

# The Jewish Vote

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Historically, especially in Europe, it was the conservatives who more often tried to keep the Jews from citizenship and equal rights, and the liberals who favored the non-discriminatory admission of Jews into the general body politic. In Great Britain, more than 100 years ago, the Conservatives voted against the right of Jews to be elected to Parliament, and the Liberals voted for it. To this day, proportionately fewer Jews vote for the Conservative party than other Englishmen of equivalent social and economic status; and since the Liberal party has declined greatly, British Jews are apt to vote for the Labor party.

As between liberalism and conservatism then, Jews throughout the world tend to favor liberalism. In the U.S., despite the ideological blurring between and within the two great parties the Democrats outside the South are, as a general rule, perceived to be more liberal -- and are therefore more appealing to most Jews.

This liberal preference would appear to conflict with the economic interests of a fairly prosperous group -- and indeed, the significant minority of Jewish Republicans tends to be more prosperous, on average, than Jewish Democrats. But in the conflict between present economic status and traditional party preference, Jews have yielded less than others to present economic status. There is no hard evidence as to the reasons for this fact. But there is hard evidence that it is a fact.

The consensus of informed and thoughtful students is that the Jewish community maintains an operating those of what might be called civic concern. Just as Jews have been exceptionally responsive to philanthropic obligations, so they have also been responsive to political appeals, in the name of justice and compassion, for the poor and weak. The philanthropic impulse expresses itself in a readiness to contribute to Federation, United Jewish Appeal or United Way.

As to the issues that American Jews are weighing in this election: some -- Israel, Soviet Jewry, preferential quotas -- are of special concern to them as Jews; others -- Vietnam, inflation, unemployment, crime, welfare reform -- are the same issues being weighed by the electorate as a whole.

# Brandeis University

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More important than physical growth at Brandeis is the University's commitment to academic quality. It is a commitment taken from the past and built into the future. Daily reminders of scholarly progress are everywhere on campus. They embrace the new Sachar International Center, the soon-to-be-completed Rosenstiel Basic Medical Sciences Research Center, the recently-opened Philip W. Lown School for Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, the Feldberg Computer Center and others.

The search for knowledge at Brandeis follows the ideals insisted upon 25 years ago by Dr. Sachar. At ceremonies inaugurating the University on October 8, 1948, he said: "Brandeis will be an institution of quality, where the integrity of learning, of research, of writing, of teaching, will not be compromised."

Three years after its birth, Brandeis acquired authority to confer graduate and professional degrees, an act consummated initially in 1952 when the University's "pilot freshmen"

The question being asked as we approach the November elections is whether we are beginning to see a slow but decisive change in the political outlook and behavior of American Jews, tending towards a shift from the Democrats to the Republicans, or whether the current ups and downs are not much more than wiggles on a graph line, hardly affecting the long-term trend. And the answer is that it is far too soon to be able to tell.

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donned cap and gown for the school's inaugural commencement. Eleanor Roosevelt, America's foremost lady and a close friend of Brandeis, was principal speaker that day.

The embryonic period of Israeli growth, meanwhile, was predictably eventful. In 1949, with its firm democratic government installed, the tiny state was voted into the UN. Before that, Dr. Chaim Weizmann had been elected first president of Israel by the Knesset, the nation's parliamentary body. The first prime minister was, of course, David Ben-Gurion.

In the same year as the creation of the Hiatt Institute, Brandeis was honored by the national scholastic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, which empowered the University to organize a local chapter on campus. As a result in Oct., 1961, Brandeis became the youngest independent institution of higher education since the 18th century to be so honored.

In 1962 and 1965, Brandeis received "matching grants" from the Ford Foundation, given to support broad-based academic development. When the second of these \$6 million awards was made, Brandeis became one of only five universities in the nation to have been similarly honored. University officials were gratified at such expressions of confidence in a school so young.

As Brandeis prospered, so did Israel. "By 1964," Dr. Sachar recalls in his book, "the expansion of the gross national product compared favorably in rate of growth with that of those countries of Western Europe that had been revitalized by the Marshall Plan.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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