

Louis, as Co-Chairman. The second committee, dealing with participation, is chaired by William H. Budd, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center in Minneapolis and Saul Schwarz, Associate Director of the Jewish Community Federation of Met-

ropolitan New Jersey, is Co-Chairman.

In a most authentic sense, the theme of this Annual Meeting is an inspiring stride in the direction of an in-depth emphasis on the last three years of work on the nature of the priorities, structure, and so forth.

National Conference of Jewish Communal Service Resolutions on Public Issues Adopted at Membership Meeting

On Achieving Peace In the Middle East

This Conference is convinced that Israel remains committed to move toward peace with renewed American initiatives.

In spite of the recent tactical reversal in the attempt to achieve a second stage agreement between Egypt and Israel, we call upon the United States to strengthen its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Historically the United States and Israel have been drawn together for three decades because of the imperatives of foreign policy. This relationship will survive the test of honest assessment.

We express our appreciation to the President and to Congress for furnishing grants and credits to Israel in fiscal year 1975. We especially acknowledge and applaud the 76 United States Senators who signed the letter to President Ford urging that there be no change in the basic policy of enabling Israel to maintain its national integrity.

We reaffirm its support to Israel in its earnest striving for a just and lasting peace.

We urge the United States to continue to intensify all efforts toward direct negotiations among the countries in the Middle East. We equally urge the Congress of the United States and the Administration to maintain strong military aid and economic support for Israel.

On Arab Investments in the United States

Arab investments in the U.S. are not opposed, as such, by the Jewish community. At the same time, safeguards against Arab control of U.S. industries

or institutions that could threaten U.S. security and economic stability, impair the independent exercise of U.S. foreign policy, or endanger the American democratic process and rights of American citizens are deemed imperative.

Accordingly, the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service calls for:

I. Disclosure and Limitation Legislation

We support legislation that would prohibit any acquisition where the acquiring person or affiliate of such person has participated in any action to force other firms to boycott an American business firm because it has business dealings in or with a foreign country with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations. We also urge the creation of an instrument for the designation of additional categories of industry whose critical character requires that they be barred from control by foreign investors.

We call for the adoption of legislation requiring appropriate disclosure of data on foreign investments showing the extent of foreign ownership of American enterprises, and legislation providing the means for strict enforcement of existing limitations upon foreign ownership of critical sectors of the American economy.

II. Legislation and Enforcement of Existing Law to Counter the Arab Boycott

We urge vigorous enforcement of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1972, which makes it an unlawful employment practice to discriminate against any individual with respect to his conditions or privileges of employment because of such individual's religion. This applies

not only to private employers, but to all branches of government, including the Armed Forces.

We urge that the Antitrust Division, the S.E.C. and other antitrust, banking and regulatory agencies responsible for the overview of corporate conduct and business relationships, strictly enforce existing laws and regulations which would limit or eliminate the effects of Arab boycott activities. We also call for relevant state enforcement of their statutes where applicable.

We urge the adoption of legislation to prohibit racial and religious discrimination as a result of foreign commercial agreements, not only in employment, where it is already illegal, but also in the selection of officers, customers, suppliers and all other aspects of a company's operations.

We urge the inclusion in all federal contracts of language that would prohibit any person doing business with the government from entering or engaging in any discriminatory commercial contract or practice in any aspect of its business whatsoever.

We urge that legislation be enacted which would penalize those who refuse to do business with any person or company because of religion, race or national origin.

We urge that legislation be enacted which would penalize those who discriminate against persons or companies who do business with, or are otherwise connected to, any friendly country.

We call for Congressional study of international agencies in which the United States is a participant, to limit the role these agencies play either directly or indirectly in furthering discrimination against American citizens or the boycott of countries friendly to the United States.

On Soviet Jewry

The Conference notes with alarm and condemns the recent upsurge in

harassment, coercion, intimidation, arrests and trials of Soviet Jews whose only "crime" is that they seek to exercise their human right to be reunited with their families in Israel.

While Soviet authorities have escalated their campaign against would-be emigrants, the number of Jews permitted to leave the Soviet Union, particularly since the beginning of this year, has been drastically decreased. Some 130,000 persons who have filled the necessary documents for permission to leave still wait anxiously for an affirmative answer.

We further condemn the virulent anti-Semitic propaganda campaign being waged in the mass media and in books and periodicals issued by the controlled press of the USSR, which can only exacerbate anti-Semitism.

We call upon the Soviet Union to cease its illegal interference with international mail and telecommunications which constitutes the construction of another wall separating Soviet Jews from one another and from their relatives and friends abroad, thereby intensifying their isolation.

We view with great apprehension the additional burden placed on Soviet Jews with new restrictions against financial aid to those who have applied to leave for Israel, have not been allowed to work, and are in severe financial straits. This is an inhuman act of retaliation which must be condemned.

In Conference assembled, we call upon the Soviet Union to halt these and other violations of human rights and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These are expressive of international recognition that violations of human rights are no longer the "internal affair" of any nation.

We call upon Soviet authorities to permit all Soviet Jews who wish to do so

to be reunited with their families in Israel or elsewhere in accordance with the stated promises of Soviet officials when in the West.

We also call upon the Soviet Union to make available to Soviet Jews the rights given to other Soviet nationalities and minorities, including the institutions, schools, textbooks and materials necessary to teach the religious traditions and beliefs, the languages, the history, the culture and the aspirations of the Jewish people.

The National Conference of Jewish Communal Service is committed to the principle that the movement of goods, capital and services between countries within the context of detente, should be furthered, provided that there is also free flow of people.

We hail the action of the Congress of the United States which, having overwhelmingly demonstrated the will of the American people by passing legislation linking international trade to free emigration, has transformed this human principle into law signed by the President.

We reiterate our support for the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and we therefore urge the President to make clear to the Soviet Union that America's commitment to ensure emigration rights for Soviet Jews is now incorporated in this legislation.

We call upon the President to intervene on behalf of the Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience, whose only "crime" is their expressed wish to go to Israel in order that they may be allowed to go there.

We call upon our constituents to mobilize every possible local resource for these ends, and to join in the national programs of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Our Canadian constituents look to

the Canadian government to do everything within its power for the emigration and full rights of Soviet Jews.

Despite many obstacles, over 100,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel in recent years. Increasing numbers are coming to the U.S. and Canada as well.

We urge stepped up support from community campaigns and cooperation with agencies which are responsible for their integration into their new communities.

Moved by the dictum that each Jew is responsible for the welfare of another, and inspired by the courage and heroism of the Soviet Jews struggling to achieve their goals, we pledge our continued solidarity with the Soviet Jews. Our efforts will be unceasing until every Soviet Jew who wishes to remain in Russia is free to live in accordance with the Jewish ethos.

On Social Welfare

The Conference is deeply concerned that the Administration's repeal and reduction of human services programs will place an inequitable burden on our nation's aged, poor and disabled. We believe that the Congress of the United States should retain the gains already achieved and strive to expand them. We urge Congress to support the following major social issues:

Social Security: The solvency of the Social Security system has been unduly questioned despite the fact that social security operates effectively and provides benefits to more than 30 million people. We appeal to Congress to strengthen the Social Security Act by adjusting the escalator clause of the law to permit cost-of-living benefits to increase twice a year instead of annually. We also urge the 94th Congress to oppose any attempt to hold benefit payments to 5 percent.

Comprehensive Health Care: We believe that a single system of health care for the entire population of our

country will effect reform in the delivery of health care and the control of costs. We urge Congress to enact the Corman-Kennedy Health Security Act of 1975 which contains provisions for a comprehensive program, financed on a progressive tax scale with strict cost and quality controls.

Older American Act Amendments: We believe that enactment of the Older American Act Amendments of 1975 (H.R. 3922) will help improve life for millions of older Americans. We urge continuation of existing programs and the creation of a new special service program to enable the elderly to live at home rather than in institutions.

Food Stamps: 18 million Americans are embraced within the Federal food stamp program. We believe the program can be strengthened by Congressional enactment of provisions which will exclude from the computation of income, Federal, State and local governments benefits accruing to food stamp applicants from other programs and by making households immediately eligible to participate in the program for a period of 30 days within which period their applications are being verified.

Juvenile Delinquency: Although Congress passed and the President approved the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, no funds have been appropriated to implement the program. We urge full Congressional support for the appropriation of funds to assist State and local governments to plan and conduct programs related to juvenile delinquency in the areas of education, prevention, and rehabilitation.

Tay-Sachs Disease: We favor the passage of S. 1714 which would establish a voluntary Tay-Sachs disease education, screening and counseling program which would be beneficial to 1 in 30 American citizens of Eastern Eu-

ropean Jewish origin and to 1 in 300 other Americans who lack the enzyme which causes the disease which kills thousands of children each year.

Student Loans: The Federal student loan program should be continued in fiscal year 1976, especially since higher education institutions facing a financial crisis, are being forced to raise tuition fees. We urge Congress to enact legislation which would eliminate financial need as a determining qualification for receipt of student loan aid, and to shift to a reliance on grants rather than loans.

On Jewish Education

This Conference affirms its support for previous resolutions concerning strengthening and extending Jewish education.

We recognize and commend the increased funding of Jewish education and urge that Jewish education in its totality be moved to the highest level of concern on the domestic agenda.

We also strongly endorse the growing trend in our agencies to make Jewish knowledge a vital ingredient on the professional competence of the Jewish communal worker. Accordingly, in communities where they are not available, we urge the creation and speedy implementation of in-service programs in Judaica for the Jewish communal workers. We furthermore recommend that on-going Jewish studies be recognized as a basic requirement for professional advancement.

On Retirement Planning

The field of Jewish communal service now has several hundred former professional staff members who have retired, and it is anticipated that these numbers will be augmented substantially in the next five years. Problems related to retirement, which will eventually affect the security of all Jewish

communal workers, young and old, present a serious challenge to our organization and to the entire American Jewish community. Their resolution is of the utmost significance to all of us.

In order to provide the best possible professional services to the field of Jewish communal service and to continue to attract and retain the most qualified personnel, we need to offer high standards of personnel practice affecting security on the job, and in later years, through adequate retirement plans. Sound retirement planning requires adequate pre-retirement counseling, and the financial and vocational upgrading of present pension plans. In addition such plans should provide higher benefits, include provision for inflationary contingency and continued health coverage after retirement. We recommend that the NCJCS Personnel

Committee explore the existing retirement plans of agencies and identify those salient factors which will enhance the effectiveness of retirement planning.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the NCJCS, urge that the Associate Groups, all national organizations and their professional and lay constituents, give their full cooperation to examining their current practices with respect to pre-retirement planning, improving and upgrading their retirement plans and maintaining meaningful contact with and providing work opportunities for their retirees. We ask all agency executives and members of the Conference to call to the attention of their Boards of Directors and officers, the substance of this resolution and to urge the implementation of its provisions.