

Renewed Black-Jewish Ties Urged

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — The nation's 1.5 million Conservative Jews, who constitute the largest branch of Judaism in America, were told that despite their differences, Jews and Blacks must restore the coalition of the 60's and work together for improved minority conditions in such areas as education and job opportunities, urban renewal and the restoration of the ecological health of our nation's environment.

The call for the restoration of a united Black-Jewish action front was made here at special ceremonies at Independence Hall marking "A Day of Social Concern" sponsored by the Social Action Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly. The RA represents 1200 Conservative rabbis internationally.

"We in the Jewish community are repelled by racial and religious bigotry of any kind and are frightened at a spectre of anti-Semitism, particularly those echoed in the current political campaign," asserted Rabbi Alexander M. Shapiro, South Orange, New Jersey, President of the Rabbinical Assembly. "We must not permit the statements of either a Jesse Jackson or a Rev. Farrakhan prevent an alliance of Blacks and Jews working together for the social improvement of all minorities in America."

A similar declaration was made by Marshall Wolke, President of the United Synagogue of America, representing Conservative Judaism's 850 synagogues. "We reaffirm the historic Jewish commitment to civil rights, which is underscored by the positive contact existing between the Black and Jewish communities, while deploring the demagogic utterings of Black extremists and resultant distortion of Black-Jewish relations.

"We encourage and support all efforts to reestablish a viable, productive relationship between our two communities, both religious and secular, and call upon our rabbis and affiliated synagogues to intensify their efforts to this end," said the USA President from Chicago. His statement was read to the meeting.

In urging renewed Black-Jewish ties, the Rabbinical Assembly and the United Synagogue asked their 1,200 rabbis and 850 congregations to initiate a variety of programs aimed at forging a closer grass roots understanding between Blacks and Jews. Recommendations made were: Pulpit exchanges with Black churches, adult education forums, articles in synagogue and church bulletins, use of Anglo-Jewish and Black publications, formation of local Black-Jewish dialogue groups and discussions on local TV and radio programs.

In his message, Rabbi Shapiro called for the convening of a national meeting of Jews and Blacks, at the earliest possible moment. He

reported that the President of the Synagogue Council of America, representing the congregational and rabbinic bodies of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism, had already undertaken steps for such a convocation. Rabbi Shapiro indicated that Rabbi Mordecai Waxman of Great Neck, the SCA President, told him that several discussions with Black leaders had been held by his organization and that if the proper funding were made available, that a meeting of national Black and Jewish leaders could be held in May or June of 1985.

Rabbi Shapiro stressed that such a gathering must include the widest possible spectrum of representation from both the Black and Jewish communities.

At the Independence Hall ceremonies, the Rabbinical Assembly honored veteran civil rights leader, Bayard Rustin, for his distinguished ser-

vice to humanity and presented him with a mounted shofar (ram's horn) containing the inscription, "master-builder of human rights for all people." Mayor Wilson Goode and Rabbi Max Housen, President of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, also participated in the program.

The RA Social Action Committee meeting was attended by 100 rabbis and laymen from the northeast and the greater Philadelphia area. In addition to Black-Jewish relations, the Conservative Jewish leaders convened at Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel to discuss the question of nuclear disarmament and ecological problems.

The RA's Social Action meeting was organized by Rabbi Myron Fenster, Shelter Rock Jewish Center, Roslyn, New York, Chairman of the RA's Social Action Committee. Local arrangements were handled by Rabbi David Wolf Silverman.

Minyonaire News

By Herb Brown

Can you think of a better way to start the New Year than after Praying we start Playing? Minyonaire Dr. Leonard Kreisler kicks off our fun year by arranging a day at the famous NEVADA TEST SITE.

This government installation, which is hush-hush, as far as to what happens there, will host The Minyonaires, on a tour of the site. Of course without saying, only the parts of the site classified to visitors will be seen. The main fact is though that all The Minyonaires will have a good day.

Continuing with their merry making activities, Minyonaire Max Waldman will cater a special V.I.P. bash for all of his Minyonaire friends, at a meeting place not disclosed to the public as yet. The festive occasion will be the anniversary of his liberation from the Nazis. A timely, beautifully inscribed plaque will be unveiled at this time depicting the importance of this occasion.

After the solemn ceremony of presenting the plaque a sumptuous catered affair will follow.

These are only a couple of many events the Minyonaires have scheduled. BE A MINYONAIRE — YOU'LL ENJOY IT.

UNLV's Division of Continuing Education is offering several courses for nurses and other health-care professionals.

Eastern and Western Techniques for Stress Reduction will be offered Nov. 8 and 15; Basic Concepts in Cancer Chemotherapy, Nov. 7 and 14; and The Nurse's Role in Working with Disaster Victims, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, and 20.

Each of the classes are approved for certification hours by the Nevada State Board of Nursing. Participants are also eligible for continuing education units.

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