

Candidates Reply to Voice Questionnaire

1) Do you agree with the Soviet Government that the predicament of Soviet Jews is an "internal matter?" If not, what action by the United States Government do you favor?

Earlier this month, The Jewish Voice sent a questionnaire to the candidates for President, Governor and Lt. Governor, Senator and Representative to find out what their positions are on matters of special Jewish concern. The answers of those who responded are printed here.

Governor and Lt. Governor Candidates

Sherman W. Tribbitt and Clifford B. Hearn

1. We do not agree that the present difficulty of Jews in the Soviet Union is an internal matter of the Soviet Government any more than the systematic destruction of six million Jews by Germany was an internal matter of that government. We must remember that the Holocaust occurred because the world remained a silent witness to it, and that such evil prevails when good men do nothing. We believe that the concern here is with moral questions of human rights which are fundamental to all people under any form of government.

Unlike Governor Peterson, we disagree with the President's policy of seeking to guarantee those rights exclusively by quiet diplomacy. We believe that the credibility of our nation is at stake and that our government should employ its economic power in its trade relations with the Soviet Government, including the withholding of most favored-country treatment, until the right of Soviet Jews to practice their religion and to emigrate freely without any monetary barrier is ensured. That economic power should have invoked in the recent agreement to supply wheat to the Soviet Union.

Only by a firm and demonstrable policy can the rights of Soviet Jews be protected adequately. For that reason, we strongly support Senator Henry M. Jackson's amendment to the trade relations act which would grant most-favored-nation treatment and participation in the credit and investment guarantee programs only where those basic human rights are observed. Furthermore, we would sponsor a supporting resolution at the next Governor's Conference calling on the President and on Congress to take an active role in securing these rights by all appropriate means.

2. We support the state constitutional prohibition and particularly oppose the voucher plan, but we would support the tax credit proposals now being considered by Congress in Washington which would yield uniform benefits to all non-public schools in all states.

3. Housing--We must effectively fund sewer construction programs, adopt and strictly enforce a stringent state housing and building code, and embark on programs for the construction of scatter-site low-(and middle) income housing in the counties with a maximum of 50 units per site.

Jobs--We will appoint a standing committee selected from banking, industry, government and labor to search out and bring to Delaware light and medium industry which would provide more jobs for our workers. In particular the Lt. Governor will be used

2) Do you favor some sort of public assistance for students of non-public schools? If so, what specific kind of assistance would you endorse?

as an emissary to recruit clean industry for Delaware.

Education--We will establish a cabinet level Secretary of Education together with a permanent Citizen Council on Education to review policy and standards concerning the reduction of school class size to a teachable level and the integration of a "career education" concept into our school curriculums in order to provide a more relevant learning experience for our children, and correct inequities in our present school "equalization" program. We must ensure equal quality education for all children regardless of where they reside.

Aid to the poor and elderly: We will undertake a concentrated effort to provide and staff day nursery facilities for working mothers, to install job training and skill improvement programs and to improve the efficiency of administration of our public assistance program in order to ensure that the employable have jobs and that the needs of the unemployable are adequately met.

We support the exemption of persons over 65 with annual incomes of \$5,000 or less from paying state income taxes; we endorse an expanded construction program for housing units for senior citizens in all three counties and improved transportation programs to satisfy the travel needs of our senior citizens.

4. Yes. We firmly believe that a lasting solution to the problems of the Middle East will result only from direct negotiations on the parties--Israel and Arab Governments. On this subject, we reiterate the statement, in part, of the 1972 Platform of the Democratic Party of Delaware:

"We re-affirm the right of the State of Israel to exist as a free and independent nation. We note the active intervention of Russia in the Middle East conflict on behalf of the Arab nations solely to achieve her own ambitions, and we consider this intervention to constitute a grave and continuing threat to world peace. We support the supply of whatever military equipment is necessary to preserve the balance of power and the survival and security of Israel. We support a peaceful and negotiated settlement between Israel and the other nations of the Middle East, and we oppose imposition of any settlement by other nations, either great or small, as well as outside speculation on boundaries. We note the failure of the United Nations and its previous Secretary General to inspire the confidence of all of the nations involved in the Middle East conflict, and we urge the United Nations and its present Secretary General to exert real leadership in bringing those nations together to solve their problems. . ."

5. I support those proposals which would promptly end this country's military involvement in Southeast Asia and lead to the immediate return of all prisoners of war.

6. Peace--at home and abroad, and the preservation of our liberties now under attack by a hostile administration.

3) What new proposals would you make for:

- A. Housing:
- B. Jobs:
- C. Education:
- D. Aid to the poor and elderly:

6. The main issue is to get the maximum number of people involved in a satisfying and rewarding career. This is the key to happiness and economic stability, and is the best route to the reduction of crime and delinquency, welfare costs and drug abuse. It also would help to promote better understanding and compassion among all people.

Eugene Bookhammer

Lt. Governor Candidate

1. No. the United States influence is necessary to achieve a solution.

2. No. None of the proposals offer a satisfactory solution.

3. Housing--Adding housing for the elderly.

Jobs--Encouragement of new industry to state.

Education--Expansion of the Vocational-Education program.

Aid to the poor and elderly--Re-examination of programs for the poor and the elderly.

4. Yes.

5. No. I approve of President Nixon's program and initiative.

6. The war in Vietnam. Inflation.

George McGovern

Presidential Candidate

1. Concern for the mistreatment of citizens of any nation extends beyond the borders of that country. The history of the second world war demonstrates the tragedy that can result when the international community is indifferent to and refuses to deal with the problems of "internal" oppression of citizens. Each nation has an obligation to see that the peoples of other lands are treated with dignity and humanely by their governments.

Since September, 1963, when Senator McGovern co-sponsored a resolution condemning the Soviet Union for persecuting its Jewish citizens, he has regularly spoken out against the repression of Soviet Jewry. Among a number of measures he has supported, he has: (1) called upon the USSR to grant exit visas to Jews who wish to leave the country; (2) sponsored legislation to provide money to assist emigration both to the United States and to Israel; (3) urged the United States Information Agency to institute Voice of America broadcasts in Yiddish, the primary language of many Soviet Jews; and (4) asked President Nixon to denounce publicly the treatment accorded Jews in the Soviet Union and to support efforts of the Intergovernmental Commission on European Migration to assist the resettlement of Soviet Jews.

2. The non-public schools of America educate approximately 10% of our children. They provide a measure of educational diversity in a society that places a high value on cultural pluralism. With the cost of education increasing at all levels, in the context of uncontrolled inflation, the continued existence of these schools is in grave doubt.

While citizens may disagree on the desirability of nonpublic schools, it is clear that parents have a constitutional right to provide for the education of

Russell Peterson

Governor Candidate

1. This is a concern for all humans; and by putting pressure on the Soviet Union, we should make it possible for those Jews who wish to leave to do so.

3. Housing--I plan to propose:

1. Legislation to enable the Delaware State Housing Authority to issue revenue bonds that will enable it to fund low and moderate income housing throughout the State at a rate of 1,650 new units and 700 rehabilitated units annually by 1978 through 1985. This method of financing our State housing program will require the least burden of the taxpayers and provide the best opportunity for eliminating the estimated 28,000 substandard dwelling units from the existing housing supply.

2. A state housing code to protect the existing housing supply from becoming substandard.

3. A state building code to assure sound and solid new housing when constructed.

4. Two demonstration housing projects for the elderly, one each in Kent and Sussex Counties, similar to the one just completed in Middletown in New Castle County.

5. A demonstration mobile home park to establish guide lines and standards for the extensive and accelerating trend in this direction by the mobile home industry in the State.

6. Addition of two professional staff members to the Division of Housing in Fiscal 1974 to enable it to handle the increased workload in administering the State's \$8 million revolving Housing Development Fund that is fully committed with a backlog of \$13 million in requests for State financial assistance from non-profit housing sponsors.

Aid to the Poor and Elderly--For those who are poor, yet able to work, we seek to convert welfare dollars into wage dollars so that welfare recipients can provide for themselves. A good job is vital not only to a person's economic security, but to his personal fulfillment as well. Emphasis upon job training and skills will be combined with an effort to launch a limited program with Federal assistance to provide State jobs for those who cannot find them in the private sector. Grants and services to assist the physically disabled and the blind are considerably higher here in Delaware than the national average, and we will continue to maintain them at roughly that level.

We think older Delawareans are entitled to look forward to security, dignity and independence in their later years. While we introduce State income tax exclusions for those elderly on fixed and limited incomes and have initiated a special transportation program that will meet their need, regardless of income, to make vital trips to doctors, stores, community centers, we are also interested in making much greater use of the experience and skills they have to offer. Through a revolving State loan program we will continue to provide construction funds with low or no interest to assist in meeting their housing requirements.

4. Yes.

5. No, but I am anxious to get out as soon as possible.