

80 PINE STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

June 28, 1974

Rabbi Norman Lamm
27 West 86 Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

During our brief discussion at the meeting of Think Tank, I argued that we should not formulate a uniform policy to deal with problems of Women's Liberation.

Instead, I felt that Rabbis should anticipate and deal with these problems as they occur in their communities.

I also felt that in the process of reaching a solution, each Rabbi should, within halachic bounds, take into consideration the nature and circumstances of the problem, the individuals involved and the impact which his solution might have on the immediate community and the community at large.

I realize that my approach may result in different standards of observance from community to community but I believe that there are sufficient precedents for such different standards. For example, some religious schools are co-educational, some Synagogues allow women to participate in singing and receptions etc.

You argued that my suggestion was not practical because conditions in New York are such that Rabbis fearing other Rabbis are reluctant to suggest new programs designed to make the observance of tradition by women more meaningful.

You also implied that you favored the creation of an "Advisory Body" which would either approve new decisions or suggest alternate solutions.

This prompted me to suggest to Rabbi Rackman that we discuss whether or not present day circumstances require the creation of a supreme Rabbinical Authority.

Frankly, I would argue against it. I believe that as in the past, local Rabbis and Beth Dins should be accorded sufficient authority to solve problems as they arise. I think that this

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Rabbi Lamm:

system has worked well for many years and I would be strongly opposed to changing it.

I feel that the institutionalisation of religion in Israel with its inherent red tape and patronage has had a catastrophic effect on religion and the respect for it everywhere.

I am aware of the annoyances to which you are subjected particularly when you receive so many phone calls, but I do believe that you have the competence and good judgement necessary to deal with the difficult problems of today.

Very truly yours,

With kindest personal regards

Linke/Bruss

EG:mag