

National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs

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119 NASSAU STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10038

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July 5, 1967

Rabbi Norman Lamm
The Jewish Center
131 West 86th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

My purposes in writing are two.

First, I would like to get your advice on a matter that has been brought to our attention by Yavneh. We have been asked to draft legislation that would bar colleges in this state from requiring students who eat kosher food to participate in compulsory board plans. As you know from your own intervention, the school most directly involved is Barnard, which up to now, has refused to relax its board requirements to accommodate orthodox students.

It should not be difficult to draft the legislation and to get it passed by the legislative. However, it is unlikely that such a law would be signed by the Governor, given the expected strong opposition of the state's colleges. Accordingly, it might be best to continue attempts to persuade Barnard to give relief to the students. However, before making any decision, we would appreciate the benefit of your advice.

The second matter concerns COLPA finances. As you know, we are in a precarious position and have tried to enlist the support of the various Orthodox organizations. Unfortunately, after two years - and considerable effort - we have received a total of \$950 from all organizations. As a result, we owe money to our legal printer and just do not know how much longer we will be able to continue.

This is all very sad, because I sincerely believe that we have demonstrated our value to the community. In the last few weeks alone,

11/6
not
better
will call
re board
meeting
7/8
① Lofin private party
② + legislation
③ - when returns

Rabbi Norman Lamm

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we have been active in a number of key areas. The New York Court of Appeals, in an historic decision, accepted the position we took and sustained the state's Textbook Law; representing all major Orthodox organizations, we have had notable success in the two suits launched by the American Jewish Congress attacking the constitutionality of the Federal Aid to Education Law; we negotiated an agreement with Police Commissioner Leary providing that police will stop harassing Orthodox shopkeepers who do business on Sunday; and we have played a major role in securing federal government guidelines protecting Sabbath observers in private employment.

Some time ago, you cautioned me not to try to raise money from individuals, if only because this becomes a difficult undertaking year after year. However, we must find some way of maintaining ourselves. After much thought, we have decided to approach a number of synagogues for contributions of \$100 to \$250 from their general charity funds. The Riverdale Jewish Center has already made a contribution and we hope that we will also get the support of the Jewish Center.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your interest and consideration of this letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marvin Schick", written over a horizontal line.

Marvin Schick

MS/hp