

FRESHMEN . . .

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of Jews said so.

In their attitudes toward many public issues, the non-Jewish and Jewish freshmen strongly resembled each other. Thus, they differed by less than five percentage points on whether the Federal Government should be more involved in eliminating violence from TV, control of pollution, tax incentives to control the birthrate, special benefits for veterans, and crime prevention.

The two groups also differed little in the prevalence of the belief that "an individual person can do little to bring about changes in our society." Of the Jews, 39.7 per cent said they shared this belief; of the non-Jews, 35.6 per cent did.

More Jews than non-Jews favored legalizing abortion, abolition of capital punishment, and greater Federal involvement in eliminating poverty and desegregating schools. The differences here ran from 14 to 20 percentage points. Larger differences were found with respect to liberalizing divorce laws (favored by 59.4 per cent of Jews and 36.4 per cent of non-Jews), legalization of marijuana (51.9 per cent Jews, 24.0 per cent non-Jews, and more Federal involvement in control of firearms (79.0 per cent Jews, 47.4 per cent non-Jews).

Whether these and other differences in attitudes stem primarily from students' specific Jewish or Christian backgrounds, or from the predominantly urban middle-class status that Jews share with certain Christian groups such as the Episcopalians, is to be the subject of further research, Mr. Hoffman stated.

When it came to political preferences, overwhelming majorities of both groups proved to be moderates. No fewer than 90.2 per cent of Jews and 94.9 per cent of non-Jews described themselves as "moderately conservative," "middle-of-the-road," or "liberal."

Within this large moderate group, Jews took a more liberal stance than non-Jews. The figures for Jews were: liberal, 46.0 per cent; middle-of-the-road, 33.5 per cent; moderately conservative, 10.7 per cent. For non-Jews, the corresponding percentages were 28.6, 45.1

and 21.2.

At the extreme ends of the political spectrum, more Jewish students called themselves "left" (8.8 per cent) than "strongly conservative" (1.0 per cent), while for non-Jewish students the figures were nearly equal (2.7 per cent "left", 2.4 per cent "strongly conservative").

When queried about their current religious preferences, 20.0 per cent of freshmen reared as Jews said they no longer identified with the Jewish religion. Similarly, among those reared as Christians of one or another denomination, 15.3 per cent indicated a current preference for a non-Christian faith or for none.

Of the former Christians and former Jews alike, about 4 per cent had embraced a new religion. Among the ex-Jews in this group, about half had chosen a faith outside the major denominations of American Christianity. The major Christian faiths most often adopted by former Jews were Catholicism (in two-year colleges) and Unitarianism (in four-year colleges). However, Jewish converts to each of these accounted for less than 1 per cent of the total number of students raised as Jews.

A study carried out during the 1960's for the American Jewish Committee by the Columbia University Bureau of Applied Social Research indicated that Jewish college students' declared disaffiliations from their families' religion were as a rule only temporary. Similarly, Nathan Glazer, in his book, "American Judaism," showed that Jews who had abandoned Judaism during the 1920's and 1930's had for the most part returned to the fold.

LONDON (WNS) -- Moshe Leven, European general manager of the Israeli Citrus Marketing Board reported that Israel expects to export more than 48 million boxes of citrus fruits this year as compared with 45 million in 1969.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--Details of a plan to blow up the Shalom Tower, Israel's only skyscraper, were disclosed at the trial of a Swiss youth who was arrested at Haifa port last summer with explosives concealed on his person. He said he had been trained by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Lebanon.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--Shops and schools in Gaza City closed one day as residents mourned the death of terrorist Yusef el Hamid Mouhammed Habib, deputy commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who was killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol.

NEW YORK (WNS)--The United Synagogue of America has announced plans to send a bookmobile containing thousands of volumes of Judaica, pamphlets and film strip to college campuses throughout the country to stimulate interest in Judaica.



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