

MARCH, 1967

JCRC

EDUCATION

I

A democratic society is no stronger than its educational system. The more educated its citizenry, the more committed is that citizenry to democratic values.

The more highly educated segment of the citizenry is substantially less attracted to political extremism of an undemocratic nature and less anti-semitic than the rest of the population.

There are other and deeper reasons why the Jewish community, as such has a stake in a sound and extensive educational system, reasons related to its traditional commitment to education, to social justice, to a civilized society. But this is at least one of the community relations reasons why the Jewish community as such has a stake in the educational system.

II

Given these premises, the organized Jewish community clearly has an interest in having the higher educational system extended as broadly as possible. From that goal derives a basic principle for the organized Jewish community at large:

Everybody who desires and who is qualified for a higher education should get it, and economic disadvantage should not be allowed to stand in his way - anymore than it stands in the way of his getting a high school education.

III

The JCRC does not have the expertise, the consensus or the mandate to support any' single alternative program for the achievement of this basic principle- but it will support, in whatever way seems appropriate, those alternatives which seem clearly to move the higher educational system substantially closer to that principle. And it will oppose those alternatives which seem to move the higher educational system substantially further from that principle.