

NCSJ URGES SUPPORT OF JACKSON AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Eugene Gold, newly-elected chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, has reaffirmed strong support for the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the 1974 Trade Act which links U.S. trade benefits for the Soviet Union with the easing of Soviet emigration restrictions on Jews and others.

"It is the law on the books and we must support the law," Gold said at a luncheon ending the NCSJ's two-day board of governors leadership assembly. But he said the NCSJ would support "flexible interpretation of the law" if there was "Soviet compliance with the human rights of Jews." Gold's predecessor, Stanley Lowell, said the campaign for Soviet Jewry will be "long and hard, but it is clear that American Jews and Christians are prepared to shoulder that responsibility for as long as necessary."

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) co-author of the Jackson - Vanik Amendment, assailed President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for their opposition to the legislation and for their effort to get Congress to delete

AFL-CIO

URGES PLATFORM ASSURANCES TO ISRAEL

WASH. (WNS) -- The AFL - CIO has urged the Democratic Platform Committee to include strong assurances for Israel's security in its program for the Presidential campaign.

"True peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East until representatives of all the nations in that region come to a just political agreement

face - to - face," AFL-CIO president George Meany said in a 62-page document which will also be presented to the Republican Platform Committee. "Every necessary economic and military assistance required to maintain Israel as a viable democratic state must be extended and continued by the United States until Israel's security and future

are assured and internationally recognized." Meany also urged the Committee to back efforts of Soviet Jews to emigrate and condemned the Arab boycott of Israel.

Jon Rotenberg, Washington representative of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, told the committee that there are over 140,000 requests

for emigration visas that the USSR has not acted on yet. W. Averill Harriman, chairman of the Democratic Advisory Council's Foreign Affairs Task Force and a former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, said he feels "strongly" that the U.S. "should continue to use every effective influence we can for Jewish emigration."

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it from the trade bill or water it down. California Gov. Edmund J. Brown, Jr., a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, said he favors hard bargaining with the Soviets on American wheat and technology to secure free emigration for Soviet Jews. But he said he had mixed feelings about the effectiveness of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

Meanwhile, a bipartisan group of eight Senators have urged Congress to set up a permanent advisory group that would continuously monitor the treatment of the Jews in the Soviet Union. The group will also ask Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin for information on the current status of 30 Soviet Jews who met with 16 Senators in Moscow last summer. The Senators who launched the program at a breakfast hosted by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R, NY) included Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minn.), Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.); Patrick Lahey (D. Vt.), James Buckley (C-R, N.Y.), James McClure (R, Idaho), Charles Percy (R, Ill.), and Charles Mathias (R. Md.). Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told the Knesset that 20 Soviet Jewish scientists and professionals were summoned to police stations near their homes and told to find jobs or be punished even though they had been fired from their jobs for applying to emigrate to Israel.

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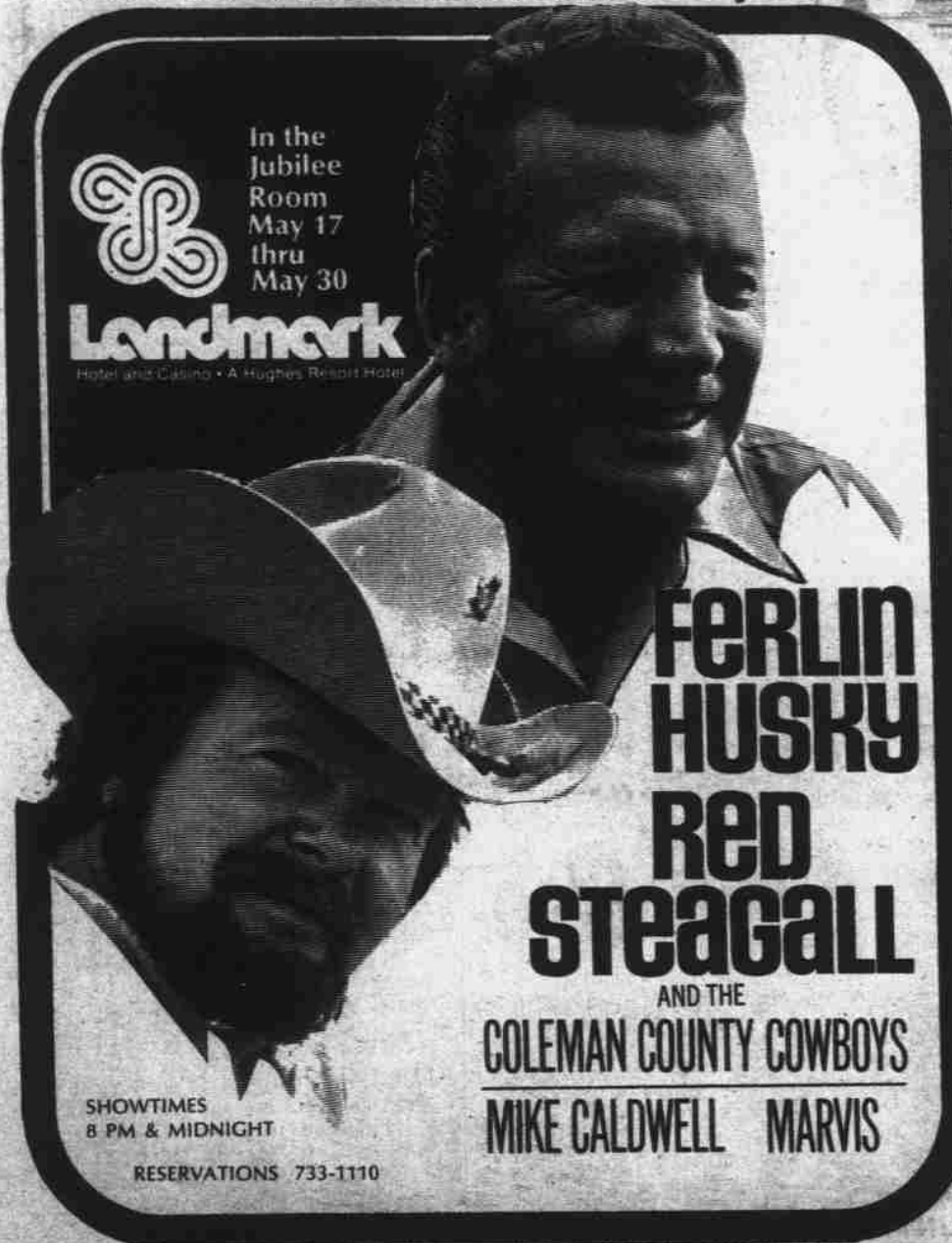
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