

Campaign 1980

In the next few weeks, candidates from all parties will be reaching out and seeking the votes of the Jewish community. Each will pledge unending devotion and loyalty to Israel, each will try and outdo the next. Persuasive ads on radio, television and in papers will appear. Endorsements will ring out. Jews will have to choose. And yet: How should one choose? Are there guidelines to follow? Are there signals to look for?

Let each and every Jew vote and follow his or her conscience and instinct as to what will be the best path for the United States to follow domestically so as to insure freedom, justice, law and stability here at home. And let each and every Jew vote and follow his or her conscience and instinct as to what will be the best path for the United States to follow internationally so as to secure American and Western strength, position, prestige and principle throughout the world.

But what of the Middle East and Jewish interest in that region? How does one pierce all the official declarations and position papers? Allow me to offer several questions that should be asked when looking at a candidate's positions.

One -- Does the candidate have a long-time record of support for the State of Israel? That means if the candidate served in the House or the Senate, what was his or her record like? Did they vote on the crucial issues in such a way as to strengthen the State of Israel?

Two -- Was the candidate accessible during his years of service to the Jewish community? Was there an open-door policy that existed in previous years? And did the Jewish community have access to the person at crucial occasions, not just during election times or for speaking engagements?

Three -- Does the candidate view Israel as a 'moral issue' alone or does he also view Israel in strategic terms? For too long now, politicians of various parties have spoken about the moral value of Israel alone. Yet in the world in which we live morality without power becomes sentimentality at best and dangerous at worst. A candidate must view the State of Israel as being in the strategic interest of the United States -- as a dependable, democratically whose position and power will be of help to this country and her interests.

Four -- Does the candidate constantly urge United States support for the 'survival of Israel' or the 'security of Israel'? This former phrase has been for quite some time a position that disturbs supporters and friends of Israel. Why speak of survival? Israel is here to stay and is a permanent fact in the Middle East, and there should not even be an argument as to that fact of survival. Hence, one must be very careful concerning the choice of rhetoric less it soon set an atmosphere in which self-fulfilling prophecies take over. One should only speak of the security of the State of Israel; on this point alone should one seek to

campaign.

Five -- What is the candidate's geo-political point of view? For example, is the candidate one who sees the world as it is -- or as he would like it to be? Is the candidate supportive of small nations and their quest for freedom and security?

Six -- Does the candidate have an even basic knowledge of Jewish and Middle East history? One of the most frightening situations is to have public officials whose knowledge of the past is sparse or incorrect. 'God cannot alter the past, but historians can,' said Samuel Butler. He was right, except that he forgot to include many politicians whose ignorance of the past assumes a dimension of danger in the present. A public official who, for example, in unaware that in 1922, a territory named TransJordan was carved out of an area called Palestine, is a public official unable to grasp the complexities of the Middle East situation.

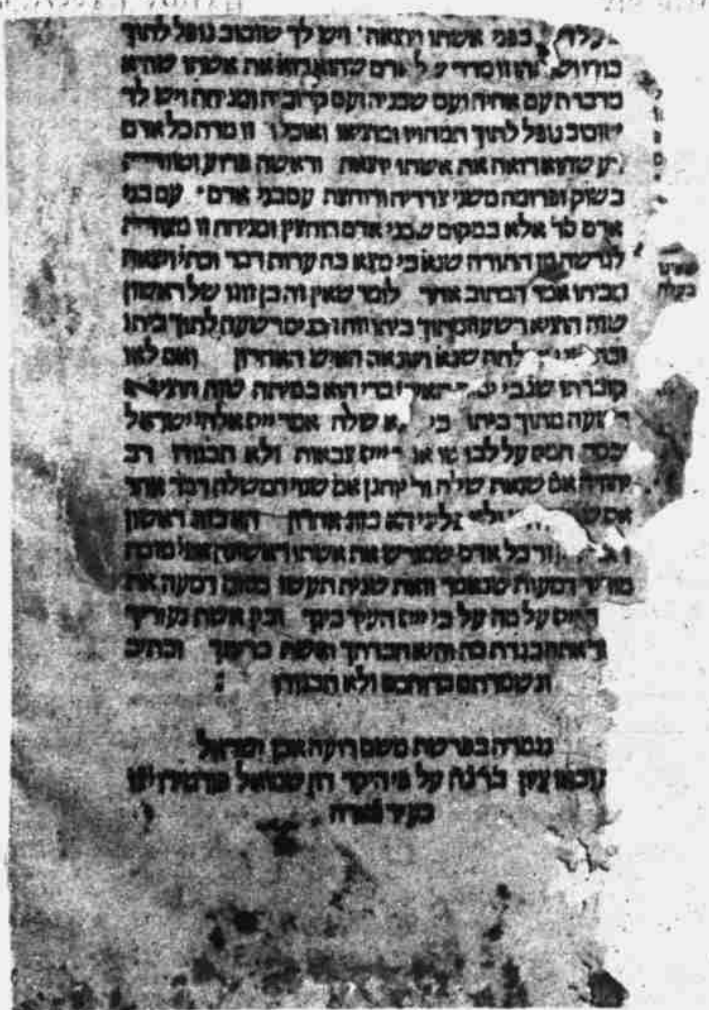
Seven -- Who serves on the candidate's staff? This is one of the most crucial questions that a voter should ask. For it is the staff of a candidate that's the gate which provides accessibility, and it is the staff who will influence the candidate in his positions and voting. Unless a candidate has a particular expertise on the Middle East, he will be relying on his staff.

Eight -- Is the candidate an incumbent or an insurgent? There is much to be said for electing either kind of candidate. An incumbent already is familiar with the levers of power and can move in a variety of ways. On the other hand, an incumbent, perhaps in a final term, can choose to follow paths unhampered by fears of ultimate political judgement.

In essence then, what all the guidelines mean is that honesty alone, competence alone, staff alone, strategic viewpoint alone, historical knowledge alone, long-time support alone, accessibility alone, cannot be criteria; all must be examined and measured against the candidate running for office. And when you combine all of these guidelines with a healthy sense of Jewish skepticism and follow the political maxim to never judge presidential timber by its bark -- then you probably will pick the right candidate. Whatever you do decide, don't forget: be sure and vote!

HONOR RABBI JUNG

NEW YORK (WUP) Department -- Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung, renowned throughout the world as one of the most respected and brilliant authorities in the rabbinical - philosophical field, was honored here in New York on Sunday evening, at the 41st Maccabean Award Dinner sponsored by the Religious Department of the JNF. Held at the Waldorf - Astoria Ballroom, the gala event, also paid tribute to Rabbis Abraham Avrech, Max Hock, and Abraham L. Geller, Chaim Fraiman and James B. Radetsky. Dr. Joseph Kamnitsky, in presenting



A FACSIMILE PAGE FROM THE "LOST" SPANISH TALMUD, ONE OF 550 SUCH PAGES IDENTIFIED BY PROFESSOR HAIM Z. DIMITROVSKY AND PUBLISHED, WITH HIS COMMENTARY BY THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE SPANISH TALMUD, COMPILED IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL IN THE PERIOD 1484 - 1497, AND BASED ON AN OTHERWISE UNKNOWN VERSION OF THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD.

the Maccabean Award to the honoree, announced the establishment of a "Rabbi Leo Jung Forest" in Safed where the noted Ari, father of Kabbalah, had taught that the redemption of the Land of Israel and its people was incumbent upon all Jews.

During the many tributes paid to Dr. Jung, spiritual leader of The Jewish Center here in New York, it was noted that he belongs to a small group of great men of our generation. SUPPORT YOUR LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE NOW IN 15TH YEAR.

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