

**REAGAN MEETS WITH RABBI SHERER**



PRESIDENT REAGAN MET WITH RABBI MORRIS SHERER (R), PRESIDENT, AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA, IN THE OVAL OFFICE. ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETING WAS RABBI MENACHEM LUBINSKY, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS FOR AGUDATH ISRAEL. RABBI SHERER LED A DELEGATION OF 10 MEMBERS OF AGUDATH ISRAEL TO WASHINGTON FOR A SERIES OF MEETINGS AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH VICE PRESIDENT BUSH, TERELL BELL, SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, DR. MARTIN FELDSTEIN, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS AND OTHER HIGH RANKING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND VARIOUS OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In a meeting with Rabbi Moshe Sherer, President of Agudath Israel of America and Chairman of the Agudath Israel World Organization, President Reagan said that he was "very dis-

gan also told Rabbi Sherer he will be "eternally grateful" for Agudath Israel's pioneering work for tuition tax credit legislation.

The meeting between President Reagan and Rabbi Sherer was part of a day in which a leadership mission of Agudath Israel consisting of 160 Orthodox leaders from 13 states communicated its unique concerns to high ranking officials at the White House, the Congress and the State Department.

Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) told the national Orthodox leadership group at the Congressional luncheon that "President Reagan is a true friend of Israel; not so Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger; he gives the President a false view and seeks to exacerbate tensions between the U.S. and Israel."

Vice President George Bush told the Agudath Israel group: "I see the President in his off-guard moments, and I know this man is deeply, personally committed to the safety of Israel." The Vice President also praised the Orthodox organization for its activities

in the fields of education and neighborhood stabilization.

Rabbi Sherer stated that questions raised by the leadership group demonstrated two points: that Agudath Israel, while differing in major policy matters with secular Jewish organizations, is united with all of Jewry in its concern for the security and welfare of Israel; and that Agudath Israel, far from being a one-issue organization, was actively concerned with a broad range of political and economic issues, both foreign and domestic.

Other speakers at the briefings included Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell; Dr. Martin Feldstein, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; Deputy National Security Advisor Robert C. McFarlane; Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams; Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Steven Bollinger; Ambassador Stephen W. Bosworth, Chairman of the Secretary of State's Foreign Policy Council; Ambassador Wat Cluverius, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle

East Negotiations; Ambassador Faith Whittlesey, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison; James Montgomery, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations; and Leonard Burchman, Assistant to the Secretary of HUD for Public Affairs. Coordinator of the program was Michael Gale, Deputy Special Assistant to the President.

A Congressional reception and luncheon for the Agudath Israel leaders was attended by a large number of senators and congressmen, as well as heads of government agencies. Senators D'Amato, Bob Packwood (R-Oregon), John Danforth (R-Mo.), Jacob Hecht (R-Nv.), Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), and Frank Lautenberg (R-N.J.) greeted the leadership on behalf of the senators, and Rep. Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.) and Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) spoke for the congressmen. The re-

ception was chaired by Rabbi Menachem Lubinsky, Director of Government and Public Affairs of Agudath Israel.

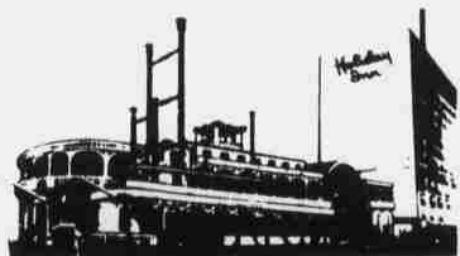
Issues raised by the Orthodox Jewish leadership group reflected their religious orientation. Referring to the Administration's peace plan that would give Jordan's King Hussein a measure of control over the West Bank, one leader pointed out that during the 1948 to 1967 period that Hussein controlled the West Bank, Jews of all countries were forbidden to enter even to pray at Jewish holy places. Asked why, then, Hussein is regarded by the U.S. as a "moderate," Ambassador Cluverius replied, "Moderate is a relative term. The fact is, Hussein does want to join the peace process, but he needs Arab support to do so."

Discussions with Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and

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