

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ANNUAL NATIONAL DINNER
UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS
OF AMERICA

New York, New York

May 19, 1974

The purpose of tonight's affair -- the celebration of service, citizenship and religion -- truly is a central theme in all our lives.

It rises above our day-to-day concerns to the real meaning of our lives.

On a more personal note, it is a rare honor to be saluted by so many of my old friends and by your organization, with which I have enjoyed a long and warm relationship.

And tonight is particularly rewarding for me because of my affection for your dynamic youth arm -- the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, which has its historical roots in my own state of Minnesota, where the contemporary Orthodox youth movement was born.

I have followed the growth and successes of NCSY for many years. I had the privilege of having many of this fine organization's members and alumni working on my behalf during the 1972 campaign.

For the past year there has been a great deal of attention given to the actions of those who sought to poison the political atmosphere of the 1972 campaign.

We sometimes forget that the vast majority of political workers and volunteers in both parties do not wiretap, indulge in illegal entries, or practice political sabotage.

The young people of NCSY who were involved in the 1972 campaign brought with them a vitality, a devotion to morality, and a sense of high purpose which stands in sharp contrast to the misguided actions that have cast a pall over our national political scene.

I am pleased to be here tonight, not only because of personal ties, but I am proud to be here because of my sincere respect for your organization and its work.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America has made contributions that have meaning for all Americans, including the nurturing of a vigorous and energetic religious community.

The Prophet Amos tells us that the day will come when "There will be famine in the land -- not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but for hearing the words of the Lord." In that day, the Prophet tells us, the young people will wander about searching for values and meaning in their lives -- searching for the word of their God and the roots of their tradition.

We live in such days. The youth of America, and the youth of our great Jewish community, have been searching and questioning -- and the NCSY has been providing your community with vigorous answers to their questions.

It has given new meaning to the lives of thousands of troubled young adults.

And it has helped provide leadership and inspiration to the overall Jewish youth community.

On a second level, however, the UOJCA's 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.

We must not tell black Americans, Jewish Americans, Latin Americans, Italian Americans, and others to submerge or ignore their individual identity and heritage.

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 especially here where the Orthodox Jewish community is making an historic contribution.

The concerns of America are not narrow, requiring simple solutions. They require the use of every resource we can command -- and one great resource is the rich Jewish heritage.

The Orthodox Jewish community plays a vital role in shaping the fabric of our society. Your vast network of synagogues, day schools, and institutions of higher education bear witness to your community's achievements.

Orthodox Judaism has always stood up for what it deeply believes in. It has always been willing to sacrifice in order to remain faithful to its heritage.

All Americans can learn from your example -- especially from your organization's courage in refusing to compromise its principles. It isn't easy to stand alone -- but sometimes it is necessary.

The lessons of pluralism are to respect and cherish the contributions of each and every segment of human society.

Out of our own pluralistic heritage we must all be deeply concerned about the status of minority groups in the Soviet Union.

This is not just a Jewish problem.

It is a human problem. Millions of people in the Soviet Union are denied the rudimentary human rights of cultural, religious and educational freedom.

These rights and the right to unrestricted emigration are fundamental principles which no government should be permitted to abrogate or circumscribe.

We in the United States Senate have made this position a cornerstone of our policy toward Soviet-American relations.

I am proud to have been one of the architects of this policy.

And now, let us talk about a few of our mutual concerns here at home.

If we are to have a healthy pluralistic 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 pluralism 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.

Hebrew day schools perform a priceless service -- forging strong links in a tradition that benefits our country.

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.

But we must urgently find imaginative and creative 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, and endeavor to assure that religious conscience is respected in the provision of foods.

Another area to which we should give attention is the protection of Sabbath observance. Millions of Americans, of both the Jewish and the Seventh Day Adventist Faith, whose day of Sabbath is Saturday, confront serious difficulties in this observance.

Sabbath observance is a basic right. It is not a privilege or a luxury.

These are some examples of steps toward strengthening a governmental policy that respects religious heritage in a pluralistic society.

But we must also witness today governmental policies that respect and respond to the deep concerns and basic values of that religious heritage.

I am speaking of governmental policies that respond to the moral demand for reform in political and campaign practices. There is an urgent requirement for effective and responsible government in America, both to address our critical needs at home and to assume leadership in promoting world peace and development.

Our religious heritage mandates a profound respect for human dignity. It is incumbent upon government to affirm that dignity through measures to address unemployment, now running at over 5 percent; to make our urban areas more liveable; and to assure quality health care for all our citizens and a good education for our children.

We must insist upon government planning for our future rather than moving from crisis to crisis.

And we must demand intensive governmental efforts to resolve the critical world food situation, to negotiate a halt to the nuclear arms race, to press for peace, stability, and respect for national sovereignty and an end to armed conflict and political terrorism.

Let us, at the same time, proudly reaffirm our commitment to the goal of "liberty and justice for all."

Let us press for the elimination of all forms of racial, religious and ethnic discrimination by 1976 -- our 200th anniversary as a nation.

Let us begin our third century as an America rich in diversity, a nation that realizes the importance of pluralism.

-- 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 are respected and valued.

-- A society in which each group is proud of its own heritage and supports efforts to discover and transmit its cultural traditions.

Let us proudly announce the freedom which pluralism gives us: 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."

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✓ Irving Stone - (friend from Cleveland)
- Harold Jacobs - President of USJC
✓ my friends of NCSY

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OF AMERICA

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

MAY 19, 1974

my friend
Cory Hugh Carey

Distinguished
Rabbi

Yamaka-NCSY

Thank JACOBS + STONE

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

IT RISES ABOVE OUR DAY-TO-DAY CONCERNS TO THE REAL
MEANING OF OUR LIVES.

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, IT IS A RARE HONOR TO BE
SALUTED BY SO MANY OF MY OLD FRIENDS AND BY YOUR ORGANIZATION,
WITH WHICH I HAVE ENJOYED A LONG AND WARM RELATIONSHIP.

AND TONIGHT IS PARTICULARLY REWARDING FOR ME BECAUSE OF
MY AFFECTION FOR YOUR DYNAMIC YOUTH ARM -- THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF SYNAGOGUE YOUTH, WHICH HAS ITS HISTORICAL ROOTS IN MY OWN
STATE OF MINNESOTA, WHERE THE CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX YOUTH MOVEMENT
WAS BORN.

David Lukens
NCSY

I HAVE FOLLOWED THE GROWTH AND SUCCESSES OF NCSY FOR

MANY YEARS. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING MANY OF ~~THIS FINE~~ ^{the members of}

^{the fine} ORGANIZATION'S ~~MEMBERS AND ALIEN~~ WORKING ON MY BEHALF DURING

THE 1972 CAMPAIGN.

THANK NCSY ~~KIDD~~

FOR THE PAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF ATTEN-

TION GIVEN TO THE ACTIONS OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO POISON THE

POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE 1972 CAMPAIGN.

WE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF POLITICAL

WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN BOTH PARTIES DO NOT WIRETAP, INDULGE

IN ILLEGAL ENTRIES, OR PRACTICE POLITICAL SABOTAGE.

↳ THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF NCSY WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE 1972
CAMPAIGN BROUGHT WITH THEM A VITALITY, A DEVOTION TO MORALITY,
AND A SENSE OF HIGH PURPOSE WHICH STANDS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO
THE MISGUIDED ACTIONS ^{ga few} THAT HAVE CAST A PALL OVER OUR NATIONAL
POLITICAL SCENE.

↳ I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TONIGHT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF
PERSONAL TIES, BUT I AM PROUD TO BE HERE BECAUSE OF MY SINCERE
RESPECT FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION AND ITS WORK.

↳ THE UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA
HAS MADE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT HAVE MEANING FOR ALL AMERICANS,
INCLUDING THE NURTURING OF A VIGOROUS AND ENERGETIC RELIGIOUS
COMMUNITY.

↳ THE PROPHET AMOS TELLS US THAT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN

“THERE WILL BE FAMINE IN THE LAND -- NOT A FAMINE OF BREAD, NOR
A THIRST FOR WATER, BUT FOR HEARING THE WORDS OF THE LORD.”

↳ IN THAT DAY, THE PROPHET TELLS US, THE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL WANDER
ABOUT SEARCHING FOR VALUES AND MEANING IN THEIR LIVES -- SEARCHING
FOR THE WORD OF THEIR GOD AND THE ROOTS OF THEIR TRADITION.

↳ WE LIVE IN SUCH DAYS! THE YOUTH OF AMERICA, AND THE
YOUTH OF OUR GREAT JEWISH COMMUNITY, HAVE BEEN SEARCHING AND
QUESTIONING -- AND THE NCSY HAS BEEN PROVIDING YOUR COMMUNITY
WITH VIGOROUS ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS.

↳ IT HAS GIVEN NEW MEANING TO THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF
TROUBLED YOUNG ADULTS.

h AND IT HAS HELPED PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND INSPIRATION
TO THE ~~OVERALL~~ ^{total} JEWISH YOUTH COMMUNITY.

Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

L ON A SECOND LEVEL, HOWEVER, THE UOJCA'S CONTRIBUTIONS
HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE PROFOUND.

L 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.

L 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!

L 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

u MELTING POT.

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

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

↳ 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 ESPECIALLY HERE WHERE THE ORTHODOX JEWISH
COMMUNITY IS MAKING AN HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION.

THE CONCERNS OF AMERICA ARE NOT NARROW, REQUIRING SIMPLE SOLUTIONS. THEY REQUIRE THE USE OF EVERY RESOURCE WE CAN COMMAND -- AND ONE GREAT RESOURCE IS THE RICH JEWISH HERITAGE.

THE ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY. YOUR VAST NETWORK OF SYNAGOGUES, DAY SCHOOLS, AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BEAR WITNESS TO YOUR COMMUNITY'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

ORTHODOX JUDAISM HAS ALWAYS STOOD UP FOR WHAT IT DEEPLY BELIEVES IN. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO SACRIFICE IN ORDER TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO ITS HERITAGE.

Mah a loat
-8-

L ALL AMERICANS CAN LEARN FROM YOUR EXAMPLE -- ESPECIALLY

FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION'S COURAGE IN REFUSING TO COMPROMISE ITS

PRINCIPLES. IT ISN'T EASY TO STAND ALONE -- BUT SOMETIMES IT IS

NECESSARY, Israel standing alone - U. H.
-which condemns Arab violence & terrorism
while condemning Israel retaliation

L THE LESSONS OF PLURALISM ARE TO RESPECT AND CHERISH

(Mahaloot)

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EACH AND EVERY SEGMENT OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

L OUT OF OUR OWN PLURALISTIC HERITAGE WE MUST ALL BE DEEPLY

CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

L THIS IS NOT JUST A JEWISH PROBLEM!

L IT IS A HUMAN PROBLEM. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE SOVIET
AND ARAB LANDS

UNION ARE DENIED THE RUDIMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS OF CULTURAL,

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM.

x Jerusalem represents
4000 years of Jewish
history - -

x Jerusalem must
remain Capital of
Israel

(K) Jerusalem a
united city -
not a divided
city

↳ THESE RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO UNRESTRICTED EMIGRATION
ARE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH NO GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PERMITTED
TO ABORGATE OR CIRCUMSCRIBE.

↳ WE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE HAVE MADE THIS POSITION
A CORNERSTONE OF OUR POLICY TOWARD SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

↳ I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE ARCHITCTS OF THIS
POLICY. ◦

*Israel + U.S. - Israel needs
friends -
negotiation + Jerusalem*

↳ AND NOW, LET US TALK ABOUT A FEW OF OUR MUTUAL CONCERNS

HERE AT HOME.

↳ IF WE ARE TO HAVE A HEALTHY ^{Strong} ~~REALISTIC~~ AMERICA, THEN
WE MUST RESOLVE TO DEFINE A NEW RIGHT -- THE RIGHT OF EVERY
AMERICAN CHILD TO KNOW HIS OR HER OWN HERITAGE.

*an America of many
peoples + cultures*

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

L 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.

~~L THAT POSITION, MY FRIENDS, IS INDEFENSIBLE.~~

L HEBREW 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.

L 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.

BUT WE MUST URGENTLY FIND IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE
METHODS FOR AIDING THE NON-RELIGIOUS PART OF ~~YOUR~~ ^{OUR} 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, AND ENDEAVOR
TO ASSURE THAT RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE IS RESPECTED IN THE PROVISION
OF FOODS.

ANOTHER AREA TO WHICH WE SHOULD GIVE ATTENTION IS THE
PROTECTION OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE. MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, OF BOTH
THE JEWISH AND THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST FAITH, WHOSE DAY OF
SABBATH IS SATURDAY, CONFRONT SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THIS
OBSERVANCE.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE IS A BASIC RIGHT. IT IS NOT A PRIVILEGE
OR A LUXURY.

THESE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF STEPS TOWARD STRENGTHENING
A GOVERNMENTAL POLICY THAT RESPECTS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE IN A
PLURALISTIC SOCIETY.

BUT WE MUST ALSO WITNESS TODAY GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES
THAT RESPECT AND RESPOND TO THE DEEP CONCERNS AND BASIC VALUES
OF THAT RELIGIOUS HERITAGE.

I AM SPEAKING OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES THAT RESPOND
TO THE MORAL DEMAND FOR REFORM IN POLITICAL AND CAMPAIGN
PRACTICES. THERE IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR EFFECTIVE AND
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA, BOTH TO ADDRESS OUR CRITICAL
NEEDS AT HOME AND TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING WORLD PEACE
AND DEVELOPMENT.

OUR RELIGIOUS HERITAGE MANDATES A PROFOUND RESPECT FOR
HUMAN DIGNITY. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON GOVERNMENT TO AFFIRM THAT
DIGNITY THROUGH MEASURES TO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT, NOW RUNNING AT
OVER 5 PERCENT; TO MAKE OUR URBAN AREAS MORE LIVEABLE; AND TO
ASSURE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS AND A GOOD
EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

↳ WE MUST INSIST UPON GOVERNMENT PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE
RATHER THAN MOVING FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS.

↳ AND WE MUST DEMAND INTENSIVE GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS TO
RESOLVE THE CRITICAL WORLD FOOD SITUATION, TO NEGOTIATE A HALT
TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, TO PRESS FOR PEACE, STABILITY, AND
RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND AN END TO ARMED CONFLICT
AND POLITICAL TERRORISM.

↳ LET US, AT THE SAME TIME, PROUDLY REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT
TO THE GOAL OF "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

↳ LET US PRESS FOR 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,

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

L-- A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE TRADITIONS OF EACH ETHNIC AND
RACIAL GROUP ARE RESPECTED AND VALUED,

L-- A SOCIETY IN WHICH EACH GROUP IS PROUD OF ITS OWN
HERITAGE AND SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO DISCOVER AND TRANSMIT ITS
CULTURAL TRADITIONS,

LET US PROUDLY ANNOUNCE THE ~~FREEDOM WHICH PLURALISM~~

True freedom -

~~GIVES US~~: 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."

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