



Max M. Kampelman Papers

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REMARKS BY
MAX M. KAMPELMAN
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NM B'RITH
LEON AND MARILYN KLINGHOFFER AWARD
TO RICHARD SCHIFTER

New York, N.Y.

June 10, 1992

In the immortal words of that great master of English rhetoric, Samuel Goldwyn, let me start by telling you that I have a few words to say before I begin to speak.

I want to say how pleased and proud I am once again to be speaking from this platform to so many ADL friends. We go back together a long time.

My task this afternoon, on behalf of the ADL and its Leon and Marilyn Klinghoffer Memorial Foundation, is to present its prestigious Award to Richard Schifter in recognition of his service as the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. I do so with great satisfaction because Dick and I have been close friends for more than 40 years, beginning with his arrival in this city from the Law School at Yale.

One of the great pleasures and privileges of my life has been the fact that he and I were law partners during most of this period. Those of you who know Dick Schifter know what that means. I was blessed by having a close relationship with this man of wisdom, intellect, commitment and judgment. He was a professional in the best sense of the word and understood the difference between a profession and a business. The law to him was an instrument for justice and an opportunity to serve the community and the cause of human dignity. The Talmud says that the conscientious judge who does justice is God's partner in the creation of the world. That is applicable to the conscientious lawyer as well; and you can see why I considered it a privilege to be the partner of a man who served as God's partner as well.

My last appearance on this platform was to join you in presenting today's Award to former Secretary of State George Shultz. We are all grateful for George Shultz' decision to enlist Dick Schifter to serve among his top advisers and assistant secretaries. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, who had earlier plucked Dick from our law firm to serve as the United States representative at the United Nations Human Rights Commission, also deserves our thanks, because it was Dick's extraordinary service in that role that brought him to George Shultz's attention.

There is no need for me to elaborate on Dick's heroic performance as our Assistant Secretary of State. It is because the ADL is so fully aware of that performance that this Award is being bestowed. Suffice it for me to say that -- and I do not now speak as his partner but as one who observed Dick's skills and energies while in my various governmental roles under the Helsinki process and as Counselor of the Department of State -- I know of no single human being who deserves greater credit than Dick for the saving of thousands of human lives in all parts of the world.

Dick was aware that indifference to evil is evil; and he could not be indifferent to human suffering. The tragedy that befell his parents and other members of his family remains indelibly imprinted in every fiber of his being and motivation.

Dick had his responsibility and he fulfilled it, without froth or the need for honor and prestige. I recall one incident while we were in Moscow. George Shultz had just completed a private meeting with Mr. Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, and he was about to brief those of us who had accompanied him to Moscow. We gathered in the small secure room at the American Embassy. Everybody was there, but not Dick. Somebody asked if we should begin without Dick. George Shultz said in effect: "We had better. He is probably meeting with the dissidents and doing the real work that counts while we are meeting and talking."

There was another occasion. We were all scheduled to go again to a ministerial meeting in Moscow and the trip would overlap with Passover. Dick and I talked about the overlap, and Dick suggested that George Shultz urge the Embassy to broaden its usual Seder service by inviting larger numbers of Jewish dissidents, with the understanding that he would attend. I talked to George Shultz about it and he responded enthusiastically. Dick followed up as well. The Department pointed out that the Secretary had a scheduled meeting that evening with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. "Postpone it," said Shultz. Regrettably, illness prevented me from going to Moscow on that occasion, but on the evening of the trip, Mr. Shultz came by to visit with me at my home and to assure me that he would be at the Seder. "Schifter insists on it," he indicated.

Paul Johnson in his History of the Jews wrote that "No people has ever insisted more firmly that history has a purpose and humanity a destiny. . . . To them we owe the idea of equality before the law . . . and the dignity of the human person . . . of peace as an abstract idea and love as the foundation of justice." Dick Schifter is an exemplar of that tradition.

I consider it a privilege to help bestow your Award on my friend and partner, my colleague and increasingly my leader, Dick Schifter.

NOTE
PENDING

6/10

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

and

*The Leon and Marilyn Klinghoffer Memorial Foundation
of ADL*

cordially invite you to attend

the presentation of the

Leon and Marilyn Klinghoffer Award

in Recognition of Exemplary Action Against Terrorism to

Former Assistant Secretary of State for

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Richard Schifter

at a luncheon of the International Affairs Committee

Wednesday, June 10, 1992 at 12:30 p.m.

The New York Marriott Marquis Hotel

1535 Broadway at 46th Street

RSVP enclosed

International Affairs Committee Luncheon Program

Wednesday, June 10, 1992

Presiding

Lester Pollack

Chairman, International Affairs Committee

Luncheon

Remarks by

Ambassador Max M. Kampelman

Presentation of the

Leon and Marilyn Klinghoffer Award

In Recognition of Exemplary Action Against Terrorism

by Ilsa and Lisa Klinghoffer

Acceptance

Richard Schifter

*former Assistant Secretary of State for
Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs*



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MARK D. MEDIN
Assistant Director

May 5, 1992

Ambassador Max Kampelman
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
1001 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Max:

Thank you for agreeing to join us at our National Commission meetings in New York, Wednesday, June 11 to make introductory remarks at a luncheon honoring Dick Schifter. 10

Dick will be presented with the Klinghoffer Award for Exemplary Action Against Terrorism at our International Affairs Luncheon at the Marriott Marquis. You joined us some years ago to introduce George Shultz when Abe presented him with the Klinghoffer award.

Please have Sharon send your travel expenses to me so I can arrange reimbursement and let me know when you are planning to arrive in New York so we can arrange a limo for you.

With every best wish.

Sincerely,

Jess N. Hordes
Washington Representative

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