

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

WEST COAST REGION ANNUAL BANQUET

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1972

*Intermarried  
Rabbis*

Mark Rohatner

Manny Rohatner

Jimmy Roosevelt

Lee Samson

*David  
Lukins*

IT IS A REAL PLEASURE FOR (MRS. HUMPHREY AND) ME TO  
MEET WITH YOU HERE TONIGHT.

ONE REASON WE HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS EVENT IS  
THE CAUSE FOR WHICH WE HAVE GATHERED.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SYNAGOGUE YOUTH AND OTHER  
SYNAGOGUE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE MADE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE  
A PROFOUND CONTRIBUTION TO THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN AND JEWISH  
COMMUNAL LIFE.

AND TONIGHT IS PERSONALLY REWARDING FOR US -- BECAUSE  
THIS WORTHY ORGANIZATION, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS AND GRADUATES  
I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE TO KNOW PERSONALLY THROUGH THE YEARS,  
HAS ITS HISTORICAL ROOTS IN MY OWN STATE OF MINNESOTA, WHERE  
THE CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX YOUTH MOVEMENT WAS BORN.

AND THE PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S AFFAIR -- THE  
 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE, CITIZENSHIP AND RELIGION -- IS TRULY  
 A CENTRAL THEME IN ALL OUR LIVES.

↳ IT RISES ABOVE OUR DAY TO DAY CONCERNS TO THE REAL  
 MEANING OF OUR LIVES,

OUR CELEBRATION HERE REMINDS ME OF AN EVENT I  
 RECENTLY WAS TOLD ABOUT. ↳ MORE THAN A HALF-CENTURY AGO,

IN 1929, THE STALIN REGIME ARRESTED THE LEADER OF THE  
LIOW BOB itcher Schneerson  
LUBAVITCHER MOVEMENT, RABBI JOSEPH SCHNEERSON. ↳ SENATOR

WILLIAM BORAH LED A ONE-MAN CRUSADE IN THIS COUNTRY THAT  
 CONVINCED PRESIDENT HOOVER TO INTERCEDE ON THE SAGE'S  
 BEHALF -- WHICH LED TO HIS RELEASE.

↳ ONE OF BORAH'S COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE ASKED HIM

WHY HE HAD GIVEN SO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF ONE  
RABBI -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE WEREN'T EVEN 100 JEWISH  
VOTERS IN THE WHOLE STATE OF IDAHO.

L "SURE, I LIKE TO DO THINGS THAT GET ME VOTES FROM  
THE FOLKS BACK HOME," BORAH SAID, "BUT ONCE IN A WHILE  
IT'S GOOD TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL GET ME VOTES IN THAT  
FINAL ELECTION WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO STAND FOR SOME  
DAY."

L SO MY FRIENDS, TONIGHT I'M THINKING OF THREE  
ELECTIONS -- THE ONE IN JUNE, THE ONE IN NOVEMBER, AND THE  
FINAL ONE. AND BY HELPING GROUPS SUCH AS NCSY, WE CAN ALL  
GAIN VOTES IN THAT FINAL ELECTION.

I REFERRED A MOMENT AGO TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE  
NCSY -- CONTRIBUTIONS THAT HAVE MEANING FOR ALL AMERICANS.

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ON ONE LEVEL THERE ARE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIFIC  
ACHIEVEMENTS -- THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG JEWISH-  
AMERICANS WHO HAVE RECEIVED GUIDANCE AND EDUCATION; THE  
THOUSANDS OF TROUBLED YOUNG ADULTS WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN  
GIVEN NEW MEANING AND THE NUMEROUS GOOD CAUSES FOR WHICH  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS TOILED.

L I KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HOW EFFECTIVE  
THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WHEN THEY DESCEND ON WASHINGTON TO  
LOBBY FOR A CAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN L BETIT THE SURVIVAL OF  
ISRAEL, CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA OR THE STRUGGLE ON BEHALF  
OF SOVIET AND ARAB LAND JEWRY.

L ON A SECOND LEVEL, HOWEVER, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE  
BEEN EVEN MORE PROFOUND.

WE LIVE IN A PLURALISTIC NATION -- A COUNTRY OF  
MINORITIES.                                     
EACH WITH A DISTINCT AND PROUD HERITAGE.  
COMBINED, THEY MAKE UP THE FASCINATING MOSAIC THAT IS  
AMERICAN LIFE.

~~WE HAVE NO SINGLE AMERICAN IDENTITY. ON THE  
CONTRARY, IT IS ONLY IN TOTALITARIAN REGIMES THAT THERE IS  
AN OFFICIAL IDENTITY THAT ALL THE PEOPLE MUST CONFORM TO.  
WE HAVE ALL LEARNED THIS LESSON FROM THE SOCIAL  
UPHEAVALS OF THE PAST FEW DECADES.~~

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA IS MORE THAN JUST ONE  
BIG MELTING POT.

                                    
AMERICA IS A TAPESTRY OF MANY COLORS, BELIEFS, AND  
CULTURES.

L WE MUST NOT TELL BLACK AMERICANS, JEWISH AMERICANS,  
LATIN AMERICANS, ITALIAN AMERICANS, AND OTHERS TO SUBMERGE  
 OR IGNORE THEIR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY AND HERITAGE.

L WE MUST, INSTEAD, REALIZE THAT A ROBUST AND VIBRANT  
 AMERICA REQUIRES THE FULL CONTRIBUTION OF OUR MANY GROUPS  
 THAT OUR DISTINCTIVE TRADITIONS HAVE MEANING TODAY AND  
 VALUE FOR US ALL. AND IT IS HERE WHERE A GROUP SUCH AS  
 NCSY IS MAKING AN HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION.

L THE CONCERNS OF AMERICA ARE NOT NARROW, ~~THEY ARE~~ <sup>goulding to</sup>  
SIMPLE SOLUTIONS, L THEY REQUIRE THE USE OF EVERY RESOURCE  
WE CAN COMMAND -- AND ONE GREAT RESOURCE IS THE RICH JEWISH  
HERITAGE.

L YOUR ORGANIZATION IS PRODUCING SENSITIVE, INVOLVED  
YOUNG JEWISH AMERICANS WHO ARE BETTER AMERICANS FOR THEIR

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COMMITMENT TO JUDAISM.

AND HOW MUCH, MY FRIENDS, WE CAN LEARN FROM THE  
LESSONS OF PLURALISM, FROM LEARNING TO RESPECT AND CHERISH

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EACH AND EVERY SEGMENT OF HUMAN

SOCIETY. L IF ONLY WE COULD APPLY THIS LESSON TO OTHER

ASPECTS OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY, HAD WE

ONLY UNDERSTOOD THE CULTURES, RELIGIONS AND TRADITIONS OF

THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ALLOWED

OURSELVES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THAT SAD AND TRAGIC WAR.

L ONE LESSON OF VIETNAM IS THAT NOT EVERY INTERNATIONAL

SITUATION CAN BE JUDGED THROUGH WESTERN EYES OR TREATED

WITH WESTERN BIASES.

L TO SIGHT ANOTHER EXAMPLE, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
BETRAYS A SHOCKING LACK OF AWARENESS OF 3,000 YEARS OF

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JEWISH HISTORY IN OUR CONTINUED REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE A  
SINGLE UNITED CITY OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL.

WE WERE WRONG WHEN WE WERE SILENT IN THE FACT OF  
JORDANIAN FORCED ANNEXATION OF THE OLD CITY IN 1948. WE  
WERE WRONG WHEN WE WERE SILENT IN THE FACE OF THE ATROCITIES  
PERPETUATED UPON THE CITY'S SACRED PLACES BY THE JORDANIAN  
ARAB LEGION FROM 1948 TO 1967. AND WE COMPOUND THESE WRONGS  
NOW WHEN WE DARE TO CONDEMN THE REUNIFICATION AND REBUILDING  
OF JERUSALEM A REUNIFICATION WHICH HAS SHOWN RESPECT AND  
HONOR TO THE TRADITIONS AND HOLY PLACES OF ALL THE GREAT  
FAITHS.

JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN MUST BE UNITED AND MUST BE  
RECOGNIZED AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL WE MUST NOT TURN THE  
CLOCK BACK BY ADVOCATING REDIVISION OR INTERNATIONALIZATION

OF JERUSALEM. <sup>L</sup> TODAY, PRESIDENT NIXON IS VISITING THE SOVIET  
 UNION, WHERE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE DENIED THE RUDIMENTARY  
 HUMAN RIGHTS OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM,  
<sup>L</sup> I HAVE CALLED UPON <sup>President</sup> NIXON ONCE MORE TO WORK FOR AN  
ETHNIC CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN MINORITY GROUPS  
WITH SIGNIFICANT POPULATIONS IN BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND  
THE SOVIET UNION.

~~IF THE SOVIET UNION SERIOUSLY WISHES DETENTE, THEN  
 I AM SURE IT WILL LOOK FAVORABLY UPON A PROGRAM THAT WILL  
 ALLOW SOVIET JEWRY A FREE FLOW OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS  
SUPPLIES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET JEWISH COMMUNITIES.~~

<sup>L</sup> IF WE ARE TO HAVE A HEALTHY ~~AMERICA~~ AMERICA,  
 THEN WE MUST ~~RESOLVE~~ TO DEFINE A NEW RIGHT -- THE RIGHT OF

EVERY AMERICAN CHILD TO KNOW HIS OR HER OWN HERITAGE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS BELIEF ~~IN DEMOCRACY~~, THAT I  
SUPPORT THE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL MOVEMENT.

THERE ARE SOME IN THIS COUNTRY WHO SAY THAT A  
PARENT WHO WANTS HIS OR HER CHILD TO RECEIVE A CULTURAL  
OR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MUST BE PREPARED TO BEAR THE TOTAL COST.

THAT POSITION, MY FRIENDS, IS INDEFENSIBLE. IT IS  
THE SAME AS SAYING THAT IF THE SICK OR INJURED CANNOT PAY  
THEIR HOSPITAL BILLS, THEY SHOULDN'T GET SICK.

TODAY WE DO NOT EXPECT A FAMILY THAT JOINS A  
COMMUNITY CENTER TO PAY THE FULL PRICE OF THE SERVICES THEY  
RECEIVE. AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, ARE  
VERY GENEROUS IN SUBSIDIZING SUCH CENTERS.

IS EDUCATION LESS VITAL A SERVICE?

WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY SUBSIDIZES VOLLEYBALL GAMES  
AND SWIMMING POOLS, BUT REFUSES TO HELP MEET THE COST OF  
EDUCATION?

DAY SCHOOLS PERFORM A PRICELESS SERVICE -- FORGING  
STRONG LINKS IN A TRADITION THAT BENEFITS OUR COUNTRY.

L NONE OF US WANTS THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. ~~THAT WOULD UNDERMINE RELIGION AND~~  
~~GOVERNMENT TOGETHER.~~ FINANCING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS THE  
DUTY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- A DUTY THAT JEWISH AMERICANS  
HAVE GRATEFULLY SHOULDERED IN THE PAST AND ARE EAGER TO  
BEAR IN THE FUTURE.

L BUT WE MUST ~~USE~~ ONLY FIND IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE

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METHODS FOR AIDING THE NON-RELIGIOUS PART OF YOUR  
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

↳ --WE MUST EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF TAX CREDITS  
TO RELIEVE PARENTS OF SOME OF THE BURDEN.

↳ --WE MUST EXPAND GRANTS IN AID FOR SCIENTIFIC  
EQUIPMENT AND MODERN EDUCATIONAL TOOLS.

↳ --WE MUST EXPAND THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

↳ IT IS OUTRAGEOUS THAT MANY HEBREW SCHOOLS CANNOT  
PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM BECAUSE  
KOSHER FOODS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE AMOUNTS.

↳ YOU CAN GET KOSHER FOOD ON ANY AIRLINE IN AMERICA.

↳ WHY NOT IN ANY SCHOOL?

↳ YOU CAN GET KOSHER FOOD ON ANY ARMED FORCES BASE.

WHY NOT IN ANY SCHOOL?

THE PROVISION OF KOSHER FOODS FOR THE OBSERVANT

JEW MUST BE VIEWED AS A BASIC RIGHT. IT IS NOT A PRIVILEGE

NOR A LUXURY. IN OUR PLURALISTIC SOCIETY, WE MUST RESPECT

THE CUSTOMS AND RITUALS THAT EACH GROUP OBSERVES.

ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH WE CAN AND MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE

ACTION, IS THE PROTECTION OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE. THERE ARE

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, OF BOTH THE JEWISH AND THE SEVENTH

DAY ADVENTIST FAITH, WHO ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE

THEIR DAY OF SABBATH IS SATURDAY.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE IS A BASIC RIGHT. IT IS NOT A

PRIVILEGE OR A LUXURY.

IF ANY AMERICAN IS DENIED EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF HIS

SABBATH OBSERVANCE, THEN HIS OR HER CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE  
CLEARLY BEEN VIOLATED.

↳ IF ANY EMPLOYER DOING BUSINESS WITH THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT, DISCRIMINATES AGAINST SABBATH OBSERVERS, HIS  
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS SHOULD BE CANCELLED.

↳ IF ANY UNIVERSITY FORCES OBSERVANT STUDENTS TO TAKE  
EXAMS ON THE SABBATH OR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, THEN ITS FEDERAL  
ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE WITHHELD.

↳ THIS INSENSITIVITY TO RELIGIOUS PRACTICES MUST NOT  
CONTINUE. ↳ EVEN OUR POLITICAL PARTIES ARE GUILTY OF THIS  
SIN.

↳ IN MANY CASES, DELEGATE SELECTION TO THIS YEAR'S  
NATIONAL CONVENTION WAS HELD ON SATURDAY.

HERE IN CALIFORNIA, FOR EXAMPLE, THOUSANDS OF REGISTERED DEMOCRATS WERE AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDED FROM POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

OUR PARTY MUST ALLOW THIS GROSS INSENSITIVITY TO RELIGIOUS CONVICTION TO CONTINUE.

LET US CONFESS -- BECAUSE CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL -- THAT WE HAVEN'T YET ACHIEVED "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

BUT LET US, AT THE SAME TIME, PROUDLY REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THAT GOAL.

~~LET US PUSH FORWARD~~ LET US SET, AS A GOAL, THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL, RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION BY 1976 -- OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY AS A NATION

L LET US BEGIN OUR THIRD CENTURY AS AN AMERICA RICH  
 IN DIVERSITY, A NATION THAT REALIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF  
 PLURALISM --

L --A SOCIETY WHERE NO ONE IS DENIED ADVANCEMENT OR  
 EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF CREED, RACE, OR SEX.

--A SOCIETY WHICH RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO OFFER  
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE DISADVANTAGED  
 CHILDREN OF ALL RACES AND CREEDS.

--A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE TRADITIONS OF EACH ETHNIC  
AND RACIAL GROUP IS RESPECTED AND VALUED.

--A SOCIETY IN WHICH EACH GROUP IS PROUD OF ITS OWN  
HERITAGE AND SUPPORTS EFFORTS, SUCH AS THE WORK OF THE NCSY,  
 TO DISCOVER AND TRANSMIT ITS CULTURAL TRADITIONS.

*Suggest that we* GENEROUSLY SUPPORT SUCH GROUPS SO THAT THEY MAY BE STRONGER,

THUS MAKING US ALL STRONGER.

LET US PROUDLY ANNOUNCE ~~THE FREEDOM WHICH~~

~~PLURALISM GIVES~~ *the* FREEDOM OF ALL PEOPLE TO BE

THEMSELVES, TO BE AS DIVERSE AS HISTORY AND CULTURE HAVE

MADE THEM, AND TO MAKE THEIR FULL CONTRIBUTION TO A

GREATER AMERICA.

LET US PROUDLY WORK TO ACHIEVE THIS FREEDOM FOR

ALL AMERICANS SO THAT OUR COUNTRY CAN TRULY BE "ONE NATION

UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE."

*Our Young <sup>HHH</sup> Country Great!*



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