

ISRAEL'S TOTAL CARE INFANT CENTER

Over 1,000 children are born each year in Jerusalem with handicaps or with the threat of handicaps developing. These disabilities may range from severe physical diseases or malformation, as may be caused by muscular dystrophy or polio, to mental retardation and emotional disturbances.

To care for these, the weakest of the city's children, the Jerusalem Infant and Child Development Center was established in September 1970. Its program, ambitious and unique, is to provide total and coordinated care for the physically and mentally handicapped children.

The Center, located in the heart of Jerusalem's New City, was conceived and established as a cooperative effort by Malben, the Joint Distribution Committee's program in

Israel, Hadassah and local agencies, as the result of a series of studies on the needs of the handicapped children in Jerusalem and the facilities available.

In the year and a half since the Center opened its doors it has treated several hundred handicapped children and their families. The Center's services, which are free, begin at birth, or even before birth if there are indications that the infants may or may become handicapped. They are provided by a team of doctors, nurses and social scientists under the leadership of Professor Alex Russell of the Hebrew University Medical School.

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PRE-SCHOOLER OF THE CLEVELAND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD, DOES MORE THAN SAMPLE THE MATZAH SHE BAKED AT THE CENTER. LIKE YOUNGSTERS IN OTHER CENTERS, SHE IMBIBES KNOWLEDGE FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR ABOUT THE RELATION OF HER OWN LIFE TO THE FLIGHT OF THE JEWS FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM AND TO ISRAEL.

RACE, ETHNIC ORIGIN NOT RELEVANT

NEW YORK -- No Federal government application form should contain questions on race or ethnic origin, the American Jewish Congress said in response to an inquiry from the Office of Management and Budget of the Executive Office of the President.

Such questions, the Jewish group said, would inhibit minority group applicants by suggesting "that race is a relevant factor in choosing among applicants."

Information about race or ethnic origin would also facilitate "deliberate, intentional discrimination," Will Maslow, executive director of the Congress, declared.

The American Jewish Congress statement was contained in a letter to Royce L. Lowry, clearance officer of the Office of Management and Budget of the Executive Office of the President, giving the Congress' views on the advisability of re-instituting a racial and ethnic question on government application forms.

In a letter to the Congress seeking its advice on the question, Mr. Lowry had written

that the Federal government had been removing questions on race from application forms.

Recently, however, he wrote, officials of three Federal programs had requested inclusion of such a question on the ground it was necessary to "evaluate the success of their efforts to meet minority recruiting goals." Mr. Lowry's letter did not indicate which officials had asked for the question to be included on the Federal forms.

Mr. Lowry asked the Congress to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of having such questions on application forms for employment, fellowships or scholastic assistance or admission to a service academy, on all federal application forms or on some, depending upon the specific program.

"Any benefits that may accrue from this procedure are far outweighed by the attendant evils," Mr. Maslow said in his reply.

"It is the position of the American Jewish Congress that no such questions should be asked."

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