

MINUTES OF MID-TOWN RABBIS - JUNE 5, 1962 - AT THE JEWISH CENTER

IN ATTENDANCE: RABBI L. JUNG  
RABBI J. H. LOOKSTEIN  
RABBI H. LOOKSTEIN  
RABBI R. GETTINGER  
RABBI I. JAKOBOVITS  
RABBI R. REICHEL  
RABBI N. LAMM

The meeting was devoted exclusively to the question of the Eruv. Rabbi Lamm reported on his contacts with Rabbi Teitz, who entered the picture on behalf of the Agudath Harabbanim as a result of an editorial in Hapardes.

The gist of the report was as follows:

Rabbi Henkin and Rabbi Feinstein both seemed to be wavering back and forth. Rabbi Henkin is completely determined to qualify his consent with the provision of "Be-shaat ha-dechak." This is to be accompanied, according to Rabbi Henkin, by a number of items spelling out the nature of the provision.

On the day before the meeting, Rabbi Lamm in the company of Rabbi Y. Besser and Mr. Abba Finkelstein met with Rabbi Teitz who implied that it would be unfortunate for the whole question to become involved in politics, and that it would have been better to have announced the Eruv without any kind of consultation with his organization.

Rabbi Teitz said that he did not know what had transpired at the Agudath Harabbanim meeting and that he would have to see the minutes later on. It was agreed that Rabbi Lamm would contact him and so be able to determine the course of future events concerning the Eruv.

After the report, Rabbi Moskowitz joined the meeting and answered the questions of the various rabbis. He indicated the desire to have at least ten Rabbis of Manhattan, which may include those of our group, sign a statement of co-responsibility with him. This is primarily a moral issue, for he does not want to act solely in his capacity as an individual but desires the moral participation of others. It was decided that we would accede to his request.

After discussion, it was decided to proceed on our own, announcing the Eruv during the third week of June. The Hebrew announcement, which Rabbi Lamm read to the group from galleys corrected by Rabbi Kanger, would be printed and distributed to rabbis. In the Yiddish press, a statement prepared by Rabbi Moskowitz and read and corrected by us at the meeting would be printed at the same time. No general English statement will be circulated widely. However, each rabbi, on his own responsibility, will announce to his congregation, and so declare in his bulletin in condensed form, that an Eruv had been established in Manhattan, and that while there were a number of legal opinions by various contemporary authorities, we would accept the Halakhic opinion of Rabbi Mosheh Feinstein.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun on Tuesday, September 11th at 4:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

RABBI NORMAN LAMM