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740 Grand Concourse
Bronx 51 N.Y.
January 11 1953

Rabbi Norman Lamm
40 West Side Jewish Centre
347 West 34 Street

Dear Rabbi:

I read with great interest the account of your sermon on "Exploitation" in Sunday's Times.

My reaction to your blast follows:

First of all, I doubt very much if you are engendering any good will, so much needed, between Christians and Jews. Kaufman displayed bad taste again. Do you know his reputation? He is not much admired for his personal conduct. On TV, his "barrage" was of the first magnitude and you, in my judgment, are helping to make it a bigger one! Do you think I'm joking? Test yourself. You will get many letters pro and con. Separate the Christian ones from the Jewish. And then judge. Be honest! You will see that there is a Jewish viewpoint

(2)

and a Christian one. Don't be a "Bleeding Heart" for the Christians, they have their proper representatives, who can speak out for them. They always have and will again.

As a Jew you could never understand the Christian mind (no one can understand the Jewish mind), in regard to personal relationship to God. You see, the Christians have their Messiah — so their religion is complete and fulfilled. You are still waiting and frustrated.

Christmas is celebrated every quite a period of time. There is very much to it. We love to hear again and again the beautiful hymns and carols. Repetition, Repetition, Repetition — it's all so wonderful a part of our most important holiday. Does this get on your nerves? — put on a Jewish program or turn the radio off. It's that easy. This is a Christian country and our customs are Christian — now forget this. Remember this, too, that this Christian country, where you make your living, made Israel possible. Be grateful. You can't eat your cake and still have it.

Let us imagine, for the sake of argument, that we are in Palestine. Let us imagine that some very important holiday is being celebrated for a week or so.

Let us suppose that a hymn like "Eli Eli" is sung or played
and it is repeated, repeated, repeated on all the T.V.
stations, on all the radios. Let us suppose that I (a gentile)
say on a program: "Well folks - here is one program
you're not going to hear "Eli Eli"! " See what I
mean, Rabbi? You can't eat your cake and
still have it.

You are calling for a "revolution". Yes, I think
you will have it. If you think I have sounded
angry with you for what you said, you are right.
All my family is angry and so are my friends
that showed me the Times.

Sincerely yours,
Arthur H. Ellsasser