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Baltimore

JEWISH TIMES

THE LARGEST JEWISH
WEEKLY PUBLICATION
IN THE NATION

SEPTEMBER 26, 1986

LETTERS

Republicans Respond

In their column, "White House Fumbles in Courting Jews," which your paper ran a story on (August 8, 1986), Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta present an analysis of the Reagan administration's relationship with the Jewish community that is based on a combination of incorrect facts and erroneous conclusions.

Even the article's first sentence, which claims that the administration has had little success in its efforts to court American Jews, is mistaken. In fact, relations between the White House and the Jewish community are perhaps as good today as they have ever been under any administration...

But it is in their specific allegations that Anderson and Van Atta risk doing the most damage. The article wrongly suggests that Patrick Buchanan, White House Director of Communications, has actively opposed Jewish interests. In fact, Buchanan maintains close and friendly relations with many Jewish leaders, and has been a consistent and

effective voice in favor of strengthening U.S.-Israel relations.

The article's criticism of two other White House aides is similarly ill-founded. The recent increased influence of Linas Kojelis, special assistant to the President, far from being the result of supposed anti-Jewish machinations by Buchanan and Donald Regan, has been due to his long and effective service in the Office of Public Liaison. Furthermore, the article implies that Kojelis is guilty-by-association of anti-Semitism since he works with Eastern European ethnic groups, some of whose members are anti-Semitic and some of whom have been identified and deported as former Nazis. Rather than being an anti-Semite, Kojelis has worked closely with the Jewish community ever since he first joined the White House staff under Faith Whittlesey.

Finally, the efforts of Max Green, who is the White House's point of contact for the Jewish community, have ensured that Jewish concerns continue to be heard and heeded by the White House. That he is nominally subordinate to Kojelis detracts neither from his considerable effectiveness nor from the continuing good relations between the Oval Office and the American Jewish community that he has helped foster.

Richard J. Fox
National Chairman,
National Jewish Coalition

Conference of Presidents Of Major American Jewish Organizations

(212) 752-1616 • 515 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022 • Cable Address: COJOGRA

July 29, 1986

Editor
THE WASHINGTON POST
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

To the Editor:

I am astonished and outraged by Jack Anderson's column (July 28 1986) alleging that "relations between the Administration and American Jewish leaders are at rock bottom." Anderson asserts that Jewish leaders are "dismayed" particularly with the White House liaison with the Jewish Community. This is simply not true.

I returned from a visit to Israel last week where I met with top Israeli officials including the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. Two days later I was invited to the White House where I met with the President, the Vice President, Chief of Staff Donald Regan, and Communications Director Patrick Buchanan.

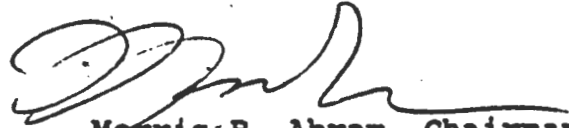
Mr. Regan volunteered that he would contact me when he saw things "festering" between the White House and the Jewish Community, and he invited me to do the same. In other words, we have, as did my predecessor in this office, an on going working relationship.

As Chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry for the past several years, I can attest personally to the unremitting efforts of the President and Secretary of State Shultz to free Soviet Jews.

During my trip to Israel this month every leader expressed views shared by American Jewish leaders that no U.S. Administration has been more devoted than that of President Reagan to the safety and security of Israel, placing this dedication in the context of vital American national interests.

Finally, I note that contrary to Jack Anderson's insinuations, Max Green of the White House Office of Public Liaison, as his predecessor Marshall Breger, has been of enormous help in facilitating the already close communication between the Administration and Jewish Community life.

Sincerely,



Morris B. Abram, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish
Organizations

bcc: Mr. Donald T. Regan
Mr. Patrick Buchanan
Mr. Max Green ✓



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Deputy Director
A. Mark Neuman
Political Director

July 29, 1986

Meg Greenfield
Editorial Page Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

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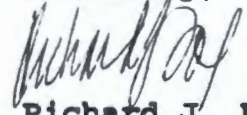
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Fox
National Chairman

July 30, 1986

The following is the text of a letter sent to the Washington Post from the offices of AIPAC on July 30, 1986.

"Jack Anderson errs when he writes ("White House Fumbles" 7/28) that the Administration's relations with American Jewish leaders are at "rock bottom." Relations between the Administration and this organization are, in fact, at their highest point yet. In the last ten days, for example, we have had excellent meetings with, among others, the Secretary of State, the President's National Security Advisor, and the White House Director of Communications.

Thomas Dine "

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

Date: 7/30

TO: Max

FROM: **MARI MASENG**
*Deputy Assistant to the President
and
Director, The Office of Public Liaison*

National
Justice
Coalition

SUBJECT:

The attached is for:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Review & Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Response | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File | <input type="checkbox"/> Per Request |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

7/29

Dear Chris,

I cannot thank you enough for the words of support in Dick Fox's letter to me & Springfield. As I'm sure you know, the vicious, unfounded attacks in the Anderson column cut us deeply — the part felt particularly by Lois. The letter goes far in setting the record straight and the prestige

an influence of its reader
will be impossible to
ignore.

Please express my deep
appreciation to Mr. Fox, and
thank you for all you did
to make it happen.

Sincerely,
Mari

MEMO

From: CHRIS GERSTEN

To: MARI MASENG

This letter was sent to the
Washington Post from Dick Fox
on 7/29/86.

Chris

NATIONAL JEWISH COALITION



**NATIONAL
JEWISH
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July 29, 1986

Meg Greenfield
Editorial Page Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

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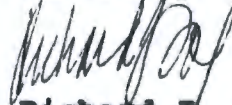
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Fox
National Chairman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1986

*Administrative
Jewish roles*

MEMORANDUM FOR PAT BUCHANAN

THROUGH: MARI MASENG

FROM: LINAS KOJELIS

SUBJECT: Response to Jack Anderson Column

Attached are copies of letters and columns which have appeared in response to Jack Anderson's Column of July 28.

- Tab A -- Complete text of Jack Anderson article. (The "Washington Post" version was edited.)
- Tab B -- Letters of support for the Administration from Jewish organizations.
- Tab C -- Letters of support for the Administration from ethnic and other organizations
- Tab D -- Follow-on articles in the Jewish and ethnic media.
- Tab E -- Copy of Linas Kojelis' response to the "Washington Post." Additional letters have been, and are continuing to be sent to other papers which published the article.

In addition, I have received numerous supportive letters and calls from ethnic, Jewish and other colleagues in Washington and around the country.

White House turning off Jewish groups

No Administration has tried harder to court the Jewish community than Ronald Reagan's—with less success. Every time the White House tries to patch things up it seems to do the wrong thing, with the result that relations between the Administration and American Jewish leaders are now at rock bottom.

The latest affront to Jewish sensitivity is a pip: The White House office of liaison with Jewish groups has been downgraded. What's worse, in the eyes of some Jews, is that the current White House "Jewish affairs" man, Max Green, is actually subordinate to Linas Kojelis, a Lithuanian-American who has offended Jewish leaders.

Kojelis is a strong advocate of Eastern European ethnic groups that have urged the dissolution of the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations. They charge that the office is a dupe of the Soviet KGB in the prosecution of naturalized Americans accused of participating in the Nazi Holocaust of World War II.

It didn't used to be this way. Green's predecessor as Jewish liaison, Marshall Breger, held the title of special assistant to the president. Kojelis was then at a lower level in the White House pecking order as associate director of the Public Liaison Office in charge of ethnic groups.

Then last year, the liaison office chief, Linda Chavez, reorganized the setup to eliminate all ethnic representatives, including Breger. He and Kojelis were named co-chairmen of the new Foreign Affairs/Defense Division. In practice, both continued to handle

liaison duties as they had previously, Breger for Jews, Kojelis for other ethnics.

But Breger's aggressive tactics were not appreciated by certain elements in the White House staff that resented the special status accorded Jewish leaders and their advice. Chief among these was communications director Patrick Buchanan. During the controversy over President Reagan's wreath-laying visit last year at a West German cemetery containing graves of SS men, Buchanan scribbled on a notepad: "Too much Jewish pressure."

Buchanan and Chief of Staff Donald Regan decided to eliminate the Jewish affairs office. To their surprise, they got support from several Jewish leaders and the Israeli Embassy.

No less than Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith International, sent President Reagan a blunt letter urging that the Jewish liaison office "be abolished and not filled." He explained that the Jewish community "is not a monolith" and contended that the office was "counterproductive and, occasionally, damaging."

But other Jewish leaders objected when Breger was kicked upstairs and out of the White House. Vice President Bush insisted on keeping the Jewish office, and Regan and Buchanan backed down.

But Buchanan, who has publicly denounced the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals as "Orwellian and Kafkaesque," was determined to downgrade the Jewish liaison office and enhance the liaison with the other ethnic groups.

So with Buchanan as his "rabbi," Kojelis was made director of the Foreign Affairs/Defense Division last fall. When Chavez left to run for the Senate nomination in Maryland, Kojelis became acting director of the Public Liaison Office. He was given the title once held by the Jewish liaison officer: Special assistant to the president. Green is his subordinate.

Faced with the growing influence of Kojelis at the White House, Jewish leaders—even those who had welcomed the idea of abolishing the Jewish liaison office—are dismayed. There is no evidence that Kojelis himself is anti-Semitic, but he has provided entree to the highest circles of the Reagan Administration for Eastern European refugee groups that have been tainted by anti-Semitism.

The Jewish community fears that the extremists in these groups will gain credibility within the Administration, and their goal of abolishing the Nazi-hunting OSI will be accomplished. And there is now no one with the clout that Breger once had to explain Jewish concerns at the White House.

Conference of Presidents
Of Major American Jewish Organizations

(212) 752-1616 • 515 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022 • Cable Address: COJOGRA

July 29, 1986

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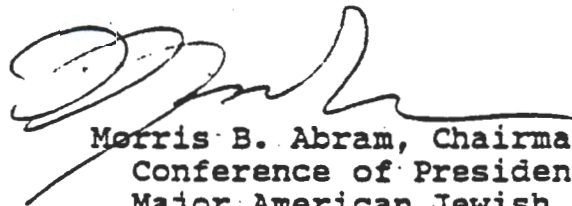
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Finally, I note that contrary to Jack Anderson's insinuations, Max Green of the White House Office of Public Liaison, as his predecessor Marshall Breger, has been of enormous help in facilitating the already close communication between the Administration and Jewish Community life.

Sincerely,



Morris B. Abram, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish
Organizations

bcc: Mr. Donald T. Regan
Mr. Patrick Buchanan
Mr. Max Green ✓



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July 29, 1986

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Thomas Dine "

American Association of Women

NEW YORK

WASHINGTON, D.C.

LOS ANGELES

Leslie C. Dutton
President & Executive Director

Letters to the Editor
The Washington POST
1150-15th Street
Washington, D.C. 20571



2210 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 174
Santa Monica, California 90403
(213) 395-0244

August 1, 1986

Editor,

Jack Anderson's column on Jewish leaders who are unhappy with White House relations contains some serious misinformation which should be corrected immediately. White House aide Linas Kojelis is a fine public servant who has been extremely sympathetic to the plight of Soviet Jews as well as a fighter for human rights of all those who are persecuted.

I first became acquainted with Linas Kojelis through the Baltic-American community when working on human rights issues. Linas and his entire family have been very prominent in organizations and activities which protested Nazi and Soviet persecution of Jews and other Baltic nationalities.

As a matter of fact, it was Linas Kojelis and his sister who spearheaded the Anti-Nazi Demonstration in Chicago just prior to the Nazi march in Skokie, Illinois in 1978. Their demonstration received nationwide coverage on television and in the press.

It is ironic that Jack Anderson would erroneously imply in his column that Linas Kojelis is anti-Jewish. He obviously did not know that Kojelis' father was tortured in a Nazi prison camp during World War II along with thousands of Jews.

Anderson may be the victim of Soviet disinformation. The Soviet press has frequently criticized Kojelis as they are infuriated that the son of a Lithuanian refugee is working in the White House. Kojelis has used that position to remind the world of Soviet and Nazi atrocities and this they cannot tolerate.

We are embarrassed for Jack Anderson's mistake and feel he owes Linas Kojelis an apology.

Sincerely,

Leslie C. Dutton
President

LD/fr

cc:Jack Anderson



NATIONAL CONFEDERATION of AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS, Inc.

4720 Massachusetts Avenue/NW Washington, D.C. 20016

August 8, 1986

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Honorable Don Regan
Chief of Staff
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Chief of Staff Regan:

It is with consternation that we read the scurrilous attack on the Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, Mr. Linas Kojelis by columnist Jack Anderson.

We have known Mr. Kojelis since 1976 when he was legislative aide to then Senator Richard Schweiker. His devotion to democratic principles and to the foreign and defense policies of President Reagan are beyond any question.

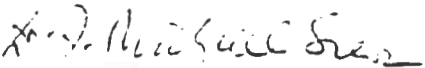
Mr. Kojelis, since his arrival to the White House, has been an effective leader in both informing the various ethnics groups of the policies of the President and in soliciting their support and cooperation to the same.

To the best of our knowledge, none of the major heritage organizations of American citizens of Central and East European descent are either anti-Semitic or pro-fascist. Most of the leadership consists of American born citizens or people who immigrated to the United States as children or teenagers. It is indeed regrettable that Mr. Anderson and his informants are still fighting World War II forty-one years after V-E Day.

The N.C.A.E.G. which represents seventeen of the national umbrella organizations of American citizens of Central and East European descent and others of Southeast Asia, always approved of the objectives of the O.S.I. in the Justice Department. But, we continue to have severe criticism of the methods used and the procedures followed in obtaining and utilizing Soviet evidence against alleged Nazi war criminals.

Trusting that you share our opinion of Mr. Kojelis, we remain with best regards.

Very sincerely yours,


Z. Michael Szaz, Ph. D.
Executive Vice President

ZMS:ag



The National Italian American Foundation

666 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 800 • Washington, D.C. 20001-4596 • (202) 638-0220

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August 6, 1986

Letters to the Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street NW
Washington, D.C.

We were totally amazed and befuddled by a recent Jack Anderson column implying a lack of sensitivity on the part of Linas Kojelis, Special Assistant to President Reagan, toward specific American ethnic groups.

We have known Mr. Kojelis for three years in his ethnic related work at the White House and have nothing but the highest respect for his professionalism and deep concern for the special needs of all ethnic groups. He has worked diligently and effectively in his ethnic liaison post and to attempt in any way to defame his professional record or personal history is totally unjustified and unworthy of a journalist such as Jack Anderson.

Mr. Kojelis has been and remains a loyal servant for captive and maligned peoples around the world. He deserves applause for his outstanding record of accomplishment at the White House and for his personal record of integrity.

Sincerely,

Fred Rotondaro
Executive Director



LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL, INC

2606 W. 63rd ST. CHICAGO, ILL., 60629 PHONE 778-6900 / 778-6901

July 29, 1986

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Editor
Washington Post
1150 15th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Editor:

The "Washington Post" is usually a well informed and respectable, influential daily newspaper. Unfortunately, you have printed an article in your July 28th issue, "White House Fumbles in Courting Jews", which is grossly incorrect. In the article Mr. Jack Anderson falsely accuses ethnic organizations of being antisemitic. This is untrue. Accusation of Mr. Linas Kojelis, the assistant to the President, is also unsubstantiated. We know Mr. Kojelis personally. He is a very capable, conscientious, reliable man. He certainly cannot be accused of having any prejudices against Jews.

The reproaches to Mr. Pat Buchanan are also undeserved. The Jewish people have undergone extreme oppression under the Nazis and deserve sympathy and attention. However, this should be done without undeserved incrimination of the other ethnic groups and persons who are conscientious officials in the President's office.

Yours very truly,

Teodoras Blinstrubas
National President

Rev. Joseph Prunskis
Director of Information



The Renaissance Women

205 Third Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

(202) 546-4143

Andy Harris
Jerusalem International Forum
134 E. 39th St.
New York, N.Y. 10016

July 29, 1986

Dear Andy,

It was a pleasure talking with you today. As promised, I have enclosed the article written by Jack Anderson concerning the Office of Public Liaison and their treatment of the Jewish Office in the White House, in hopes that you will respond to it.

As I mentioned, it is totally erroneous. I have dealt with Linas Kojelis, Pat Buchanan, and the others named in the article, on various issues, including Jewish affairs, and I can tell you they have been nothing but supportive of Israel and Jewish Americans.

In fact, the barrage of complaints the Administration constantly responds to are complaints that they are too pro-Israel and not supportive enough of our Arab allies. That is understandable considering the clear distinctions between the two major forces. But to insinuate that they are anti-Jewish because of one alleged issue of disagreement is very divisive.

The insinuation that because Linas is of Lithuanian heritage he urged the dissolution of the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations is absurd. I think we owe Linas and the White House the benefit of the doubt on this issue and it is incumbent upon us to find the facts and not be swayed by the emotional journalistic ploys that continue to manipulate our decisions.

There have always been representatives from the Jewish community at every briefing I have ever attended at the White House. These issues range from Comparable Worth to Central America. Their invitations are not limited to "Mid-East" briefings or issues that concern the Jewish community only. The approach is to integrate the Jewish community into the policy making process of the Administration.

I think that the strident statements by Anderson and Van Atta should be challenged. As they stand now, they are inflammatory, irrelevant as far as journalistic content is concerned and lack factual backing. These points need to be made and I hope that you or Elaine will address this issue.

Ironically, had it not been for the Office of Public Liaison, Linas's office in particular, I would never have been asked to attend the trip last April to Israel and Egypt that you sponsored. And, it was during that trip that I was exposed to new facts and experienced the reality of the situation in the Mid-East. Now, you have an even stronger, out-spoken ally for Israel, because of that one small gesture by the White House.

Again, it was a pleasure talking to you and I will forward additional information on the "Ambassador's" seminar we are planning. Your help in that effort will be invaluable.

Most Sincerely,



Nina May

enclosure

bbc Pat Buchanan
Linas Kojelis ✓

NUJORKAS LATVIEŠU ORGANIZĀCIJU PADOME

115 West 183rd Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10468

July 30, 1986

Gentlemen:

We have read with considerable concern the Jack Anderson article entitled "Once Again, The White House Offends Jews" attacking Linas Kojelis for reasons that are, in our view, improper or at least suspect. The man is being attacked primarily because of his ethnic heritage, despite the fact that he is a native born American, and his father is a survivor of the Stutthof concentration camp. We are unaware that Linas Kojelis has ever advocated the abolition of the O.S.I. or offended Jewish leaders.

The downturn in Mr. Breger's career fortunes ought not be connected with Mr. Kojelis' ethnic background. Moreover, Mr. Kojelis' ethnic background should not be equated with anti-semitism.

All ethnic and civic groups should have equal access to voice their concerns to the White House. We feel that Jack Anderson's fears are unfounded, and we trust that you do not share them.

We would appreciate if you would specifically disassociate from the views expressed by Jack Anderson, and affirm the concept that a person's ethnic background should not be the determining factor in assessing one's fitness for government service.

Yours truly,

Uldis M. Klauss
Vice President

UMK:ib

29 Beaumont Drive
Melville, N.Y. 11747

THE Queens JEWISH WEEK

Report of administration split with Jewish leaders disputed

By STEVE LIPMAN

A report by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson that "relations between the [Reagan] administration and American Jewish leaders is now at rock bottom," has brought

reactions from several leaders and organizational professionals.

Anderson wrote this week that the role of the White House Jewish liaison has been diminished, and that the head of the overall liaison office "has provided entree to the highest circles of the Reagan ad-

ministration for Eastern European refugee groups that have been tainted by anti-Semitism."

Attorney Max Green was named associate director of the White House office of public liaison, specializing in Jewish relations, last October. His predecessor, Marshall

Breger, had the title of special assistant to the president, a higher rank.

The Anderson column, according to a staffer for the investigative reporter, was prompted by recent criticism over the actions of Linas Kojelis, special assistant to the

president and Green's boss in the restructured White House. Kojelis is identified in the column as a "strong advocate of Eastern European ethnic groups that have urged the dissolution of the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations."

Kojelis has arranged meetings between such groups and Communications Director Patrick Buchanan, who has urged suspension of proceedings against suspected former Nazis, said Lucette Lagnado, Anderson's senior associate, who researched the story.

The report by Anderson was disputed by Hyman Bookbinder, the American Jewish Committee's special representative in Washington. He said most Jewish community leaders are pleased with the administration's record on two major issues — Israel and the Soviet Jewry movement.

And the role of the Jewish liaison in shaping policy, Bookbinder added, is minor. "When it comes to issues, that office is not the crucial office," he said in a telephone interview. "It's always been that way."

Bookbinder said Jewish administration officials with a sensitivity to Jewish concerns and an access to the Oval Office play a larger role than the liaison. He cited Stuart Eizenstat in the Carter White House and Leonard Garment in the Nixon administration as examples of influential officials.

Green is "doing a commendable job" at his designated duties — addressing Jewish organizations on the president's behalf and arranging White House meetings. "But he does not have direct access" to the president, Bookbinder said.

"If there is any problem in the White House," he said, it is that "there isn't anyone at the senior level who is Jewish himself or who has a record" of long-term support for Jewish issues.

Kenneth Bialkin, immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said reports of strains between the administration and the Jewish community are "much ado about very little."

While the Jewish liaison has been "a great convenience" for Jewish leaders seeking to influence administration policies, the office's apparent downgrading has little effect, Bialkin said. "I don't think we're talking in cosmic terms."

A spokesman for B'nai B'rith International President Gerald Kraft, who was quoted in the Anderson column as urging that the Jewish liaison office "be abolished and not filled," said Kraft considers the position ineffective.

"The post probably is not terribly helpful to the Jewish community in this country," said Art Shulman, B'nai B'rith communications director. Jewish organizations interested in a specific issue are advised to approach the appropriate cabinet office, he said.

Green, calling Anderson's column "terribly irresponsible . . . wildly inaccurate," took issue with the criticism of Jewish-administration relations and the description of his office's duties as downgraded.

Relations are "very good," he told The Jewish Week, adding that leaders of Jewish organizations "invariably express great respect"

for the administration's stance on Israel and Soviet Jewry.

The size of the public liaison staff has been cut since the Carter administration, resulting in "more responsibility" for each remaining staff member, he said. Green said he has assumed general foreign policy duties, in addition to his work with the Jewish community, and organized a recent briefing on the administration's South African policies.

Anderson's claims of Kojelis' sympathy for anti-semitic groups are "scandalous," Green said. Kojelis' father was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo, and Kojelis himself was arrested for taking part in an anti-Nazi demonstration in Skokie, Ill., several years ago, said.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



"Zu viel ist zu viel"

There is an old Austrian/Yiddish saying: "Zu viel ist zu viel, aber für sie, zu viel ist nicht genug."

Roughly translated, it means: "Too much is too much, but for them, too much is not enough!"

I was reminded of that saying last week when I read Jack Anderson's and Dale Van Atta's syndicated column (in The Washington Post) regarding Linas Kojelis, acting director of the White House Office of Public Office (OPL) and former ethnic liaison for the Reagan administration.

"No administration has tried harder to court the Jewish community than Ronald Reagan's — with less success," wrote Messrs. Anderson and Van Atta. "Every time the White House tries to patch things up it seems to do the wrong thing, with the result that relations between the administration and American Jewish leaders are now at rock bottom."

"The latest affront to Jewish sensitivity," Messrs. Anderson and Van Atta went on, "is that the White House office of liaison with Jewish groups has been downgraded. What's worse, in the eyes of some Jews, is that the White House Jewish affairs' chief Max Green, is subordinate to Linas Kojelis, a Lithuanian American who has offended Jewish leaders."

I was aghast! Linas Kojelis offend Jewish leaders? Impossible. Not Linas Kojelis. I know Mr. Kojelis. He is a diplomat, low key, soft-spoken, laid-back.

I continued reading and discovered that the real villain of the article was not Mr. Kojelis but White House communications director Patrick Buchanan who, as Messrs. Anderson and Van Atta point out, "has publicly denounced the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals as 'Orwellian and Kafkaesque.'" It was Mr. Buchanan, according to Messrs. Anderson and Van Atta's unidentified "sources," who was determined "to downgrade the Jewish liaison office and enhance the liaison with other ethnic groups."

But how does all of that involve Mr. Kojelis, I wondered. My answer came in the last paragraph.

"Faced with the growing influence of Kojelis at the White House, Jewish leaders are dismayed. There is no evidence that Kojelis himself is anti-Semitic, but he has provided entree to the highest circles of the administration for Eastern European refugee groups tainted by anti-Semitism."

Messrs. Anderson and Van Atta didn't even have to mention which Eastern European "refugee groups" are "tainted." We all know who they are. They're the same "refugee groups" the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith say are "tainted." They're the Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians and, of course, the Ukrainians.

It's time, I believe, to put everything into perspective regarding the Jewish American community and its privileged status in the White House.

"For Jews," writes David Silverberg in the February 1984 issue of the Jewish Monthly, "the quest has always been for access. Whether it was Esther

Eddie Jacobson calling his former haberdashery partner Harry S Truman to urge him to recognize the newly declared state of Israel, access to top political leadership has always been a necessity for Jewish survival."

The need became especially acute during and after World War II when, as a result of the Holocaust and the establishment of a Jewish state, American presidents found they had to deal with a newly awakened political bloc clamoring to be heard. What developed was a "Jewish portfolio" in the White House which for a time was formally assigned to a staff member along with other duties.

During the Roosevelt and part of the Truman administrations, the Jewish portfolio was handled by David Nites. Under Eisenhower, it went to Maxwell Rabb. President Kennedy had Myer Feldman, and under LBJ the honors went to White House Counselor Harry McPherson. The Nixon administration used Leonard Garment, while President Ford appointed David Lissy. President Carter selected Mark Siegel and made Jewish liaison Mr. Siegel's full-time responsibility.

The Reagan White House eliminated the special assistant slot for European ethnics (first created in 1976 during the Ford years) and downgraded ethnic liaison to a lower-level position. The Jewish liaison position, on the other hand, was elevated to special assistant status and assigned to Marshall Breger. Later, when OPL was reorganized, Mr. Breger was promoted out of the White House and Linas Kojelis became a special assistant and was appointed OPL director. Max Green was appointed Jewish liaison. Mona Cheren was appointed European ethnic liaison. Both are Jewish Americans. This means that some 6 million Jewish Americans and approximately 40 million European ethnics have Jewish Americans as liaisons. I believe that's too much for one minority group. Others, obviously, believe it's not enough.

I have no problem with Jewish Americans seeking access to the White House. They're a politically significant minority and the White House can benefit from their input.

What I deeply resent is the apparent attempt on the part of some Jewish Americans to prevent White House access to other minorities and to dominate and intimidate discussion of certain issues in order to end debate. No group should have that kind of power.

I also resent the phrases "refugee groups" and "tainted with anti-Semitism" in Jewish references to Balts, Ukrainians and even Poles. Most of us were born in the United States and our organizations were founded long before many Jewish organizations were. We hardly qualify for "refugee" status. Nor can our entire communities be labeled "anti-Semitic" because a very small minority of our people were involved with anti-Jewish acts more than 40 years ago.

According to the FBI, four of the seven domestic terrorist acts committed in the United States in 1985 (more than half) can be traced to Jewish extremists. Does this mean we can now refer to all Jews as "tainted with terrorism?"

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Kojelis Family Record

The purpose of this letter is to correct the three most glaring falsehoods—concerning me—in Jack Anderson's column of July 28.

First, as regards the Office of Special Investigation: this administration's policy is to hunt down Nazi war criminals and bring them to justice. I fully support this policy. East European American and other organizations with which I have discussed OSI do not ask for the abolition of OSI. They have been arguing only that the accused should receive due process under criminal procedures and be tried in a country that respects civil and legal rights.

In addition I have never had, and never will knowingly maintain, any contact—let alone provide any kind of entree to the White House—to any racist or anti-Semitic organization.

Finally, the article concludes with an unfounded and backhanded slur: "There is no evidence that Kojelis himself is anti-Semitic." I am outraged and deeply

hurt by this insinuation. During World War II my family fought in the anti-Nazi resistance during the occupation of Lithuania. For his anti-Nazi activities, my father was imprisoned and tortured by the Gestapo for seven months.

The Kojelis family tradition of actively opposing extremist persecution of innocent peoples continues in America. In 1978, before the planned neo-Nazi march on Skokie, Illinois, my sister and I organized a demonstration against the Nazi headquarters, an event that is on public record. In 1980 I was arrested for chaining myself to the Soviet Embassy, in part to protest the Soviet persecution of Jews.

My own and my family's record in fighting intolerance and totalitarian oppression, whether of the right or left, is clear. I stand on that record.

LINAS KOJELIS

Special Assistant to the President
Washington

5 copies

JACK ANDERSON and DALE VAN ATTA

White House Fumbles in Courting Jews

No administration has tried harder to court the Jewish community than Ronald Reagan's—with less success. Every time the White House tries to patch things up it seems to do the wrong thing, with the result that relations between the administration and American Jewish leaders are now at rock bottom.

The latest affront to Jewish sensitivity is that the White House office of liaison with Jewish groups has been downgraded. What's worse, in the eyes of some Jews, is that the White House Jewish affairs chief, Max Green, is subordinate to Linas Kojelis, a Lithuanian American who has offended Jewish leaders.

Kojelis is a strong advocate of Eastern-European ethnic groups that have urged the dissolution of the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations. They charge that the office is a dupe of the Soviet KGB.

It didn't used to be this way. Green's predecessor as Jewish liaison, Marshall Breger, held the title of special assistant to the president. Kojelis was then at a lower level in the White House as associate director of the Public Liaison Office.

Then last year, the liaison office chief, Linda Chavez, reorganized to eliminate ethnic representatives, including Breger. He and Kojelis were named cochairmen of the new Foreign Affairs/Defense Division. In practice, each continued to handle liaison duties as they had previously, Breger for Jews, Kojelis for other ethnics.

But Breger's aggressive tactics were not appreciated by those on the White House staff who

resented the special status accorded Jewish leaders and their advice. Chief among them was communications director Patrick J. Buchanan.

Buchanan and chief of staff Donald T. Regan decided to eliminate the Jewish affairs office. To their surprise, they got support from several Jewish leaders and the Israeli Embassy. No less than Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith International, sent Reagan a letter urging that the Jewish liaison office "be abolished and not filled."

But other Jewish leaders objected when Breger was kicked upstairs and out of the White House. Vice President Bush insisted on keeping the Jewish office, and Regan and Buchanan backed down.

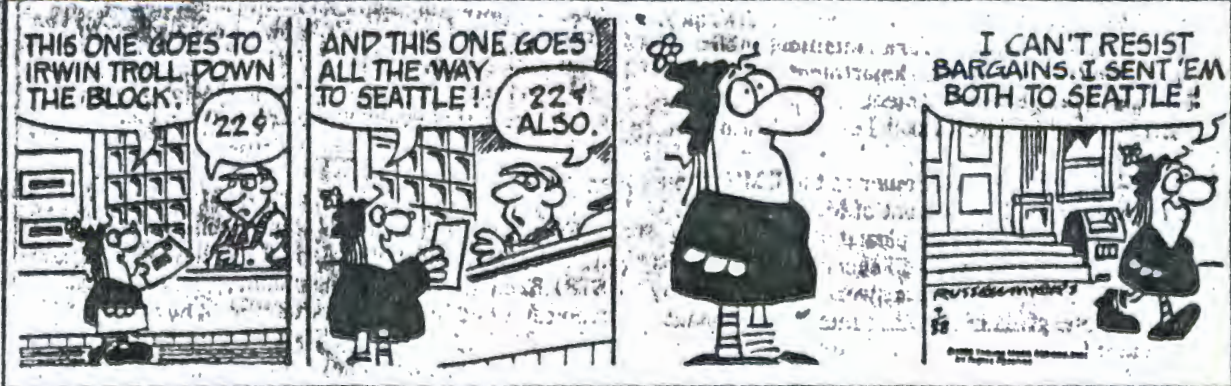
But sources told our associate Lucette Lagnado that Buchanan, who has publicly denounced the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals as "Orwellian and Kafkaesque," was determined to downgrade the Jewish liaison office and enhance the liaison with the other ethnic groups.

Kojelis was made director of the Foreign Affairs/Defense Division last fall. When Chavez left to run for the Senate, Kojelis became acting director of the Public Liaison Office. He was given the title once held by the Jewish liaison officer, special assistant to the president. Green is his subordinate.

Faced with the growing influence of Kojelis at the White House, Jewish leaders—even those who welcomed abolishing the Jewish liaison office—are dismayed. There is no evidence that Kojelis himself is anti-Semitic, but he has provided entree to the highest circles of the administration for Eastern European refugee groups tainted by anti-Semitism.



BROOM HILDA RUSSELL MYERS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM MIKE PETERS



T:1 Mini Messing, Linus Kjelis

Rev. Max Green

Re: ~~Adv~~ Anderson Column

~~Re: Adv~~

R 71. ∇ New York Jewish Week is probably ~~the most~~ widely read & most widely read Jewish papers in ~~the~~ country.

THE Queens JEWISH WEEK

Report of administration split with Jewish leaders disputed

By STEVE LIPMAN

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Kojelis has arranged meetings between such groups and Communications Director Patrick Buchanan, who has urged suspension of proceedings against suspected former Nazis, said Lucette Lagnado, Anderson's senior associate, who researched the story.

The report by Anderson was disputed by Hyman Bookbinder, the American Jewish Committee's special representative in Washington. He said most Jewish community leaders are pleased with the administration's record on two major issues — Israel and the Soviet Jewry movement.

And the role of the Jewish liaison in shaping policy, Bookbinder added, is minor. "When it comes to issues, that office is not the crucial office," he said in a telephone interview. "It's always been that way."

Bookbinder said Jewish administration officials with a sensitivity to Jewish concerns and an access to the Oval Office play a larger role than the liaison. He cited Stuart Eizenstat in the Carter White House and Leonard Garment in the Nixon administration as examples of influential officials.

Green is "doing a commendable job" at his designated duties — addressing Jewish organizations on the president's behalf and arranging White House meetings. "But he does not have direct access" to the president, Bookbinder said.

"If there is any problem in the White House," he said, it is that "there isn't anyone at the senior level who is Jewish himself or who has a record" of long-term support for Jewish issues.

Kenneth Bialkin, immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said reports of strains between the administration and the Jewish community are "much ado about very little."

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A spokesman for B'nai B'rith International President Gerald Kraft, who was quoted in the Anderson column as urging that the Jewish liaison office "be abolished and not filled," said Kraft considers the position ineffective.

"The post probably is not terribly helpful to the Jewish community in this country," said Art Shulman, B'nai B'rith communications director. Jewish organizations interested in a specific issue are advised to approach the appropriate cabinet office, he said.

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Relations are "very good," he told *The Jewish Week*, adding that leaders of Jewish organizations "invariably express great respect

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Administrative
Semi 1986

Report of administration split with Jewish leaders disputed

By STEVE LIPMAN

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ples of influential officials.

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Relations are "very good," he told The Jewish Week, adding that leaders of Jewish organizations "invariably express great respect"

(Continued on page 22)

Loophole

(Continued from page 7)

the floor of the house on Monday.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) has introduced similar legislation.

Opposition to the yarmulka legislation in the Senate is being led by Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.), a retired Air Force Reserve Officer. Military officers maintain that the uniform is sacrosanct.

A spokesman for D'Amato said the senator's position stems partly from the belief that the Israel Defense Forces have no problems with efficiency, although many of its officers wear yarmulkas.

Also pending in the House is a resolution calling on the president to direct the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations to take steps to eliminate Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's UN pension. An identical resolution on the former Nazi party member and UN secretary general was passed by the Senate in June.

Anderson

(Continued from page 8)

for the administration's stance on Israel and Soviet Jewry.

The size of the public liaison

staff has been cut since the Carter administration, resulting in "more responsibility" for each remaining staff member, he said. Green said he has assumed general foreign policy duties, in addition to his work with the Jewish community, and organized a recent briefing on the administration's South African policies.

Anderson's claims of Kojelis' sympathy for anti-semitic groups are "scandalous," Green said. Kojelis' father was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo, and Kojelis himself was arrested for taking part in an anti-Nazi demonstration in Skokie, Ill., several years ago, he said.

Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

two days of talks, referring to them as a historic turning point. He spoke of the "warmth radiating from the meeting" and that he felt "a kind of electric current flowing between" Hassan and Peres.

He also stressed that "Peres cannot return to Morocco if he does so only to tell us the same thing." However, he did see as an immediate result of the meeting "a substantive and psychological change in relations between Israel and the Arab states."

Combined services

TV & RA

TELEVISION

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m., Ch. 67 UJIF talkline. With Rabbi Yaakov Spivak and Zev Brenner.

SATURDAY

6:30 p.m., WNYE, Ch. 25: Family Life Forum. "You and Your Aging Parent." Produced by the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services.

9:00 p.m., Ch. 31. Hello Jeru salem. Shoila Zucker, host.

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m., Ch. 9. Point of View. "Who Wants Immigrants?" See highlights.

10:30 a.m., Ch. 4. First Estate "Rabbi's Rabbi." Dr. Russell Barber, host. Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, president, New York Board of Rabbis, guest.

11:00 a.m., M Cable, Ch. M. Talkline. Interview program with Rabbi Yaakov Spivak and Zev Brenner.

1:00 p.m., National Jewish Television (cable). International Dateline. News and public affairs. David Bar-Ilan, host.

1:30 p.m., National Jewish Television (cable). Jewish Entertainment Hour. With Gary Wagner and Fay Nicoll.

2:00 p.m., National Jewish Television (cable). Matzot