

January 16, 1970

Rabbi Emanuel Rackman
30 East 62nd Street
New York, NY

My dear Emanuel:

I am writing to you almost as a last resort. Previous efforts made by others brought no results. I think that you and I can bring these results.

The Warshawitz Foundation, some years ago, contributed \$12,500 to the Jewish Women's Club, which we call the Mikvah. That was a most generous contribution, far in excess of any kind of contribution that the late Gustave Warshawitz would have given.

In addition to the above gift, the Foundation put up \$40,000 worth of securities as collateral for the Jewish Women's Club in order that it may be able to obtain a loan for its needs. We did it as an act of good will and generosity for an institution that was in great difficulty at the time.

For what we did, no one has regrets. Certainly I have no regrets. Unfortunately, the loan was never repaid nor was it even reduced. Moreover, a point was reached when the Jewish Women's Club couldn't even meet the interest payments. As a matter of fact, due to the pressure that I exerted, the Foundation was advancing the interest for approximately the last two years.

I gave you this background because all of us must recognize that we who are associated with the Jewish Women's Club are in the wrong. The needs of that institution are an obligation upon us, the Rabbis, the congregations and the laymen of the community. That responsibility does not and should not be imposed upon a Foundation

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created for altogether different purposes.

The \$40,000 which is lying as collateral reduces the capital assets of the Foundation. It means that we do not have that amount available for distribution to deserving institutions and causes in America and in Israel. In these difficult days that works a hardship upon many causes and, of course, is a source of embarrassment to us at the Foundation.

Here is my suggestion. I am willing to persuade my congregation to contribute \$10,000 over a four-year period in order to liquidate the debt. I hope that you can do the same in your congregation. The two of us ought to insist that Rabbis Jung and Lamm should do the same in their congregation. All of us together ought to persuade Charles Bendheim that he should do the same with the Spanish Portuguese Congregation, one of the richest congregations in the City.

On my own part, I will try to persuade the Foundation that they should, in the meantime, continue to pay the interest, whatever it will be, until the loan is fully liquidated in a four-year period.

I think I am being fair and practical. Above all, I think that leadership is needed in order to right a wrong that cannot be rationalized and cannot be justified. Above all, I think that you and I can provide such leadership and teach our congregation and our laymen what the ethics in this case are.

I am anxious to hear from you as soon as possible because I am planning to leave for Israel very shortly.

Warmest personal regards to Ruth and the family.

Very cordially yours,

Joseph H. Lookstein

JHL/ak