

Mid-Town Rabbi's Group Meeting

December 8, 1964 at The Jewish Center

Present at the meeting: Rabbi Jung presiding; Rabbis Adams, Gettinger, Jakobovits, Langer, Lookstein, Reichel, Serebrenik, Schneier and Lamm.

Guest: Rabbi Kasher

The meeting was devoted completely to the Eruv problem.

Rabbi Kasher presented a resume of the history of Eruv and asked us to decide one way or the other, since continuation of the present status may prove to be detrimental to the Shabbat rather than helpful, since the Eruv may lapse and certain people may continue to carry.

Rabbi Jakobovits maintained that our objections were not halakhic. The question is whether or not to publicize the Eruv. The Agudath Harabonim has never given us its answer after our meeting quite some time ago. There are no older rabbis, acknowledged authorities, who live in the area affected by the Eruv, who are willing to publicly commit themselves to it.

Rabbi Langer agreed with this analysis. Both felt that the controversy occasioned by the proclamation of the Eruv would nullify any benefits that might derive from it.

Rabbi Kasher replied that there is no need for wide publicity. It is sufficient to accept the advice of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and institute the Eruv quietly. However we must make sure to establish firmly the Board of Mashgichim and promise to provide for it.

Rabbi Lookstein urged a public declaration of the Eruv. He maintained that since it was halachically feasible, we ought not consider any other elements. Rabbi Jung and Rabbi Lamm similarly pleaded for a public announcement of the Eruv despite the risk of controversy.

Rabbi Adams emphasized that the major problem was one of continuity, i.e. that of paying for the Mashgichim in the future after enthusiasm has waned. We need, he said, a foundation of \$25,000 in perpetuity, its income to be used for paying the Mashgichim plus other expenses. He expressed a readiness to raise \$5000 towards this foundation.

Rabbi Lookstein said he preferred that the congregations undertake a certain stipend to be paid every year to the Eruv committee and that that would be an easier way of collecting the money needed.

Rabbi Jakobovits made this proposal contingent upon the agreement of other Rabbis such as the Vaad Harabbanim. Rabbi Lamm took strong exception to this condition, and maintained that our experience has proven that none of them are willing to risk the controversy for the principle of Eruv, and that if this condition were pressed, he was prepared to recommend that we abandon the whole project. Opinion was divided in the group as to whether this condition was essential or not.

In view of the late hour, it was decided to continue to pay the Mashgichim for this year, not to publicize the Eruv, and to continue the discussion on the ultimate disposition of the problem.

A special meeting was called for December 10th at 2:30 p.m. at The Jewish Center to consider the problem of the Yeshiva Heichal Hatorah.

Respectfully submitted;

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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