

File: Bartel
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September 5, 1974

Rabbi Norman Lamm
The Jewish Center
131 West 86th Street
New York, New York 10024

My dear Rabbi Lamm:

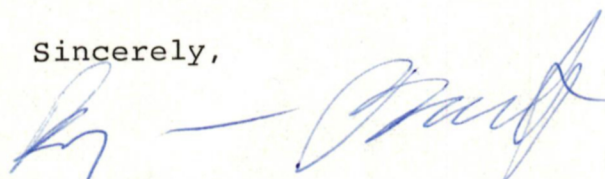
For many years I contemplated in some way getting a group of Jewish leaders together on a more or less regular basis for the purpose of discussing various religious and communal problems. I felt that such a group without formal affiliation would be in a position to "bounce things off one another".

I met with constant frustration in setting up, in the words of Rabbi Rackman, a "Think Tank". However, Rabbi Rackman certainly has taken the laboring oar and is making this project work. The group of people that he has been able to gather together is really remarkable. I feel constrained to write this letter to you because of your efforts in making the discussions productive. This was especially true in your presentation last night and the discussion that followed.

Your opening remarks and your intelligent presentation were most illuminating and stimulating. I feel that you have given me a greater insight into the problem. I only hope that "Think Tank" can continue on a regular basis. In a year of so many frustrations and so many tragedies, which included the Yom Kippur war and the resignation of President Nixon, this has been a bright spot.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your entire family a very Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,


Benjamin Bartel

BB:mms