

December 8, 1967

Rabbi Louis Bernstein
c/o Yeshivat Achuzat Yaakov
84 Fifth Ave., Rm. 1101
New York, N.Y. 10011

Dear Louis:

While I am most happy to send a check for Yeshivat Achuzat Yaakov, I do hope you will permit me to add a few personal observations.

I admire the dedication of yourself and other members of the committee in getting support for a most worthy institution. Your commitments and your efforts certainly deserve the gratitude of all of us although, unfortunately, such work is usually thankless.

Nevertheless, I do not feel that we of the RCA ought to engage in the particular mode of fund raising which you have undertaken on this project. I am always annoyed when I receive trinkets by mail. To receive unsolicited books is bad enough, but to be coerced into eating candy and honey, buying challah-covers and table cloths, singing from unwanted zemirot booklets, and now utilizing unordered Chanukah menorahs-- is just too much. It does not, it seems to me, befit the dignity of either Louis Bernstein or the RCA to engage in this kind of technique.

Perhaps a few more people will respond, and perhaps those who would respond anyway will give two or three more dollars; but the loss of good will and the resentment engendered outweighs, I believe, the additional funds so collected.

I hope you do not mind my putting these observations into writing. I do so only because I rely upon our friendship which should make such apologies unnecessary.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

RNL/fz