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EARL RAAB

Candid Comments

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Is There A There Here?

Starting on **Sunday, April 9**, there will be the annual public affairs conference in Sacramento. The San Francisco Jewish community is deeply involved, along with the six other major Jewish communities in California. Jews from all over the state will examine the work that has been done and that needs to be done on public issues of specific concern to the Jewish community and institutions: vouchers, quality education, health services, welfare, and so forth. Most of the state legislators will be there at one point or another between Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Monday night.



Raab

On **Sunday, April 16**, at the opening of Israel's Independence Week celebration, an Israel Trade Fair will be held at the Jewish Community Center from noon to 8:00 p.m. The invitation says: "Fun! Games! Entertainment! Bargain!" But it will also be an educational classroom on the subject on Israel.

On **Sunday, April 23**, at 2:00 P.M. there will be the traditional Golden Gate Park celebration of Israel Independence Day. The invitation says: "Music. Dancing. Entertainment for the Whole Family." But it too, will have some larger purpose. And the children at the religious schools will "walk" on behalf of the Jewish Welfare Federation drive.

On **Sunday, April 30**, from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., there will be a monumental effort on behalf of Soviet Jewry, Solidarity Day for Soviet Jews. A million signatures are to be gathered around the country, and presented to President Nixon in the week following, to support the plea that he deal with the problem of Soviet Jewry in his May 22 visit to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Jews say they're counting on it.

In San Francisco on April 30 there will be a Solidarity Day headquarters in the Little Theatre at 3200 California St. It will be the center of an exciting day of effort and involvement: teams will be out collecting signatures, and carrying the message; radio and TV will be spot-announcing; sound trucks will be rolling; telephones will be buzzing. And at headquarters, a big board will continually record the results. **Everybody** is being asked to drop in, at least for a few minutes, to sign up...to sit at the Writing Table and send a letter to a Soviet Jewish prisoner, or family...to listen to the dignitaries who will drop in...to watch a film on Soviet Jewry...to listen to phone calls to Soviet Jews...to find out how many signatures will be presented to President Nixon in Washington the following week...and much more.

On **Sunday, May 7**, the 2nd Working Assembly will be held at City College from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is the "grass-roots" occasion when Jews from every corner of the community are invited to come together for a working session to help shape the public affairs policies of the organized Jewish community for the period ahead. Among those attending will be the hundreds who have spent many hours together in **hugim** during the past year.

This five week portrait is not painted for purposes of congratulations. Although this is scarcely the picture of a community going to decay in a handbasket, there are surely many ways in which this Jewish community could become involved. The chief point, however, is that there are plenty of opportunities for participation, for anyone interested.

As all San Franciscans know, Gertrude Stein once said about Oakland: "There's no there there." But anyone really looking for a Jewish community in the San Francisco area will find that, however imperfect it may be, there is a there here.