

April 29, 1970

Mr. Marvin Schick  
Office of the Mayor  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Marvin:

I was glad to see you and have you accompany us at the Exodus March for Soviet Jewry on April 26th. I am sure you will agree that the thousands of people present (and there were, to my mind, closer to 30,000 than the 20,000 reported in the media) constituted a powerful moral force and behalf of our cause.

The reason I write to you -- and this is being done in a purely personal capacity, especially since I intend shortly to relinquish my post as Chairman of the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry -- is to impress upon your associates how grievously they misjudged the situation. Every politician of note, especially those interested in either securing or retaining the political allegiance of this segment of the electorate, was present and participated. The crowds responded to them enthusiastically. Lindsay was not there -- and I flinched and blanched when, upon announcing receipt of his telegram, his name was greeted with loud booing. I heard comments about it later in the afternoon. People wanted to know why, of all prominent officials, he was absent. The old, pre-election animosity towards Lindsay was reawakened. The most current remark referred to the fact that this was not a municipal election year, and so "Lindsay doesn't need us."

I need not tell you that this will do him no good; voters' memories are not that short. I fear that those who advised the Mayor against coming have misled him and done him a real disservice. I am genuinely sorry about this, because I like the man.

Sincerely yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL/ek

bc: David Geller