

000091

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

WEST COAST REGION ANNUAL BANQUET

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1972

*Intergaunched
Rabbis*

Mark Rohatner

Manny Rohatner
Jimmy Roosevelt

Lee Samson

*David
Lukins*

IT IS A REAL PLEASURE FOR (MRS. HUMPHREY AND) ME TO
MEET WITH YOU HERE TONIGHT.

ONE REASON WE HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS EVENT IS
THE CAUSE FOR WHICH WE HAVE GATHERED.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SYNAGOGUE YOUTH AND OTHER
SYNAGOGUE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE MADE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE
A PROFOUND CONTRIBUTION TO THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN AND JEWISH
COMMUNAL LIFE.

AND TONIGHT IS PERSONALLY REWARDING FOR US -- BECAUSE
THIS WORTHY ORGANIZATION, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS AND GRADUATES
I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE TO KNOW PERSONALLY THROUGH THE YEARS,
HAS ITS HISTORICAL ROOTS IN MY OWN STATE OF MINNESOTA, WHERE
THE CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX YOUTH MOVEMENT WAS BORN.

AND THE PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S AFFAIR -- THE
 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE, CITIZENSHIP AND RELIGION -- IS TRULY
 A CENTRAL THEME IN ALL OUR LIVES.

↳ IT RISES ABOVE OUR DAY TO DAY CONCERNS TO THE REAL
 MEANING OF OUR LIVES.

OUR CELEBRATION HERE REMINDS ME OF AN EVENT I
 RECENTLY WAS TOLD ABOUT. ↳ MORE THAN A HALF-CENTURY AGO,

IN 1929, THE STALIN REGIME ARRESTED THE LEADER OF THE
BOBITCH Schneerson
 LUBAVITCHER MOVEMENT, RABBI JOSEPH SCHNEERSON. ↳ SENATOR

WILLIAM BORAH LED A ONE-MAN CRUSADE IN THIS COUNTRY THAT
 CONVINCED PRESIDENT HOOVER TO INTERCEDE ON THE SAGE'S
 BEHALF -- WHICH LED TO HIS RELEASE.

↳ ONE OF BORAH'S COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE ASKED HIM

WHY HE HAD GIVEN SO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF ONE
 RABBI -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE WEREN'T EVEN 100 JEWISH
VOTERS IN THE WHOLE STATE OF IDAHO.

L "SURE, I LIKE TO DO THINGS THAT GET ME VOTES FROM
THE FOLKS BACK HOME," BORAH SAID, "BUT ONCE IN A WHILE
IT'S GOOD TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL GET ME VOTES IN THAT
FINAL ELECTION WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO STAND FOR SOME
DAY."

L SO MY FRIENDS, TONIGHT I'M THINKING OF THREE
ELECTIONS -- THE ONE IN JUNE, THE ONE IN NOVEMBER, AND THE
FINAL ONE. AND BY HELPING GROUPS SUCH AS NCSY, WE CAN ALL
GAIN VOTES IN THAT FINAL ELECTION.

I REFERRED A MOMENT AGO TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE

NCSY -- CONTRIBUTIONS THAT HAVE MEANING FOR ALL AMERICANS.

000104

ON ONE LEVEL THERE ARE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIFIC
ACHIEVEMENTS -- THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG JEWISH-
AMERICANS WHO HAVE RECEIVED GUIDANCE AND EDUCATION; THE
THOUSANDS OF TROUBLED YOUNG ADULTS WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN
GIVEN NEW MEANING AND THE NUMEROUS GOOD CAUSES FOR WHICH
YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS TOILED.

I KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HOW EFFECTIVE
THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WHEN THEY DESCEND ON WASHINGTON TO
LOBBY FOR A CAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN. BE IT THE SURVIVAL OF
ISRAEL, CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA OR THE STRUGGLE ON BEHALF
OF SOVIET AND ARAB LAND JEWRY.

ON A SECOND LEVEL, HOWEVER, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE
BEEN EVEN MORE PROFOUND.

WE LIVE IN A PLURALISTIC NATION -- A COUNTRY OF
MINORITIES. EACH WITH A DISTINCT AND PROUD HERITAGE.
COMBINED, THEY MAKE UP THE FASCINATING MOSAIC THAT IS
AMERICAN LIFE.

~~WE HAVE NO SINGLE AMERICAN IDENTITY. ON THE
CONTRARY, IT IS ONLY IN TOTALITARIAN REGIMES THAT THERE IS
AN OFFICIAL IDENTITY THAT ALL THE PEOPLE MUST CONFORM TO.~~

~~WE HAVE ALL LEARNED THIS LESSON FROM THE SOCIAL
UPHEAVALS OF THE PAST FEW DECADES.~~

 WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA IS MORE THAN JUST ONE
BIG MELTING POT.

 AMERICA IS A TAPESTRY OF MANY COLORS, BELIEFS, AND
CULTURES.

L WE MUST NOT TELL BLACK AMERICANS, JEWISH AMERICANS,
 LATIN AMERICANS, ITALIAN AMERICANS, AND OTHERS TO SUBMERGE
 OR IGNORE THEIR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY AND HERITAGE.

L WE MUST, INSTEAD, REALIZE THAT A ROBUST AND VIBRANT
 AMERICA REQUIRES THE FULL CONTRIBUTION OF OUR MANY GROUPS
 THAT OUR DISTINCTIVE TRADITIONS HAVE MEANING TODAY AND
 VALUE FOR US ALL. AND IT IS HERE WHERE A GROUP SUCH AS
 NCSY IS MAKING AN HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION.

L THE CONCERNS OF AMERICA ARE NOT NARROW, ~~including~~ *goulding to*
 SIMPLE SOLUTIONS. L THEY REQUIRE THE USE OF EVERY RESOURCE
 WE CAN COMMAND -- AND ONE GREAT RESOURCE IS THE RICH JEWISH
 HERITAGE.

L YOUR ORGANIZATION IS PRODUCING SENSITIVE, INVOLVED
 YOUNG JEWISH AMERICANS WHO ARE BETTER AMERICANS FOR THEIR

000101

COMMITMENT TO JUDAISM.

AND HOW MUCH, MY FRIENDS, WE CAN LEARN FROM THE
LESSONS OF PLURALISM, ~~FROM~~ LEARNING TO RESPECT AND CHERISH
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EACH AND EVERY SEGMENT OF HUMAN
SOCIETY. IF ONLY WE COULD APPLY THIS LESSON TO OTHER
ASPECTS OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY, HAD WE
ONLY UNDERSTOOD THE CULTURES, RELIGIONS AND TRADITIONS OF
THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ALLOWED
OURSELVES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THAT SAD AND TRAGIC WAR.

AND ONE
ONE LESSON OF VIETNAM IS THAT NOT EVERY INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION CAN BE JUDGED THROUGH WESTERN EYES OR TREATED
WITH WESTERN BIASES.

TO SIGHT ANOTHER EXAMPLE, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
BETRAYS A SHOCKING LACK OF AWARENESS OF 3,000 YEARS OF

000100

JEWISH HISTORY IN OUR CONTINUED REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE A
SINGLE UNITED CITY OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL.

WE WERE WRONG WHEN WE WERE SILENT IN THE FACT OF
JORDANIAN FORCED ANNEXATION OF THE OLD CITY IN 1948. WE
WERE WRONG WHEN WE WERE SILENT IN THE FACE OF THE ATROCITIES
PERPETUATED UPON THE CITY'S SACRED PLACES BY THE JORDANIAN
ARAB LEGION FROM 1948 TO 1967. AND WE COMPOUND THESE WRONGS
NOW WHEN WE DARE TO CONDEMN THE REUNIFICATION AND REBUILDING
OF JERUSALEM A REUNIFICATION WHICH HAS SHOWN RESPECT AND
HONOR TO THE TRADITIONS AND HOLY PLACES OF ALL THE GREAT
FAITHS.

JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN MUST BE UNITED AND MUST BE
RECOGNIZED AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL WE MUST NOT TURN THE
CLOCK BACK BY ADVOCATING REDIVISION OR INTERNATIONALIZATION

OF JERUSALEM. / TODAY, PRESIDENT NIXON IS VISITING THE SOVIET
UNION, WHERE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE DENIED THE RUDIMENTARY
HUMAN RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM,
/ I HAVE CALLED UPON ^{President} NIXON ONCE MORE TO WORK FOR AN
ETHNIC CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN MINORITY GROUPS
WITH SIGNIFICANT POPULATIONS IN BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND
THE SOVIET UNION.

IF THE SOVIET UNION SERIOUSLY WISHES DETENTE, THEN
I AM SURE IT WILL LOOK FAVORABLY UPON A PROGRAM THAT WILL
ALLOW SOVIET JEWRY A FREE FLOW OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS
SUPPLIES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET JEWISH COMMUNITIES.

/ IF WE ARE TO HAVE A HEALTHY ~~AMERICA~~ AMERICA,
THEN WE MUST ~~RESOLVE~~ TO DEFINE A NEW RIGHT -- THE RIGHT OF

EVERY AMERICAN CHILD TO KNOW HIS OR HER OWN HERITAGE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS BELIEF ~~IN BENEVOLENCE~~, THAT I
SUPPORT THE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL MOVEMENT.

THERE ARE SOME IN THIS COUNTRY WHO SAY THAT A
PARENT WHO WANTS HIS OR HER CHILD TO RECEIVE A CULTURAL
OR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MUST BE PREPARED TO BEAR THE TOTAL COST.

THAT POSITION, MY FRIENDS, IS INDEFENSIBLE. IT IS
THE SAME AS SAYING THAT IF THE SICK OR INJURED CANNOT PAY
THEIR HOSPITAL BILLS, THEY SHOULDN'T GET SICK.

TODAY WE DO NOT EXPECT A FAMILY THAT JOINS A
COMMUNITY CENTER TO PAY THE FULL PRICE OF THE SERVICES THEY
RECEIVE. AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, ARE
VERY GENEROUS IN SUBSIDIZING SUCH CENTERS.

IS EDUCATION LESS VITAL A SERVICE?

WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY SUBSIDIZES VOLLEYBALL GAMES
AND SWIMMING POOLS, BUT REFUSES TO HELP MEET THE COST OF
EDUCATION?

DAY SCHOOLS PERFORM A PRICELESS SERVICE -- FORGING
STRONG LINKS IN A TRADITION THAT BENEFITS OUR COUNTRY.

L NONE OF US WANTS THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. ~~THAT WOULD UNDERMINE RELIGION AND~~
~~GOVERNMENT TOGETHER.~~ FINANCING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS THE
DUTY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- A DUTY THAT JEWISH AMERICANS
HAVE GRATEFULLY SHOULDERED IN THE PAST AND ARE EAGER TO
BEAR IN THE FUTURE.

L BUT WE MUST ~~USE~~ ONLY FIND IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE

000096

METHODS FOR AIDING THE NON-RELIGIOUS PART OF YOUR
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

↳ --WE MUST EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF TAX CREDITS
TO RELIEVE PARENTS OF SOME OF THE BURDEN.

↳ --WE MUST EXPAND GRANTS IN AID FOR SCIENTIFIC
EQUIPMENT AND MODERN EDUCATIONAL TOOLS.

↳ --WE MUST EXPAND THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

↳ IT IS OUTRAGEOUS THAT MANY HEBREW SCHOOLS CANNOT
PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM BECAUSE
KOSHER FOODS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE AMOUNTS.

↳ YOU CAN GET KOSHER FOOD ON ANY AIRLINE IN AMERICA.

↳ WHY NOT IN ANY SCHOOL?

↳ YOU CAN GET KOSHER FOOD ON ANY ARMED FORCES BASE.

WHY NOT IN ANY SCHOOL?

THE PROVISION OF KOSHER FOODS FOR THE OBSERVANT

JEW MUST BE VIEWED AS A BASIC RIGHT. IT IS NOT A PRIVILEGE

NOR A LUXURY. IN OUR PLURALISTIC SOCIETY, WE MUST RESPECT

THE CUSTOMS AND RITUALS THAT EACH GROUP OBSERVES.

ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH WE CAN AND MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE

ACTION, IS THE PROTECTION OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE. THERE ARE

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, OF BOTH THE JEWISH AND THE SEVENTH

DAY ADVENTIST FAITH, WHO ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE

THEIR DAY OF SABBATH IS SATURDAY.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE IS A BASIC RIGHT. IT IS NOT A

PRIVILEGE OR A LUXURY.

IF ANY AMERICAN IS DENIED EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF HIS

SABBATH OBSERVANCE, THEN HIS OR HER CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE
CLEARLY BEEN VIOLATED.

L IF ANY EMPLOYER DOING BUSINESS WITH THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT, DISCRIMINATES AGAINST SABBATH OBSERVERS, HIS
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS SHOULD BE CANCELLED.

L IF ANY UNIVERSITY FORCES OBSERVANT STUDENTS TO TAKE
EXAMS ON THE SABBATH OR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, THEN ITS FEDERAL
ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE WITHHELD.

L THIS INSENSITIVITY TO RELIGIOUS PRACTICES MUST NOT
CONTINUE. L EVEN OUR POLITICAL PARTIES ARE GUILTY OF THIS
SIN.

L IN MANY CASES, DELEGATE SELECTION TO THIS YEAR'S
NATIONAL CONVENTION WAS HELD ON SATURDAY.

HERE IN CALIFORNIA, FOR EXAMPLE, THOUSANDS OF
REGISTERED DEMOCRATS WERE AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDED FROM
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

OUR PARTY MUST ALLOW THIS GROSS INSENSITIVITY TO
RELIGIOUS CONVICTION TO CONTINUE.

LET US CONFESS -- BECAUSE CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR
THE SOUL -- THAT WE HAVEN'T YET ACHIEVED "LIBERTY AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL."

BUT LET US, AT THE SAME TIME, PROUDLY REAFFIRM
OUR COMMITMENT TO THAT GOAL.

~~LET US PUSH FORWARD~~ LET US SET, AS A GOAL, THE
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL, RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC
DISCRIMINATION BY 1976 -- OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY AS A NATION

L LET US BEGIN OUR THIRD CENTURY AS AN AMERICA RICH
 IN DIVERSITY, A NATION THAT REALIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF
PLURALISM --

L --A SOCIETY WHERE NO ONE IS DENIED ADVANCEMENT OR
EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF CREED, RACE, OR SEX.

--A SOCIETY WHICH RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO OFFER
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE DISADVANTAGED
 CHILDREN OF ALL RACES AND CREEDS.

--A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE TRADITIONS OF EACH ETHNIC
AND RACIAL GROUP IS RESPECTED AND VALUED.

--A SOCIETY IN WHICH EACH GROUP IS PROUD OF ITS OWN
HERITAGE AND SUPPORTS EFFORTS, SUCH AS THE WORK OF THE NCSY,
 TO DISCOVER AND TRANSMIT ITS CULTURAL TRADITIONS.

SUGGEST THAT WE
 GENEROUSLY SUPPORT SUCH GROUPS SO THAT THEY MAY BE STRONGER,

000108

THUS MAKING US ALL STRONGER.

LET US PROUDLY ANNOUNCE ~~THE FREEDOM WHICH~~

~~PLURALISM GIVES~~ *the* FREEDOM OF ALL PEOPLE TO BE

THEMSELVES, TO BE AS DIVERSE AS HISTORY AND CULTURE HAVE

MADE THEM, AND TO MAKE THEIR FULL CONTRIBUTION TO A

GREATER AMERICA. •

LET US PROUDLY WORK TO ACHIEVE THIS FREEDOM FOR

ALL AMERICANS SO THAT OUR COUNTRY CAN TRULY BE "ONE NATION

UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE."

Our Young ^{HHH} Land Great!



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org