



## Max M. Kampelman Papers

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

BY

MAX M. KAMPELMAN

WASHINGTON JEWISH WEEK AWARD LUNCHEON  
FOR HYMAN BOOKBINDER

Capital Hilton Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

April 10, 1986

The invitation for our event this afternoon states that we are honoring Hy Bookbinder today. Yet, it is we whom he honors by being an integral part of us and of our community.

[The press has responsibly and prominently noted Bookie's vital leadership role in a long and rich lifetime of service to our nation and to our values. We, of the greater Washington community, are particularly proud of Bookie's accomplishments, because we know that his preoccupation with the broad national and international responsibilities that have gained him that wide recognition, was never at the expense of fulfilling his responsibilities as a member and leader of our own local community, with its problems and opportunities.]

Bookie and I have known each other for more than 35 years. We met first when I was a college teacher and he was a trade union economist and educator with the Amalgated Clothing Workers of America. He and his beautifully vibrant wife, Boshie, became dear friends of ours (Maggie and mine) -- a friendship that was deepened and strengthened as they moved to Washington; and as Bookie later joined forces with me and others who identified ourselves with Hubert Humphrey and his exciting campaign for human rights, human dignity and human opportunity.

Bookie learned that there were many ways to advance the eternal values that were such an integral part of the Jewish ideals which surrounded his early upbringing. One could be a democratic socialist, struggling to find an economic equivalent of the justice which was the great blessing of political democracy -- and Bookie was that. One could be active with the great American democratic labor movement, struggling to broaden the blessings of political democracy to encompass greater economic opportunity -- and Bookie did that. And one could work for the Government of the United States as part of a commitment to compassion, social progress and the full realization of the democratic dream -- and Bookie did that.

Bookie, at the appropriate point in his life, decided to put it all together and represent the American Jewish Committee in Washington. He chose well. For nearly 20 years he has become the symbol of how to merge American democratic ideals and aspirations with the Jewish values of human brotherhood. And Bookie was that symbol -- with energy, wisdom, tact, enthusiasm, idealism, judgment, and, yes, pragmatism. He understood that the greatest contribution of Judaism to our evolving civilization was a recognition by the early Hebrew tribes that there was only one God. If there is only one God, then we are all of us His children and thus brothers and sisters to one another. Here is the essence of human brotherhood and the

foundation for the political democracy which all of us enjoy in this great nation of ours. This is the message which is at the root belief of Hy Bookbinder; and why it is our privilege to honor him.

The 300 years of Jewish life in the United States has been an adventure in freedom. We live in a society unlike any encountered in our previous history, a society of which we have become an integral part. In this society, Jews have been able to shatter the closed ghettos of the old world and replace them with voluntary communities of free men and women -- democracy.

Bookie has understood that democracy is not the equivalent of some machine that governs itself through perpetual motion. It requires commitment and dedication. It requires defense against bigots and racists in our midst. And in this dangerous period, as Israel has regrettably learned, it requires defense through military strength as well, not just for ourselves, but for others who seek to achieve the blessing of freedom from tyranny.

[Describing our honoree, as we have today, as a man of virtue and wisdom, may lead those in this audience who are not acquainted with Hy Bookbinder to look for a man with a long beard and broad girth. Let me only say that if the beard and the girth were the criteria, then goats would be the wisest creatures on earth.]

I must now add a personal aside. Sid Yates talked about Bookie's cooking [before I leave this podium.] Bookie has another great virtue. My wife and I, and Ida, and others here also know him as a great cook of Jewish foods. It is a pleasure for me to use this opportunity publicly to thank Bookie for the many jars of borscht, matzo ball soup and chopped liver, to mention only a few of his specialties, that he has delivered to our home over the years.] Bookie, in fact, may have been the one who told me the difference between flying on Air France and flying on El Al. At dinner on Air France, when the hostess asks whether it's red or white, you know that she means wine. On El Al, when you are asked whether it's red or white, you soon learn that they mean horseradish.

It is appropriate that the award given by The Washingtonian Jewish Week to Hy Bookbinder today is a hand-crafted Chanukah Menorah, with his Hebrew first name, Chaim, engraved in the design. It symbolizes the priceless and timeless qualities of courage, faith and leadership. Bookie, please accept this with our appreciation. We expect many more years of noble service from you in the cause of the values we share.



# THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE • 2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 265-2000

April 11, 1986

Honorable Max Kampelman  
3154 Highland Place NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Max:

What a great moment in my life that was yesterday to have you make the presentation to me! There really is no one else who could have been more appropriate -- and who could have done a more eloquent, gracious, and heart-warming job.

Your words made it so clear that despite the differences in our professional duties and occasional differences on substantive issues our paths and our goals have been so parallel. It's comforting to know this as we continue in our respective ways, to help build that "new foundation" for peace and freedom. But, even more important than that, it's comforting to know the blessings of friendship. And this you and Maggie have been so generous in extending to me, to Boshie, and now to Ida.

Affectionately,



Hyman Bookbinder

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
HYMAN BOOKBINDER  
WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE

Hyman Bookbinder, Washington, Representative of the American Jewish Committee has served in a number of key government and "public-interest" positions. He was Executive Officer of the President's Task Force on Poverty in early 1964 and then served as Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, until he joined the Committee in December, 1967. His responsibility was that of marshalling private resources to assist in the war on poverty. From 1965 through 1967, while serving in the OEO, he also held the post of Special Assistant to Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

As Washington Representative of the AJC, he maintains liaison between the Committee and the White House, agencies of the Federal government, the Congress, foreign embassies, and Washington representatives of other religious, civic and human relations agencies. He works closely with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and other groups concerned with issues of human rights and equal opportunity. He serves as Executive Secretary of the National Advisory Panel to AJC, a group of leading scholars and practitioners in the political and social sciences. He chairs a co-ordinating committee of representatives of all Jewish agencies in Washington. Mr. Bookbinder is a member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, and serves as Washington Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Human Rights and Genocide Treaties, a coalition of over 60 major national organizations.

Mr. Bookbinder has moderated an AJC-sponsored radio program called Washington Scene, in which he interviewed key Capital figures about developments in human rights, the struggle for social justice, and the democratic society. He is frequently called upon to participate in television and radio public affairs programs.

Born in New York City in 1916 of Polish immigrant parents, Mr. Bookbinder attended City College (Bachelor of Social Science, 1937) and New York University and the New School for Social Research where he did his graduate work in economics, sociology, and political science. He served in the Navy during World War II.

Between 1938 and 1950, except for the war years, Mr. Bookbinder was economist and research assistant for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in New York. He came to Washington 1951 as a labor consultant to the Korean War effort, and remained to serve the CIO and then the AFL-CIO as legislative representative between 1953 and 1961. In April

1961, he was appointed Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and handled special assignments that included work in connection with the President's Advisory Committee on Labor-Management Policy, the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, and the President's Commission on the Status of Women headed by Eleanor Roosevelt.

In 1963, he was named Director of the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, established at the suggestion of President John F. Kennedy and headed by Adlai Stevenson. (The foundation was dedicated to the field of human rights.)

Mr. Bookbinder served as Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's Government Division from 1965-67, and received a Special Citation for Distinguished Service. He is a founder of the JFK Memorial Chapter of B'nai B'rith and a member of the Workmen's Circle since 1938.

In 1977, Mr. Bookbinder received the National Brotherhood Citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews "For the depth of his understanding of the meaning of justice and equality, and his demonstrated ability to effectively communicate these great ideals."

In a recent public address, Vice President Walter Mondale said: "Let me say a word about a special person who I doubt ever gets the appreciation he deserves. I've been in Washington a long, long time. I've seen them all; and there is no one, representing any group or any organization, in any aspect of American life, who does it with more brilliance and more decency, and who deserves our respect more than that remarkable human being, Hyman Bookbinder."

Mr. Bookbinder was married to the former Bertha Losev until her passing in 1976. He has two daughters: Mrs. Ellen Cohen, of New City, New York; and Mrs. Amy Goldstein, of Northampton, Mass. He has three grandchildren: Michael and Rebecca Cohen & Rose Goldstein.

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*Washington*  
**JEWISH WEEK**

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## **Leadership Luncheon**

Thursday, April 10, 1986

Welcome

Clara S. Gordon  
General Manager

Remarks

Dr. Leonard Kapiloff  
Publisher  
Renee R. Matalon  
Editor

Invocation

Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman

LUNCH

Greetings

Cong. Sidney R. Yates

Presentation to  
Hyman Bookbinder

Ambassador  
Max M. Kampelman

Response

Hyman Bookbinder  
Washington Representative  
The American  
Jewish Committee

*Washington*  
**JEWISH WEEK**

Serving the District of Columbia, Suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia

Clara Gordon  
general manager

2 April 1986

The Honorable Max Kampelman  
Department of State  
S/DEL, Room 7208  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Kampelman:

We are pleased that you and Mrs. Kampelman will attend the Washington Jewish Week Leadership Luncheon honoring Hyman Bookbinder. We are particularly pleased that it will be you who will make the presentation to Bookie.

The gift we are presenting him is a hand-crafted Chanukiah which incorporates his Hebrew name, Chaim, in the design.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing this event honoring a very special man.

Sincerely,

*Clara S. Gordon*

Mrs. Clara S. Gordon

## Working Profile: Hyman Bookbinder

# Of Lobbying And 'Precious Dimensions'

By BARBARA GAMAREKIAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 7 — "You really come to rely on the Hyman Bookbinders of this world with their institutional memories," said Anne Wexler, who was a senior assistant to President Carter for public liaison. "I think many Administrations have relied on Bookie for counsel on a variety of issues. He's one of the best."

Mrs. Wexler, now a lobbyist and public relations consultant, was talking about a familiar Washington figure. Mr. Bookbinder, 70 years old, is Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee. He has been working the capital for 35 years, and he will be honored for that work Thursday by members of Congress, Administration officials and others from the Washington establishment at a luncheon sponsored by the publication Washington Jewish Week.

A native New Yorker, the son of Polish immigrants, he came to Washington as a labor consultant in 1951. He remained to work as a legislative representative for the A.F.L.-C.I.O., as a special assistant to the Secretary of Commerce in the Kennedy Administration, as director of the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation and as one of the architects of the Johnson Administration's war on poverty in the Office of Economic Opportunity.

But he really made his mark over the past 19 years as spokesman for the American Jewish Committee, lecturing, writing and lobbying, appearing before Congress to work for the committee's goals, holding news conferences and showing up often on television news programs.

### 'I've Been a Very Lucky Man'

Mr. Bookbinder, wearing one of his trademark bow ties (which he sews himself, having learned how from his father), sat in his office the other day and talked about his life in the capital.

"I've been a very lucky man," he declared in his typically quick-spoken way. "There are not many people who have been able to do for a living what they would choose to do if they happened to be rich."

One wall of his office is filled with photographs that capture memories of bill-signing ceremonies; of dancing the hora, an Israeli folk dance, with Betty Ford after a state dinner at the White House; of sessions with Presidents and Vice Presidents, and of picketing the segregated Glen Echo Amusement Park on the outskirts of Washington in 1961 in the company of the civil rights leaders A. Philip Randolph and Roy Wilkins.

### 'A Great Education for My Kids'

"We picketed all that summer," he recalled. "It was a great education for my kids." In fact, he said, the amusement park was less than a third of a mile from his modest three-bedroom house in Bethesda, Md., where he and his wife, Bertha, who died 10 years ago, raised two daughters, and where he continues to make his home.

Mr. Bookbinder, a slender man with curly, distinguished salt and pepper hair, considers lobbying, or advocacy, as he prefers to call it, "one of the precious dimensions of our American society — I am in love with this work."

He recalled one morning from the Carter years when he opened his calendar and read: "12:30 P.M. Lunch, Stuart Eizenstat, White House Mess; 2 P.M. Haitian picketing at White House."

"That," he said, "sort of sums up the whole range of things that citizens of our country can do to shape policy — from public protest to using inside influence."

Mr. Bookbinder is currently lobbying Capitol Hill on behalf of immigration legislation and the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which would, among other things, restore prohibitions against sex



The New York Times / Jose R. Lopez

Federal aid. He is also meeting with Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d and Labor Secretary Bill Brock trying to forestall the Attorney General's recommendation to abolish the executive order requiring Federal contractors to set goals for hiring women and members of minority groups.

His support for affirmative action goals but not quotas has alienated him from some old colleagues in the civil rights movement, among them Joseph Rauh, the longtime activist and lawyer, who faults Mr. Bookbinder for having "always been sort of on the establishment side of this struggle."

"A goal is a middle position because it does apply pressure on an employer to do the right thing, but it is not a rigid, compulsory system," Mr. Bookbinder said in defense of his position.

He says he seeks consensus because he believes that conflicts on social and foreign policy issues are rarely between the absolutes of right and wrong.

"There are absolutes, and I know how to fight as well as how to compromise," he said. "But many times you have to try to balance off different rights. That has led some people to say I'm a wimp."

"Take the issue with which I am most associated now," he added. "The Middle East. I have never denied there aren't important Palestinian rights that have to be protected, but how do you protect Palestinian rights without violating the rights of the Jewish people?"

James G. Abourezk, a former Senator from South Dakota who heads the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, has frequently faced Mr. Bookbinder across the debating table.

"He is very effective in that he knows an awfully lot of people," Mr. Abourezk said. "And when he debates an issue that is very difficult to defend — pro Israel — he debates that about as well as anyone can. I just think his political views on the Middle East are absolutely wrong."

### This Is No Retirement Party

In his spare time, Mr. Bookbinder enjoys photographing his three grandchildren and cooking, especially what he described as "peasant cooking," in particular soups thick with meat or fish. "Those are my house gifts: jars of frozen soup," he said.

Thursday's luncheon, to be held at the Capital Hilton, is no retirement party. That will come, says Mr. Bookbinder, "soon, soon."

"You know in our faith," he says, "has a very special meaning. Seven years that we feel we've been gra