

Rosh Hashanah Message

5733-1972

BY PHILIP E. HOFFMAN

PRES. THE AMER. JEWISH COMM.

As American Jews join their brethren all over the world in preparing to mark these solemn and sacred days ushering in the year 5733, we are thankful for all the blessings of life in a free and open society. We are fortunate in being citizens of a land where our lives as Jews can be rich and rewarding, and in which the opportunity exists for the perpetuation of our heritage of freedom and faith.

We rejoice in the knowledge that many more of our fellow Jews have been enabled to leave the confines of Soviet Russia during this year and can now live as free men and as proud Jews in Israel and in other countries of the free world.

We are disturbed by the new impediments placed in the path of those who wish to leave the Soviet Union, including the demands for the payment of exit visa fees ranging up to \$25,000. We hope and pray, however, that the coming year will see Soviet Jews able to exercise their full rights and that the way will be open for those who wish to leave the country to do so.

As American Jews, we are deeply gratified that our country's commitment to assist Israel in maintaining her security has had the continuing support of all men of good will; that Americans so clearly recognize that a free and secure Israel can be a bulwark of strength in the Middle East. We look forward to the day when the crushing burden of defense needs can be removed from Israel, and, indeed, from all the nations of the Middle East, and the satisfactions and rewards of a genuine peace can become a reality for that part of the globe.

Jews are directed by the tenets of our faith to be concerned with the welfare of the com-

munity. In this critical year, when Americans will again be electing their leaders and representatives to conduct the affairs of our country we welcome the responsibility and the opportunity that is ours to examine the compelling issues of the day in the quest for social justice. Each of us, in the exercise of his own judgment, will manifest his concern with our nation's welfare by exercising the franchise and thus making our voices heard.

In the pursuit of human equality, Jews will persist in their efforts to end the patterns of discrimination that for too long have dampened and impeded the legitimate aspirations of our many minority groups. And as we will urge that special measures be pursued to overcome the dramatic and long-standing inequities in our society in the fields of employment, education and housing, we will resist any efforts to impose new inequities, to institute quotas that will proffer opportunities on a basis other than merit.

In the new year, we shall be buttressed by our faith in the essential goodness of man and by our devotion to the principles of our religious teachings. We adhere to the belief that man has the ability with himself to change for the better and thus pursue the path of righteousness and justice. Let us resolve that the coming year will be one in which we will pursue the cause of peace and freedom with unending zeal

ALBANY (WNS) -- Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, and Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York City, have signed state and city bills which prohibit all types of elections on the Jewish Sabbath or holy days of all faiths.

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