

NIXON PLEDGES AID TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

NEW YORK (WNS) -- President Nixon's surprise pledge of aid to private and parochial schools made at a Knight's of Columbus dinner here, was both attacked and applauded by Jewish groups.

Applauding the President's statement were seven prominent Conservative Jewish spokesmen, including officials of the Rabbinical Assembly and professors of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In a joint statement, the seven said "the achievements of private schools in strengthening the fabric of American democratic diversity merit their maximum support from public as well as private funds. They also stated that those individuals and groups within and outside the Jewish community who have expressed their opposition to the Nixon pledge 'are opposed to any form of aid to religious-oriented schools, whether constitutional or not.'"

Also applauding the President's remarks were leaders of the National Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) and Agudath Israel. Julius Berman, president of COLPA said "it is our hope that those organizations that have fought so successfully to deprive the non-public schools of governmental aid will realize the financial disaster that may result from these efforts and join hands with the President to save the non-public school system, including those established under Jewish auspices." Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel of America, in a telegram to President Nixon said "your forthright stand, coming in the wake of the tragic decision by U.S. Supreme Court on this issue, may prove to be a historic turning point in the struggle to end discrimination from which the non-public schools have been suffering for so long."

Attacking the President's stand, Will Maslow, executive director of the American Jewish Congress said "the primary and proper purpose of parochial schools is to propagate the faith. The government has no obligation to assist in that aim and is constitutionally prohibited from doing so. Just as we have called on the Jewish community to provide adequate support for Jewish day schools -- without tainting their independence or infringing the rights of others by seeking public funds for religious education -- so do we respectfully suggest that the Catholic community provide the support its parochial schools require."

WORLD UNION OF JEWISH YOUTH

By DEBBY LITTMAN

Eighty-five Jewish students from Europe and ten students from Israel will join one hundred and fifty Jewish students from communities throughout the United States and Canada for the first international student conference on Jewish culture and lifestyles.

The conference, "Jew-ing it '32: Encounters in the Month of Elul," will be held at the JYC Camp in Zeiglerville, Pennsylvania. It is being planned for Labor Day weekend by the World Union of Jewish Students, in co-operation with the North American Jewish Students' Network and the Philadelphia Union of Jewish Students. Making

the conference possible are the contributions of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Federation of Jewish Agencies

of Greater Philadelphia. More information about the conference can be obtained from the North American Jewish Students' Network, 154 West 27th Street, New York, N.Y.

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GREETING CARDS TO SOVIET JEWS

This year's campaign to send greeting cards to Soviet Jews who have publicly declared their desire to leave the Soviet Union began today as the Jewish high holiday season draws near.

The campaign which started in Los Angeles two years ago, has become one of the most significant forms of protest in which Americans can engage on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Si Frumkin, Chairman of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews and one of the originators of the project, said: "Last Passover we were overwhelmed when we were forced to distribute close to a half a million cards through-

out the world. People desperately wanted to communicate with the fighting Jews in the Soviet Union and we were fortunate enough to be able to give them the opportunity to do so." The two Soviet Jewry organizations said they may distribute over one million cards before Rosh Hashana is even completed.

The cards come five to a package and are \$1.00 per package. Organizations and groups who buy in quantities greater than 100 packages get a 50% discount. The cards can be obtained by writing to "Cards", P. O. Box 5220, Los Angeles, California, 90055.

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