

# JEWISH GROUPS URGE BARRING ARAB BOYCOTT AGAINST AMERICANS

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Jewish organizations are urging President Ford and Congress to introduce legislation to prevent the use of the Arab boycott against American individuals and companies.

Ford, at a press conference at Hollywood, Florida, expressed concern over press reports that Arab oil-producing nations were boycotting international banks in which Jews had interests. He said "such discrimination is totally contrary to the American tradition and repugnant to American principals." He said any allegations of such discrimination must be fully investigated.

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Seymour Graubard, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and Rabbi Arthur Herzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, praised Ford's statement. Rabbi Herzberg urged Attorney General Edward S. Levi not to wait for individual com-

plaints but to use the powers granted him under the 1964 Civil Rights Act to bring legal action against job discrimination when he has "reasonable cause" to believe such discrimination exists.

Following Ford's remark's, White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said the Defense Department has ordered an inquiry into whether discriminatory practices have been used in not assigning Jews to places like Saudi Arabia.

Ford has also asked for probes by the Justice, Commerce and State Departments.

The ADL had earlier charged that a score of American firms and two federal agencies are discriminating against Jews and refusing to do business with Israel as a result of Arab pressure. Graubard called for "an immediate, government probe, a clear statement of federal policy, implementation of U.S. regulations, and the adoption of new legislation, if necessary, to halt dishonorable and illegal business practices. B'nai B'rith president David Blumberg in a

letter to Ford, said the nation needs "another civil rights law" to ensure that the anti-discrimination gains of the past generation "are not vitiated by Foreign states."

The AJCongress has declared that Arab investment in U. S. companies was good for the American economy provided legislation was enacted to prevent discrimination against American citizens and boycott against America's friends resulting from Arab pressure. The AJCongress called for the establishment of a federal agency that would compel disclosure of foreign investment in the U.S.

Abraham Feinberg, chairman of the Board of the American Bank and Trust Co., has written to the New York State congressional delegation to note that his bank has been put on the Arab boycott list. He called on the Congressmen to enact legislation to counteract the boycott in which Arab banks are not permitted "to deal directly or indirectly with any bank" on the list.

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