

FORD WANTS JEWISH VOTE

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- President Ford told close to 150 Jewish leaders that he was committed to the "security and safety of Israel." While the meeting was closed to the press, participants later told reporters that the President noted that U.S. and military economic assistance to Israel is "for a good cause." Ford said it was "indicative of the action this Administration has taken where Israel's need is great."

Before the White House meeting 125 Jewish leaders from 21 states and the District of Columbia met for two hours with Ford campaign chairman James Baker and other strategists at the Statler Hilton Hotel. They were joined later by a score of other Jewish leaders, who are not in a position to endorse any candidate, for the meeting with Ford at the White House.

On the Soviet emigration issue, Ford was reported as telling the group "I pledge to you I will make every effort with Congress and the Soviets to get broader opportunity for Jews to leave for Israel and the United States. We will not capitulate -- and we will be strong in supporting Israel's position in the United Nations."

Detroit industrialist Max Fisher, who is heading the campaign for Jewish votes, told newsmen after the meeting that "The Administration has made it clear that it wants the Jewish vote and will do everything possible to get it." Fisher said he believed Ford will receive more than 40 percent of the Jewish vote. He noted the importance of this vote by explaining that a shift of 10 percent of the Jewish vote in states like California, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio and Illinois "can be two or three percent of the number that will determine the margin."

L. William Seidman, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs, said "I never saw a Jewish group so enthusiastic about a Republican." Seidman, who is Jewish, said he does not belong to any Jewish organizations. Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R, NY), who attended the White House session, said that "I believe the President's policy respecting Israel is very constructive and a statesmanlike policy for our country. The President fully intends to pursue it and I am satisfied that is the way to go."

Meanwhile, Democratic Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter has accepted an invitation to address the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said that Ford has also been invited but no response has been received as yet from the White House.



PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD RECEIVES THE FIRST B'NAI B'RITH "AMERICAN FREEDOM MEDAL" FROM DAVID BLUMBERG, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF B'NAI B'RITH AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE DELEGATES TO THE BICENTENNIAL CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 9, 1976. IT CARRIES THE LEGEND, "TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION... TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE." GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1790.

RABIN PRAISES U.S. AID, UNDERSTANDING

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The United States has been praised for its aid and understanding of Israel by Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

"The U.S. government supports Israel in the international arena, in the supply of arms and in economic aid almost with no precedence," Ra-

bin told the final session of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America. "The margin between what we want and what we get is very small."

Rabin said that there is sometimes more understanding of Israel's policies by the U.S. government than among Israelis and diaspora Jews.

WITNESSES SOUGHT IN PROBE OF EX-NAZIS

NEW YORK (WNS) -- A team of four U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service attorneys are in Israel to interview witnesses against at least eight alleged former Nazis living in the United States suspected of war crimes, according to immigration commissioner Leonard F. Chapman.

Some of the witnesses "probably will be brought here at government expense to testify against the alleged war criminals at hearings seeking their deportation," he said. The team is headed by Paul C. Vincent, chief trial attorney for the INS, according to Henri Wagner, INS assistant director for investigation. He said the team was on a 30-day assignment but that period could be extended, if necessary.

In addition to the right cases, 77 others are being investigated from a list of 155 originally compiled on the basis of information given by Simon Wiesenthal, the head of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, and other agencies and sources, including individuals, an INS spokesman said. He refused to disclose the names of the suspects or the alleged crimes but said the original list has been reduced to 85 after others on the list turned out to be dead and some were cleared. He said the evidence collected by the INS team in Israel could be used to revoke the suspects' U.S. citizenship and to deport them if it is found that they concealed past activities when they arrived in this country.

Happy New Year



Howard W. Cannon
U.S. Senator

Happy New Year



BRYN ARMSTRONG

DEMOCRAT-COUNTY COMMISSION "F"

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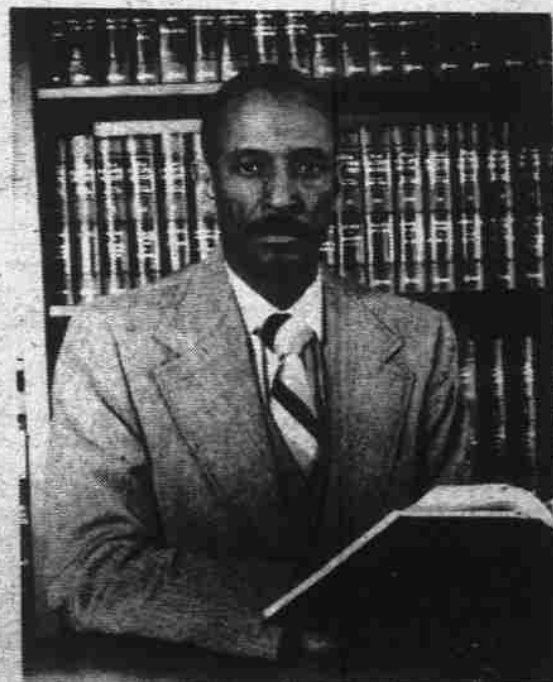
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