

הסתדרות הרבנים דאמריקא

RABBINICAL COUNCIL of AMERICA

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Cable: HISRABONIM, N. Y.

20 Adar 5734

March 14, 1974

ב"ה

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Among my other pleasures in life I am an instructor at the Yeshiva University. For the past twenty years I have had the joy and Jewish "nachas" of seeing many young men go on to outstanding careers in medicine, the sciences, law and almost every area of American life. I often reflected that, thank G-d, the class of 1965, for example, had so many more opportunities than my class of 1947.

However, the last two or three years have changed so much of that euphoria. Today, I "sweat out" with some of our finest young men the wait for acceptances from professional schools. With others, some from my own community, I check desperately with friends seeking openings for suitable employment in accordance with their education and ability. Still others, in desperation, seek other avenues of training or employment. Among them may be an Einstein, Salk or Brandeis.

These young men are the victims of a quota system which is despoiling them of their rights as well as robbing America and mankind of their talents and ability. Their sole "crime" is that they are white Jews, members of the smallest and oldest minority.

I turn to you in particular as President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the leader of Reform Jewry in the United States. I turn to you as one who comes directly from a background which knows this experience of discrimination based on race. I turn to you with a request on behalf of the rest of the Jewish community to reverse the stand of your Social Actions Committee in supporting the position of the University of Washington in the DeFunis case.

One might say that an historical milestone has been achieved when every major Jewish organization in the United States, with the exception of the Reform group, has united on a domestic issue. The records of most of these groups on civil rights are most impressive and impeccable. Historically and instinctively the American Jew has always supported the rights of the Blacks and all underprivileged groups. It need not apologize for its position against reverse discrimination with the Jew as its target.

I urge you to rejoin the mainstream of the American Jewish community by supporting the concept of equality for all including Jews.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Bernstein

Rabbi Louis Bernstein
President

LB:sb

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