

REVEREND JESSE JACKSON AND DR. BENJAMIN HOOKS JOIN JEWISH LEADERS IN KRISTALLNACHT CEREMONY

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Rep. Walter Fauntroy (D-DC), Rabbis Eugene Lipman, David Saperstein, Lynne Landsberg, and Murray Saltzman joined recently in lighting memorial candles at a ceremony of national Black and Jewish leaders commemorating the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht. The ceremony was held at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, in Washington, D.C.

Kristallnacht marks the beginning of the Holocaust, 50 years ago, when Jewish synagogues, buildings and homes were destroyed and 30,000 Jews were deported to Nazi concentration camps. Around the world Wednesday night, lights of synagogues and Jewish buildings remained lighted through the night to symbolize the commitment of people of conscience everywhere not to allow such atrocity to happen again.

"How fitting it is that leaders of these two communities have joined together in the aftermath of our national election to commemorate Kristallnacht. Our nation must revitalize that coalition of decency which once before transformed America for the better, a coalition of which these two communities were an indispensable part," said Rabbi Saperstein, the director of the Religious Action Center. He added: "Blacks and Jews, the quintessential victims of western civilization, must ensure that the lessons of Kristallnacht live on in the life of our nation. From bitter history, we know that as long as any minority is oppressed, no minority can be free. Our common task is to join hands and defeat bigotry, prejudice, poverty and discrimination wherever they are found."

HISTORIC BLACK-JEWISH CONFERENCE SEEKS ARCHIVAL MATERIALS THAT TELL OF PAST TIES IN CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES

Personal recollections of how Blacks and Jews worked together for social justice during the 20th Century are being sought for a historic reunion of Black and Jewish veterans of the civil rights movement being held in late November.

"Written informal reminiscences of personal involvement—or that of parents, relatives or friends—in cooperative endeavors between these two communities would be of immense value in documenting the historic record of cooperation," announced Dr. Kenneth Clark and Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., co-chairs of the reunion conference.

One of the conference's goals is to establish a permanent and detailed archive of the contribution to social justice these two communities made by working together. Towards this goal, copies of originals of diaries, journals, letters, photographs and other memorabilia recalling the Black-Jewish partnership in the 20th Century coalition for decency are sought for inclusion in this archive.

Persons with such materials related to the history of Black-Jewish relations are urged to contribute them directly to the Religious Action Center, 2027 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036, as soon as possible.

The conference, which is being held in Atlanta at the Carter Presidential Center, is co-sponsored by the Marjorie J. Kovler Institute for Black Jewish Relations of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and The Carter Presidential Center. The documents being gathered, together with the video tapes of the November 28 and 29 conference, will be the core of a comprehensive archive on Black-Jewish relations to be housed in Washington, DC at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

The materials will be used "to preserve public awareness of the partnership between Blacks and Jews in fighting for social justice," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Washington-based Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. "We are trying to recapture some of our country's most glorious memories. Recollections of our best deeds in challenging times are the best foundations for honorable and decent struggles for the future," said Roger Wilkins one of the organizers of the event.

Among the participants in the candlelighting ceremony were: Rev. Jesse Jackson; Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Rep. Walter Fauntroy, member of Congress from the District of Columbia; Rabbi Eugene Lipman, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, Associate National Representative, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and Rabbi Murray Saltzman, former

member U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Referring to the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Rev. Jackson said, "Fifty years ago lies, unfounded fear . . . fearmongers, then hatred, then violence, then murder — mass murder: the beginning of the Holocaust. At first a flicker, and then a flame, and then wildfire, and then a furnace. A trek, a train, an oven, an incinerator. The Holocaust. Fifty years ago the lights went out. Evil beyond description. Never again must we allow the lights to go out on the people simply trying to be . . . We're bound by our circumstances as Blacks and

Jews — for it's racism in the morning and anti-Semitism in the afternoon. We gather today seeking common ground. Fifty years later — the haunting question: Yes, we have burned, but what have we learned? We must work harder. We must reach out to all of humanity — for neither Blacks nor Jews lit the flames. We have been burned by them. We reach out to all of humanity and let us together say 'Never Again.'"

In his remarks, Dr. Benjamin Hooks said, "If we two can't get our own act together, I don't see that there's much hope for our nation. I'd like to know that there's not a Black person in this country that can't hear and feel the breaking glass we remember today, and that there is not a Jew in this country who can't hear and feel the glass that still breaks for so many black people."

The NAACP and the Religious Action Center co-sponsor the Kivie Kaplan Human Relations Institute, the only joint instrumentality of Black and Jewish national organizations. The Religious Action Center is also the home of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the major umbrella civil rights lobbying organization in Washington, and the Marjorie J. Kovler Institute for Black-Jewish Relations. The conference room where the ceremony was held was the location for the drafting of the major civil rights legislation of the 1960s.



COSBY'S \$20 MILLION GIFT TRIGGERS CAMPUS EXCITEMENT

by Chester A. Higgins, Sr.
NNPA News Editor

Washington, D.C.—Comedian Bill Cosby's \$20 million gift to Atlanta's Spelman College triggered an avalanche of activity on the campus.

After the announcement, the phone lines were jammed with calls from the media, friends, alumni, and the just plain curious. President Johnnetta B. Cole, the first Black woman to head the elite school, hardly had time to hang up her ceremonial robe following her inauguration before getting caught up in the swirl of events.

It was the largest single gift ever given a Black college, and ranks among the nation's top college bequests. Cosby hopes the gesture will encourage other wealthy Blacks to give to Black institutions. One of the nation's wealthiest men, Cosby earns an annual income estimated to be in excess of \$60 million. One of his daughters is also a graduate of Spelman.

Cosby's gift was announced at the Inaugural Gala during the festive weekend in which Dr. Cole was installed as the seventh president of the school, founded in 1881 in the Reconstruction era as a private, four-year, predominantly Black liberal arts college for women.

More than 2,000 people were in attendance, including Cosby and his wife Camille, Jewell Jackson McCabe, president of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women; Jesse Hill, president of Atlanta Life Insurance Co.; Deborah Prothrow-Stith, a Spelman graduate, and Commissioner of Public Health For the State of Massachu-

setts, and James Zimmerman, president and CEO of Federal Allied Corp.

"Sixty per cent of the Cosby gift will be allocated to the founding of the Camille Hanks Cosby Academic Center," Theresa Moore, school publicist told NNPA. "This center will significantly increase Spelman's classroom, laboratory and faculty office space. It will also house a women's resource and research center, a fine arts gallery, a media resource center and archives. The rest of the gift will go to the building maintenance, as well as the establishment of Spelman's first endowed chairs in fine arts, social science and humanities."

Cosby, producer and star of the NBC top-rated series, The Cosby Show, who has a doctorate of education from the University of Massachusetts, told the audience: "Mrs Cosby and I did not throw that gauntlet down to show off . . . \$20 million can buy a whole lot of ROLIs Royces. We decided to stop Black Americans and international Black folk from across the ponds from thinking small. I understand that these schools need money . . . I want Johnnetta Cole to understand the love that Camille and I have for this college, the love we have for women who, in spite of odds . . . come to this school to challenge themselves, the school and then to challenge . . . the outside world. This building is for all those beautiful women."

Said Dr. Cole: "We take this gracious gift and combine it with our ongoing intellectual efforts to make Spelman College the Mecca for Black Women's Studies."

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