

Exchanges from Other Papers

Kansas City Jewish Chronicle

LOCAL VIEWS VARY ON CATHOLIC DOCUMENT, BUT MOST OPINIONS ARE FAVORABLE

Last week the Jewish Chronicle carried a story with the views of national and international Jewish leaders on the action of the Ecumenical Council in passing the much-amended declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations. Final promulgation of the document by the Vatican is expected this week. Some of the reaction of Kansas City's leadership is shown below.

Morris Cohen, Chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau:
"Although many Jews had hoped that the statement would have been more forthright, it remains an important document that supports the programs developed by Catholics of good will, and the spirit seen in Kansas City among Catholic leaders. The statement, long overdue, is welcomed as a base for continued advancement."

Rabbi David Paley, Congregation Ohev Shalom:
"I think it unfortunate that the liberalism of the Vatican exemplified by the late Pope John XXIII has been overshadowed by the conservative element. Far greater good could have been accomplished with a stronger resolution, rather than a weak one."

Father Lawrence B. Guillot, Executive Secretary of the Kansas City Ecumenical Library:
"The declaration represents a forward motion which is two-fold: (1) the Church has taken a stand against all prejudice and against anti-Semitism in particular, and (2) has opposed the presentation in preaching, and education, and in any written materials, of any blame on the Jewish people, either of the time of Christ or of the present day."

Mrs. Nathan Shechter, Chairman of the local committee of the Anti-Defamation League:
"Anti-Semitism has received a mortal blow by the statement. Its forceful interpretation will, I hope, overcome many of the weaknesses in it. It is a compromise, but a compromise, we feel at this time, on the side of the angels."

Rabbi Maurice D. Solomon, Senior Rabbi of Kehilath Israel Synagogue:
"We hope that the declaration deploring anti-Semitism will help only as the Church moves forward to fulfill in practice the principles embodied in this declaration will

promote better understanding among all peoples and contribute to the effective elimination of bigotry and prejudice. However, its true significance and meaning emerge."

Rabbi Morris B. Margolies, Senior Rabbi of Beth Shalom Congregation:
"Too much has already been said on this matter. I would add nothing more, other than to say that the Catholic Church had a glorious opportunity for hitting a 'home run' and came up with a 'scratch single' instead."

Dr. Elliot S. Berkley, Chairman of the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee:
"The American Jewish Committee, which has pioneered in the field of inter-religious understanding, hopes that the Vatican statement will provide us with new opportunities for advancement in this area."

Rabbi Hirschel Jaffe, Assistant Rabbi of Temple B'nai Jehudah:
"Anti-Semitism is essentially a Christian problem, and it is unwelcome and undignified for Jews to recommend what should be the official doctrine of the church. I believe personally that the highly emotional content of this matter will continue to vex us until we reach a more enlightened age of religious belief."

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND, THE AUCTION-RAFFLE DRAWING EVENING OF SUNDAY, NOV. 14, WHERE HOLDERS OF \$50 TICKETS FOR THE \$7,500 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL ARE INVITED GUESTS, WILL BE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. FOR \$5 DONATION YOU WILL RECEIVE A DELUXE DINNER, ENJOY A FULL PROGRAM OF TOP ENTERTAINMENT AND TAKE PART IN THE AUCTION OF \$50,000 IN CHOICE MERCHANDISE. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO TEMPLE.

Rabbi Herbert I. Berger, Beth Israel Synagogue:
"The entire discussion is a bit late, but the omission of the word decide in favor of other wording is not as important as how the statement is interpreted by Catholics themselves. This is neither a time for sorrow nor for rejoicing,

but of waiting to see what develops. No harm can come of the statement, and only time will tell if good comes."

Rabbis William B. Silverman, Yehuda Fleischmann, William A. Greenebaum II, and Alexander Graubart could not be reached for comment.



ECUMENISM IN ACTION - The Brotherhood of Temple B'nai Jehudah were the guests last week of the Men's Club of the Country Club Christian Church at an Inter-faith Dinner held at the church at 61st and Ward Parkway. Also participating were the Men's Clubs of St. Elizabeth, St. Peter, and Visitation Catholic churches. Shown at the dinner are (L. to R.) Rabbi William B. Silverman, Senior Rabbi of Temple B'nai Jehudah; Chester Stovall, Executive Director of the Human Resources Board, who was guest speaker; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Schumacher, Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese; and Rev. Lawrence W. Bash, Minister of the Country Club Christian Church. (Photo by Dan Kaplan)



KOFFEE KLATCH

Member Stealing; Crime Without Rhyme

By VIDA GOLDGAR

In most Jewish communities, particularly the smaller ones, it is looked on by Those In Authority as the solemn duty of each Jew to join each and every organization. In my town there's such an overlapping of membership that people are pulled in several directions. We all like to claim that OUR pet group is completely free of any taint of jealousy, competitiveness or member-stealing

from our fellow groups. Tain't necessarily so. Don't know too much about the men's groups, but the gals are a different story! First intimation of trouble seems to come between those organizations whose primary benefits accrue to the American scene and those mainly dedicated to helping Israel. Yes, there are those who manage to keep membership going on both sides of the fence. I consider them

to be the true diplomats... with talents as unique as the UNERS. What of all this competition over memberships? Is it real? Is it healthy?

Well, this is the answer many club leaders give: "Judaism in America today has become a culture of organizations."

Perhaps you'd be surprised to know that I heard that statement not long ago at a meeting of one of those self-same organizations. I fear it's true to a dangerous extent. My 1965 American Jewish Yearbook, hot off the press, lists more than 258 National Jewish organizations, associations, institutions and the like. A breakdown indicates the largest number of those are religion and education oriented - with Zionest and pro-Israel a close second. The balance seem to be fairly evenly distributed

among community relations, cultural, overseas aid, social-mutual benefit and social welfare.

Doesn't that seem to you an enormous lot of "organizing" for a Jewish population only slightly over 5 1/2 million? It does to me.

This data goes on to list some 20 professional associations, 18 women's organizations or women's divisions and 21 youth and college organizations (not including so-called "Jewish fraternities and sororities.") A great many of my readers probably don't realize we also have such groups as the Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain (1899).

Just for fun I whipped out my sharp pencil and some scrap paper. Dividing the total population by the number of organization's, here's the figure (of small benefit) we

come up with: If the total Jewish population, man, woman and child, were evenly distributed - club-wise - each group would only have about 22,000 members.

Are we quite fair to ourselves and to those we are trying to help by not attempting some sort of consolidation?

Somehow it is beyond me to determine why we can't have some greater cooperation and less fussing and fuming and competition for membership, funds and meeting priority. This is not to detract from the individual good done by each organization. Just through simplification, though, the good could become greater; the need for stealing members from each other lesser. Member stealing is crime without rhyme for Jewish women's organizations who want to get things done.

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