; ADMINISTRATIVE
DETAINEES; RELEASED FROM CUSTODY**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Police Minister Shlomo Hillel said here that "hundreds" of security prisoners and administrative detainees have been released from custody in recent weeks. The security prisoners include terrorists and collaborators. Many of those released had already been sentenced but not for overt acts of sabotage, Hillel said. He stated that the releases were made possible by the calmer atmosphere prevailing in the country this year. Israel still has 3,500 security prisoners, most of them from administered territories or neighboring countries and about 250 from Israel. The number of persons detained on administrative orders has declined from 1,300 last year to 520 at present.

IMPROVED SERVICES FOR TOURISTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA)--A high-level committee representing both the government and the tourism industry has been set up to find ways of improving service to visitors. The committee was established in the wake of numerous complaints to the Tourism Ministry from dissatisfied visitors. This is the first time that representatives of all the major factors in Israeli tourism have joined formally to recommend improvements from the moment the tourist buys his ticket until he leaves the country. The committee members are Yacov Zueriel, Deputy Director of the Tourism Ministry, chairman; Yekutiel Federman, president of the Israel Hotel Association; Salo Scharf, president of the Tourist Agents Association; and Yermiah Schrem, vice president of El Al airlines.

KATYA PALATNIK GETS EXIT VISA

LONDON, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Katya Palatnik, the younger sister of Raiza Palatnik, who is serving a three-year sentence in a forced labor camp for alleged anti-Soviet activities, has been granted an exit visa to go to Israel, it was reported here. The information came from the "Committee of 35," an activist group, which appealed to the Soviet Embassy here for Miss Palatnik's release on humanitarian grounds. Her sister was granted a visa after a five-day hunger strike in Moscow, a spokesman for the committee told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

DR. BERNSTEIN NEW BRANDEIS U PRESIDENT

WALTHAM, Mass., Dec. 19 (JTA)--The trustees of Brandeis University have announced the appointment of Dr. Marver H. Bernstein, a political scientist and Jewish communal leader, as the fourth president of the 23-year-old Jewish-sponsored university. Dr. Bernstein, who has been since 1969 chairman of the national commission of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, is professor at Princeton University. He was the first dean of the university's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs from 1964 to 1969. He succeeds Charles Schottland, 65, who has been president on an interim basis since the resignation of Morris Abram in March, 1970.

JEWISH JOURNAL MARKS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

BUCHAREST, Dec. 19 (JTA)--The Rumanian Jewish periodical, "Revista Culturii Mozaic" is marking its 15th anniversary here. Edited by Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, the journal with a 10,000 circulation, is published in Hebrew, Yiddish and Rumanian, and published six times a year.