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Withdrawer

KDB 8/27/2010

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UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL (6)

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NO		Pages

LETTER 1

ELIE WIESEL TO REAGAN RE CHAIRMANSHIP OF COUNCIL

9/2/1982

B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA] B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.



March 19, 1984

Office of the Director

Marshall Breger, Esq.
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Marshall:

As my letter (enclosed) to Secretary Clark reflects, Micah and I paid a courtesy call on him last Friday. He was as genial as he was knowledgeable about our activities. By October 1985, under our statute, the Secretary of Interior must certify that we are ready to build the museum and have the private funds in hand or in sight to accomplish the project.

In the course of our discussion, the subject of the campaign came up. We invited his personal advice concerning our number one campaign organizational goal, to enlist the President as our Honorary Chairman. We also asked him if he thought the President would welcome the idea of our enlisting former President Carter as the Honorary Co-chairman. He was wholeheartedly in favor of both outcomes and urged us to contact you ("Mrs. Whittlesey's staff") to get the decision made. He instructed us to use his name, and said that he would lend a hand directly if you needed his help.

Needless to say, beyond lending his name and "good offices," the President's active role in our campaign would be as much or as little as he desired. As we continue our search for two national campaign co-chairmen to take the active leadership roles, we certainly would hope we could indicate that the President would thank them for so serving, either directly or by letter.

Please let Micah or me know what we can or should do to advance this cause. I know that such matters require much time and patience. On the other hand, our Chairman will be at the White House on Thursday evening on the occasion of President Mitterand's visit. Wouldn't it be wonderful if President Reagan could tell Elie of his decision in person at that time?

Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

Suite 832, 425 13th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004

cc: M. Naftalin

H. Mogul

202-724-0779



Office of the Director

March 19, 1984

The Honorable William P. Clark Secretary of the Interior Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you so much for meeting with me and my deputy, Micah H. Naftalin, last Friday afternoon. We welcomed the opportunity to bring you the greetings of our Chairman and Vice Chairman, Elie Wiesel and Mark Talisman, and to summarize the principal activities of the Council, i.e., the up-coming Days of Remembrance activities, the planning of the national Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the capital fundraising drive: A Campaign to Remember.

May I reiterate how grateful we have been at the superb support and assistance we have consistantly enjoyed from the National Capital Region of the Park Service under Jack Fish. What's more, I and our Council leadership are especially grateful for your advice as to the best way to approach the President to lend his name as Honorary Chairman to our Congressionally-mandated, private, fundraising campaign, which is now being organized, and to seek his wishes as to the possibility of inviting former President Carter to serve as the campaign's Honorary Co-chairman. The President's honorary support will not only remind philanthropists throughout the nation that this is a national project of this Administration, but it will help us to encourage two prominent leaders — one Jewish and one non-Jewish — to serve as the active co-chairmen of the campaign. As you recommended, we will at once get in touch with Mr. Marshall Breger of Mrs. Faith Whittlesey's staff to convey your suggestions.

Finally, on behalf of our Chairman, Elie Wiesel, let me remind you that we hope you will be able to join us for the Evening of Remembrance at the Concert Hall of the Kennedy Center on April 29, and at the official commemorative ceremony at the Rotunda of the Capitol at noon, April 30.

With all best wishes, and appreciation, I am

Sincerely,

Seymour Siegel

Cc: Marshall Breger

Suite 832, 425 13th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004 202-724-0779



March 19, 1984

Office of the Senior Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN

From: Micah H. Naftalin

Subject: Courtesy call on Secretary Clark

Shortly after Judge Clark was confirmed as Secretary of Interior, Seymour offered to pay him a visit and review for him the Council's activities. In response to the Secretary's invitation, Seymour met with him Friday afternoon; I accompanied him.

The Secretary was extremely genial and well briefed on our various projects. He recalled the Liberators Conference, held while he was under secretary of State, and asked (his first question) how we were handling the Armenian/Turkish dispute. Seymour explained how we were being responsive to the Armenians in a low-key way; and inviting inputs from the Turks as well. He also noted that we were holding ourselves open to recommendations of historical content from others as well, e.g., Gypsies, ... Poles, Righteous Gentiles, etc.

Seymour then provided a complete but succinct summary of the three principal areas of activity of the Council: Days of Rembrance Rotunda ceremony and Kennedy Center evening through the performing arts (he invited Judge Clark to these); museum memorial planning; and the fundraising campaign.

Near the conclusion of our brief meeting, Mr. Clark expressed satisfaction with our progress and said, "Let me know if there is anything we can do to help you." I took this opportunity to make two points. First, I expressed how grateful we were for the help already provided by Jack Fish and the Park Service, both with respect to the routine administrative support through Steve Lynch, et. al. (Clark interjected that he knew that we reimbursed them \$185,000 this year) and John Parsons' people who would be advising us, and later him, on questions of architecture and historical preservation. Second, I reminded him that in the summer of 1985 he would be certifying not only the museum plans but the fund raising effort as well. He expressed full knowledge of our need to raise \$100 million in private funds.

I reminded him that last spring the Vice President had turned over the symbolic key to you and that the President had endorsed the funding of the museum campaign by those Americans who understand the need to remember. I then said that we needed some political

Suite 832, 425 13th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004 202-724-0779

advice from him: As we search for two national co-chairmen for the campaign, it was our highest hope (and expectation) that the President would agree to be our Honorary campaign chairman (since the project was a part of his administration); but, also, many of our members shared the hope that President Carter might also be asked to serve as Honorary Co-Chairman, for the obvious reasons that it would broaden the bi-partisan (or non-partisan) base of the campaign and would provide the desireable symmetry of the two Presidents most involved in creating the Council. Obviously, we noted, the question of Carter's involvement was entirely at the option of the President. I asked his view of the best means of our approaching the President on this matter.

He responded with enthusiasm. "Of course he should and will agree. I know how close to his heart this activity is." "And he will want Mr. Carter to be Honorary Co-chairman because, on something like this, Mr. Reagan will be all-embracing." On such issues, said the Secretary, partisanship doesn't enter in. "Only a few weeks ago, I was quail hunting with President Carter in Georgia." He said we should go directly through Mrs. Whittlesey's office -- Marshall Breger -- "and tell them that I recommend this approach. I will talk to them myself, if necessary."

We left with the Secretary a complete information package, including the new Days of Remembrance booklet, the campaign case, the Washington Post's book on its coverage of last April's Days and Gathering, and the NYTimes Magazine with the cover story about you. Seymour conveyed your personal greetings and appreciation.

A thank you and confirming note from Seymour to the Secretary, sent today, is attached.

cc: Mark Talisman
Miles Lerman
Sigmund Strochlitz
Harve Mogul
Seymour Siegel



Office of the Chairman

March 5, 1984

The Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan President of the United States Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully request that in your talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl you raise the issue of the delaying tactics of those who are against passing a law in Germany aimed at punishing those who publicly deny that the Holocaust occurred. Such a law is warranted given the special circumstances and uniqueness of the Nazi Holocaust. Your intervention could be decisive.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Elie Wiesel

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE WILLIAM P. CLARK

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FROM:

FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

SUBJECT:

Holocaust Memorial Council

I am enclosing a copy of the memorandum I sent regarding the Holocaust Memorial Council.

If you would like Marshall Breger and I to come over and discuss this with you, we will be happy to do so.

Attachment



April 19, 1984

The Honorable Marshall Breger Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Marshall:

Thank you so much for your letter of April 16, 1984.

I accept your apology and hope to continue working with you in the future to secure the goals of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

There was never any doubt in my mind as to the commitment of the President and Vice President to the Days of Remembrance. I am delighted to be informed that the Vice President will be with us on April 30th in the Rotunda to participate in our national ceremony.

With all best wishes,

Very truly yours.

Sigmund Strochlitz

114 muno

Chairman

Days of Remembrance Committee

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1984

TO:

PAT SIMS

FROM:

MARSHALL BREGER



The enclosed memo is self explanatory.

Faith Whittlesey and Bea Oglesby are prepared to send follow up memos on this as are a number of Senators. We felt, however, that if Judge Clark were prepared to help he would be the correct place for a memo to originate-because of his statutory responsibilities

Obviously Judge Clark ought not act <u>suaponte</u> on this and if he were so disposed I would arrange for him to receive a request letter from the Holocaust Memorial Council to which he could respond.



Office of the Chairman

January 31, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan President of the United States The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am sure you were as dismayed as I was to read the New York Times account (1/23/85) of a "White House official" attributing to you the thought that "we should try to put it /the Holocaust/behind us " This was by way of explaining your reluctance to visit Dachau during your state visit to Germany in May.

I assume the "official" was misquoted as I know that this is the opposite of your sentiment. Over the past four years, I have heard you speak so often on the Holocaust, both in private and public settings, that I know how profoundly sensitive you are to the subject. Here, we are institutionalizing Remembrance through the Annual Days of Remembrance National Civic Ceremony, in which you have participated, and the planning of a "living" United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in the hope that we can teach our children to avoid such a tragedy ever happening again to any people. Indeed, your Honorary Chairmanship of our "Campaign to Remember" puts the lie to the Times account.

If indeed you should decide to visit Dachau, of course, I and other members of the Council would welcome the privilege of accompanying you.

Elie Wiesel



Office of the Chairman

January 31, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan President of the United States The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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1 LETTER 1 9/2/1982 B6

ELIE WIESEL TO REAGAN RE CHAIRMANSHIP OF COUNCIL

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- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Residence: 4118 Stanford Street Chevy Chase, Marvland 20815 301/656-0791

ofc-204965-4770

BACKGROUND RESUME οf Micah H. Naftalin

Personal

Brandeis University, BA 1955 The George Washington University Law School, LLB, J.D. 1960 (Law Review) Admitted to the Ears of Maryland and the District of Columbia in 1960 Born: September 7, 1933 Married: 1959, to Beth Scherling Naftalin; three children, ages 20, 17, 14

Professional ·

1971-3/31/82 National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council

1971-1974 - Executive Director, Committee on Public Engineering Policy, National Academy of Engineering

1974-1980 - Executive Director, Assembly of Engineering, National Research

1980 - Special Assistant to the study chairman, and principal author/drafter of "Improving Aircraft Safety," the report of the Committee on FAA Airworthiness Certification Procedures

1980-3/31/82- Executive Director, Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy, NAS-NAE-IOM

1965-1971: Partner, Elliott and Naftalin, Attorneys at Law, Washington, DC, and General Counsel, American Vocational Association

1964-1965: Assistant to the Secretary of Labor for Congressional Liaison, US Department of Labor

1961-1964: US House of Representatives

1961-1962 - Legislative Assistant to Honorable Carl Elliott, M.C. (D-Ala), the author of the National Defense Education Act and member of the Rules Committee

1963-1964 - Chief Counsel and Deputy Director, Select Committee on Government Research, chaired by Representative Elliott

Staff attorney, US Housing and Home Finance Agency (HHFA),

predecessor to DHUD

in the end 1960's, I harlled voluntees legal defense of good. employees 1955-1957:

Civic

Member, Board of Directors, Washington International College, 1974-1979 Speech Writer for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey (3 months, full time), 1968 Presidential Campaign, and author, with Edward Wenk, Jr., of Humphrey's Science Policy White Paper

Member, Oratorio Society of Washington, and Member of its Board of Directors Member, Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity

in UP (finize id) Tiferet Fred Congregation (CI-chaired a signific montgage reduction, food rains drive.)

Over the past 21 years, brief interludes aside, I have worked for myself, as a lawyer in the fields of economic regulation and legislative counselling (primarily in the field of education), and for two of Washington's most distinguished institutions — the National Academy of Sciences and the U. S. House of Representatives. In terms of opportunities for influencing programmatic content and policy, I was fortunate to hold the highest and most interesting positions that each institution had to offer: chief counsel of an investigative oversight select committee of the Congress concerned with the quality of the government's involvement and support of research and development; and executive director, respectively, of the Academy's premier science policy committee and one of its Research Council's eight major program divisions, the Assembly of Engineering, a division comprising some 30 boards and committees of volunteer experts, a full time staff of 70, and a program and policy study annual budget that rose from \$1½ million to \$5 million under my management.

Some of my functions, opportunities and accomplishments during this period include the following:

- * Planning, budgeting and supervising the substantive activities of scientists, engineers, economists, investigators, writers and editors in the conduct of public hearings, investigations, analytical studies; and the preparation of hundreds of public reports and accompanying briefings, press conferences and other modes of consulting and advising at the highest levels of government and industry.
- * I drafted the rationale and House Resolution creating the Select Committee on Government Research, recruited the staff that, over the 15-month life of the committee, reached 35 members, and supervised the substantive activities that led to two public hearings and the publication of 11 committee and staff reports. I was the principal author of several of these reports, including the final report of the committee, "National Goals and Policies."
- * I was the first director of the Assembly of Engineering. In addition to building it up, as described above, I also instituted a model quality control system for the independent review and approval of all reports. (The Assembly published approximately 50 book-length reports of its studies each year.)
- * In my last year at the Academy, former President Handler asked me to help reinvigorate the moribund and faltering, 20-year old Committee on Science and Public Policy a formerly active and prestigious committee of the Academy that then had an uncertain \$100,000 annual budget and was struggling to do little more than complete a long overdue study with no remaining staff. On April 1, 1982, I left a vital, reorganized committee with three important studies underway, a staff of 12 and an annual budget approaching \$1 million.
- * Planner of dozens of major policy studies and manager and/or staff author of many of them. E.g.: The Academy's (perhaps the nation's) most comprehensive study of U.S. energy dilemmas; a detailed evaluation of the technical, health effects and environmental implications of requiring the automobile industry to meet 1983 exhaust emmissions standards for its fleet of diesel passenger cars a textbook example of a proper cost-benefit-risk analysis in aid of decisionmaking; an investigation, at the request of the Congress, into the safety of NASA's development of the space shuttle's main engine (the activity, which reached critical and profound conclusions, later won NASA's Distinguished Service Award for 1981); an in-depth and thoughtful assessment of the FAA's technical and managerial capability for certificating the safety of design, production and inspection of transport aircraft; engineering aspects of the world food problem; program priorities for

the MSF's applied research activity, Research Applied to National Needs (RAIN); a review of the Department of Interior's procedures for assuring the safety of dams; a variety of studies concerning the applications of space and telecommunications technologies; several studies in the area of technology, productivity and international trade competition; a series of examinations of environmental and safety practices employed in the drilling for oil in the outer continental shelf.

- * In all, the Academy's National Research Council is a \$60 million/yr enterprise that undertakes, at the request primarily of the government, hundreds of studies that result in public reports, utilizes the volunteer expert services of approximately 8,000 distinguished scientists and engineers who serve on its boards and committees, and plans, oversees and supports the activity largely through a staff of 1100, two-thirds of whom are directly involved in the substantive program. (The program staff is supervised by one of the Executive Directors of the respective organizational units.) During his last year in office, President Handler assigned to me the responsibility for two sensitive, internal examinations into the NRC's procedures. In the first instance, I staffed, with two professional assistants, a task force of experts in the fields of risk analysis and decisionmaking, to examine the extent to which considerations of risk entered into the deliberations of NRC reports and studies (50% of all studies, it turned out) and to prescribe guidelines for the appropriate and credible analysis of risk (to health or safety) in the future conduct of studies and in the preparation of reports. the second case, I undertook a personal investigation of the study planning, budgeting, execution and report writing practices and procedures of all units of the Research Council in an effort to determine the causes of its long and unacceptable record of late and over-expended study reports. In both cases, the President and Governing Board published the reports, disseminated them throughout the institution, and implemented most of the recommendations.
- * As General Counsel of a client, the 40,000-member American Vocational Association, drafted and designed the legislative strategy leading to the unanimous passage of the Vocational Education Amendments of 1968 a major piece of legislation that was not a part of the Administration's program and was fundamentally different in conception from the approach approved by the Senate subcommittee. Successfully overcame similar obstacles in behalf of the savings and loan industry. And, member of the education/labor steering committee that organized the unprecedented legislative victory to add \$1 billion to the President's education budget and then override his veto. Negotiated with the Federal Trade Commission, on behalf of an accused major product marketing company, a groundbreaking consent decree that became the model for the affected industry.
- * Perhaps most gratifying of all, consistently worked on a collegial basis with many of the foremost national and international leaders, e.g., vice presidents, cabinet officers and senior government officials, chairmen and members and staff of congressional committees, diplomatic attaches and counsellors, labor leaders, university presidents, Nobel Laureates and other distinguished scientists and academicians, and the chief executive officers and R&D vice presidents of the nation's technology-based industrial companies.

In sum, I am a student and practitioner of science and technology policy, a lawyer, and an administrator. I am a manager of professional people and supporting staff, principally as they are engaged in the conduct of analytical studies and investigations and in the preparation and dissemination of the resulting reports. I am an adviser and consultant to governments, universities and companies with respect to science and technology policy, the marriage of science to decisionmaking, and program planning and evaluation. I am a legislative consultant. A planner and molder of creative organizations.

CURRENTAL VITAL

5EYMOUR SIEGEL, 3080 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10027 Telephone: 212-749-8000 Bome: 380 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10025 212-222-0109

PERSONAL DATA:

Born, September 12, 1927 For other data see WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, The University of Chicago (Religion/Psychology), 1958.

Master of Nebrew Literature, The Jewish Theological Seminary , 1951

Rabbi, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1951

Doctor of Hebrew Literature, The Jewish Theological Seminary, 1958

Also studied at Oxford University (All Souls College), England 1958 and Hebrew University, Jerusalem ;1959-60

EMPLOYMENT DATA

1950-1980. Chairman, The Department of Philosophies of Judaism, The Jewish Theological Seminary

1970-1980. Ralph Simon Professor of Ethics and Theology, The Jewish Theological Seminary

1980-present. Professor of Humanities and Medicine, The Medical College of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, Pa.

1960-1969. Dean, Herbert H. Lehman Institute of Ethics, The Jewish Theological Seminary

1976-77, Senior Research Fellow, The Kennedy Institute of Bioethics, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

1973-4. Adjunct Professor of Ethics, Union Theological Seminary of New York

1969-1975. Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies, The College of the City of New York.

1970-71. Visiting Professor of Religion, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.

1962-63-64-65. Visiting Professor of Religion, Seminario rabinico latinoamericano, Zuenos Aires, Argentina

PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND AMARDS

Chairman, Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, The Rabbinical Assembly, 1973-1980. This committee is the highest authority on matters of Jewish law in the conservative movement within Judaism, the largest branch of religious Jewry on this continent. As Chairman, it was my duty to adjudicate matters of ritual, ethics, and theology for the conservative movement within Jewry.

Consultant on Ethics, National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects in Experimentation, 1976. This involved giving expert testimony on such questions as foetal experimentation, treatment of the terminally ill, etc.

physicse United Lations in Decharest, Remarks, 1974.

Fellow, Conference on Science, Philosophy and Feligion, 1960 to present

Pest-Doctoral Tellow, Society for Values in Higher Education, 1960 to present

Senior Research Fellow, Kennedy Institute of Bioethics, 1977 to present

Bumanities Fellow, Medical College of Pennysl vania, 1980-81

Member, Council on Human Converns, Republican National Committee, 1978-80

Visiting Scholar, Wilson Center for International Scholars, Smithsonian Institution, 1981.

Member, Colation for Reagan-Bush, newly organized group within the Republican National Committee chaired by Mr. Nax Fisher.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Board of Editors, The Jewish Publication Society.

Board of Editors, Shma Magazine (an influential journal of ideas and opinions)

Board of Editors, The Linacre Quarterly (a journal of medical ethics published by the Catholic Physicians' Guild)

Board of Editors, The Encyclopedia Judaica (the latest and most comprehensive encyclopedia of Jewish religion and culture)

Board of Editors, The Encyclopedia of Bioethics (a comprhensive encyclopedia concerning the relation of ethics to medicine)

President, The Jewish Rights Council. An organization founded to protect Jewish rights

President, The American Jewish Forum (an organization recently organized to promote conservative political philosophy in the Jewish community.

Chairman, Fair Practices Committee, Ruder and Finn. 1968-81. (This committee meets regularly to deal with ethical issues that arise in the operations of one of the nation's largest public relations firms)

Member, Biohazards Committee, Hoffmann-LaRoche Ommnany (this committee oversees the experiments in the area of DNA research conducted by one of the world's largest pharmaceutial firms.)

Member, American Academy of Jewish Research.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY (a complete bibliography is being compiled. Will follow.)

The Jewish Dietary Laws, Burning Bush Press, 1st edition, 1950, second edition 1981

Conservative Judaism and Jewish Law (Ktav Publishing Co.), 1977

Ethics and Jewish Law, Conservative Judaism, Vol. XXV

New Directions in Social Ethics, Conservative Judaism, Vol. XXV ; Theological Reflections on the Destruction of European Jewry.

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be Reflections on Telling the Truth, Linnere Quarterly, XLIV
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oup Competition and Survival, in Population Crisis (ed. Wogaman, Public Affairs PRess)

Ethical Approach to Biomedical Research in The Ethics of Teaching and Research d. by Nook, Kurtz and Todorovitch) Prometheus Press.

teral Expermentation—an Ethical Consideration, published by the National Commission the Protection of Human Subjects in Experimentation, 1977

idaism and the New Morality, The Samuel Friedland Lectures, The Jewish Theological Eminary

udaism and Liberalism: A Conservative Critique, Judaism magazine, Volume XX

bortion: The Jewish View, Human Life Review, 1977

hy Jews Should Vote Republican, Commensense (published by the Republican National Committee), Voll #3.

Religion and Politics, Commensense, Vol. 1. #4.

'OLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Chairman, Coaltion of Jewish Citizens to-elect James Buckley for Senator 1970 and 1976

Co-Chairman, Democrats for Nixon, 1972.

Invited by President Nixon to deliver Inaugural Prayer, January 20, 1973

New York State Committee for Reagan (for the New York Primaries)

Chairman, S cholars for Reagan, a coalition of several hundred university professors and writers.

lamber, Coalition for Reagan Bush, group of leading Jewish citizens campaigning or the Reagan-Bush ticket

ember, Family Advisory Committee, Reagn-Bush campaign

DDÈNDA

djunct Scholar, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D. C.

cademic Advisory Board, The American Family Institute.

o-editor, This World, A Journal of Religion and Politics published by the nstitute for Educational Affairs and the American Enterprise Institute

xecutive Committee, Committee for a Free World

dember, President; S Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and biomedical and Behavioral Research. (1982)

Cc: Marshall Breger

ID# 301694

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET RECEIVED INTERCOVERYSTATE AFFAIRS

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SUBJECT: SUBMITS RESIGNATION FROM THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL	UNITED	STATES		
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EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

TWO WORLD TRADE CENTER

57th FLOOR

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10047

MARIO M. CUOMO GOVERNOR

April 19, 1985

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, New York State and New York City are creating a new consolidated Holocaust Memorial Commission which will result in the creation of a Holocaust Memorial and Museum at Battery Park City in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Since I am deeply committed to the creation of a living memorial for the Holocaust, I believe it would be more expeditious to focus my efforts here in New York.

Sometime ago, Speaker O'Neill asked me to become a member of the Christopher Columbus Quincentennial Commission. I have been informed that a person cannot be a member of two Presidential Commissions, therefore, I tender my resignation from the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

It has been a privilege to serve with Elie Wiesel and all of the dedicated members of the Council. I wish the Council every success as they continue their important work nationally to assure that the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten as we will be doing here in New York.

Sincerely

Mario M. Cuomo

Governor

Tucak

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 20, 1985

Dear Dr. Wiesel:

Thank you very much for your recent letter in which you asked about the President including a stop at Dachau in the schedule for his May visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the outset, let me assure you that the President remains deeply committed to full recognition of the horrors surrounding the Holocaust. As you stated in your letter, he has demonstrated his continuing concern both by words and actions.

Concerning your specific question, we and the German Government fully considered the possibility of a visit to Dachau in reviewing the President's itinerary. However, due to the limited amount of time available for the bilateral portion of the President's visit to the FRG, it did not prove possible to include a visit to the Munich area. Although the President will be in the FRG for several days, most of his time will be spent in Bonn for the Seven-Nation Economic Summit and talks with President von Weizsaecker and Chancellor Kohl.

As you know, the President fully appreciates the special significance of events related to the Holocaust during this year, when we will be marking the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II. The German Government, and Chancellor Kohl personally, share this understanding, as indicated by the Chancellor's scheduled visit to the site of the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on April 22, the 40th anniversary of its liberation by Allied forces. Our Ambassador to the Federal Republic, Arthur Burns, will join Chancellor Kohl — as the President's personal representative — at the ceremonies at Bergen-Belsen. His presence at Bergen-Belsen, particularly given Ambassador Burns' high personal prestige, will emphasize the importance which the President, and all Americans, attach to this event.

Again, we appreciate your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.

Food Phan

Director, Presidential

Appointments and Scheduling

Dr. Elie Wiesel, Chairman U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council Suite 832 425 13th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM HENKEL

FROM:

MARSHALL BREGER

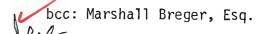


Congresswoman Bobbie Fiedler has spoken to me a number of times about the President lighting the "eternal flame" at the site of the Holocaust Memorial Council Museum during the Inaugural ceremonies. She believes that such an act would be an important gesture to the Jewish community.

While I would not disagree, I am not certain it is appropriate for the Inaugural process. Furthermore, it is unclear to me as to whether the Museum will actually have an "eternal flame" set up by January. Nonetheless, Congresswomen Fiedler is very keen on this project, seeing it as her special contribution to the Inaugural celebrations.

Please advise me on how best to handle this.

Thank you.





Office of the Senior Deputy Director

October 5, 1984

Mr. John Tene President Romania of Mass., Inc. 1135 Salem Street Malden. Massachusetts 02114

Dear Mr. Tene:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, concerning the general hope the Gypsies will be considered for appointment to vacancies on the Council and the specific request that I support your candidacy for such a position.

First and formost let me assure you again, as we did in our meeting of July 20, of the Council's professional and statutory commitment to portraying the full and terrible story of the Holocaust including, of course, the tragic fate of the Gypsies. The enclosed letter of Professor Seymour Siegel, that appeared in the Washington Post of July 30, 1984, summarizes our commitment and sympathy.

With respect to your specific request, it would not be appropriate for the Council or the staff to officially sponsor or advocate a particular individual. The power and responsibility to appoint members to fill vacancies rests exclusively with the President of the United States--not, incidentally, a "Presidential Commission," as your letter suggests.

I note that you have sent identical letters to a number of members of the Council. I am today forwarding your letter to them. Unless you hear from one of them directly in the next few days, I hope you will accept this response on their behalf.

I invite you to continue to feel free to forward documents and other materials relevant to the fate of the Gypsies during the Holocaust.

With all best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Micah H. Naftallin

cc: Council members w/encl.

Suite 832, 425 13th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004 202-724-0779

0784

Gypsies and the Holocaust Museum: A Reply

Since the issue has been raised about the participation of the Gypsy community in the future U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum ["Lament of the Gypsies," Style, July 21], let me summarize the matter:

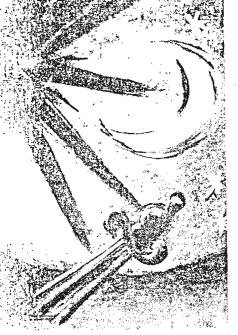
- 1) While there has been substantial planning of the physical structure, content planning is just beginning for a museum that will open in early 1989.
- 2) We are in deep sympathy and feel compassion for the undoubted suffering of the Gypsies during World War II.
- War II.

 3) According to our present plans for the museum, the Gypsy tragedy will be included in the accounts of the Nazi tyranny. Readers should be made aware that the Gypsies referred to in the article had come to Washington at

the council's invitation to discuss ways and means of including their story in the museum.

4) Despite the sympathy felt by council members and staff for the Gypsies and their requests, the fact remains that only the president of the United States may appoint the 55 public members of the council, and the first vacancy is not expected until 1986. No one is "refusing representation on the Holocaust Council for Gypsies." In fact, when vacancies become available, it is my hope that a Gypsy will be appointed to the council. The Gypsies make a most compelling case as one of the principal victims of the Nazi genocidal mania.

Washington SEYMOUR SIEGEL



Romania of Mass., Inc.

1135 Salem Street Malden, Massachusetts 02114

Telephone 617/426-4586

JOHN TENE. President

September 10, 1984

Dr. Micah H. Naftalin Senior Deputy Director United States Holocaust Memorial Council 425 Thirteenth Street NW, Suite 832 Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Dr. Naftalin,

As you may know, the recently formed Romani Holocaust Council met with key members of the Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington, D.C., this past July, to discuss involvement of Roma in the Council. As you will see from the enclosed presentation of their case, the Roma are hopeful of obtaining at least ten seats on the Council when they become available in 1986, said appointments to be made by Presidential Commission. We are writing to request your support of these appointments.

As you will see from the attached resume, I have been President of a Gypsy selfhelp center in Boston --- Romania of Mass., Inc., -- for the past several years. I have been dedicated to ameliorating the situation of my people, and to attaining the goals of Romania's mandate. My activities in pursuit of these aims are described in the attached historical sketch. If you wish to see any of the documentation listed, I would be happy to send you copies of any desired material.

After you have reviewed the enclosed information, I request that you, Sir, support my petition for a Council appointment, as you deem appropriate. If you would be so kind as to take the time to write to members of the Presidential Commission directly, I would be grateful. On the other hand, if it is more convenient for you, I would appreciate receiving a letter of support and commendation for transmittal to the persons concerned.

A seat on the Holocaust Memorial Council would enable me to pursue the goals of our people, to make important contributions to the Roma here and abroad, to give us a sense of dignity that we have long been denied. Our sense of universal solidarity is evidenced by the formation of the Romani Holocaust Council.

The voice of the Gypsies must be heard at the Holocaust Memorial Council, where it will echo with those of all victims of prejudice and persecution, whose suffering culminated in the long agony of the Holocaust. Our struggle is yours, and our recognition will surely hasten the victory against future genocide in any form, against any people.

Te avel o Del tu sa! (May God be with you!)

John Tene President

Non-Profit Organization

THE CASE FOR AMERICAN ROMANI REPRESENTATION ON THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The Holocaust was a crime of genocide — that is, an attempt to exterminate all members of a particular national or racial group simply because they were members of that group. Not every war crime or oppressive action is genocide, however unjust and horrible it may be. ... History records actions which qualify as genocide by the strictest definition. Hitler himself sought to annihilate the Cypsies as well as the Jews.

Yehuda Bauer, They Chose Life
(The American Jewish Committee, N.Y., 1973)

Hitler's Nazis targeted two ethnic groups for destruction in the Third Reich:

Gypsies and Jews. Though their consequent sufferings were similar, their fate since

has been far from equal. The Jewish experience of the Holocaust has become well known,

but few have heard about the half-million Gypsy victims. For forty years, Gypsies

have remained unheard, uncompensated and virtually ignored.

When Hitler came to power in 1933 his Nazi administration inherited anti-Gypsy laws that had been in force for centuries. The Munich-based Central Office for Fighting the Gypsy Nuisance had been established in 1899 and regulated treatment of Gypsies under the Third Reich. The genetic criteria for identification as a Gypsy was stricter even that those applied to Jews. As early as 1933 Gypsy women were sterilized and special camps were built to contain German Gypsies — Dieselstrasse, Vennhausen and Dachau, to name a few. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, a Zigeuner- Lager was created for Gypsies from all parts of Europe. After thousands had passed through that camp and died in its gas chambers, it was finally liquidated in 1944, when more than 4,000 men, women and children were murdered. By that time, Gypsies were being massacred in Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Chelmno, Maidenek, and shot outright by commando units in the Ukraine, Soviet Russia and elsewhere.

After the war, German courts rejected compensation claims by Gypsies, and few received any indemnification. The Council of Europe drew attention to this injustice in its 1969 Report which appealed to German authorities to consider the petitions of Gypsies for compensation and the right to lead their traditional life styles.

Simone Weil, President of the European Parliament in 1979 led a demonstration at Bergen-Belsen, and the following year the Sinti Gypsies staged a hunger strike at Dachau to draw attention to the claims for recognition of Gypsy Holocaust victims. Simon Wiesenthal led a symposium on the fate of Gypsies at the World Romani Congress in Gottingen, West Germany in 1981 and, subsequently, Chancellor Schmitt met with Gypsy representatives and a statement was issued by the German Government admitting that Gypsies had been the target of Nazi racial genocide. However, any compensation for losses suffered or recognition of their status as German nationals has not yet occurred.

When the United States Holocaust Memorial Council was established by an Act of Congress, the Romani community everywhere hoped, at last, that they would be remembered. But no Gypsies were invited to become members of the Holocaust Memorial Council.

Such an important omission is inconsistent with the expressed intent of Congress in setting up and funding the Memorial Council. Understandably, resentment over the failure of the Memorial Council to include them as part of the Congressional mandate has arisen among American Gypsies. While they welcome the Council's intentions, as stated by the Honorable Elie Wiesel, to include them in plans for the Holocaust Memorial Museum, and in all Gouncil ceremonies and commemorations, the real involvement and contributions of Gypsies must be established forthwith.

First of all, in the matter of research, Council members and Museum planners should be aware that efforts have been made in the United States to collect documentation on Gypsy concentration camp survivors in order to obtain indemnification for them from the West German Government. Furthermore, several Romani organizations in Europe, affiliated to the International Romani Union, which has consultative status as a non-governmental organization to the United Nations' ECOSOC, have been engaged in research for years, reporting to the War Crimes Commission of the World Romani Congress, head-quartered in Geneva. Such organizations as the Verband Deutscher Sinti, the Rom und Sinti Union in Germany, and the Romani Union of Serbia, among others, have been

documenting the Gypsy Holocaust experience for years, and their material should be sought by the Holocaust Memorial Council for inclusion in their archives and future Museum.

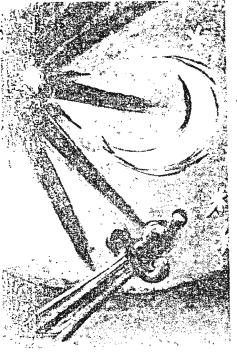
Concerned about their exclusion from the Holocaust Memorial Council, Gypsy representatives from six states met at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles on June 25, 1984, to found the U.S. Romani Holocaust Council. The purpose of the Council is to commemorate the death of half-million Gypsies , and to participate on a national level in the institutionalization of all Holocaust victims, through representation on the Council.

This meeting was further reinforced by the meeting of Gypsies in Washington, D.C. on July 19, 1984 with officials and members of the Memorial Council, to request their endorsement of Gypsy representation. Their basic goal is to join with the Jewish, as well as other communities, who suffered the brunt of Nazi attempts at genocide, to look to the future as friends and allies, to make the Museum project and the campaign against future genocide a reality. It is hoped that this just request for representation is honored. If not, the Romani Holocaust Council is prepared to take legal steps to insist on enforcement of the Holocaust Memorial Council's mandate, and would call for international protest action in all parts of Europe, focusing its activities at the Fourth World Romani Congress in Italy in 1985, where hundreds of Roma from all over the world will gather in universal purpose. It is hoped that the forthcoming Congress will have cause for celebration, instead of lamentation, of its implicit inclusion in the Holocaust Memorial Council.

There is a Gypsy proverb: "Every fire leaves behind some live coal in the ashes." The danger is that the live coal in the ashes of a funeral pyre can set it ablaze again; and the continuing persecution of the Gypsies is such a live coal after the conflagration of the Holocaust. All decent people must therefore strive to extinguish the glowing fire and enable the Gypsies to live among the rest of us as equal citizens.

Simon Wiesenthal, address to the Third World Romani Congress, Gottingen, Germany, 1981.

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Romania of Mass., Inc.

1135 Salem Street Malden, Massachusetts 02114

Telephone 617/426-4586

JOHN TENE, President

Resume of Activities

1975

Archbishop Humberto Cardinal Medeiros invites John Tene to become a member of the Commission on Human Rights Task Force on Minority Affairs, to report on problems of Gypsies, in order to take effective action for social justice.

Tene submits reports on the situation of Gypsies, and is congratulated by Archbishop Medieors, who offers Tene facilities at Holy Redeemer Church for the establishment of a Gypsy self-help center, Romania of Mass., Inc.

Boston Sunday Globe features cover story on Tene and Romania of Mass., Inc., and Tene assists in the Boston Globe Community Affairs Department survey of the situation of Gypsies in the Boston community.

Tene is invited to participate in activities of the Comite Internationale Rom, a European Gypsy organization headquartered in Paris.

1976 Romania of Mass., Inc., is officially incorporated. Its mandate:

> To eliminate prejudice and discrimination against Gypsy people by educating the public about Gypsy history, customs and cultural heritage, to provide basic reading and other educational and vocational skills to Gypsy people, to educate Gypsy people about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and the availability of educational, nutritional, health and other related services in their communities, and such other educational and charitable purposes . . .

1976 Tene organizes a Gypsy March and Rally to focus attention on the needs (cont'd.) of the Boston Gypsy population.

Tene appears on "Sunday Open House" - WCVB-TV; "Neighborhood News" - WCVB=TV; "The Tom Larson Show" - WSBK-TV.

WGBH-TV (National Public Television Station in Boston) produces a documentary film on Tene and Romania of Mass., Inc.

Worcester State College petitions Senator Edward Kennedy to investigate the status of Gypsies in the United States and, in particular, requests assistance for Romania of Mass., Inc.

Anne Sutherland, author of a definitive sociological work on Gypsies in America, lends her support to Romania of Mass., Inc.

Internationally acclaimed Belgian author, Jan Yoors, visits Romania of Mass., Inc., in support of Tene's work.

The first two volumes of the <u>Newsletter</u> of Romania are circulated to Gypsies, friends and interested persons or organizations in the United States and abroad.

Tene designs the first official flag of Romania and it is registered with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Holiday food for Thanksgiving and Christmas is provided for poor Gypsies at Romania, funded by the Catholic Charities and private donations from Tene's family and others.

1977 Catholic Charities donates quarters to Romania in its downtown office building in Boston.

WGBH-TV runs a public service announcement on Romania regularly, for several months.

Tene appears on "Peoplescope," - WNAC-TV; "The Tom Larson Show" - WSBK-TV.

Tene submits proposal to the Campaign for Human Development, for assistance to the Gypsies, supported by the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Newsletter of Romania is again published and circulated.

Holiday dinners are again offered to the poor through contributions from Catholic Charities and Tene's own funds.

1978

Tene is advised that European Gypsy organizations plan to visit the United Nations to present the Gypsy cause and to make public the fact that Gypsies are the only people still officially banned from immigration to the United States.

Tene joins an international delegation to the United Nations, where Yul Brynner is appointed Honorary President to the World Romani Union, Brynner's participation is editorialized in the New York Times and Chicago Tribune, among other publications. A lasting friendship is struck between Tene and Brynner.

Christian Science Monitor publishes a comprehensive article on Tene and Romania; Boston Herald American publishes lead article on Tene.

Gypsy Lore Society of North America publishes notice of Tene's activities in its nationally circulated Newsletter.

Tene heads delegation to the United Nations later in the year to seek consultative status for the World Romani Union as a non-governmental organization on the roster of the Economic and Social Council. After a week of deliberations, the Union is accepted to ECOSOC's roster -the first time in history that Gypsies are acknowledged as a people by an international organization.

Tene attends Second Romani Congress in Geneva and is appointed Permanent Representative of the World Romani Union to the United Nations.

Tene is the subject of an award-winning documentary produced by WCVB-TV's Third World series.

Romania of Mass., Inc., is awarded a grant by the Agnes M. Lindsay Trust Fund; also, by the Prudential Foundation, and the Polaroid Foundation.

Students from Simmons College and Tufts University, as well as Wellesley College, volunteer to teach children and adults at Romania. Also, nurses and Catholic nuns volunteer assistance in the fields of medicine and education.

1979 Boston Herald American features article on Tene's trip to Geneva and his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

> Tene institutes legal proceedings against Peter Maas and Dino de Laurentis Studios in protest against their negative treatment of Gypsies in the derogatory film, "King of the Gypsies."

Author Barbara Cartland lobbies for justice to Gypsies and founds a "Gypsy village."

Tene appears on "Sunday Open House" - WCVB-TV.

1980 Tene appears on "Neighborhood News" - WCVB-TV.

The Des Moines Register publishes a story of Romania.

Tene moves Romania to a private dwelling in East Boston. A disastrous fire (reported as arson) destroys the Center's documentation, educational and health materials, as well as most of Tene's personal possessions.

1981 North Shore newspaper features article on Tene in its Sunday magazine.

Tene appears on "Evening Magazine" - WBZ-TV.

Tene supports research for UNICEF's Year of the Child by commissioning a work on "Shavora: Gypsy Children." He meets with officials of UNICEF in New York, and Rena Gropper, author of a definitive anthropological work on Gypsies in America. The manuscript, authored by Leita Kaldi, is endorsed by UNICEF.

Research is sponsored on the Gypsy Alternative School in Seattle, Washington, to explore means and methods of effective Gypsy education. Report is published by UNESCO's <u>Innovations</u> in Geneva, as well as by the University of California in <u>Les Angeles</u> (<u>Explorations in Ethnic Studies</u>.)

Research is commissioned on "The Plight of the Gypsies under the Third Reich," and a paper on the subject is presented to the International Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide in Tel Aviv, by Kaldi, on behalf of Romania of Mass., Inc.

Tene is invited to the Third Romani Congress in Gottingen, Germany. Burden with family and financial responsibilities, he sends a representative in his stead. The Romani Union reaffirms its need of Tene and its appreciation of his work as its Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Tene relocates Romania in Malden, Massachusetts. There he seeks educational and health assistance from volunteers and attempts to replace material lost in the five.

The Romania of Mass. Newsletter is printed and circulated.

Yankee Magazine publishes a cover story on Tene and Romania.

1983 The Hartford Courant publishes lead article on Tene and Romania.

Tene continues efforts to re-establish the Center in Malden, to replace lost materials, enlist volunteers, and raise funds to cover costs of the Center's operations, printing of the Newsletter, and care of the poor.

1984 Tene attends first meeting of the Romani Holocaust Council in Los Angeles and is appointed to be President of the Council.

Tene is instrumental in organizing a subsequent meeting in Washington, D.C., with members of the Holocaust Memorial Council, to promote the nomination of at least ten Romani leaders to the Council; to demand recognition of the Romani people; to institutionalize the suffering and losses of Gypsies in Europe under the Third Reich; to publicly proclaim the solidarity of American Roma with their European brothers.

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> and the <u>Washington Post</u> feature stories on the above events. A special issue on the Gypsies is published by <u>The Reporter</u>, (Jewish Federation of Broome County).

Boston Herald American publishes article on Tene's activities, and he is invited to appear on "Pepople Are Talking" -- WBZ-TV.

The <u>Newsletter</u> of Romania features activities of the Romani Holocaust Council and is circulated to a vast network of Gypsies, as well as Jewish leaders, around the world.

Tene seeks support of Jewish leaders and American politicians for nomination by Presidential Commission to the Holocaust Memorial Council.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 21, 1983

The President today announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be Members of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the remainder of terms expiring January 15, 1986:

NORMAN BRAMAN would succeed Frank R. Lautenberg. Mr. Braman is President of a car dealership in Miami, Florida. He has served as Vice President of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. He was a founder and serves on the Board of the Mount Sinai Medical Center. He graduated from Temple University (B.S., 1955). He is married, has two children and resides in Miami Beach, Florida. He was born August 22, 1932 in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM J. LOWENBERG would succeed Albert A. Spiegel. Mr. Lowenberg is a real estate developer in San Francisco, California. He is President-Elect of the Jewish Community Federation and is a board member of the Council of Jewish Federations. Mr. Lowenberg is a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust of World War II. He is married, has two children and resides in San Francisco, California. He was born August 14, 1926 in Ochtrup, Germany.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 9, 1982

The President today announced his intention to appoint Seymour Siegel to be Executive Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. This is a new position.

He is currently serving as Professor of Ethics and Theology at The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, New York. He has been Professor of Humanities and Medicine at The Medical College of Pennsylvania since 1980. He was Chairman of the Department of Philosophies of Judaism, The Jewish Theological Seminary, in 1960-1980; the Ralph Simon Professor of Ethics and Theology, The Jewish Theological Seminary, in 1970-1980; Senior Research Fellow, The Kennedy Institute of Bioethics, Georgetown University, in 1976-1977; and Dean of the Herbert H. Lehman Institute of Ethics, The Jewish Theological Seminary, in 1960-1969.

He graduated from The University of Chicago (B.A., 1958), and The Jewish Theological Seminary (M.A.; Ph.D., 1968). He resides in New York City. He was born September 12, 1927.