

# on Matters of Particular Jewish Concern

4) Do you favor United States support of Israel's demand for direct negotiations with the Arab States?

their children in institutions other than the public schools. In light of the government's inability to control inflation, it would be unfair not to provide some relief for those parents who wish only to exercise their constitutional rights.

With respect to parochial schools, the problem is more difficult. We must reconcile the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom with the constitutional proscription against the establishment of religion, all in the context of the Administration's economic policies which have seriously impaired the free exercise of these rights.

In view of these competing interests and values, Sen. McGovern believes that Federal assistance may constitutionally be provided to parents of non-public school children. He advocates a system of tax credits which would relieve to some degree, the financial burden of these children in meeting the educational needs of their children.

We must be careful, however, not to extend that aid to racially segregated schools which are set up to avoid the impact of Supreme Court decisions requiring school desegregation. Thus Senator McGovern's tax credit plan would be available only to parents who send their children to bona fide non-public schools.

3. Housing--In 1968, Congress established a national housing goal of 2.6 million dwelling units built or rehabilitated each year for the next 10 years. That goal has not been met.

Sen. McGovern would reorganize the Federal Housing Administration, the agency largely responsible for the failures of the past four years. The purpose of the reorganization would be to improve the quality of housing by making the agency more responsive to the consumer and less responsive to special interests. He has also suggested that Congress consider legislation which would provide direct grants for housing, thus, we hope, eliminating excessive administrative costs and maximizing the choice of the recipient.

Jobs--Since 1969, the unemployment rate has jumped from a little over 3% to over 5½% (it went as high as 6.2% in 1971). This means that an additional two million people are out of work. Sen. McGovern believes that the Government should be the employer of last resort. That is, if the private sector of the economy is unable to produce sufficient employment opportunities, the Government should fill the gap through federal contracts with private industry and direct federally funded programs.

Furthermore, Sen. McGovern has proposed a reduction in defense spending with the savings being put into civilian programs such as health care, housing, environmental protection and other domestic needs.

Education--Sen. McGovern, with funds saved from defense spending and gained from tax reform, would increase the federal share of public school costs to \$15 billion. This would represent about one-third of the total education costs. As a result of this increased federal spending, local governments could reduce property taxes since they are the principal source of school funds, or they could spend the money on needed services previously neglected.

Among other programs, Sen. McGovern proposes to expand the system of vocational schools and junior

colleges and to improve headstart and childhood education.

Aid to the poor and elderly--Sen. McGovern proposes to overhaul the welfare system completely. He supports an income maintenance program (similar to Nixon's family assistance plan which Nixon proposed in 1969 and abandoned in 1972) which would provide \$4,000 (cash and food stamps) for a family of four.

The McGovern proposal would also federalize the entire welfare system so that state and local governments would no longer need to spend tax dollars on welfare. This would free up additional funds for tax cuts for spending on neglected programs at the local level.

Sen. McGovern would increase social security payments so that the elderly would not have to go on welfare. In addition he has proposed legislation to expand Medicare to include drug costs and to provide low cost meals for our senior citizens.

4. Yes.

5. Sen. McGovern's position on Vietnam is clear and unambiguous. We ought to withdraw our forces and end our participation in the violence in Southeast Asia. This course of action would not be without a cost. It is his judgment that the costs of not stopping are much greater: In dollars expended on the battlefield, in decay of our cities,

and in division of our people, not to mention the loss of mortal stature resulting from the use of force at monstrous levels far beyond what might be justified by any threat to our security. As President, McGovern would withdraw our troops from Indo-China within 90 days. The North Vietnamese have repeatedly agreed to return our prisoners after this withdrawal. McGovern recognizes that we have a responsibility toward those South Vietnamese who have fought as our clients and toward the North Vietnamese as well; these are matters to be negotiated after the fighting stops.

## Joseph Biden

### Senatorial Candidate

1. The predicament in which the Soviet government has placed its Jewish population is indeed not a purely internal question. It is a moral question which concerns people everywhere. The U.S. should use all possible influence to persuade Russia to allow Jews living there to emigrate freely to Israel, without having to pay a ransom for this basic right. One major way in which this influence could be felt is in trade negotiations, such as the recent wheat deal.

2. Our children are the most precious resource we have in this country. Their education is vital. Non-public schools makeup a significant minority of the educational institutions of our country. To insure this continued educational freedom of choice, I favor a system of tax credits to parents of children attending non-public schools.

3. Housing-- I think we should change our basic strategy concerning low-cost public housing. High rise apartment complexes built in concentrated areas have in the past too often turned into high rise slums. I think low rise, scattered site housing should be constructed instead. By this method, the people living in these structures could be better integrated

5) Do you have any specific proposals for ending this country's military involvement in Southeast Asia?

into the community as a whole and our entire social system enhanced.

Jobs-- I think more emphasis should be placed on public service employment, especially in areas where joblessness is the most acute.

Education-- Educational excellence requires adequate financial support.

I urge tax credits for higher education including vocational and technical schools, 2 years and 4 years of college; support guaranteed access for all students to loan funds with long term repayment based on future earnings; development of broad opportunities for lifelong learning, including encouragement of post secondary education throughout adult years; continuation of tax deductions for teachers' educational expenses; and creation of incentive for non-traditional education which recognizes the contribution of experience to an individual's educational status.

Poor and Elderly-- The time is long past for basic reforms in our welfare system. We must create a system which is nationally funded and eliminates discrepancies in aid between states. We also must assure that increased job opportunities are available for all sectors of the economy.

At present, too many of our senior citizens pay a disproportionately high percentage of their income for shelter. For elderly citizens living in private housing I favor property tax exemptions; for older individuals living in leased housing I favor special rent control legislation.

4. Yes.

5. I favor the following proposal for American withdrawal from Vietnam: (1) Immediately stop all bombing operations in Southeast Asia. (2) Set a date certain for the complete withdrawal of all American troops from Southeast Asia. (3) Arrange for the release of the American Prisoners of War. (4) Withdraw all American troops from Southeast Asia. Once a date certain for American withdrawal is set, I believe that negotiations concerning a mutual ceasefire and the future government of South Vietnam will become possible.

6. I think the erosion of confidence in government and our public officials--the people that are supposed to represent us-- is the major issue facing our country at this time. This lack of faith pervades all the other issues which we must address today.

## Pierre S. DuPont

### Congressional Candidate

1. It seems to me that whether the terrible predicament of Soviet Jews is "an internal matter" is not the question. It is clear that there really is a difficult problem and the U.S. should do what it can to help solve it. Frankly, in light of the continuing thaw in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, it would be my opinion that diplomacy on the highest levels by the two governments holds the best hope of success. I have indicated my support of the Jackson Amendment to the Foreign Aid bill, but this kind of legislation must be very carefully drafted lest it become self-defeating and make the problem worse rather than better. I know the government is working on the problem, through diplomatic channels, and I am hopeful that their efforts will be successful.

6) What issue is the most important facing this nation?

2. The Constitutional problems posed by giving public assistance to students of non-public schools is a difficult one, although they probably can be solved in a carefully drawn statute. But even assuming Constitutional objections can be met, the question then becomes one of resources. Are our public schools so good that it is now time to take tax money away from them and put it in non-public schools. School districts in disadvantaged areas have special problems which require greater commitment of resources and energy. So although I have no strong objections to assisting non-public schools, I think that our prime efforts should be directed to public schools and towards their problems.

3. Housing: I favor a complete restructuring of the Federal Housing program as incorporated in the Omnibus Housing Bill. I thought it was regrettable that this measure was allowed to die as a result of the Rules Committee's refusal to bring it to the floor.

In the next session, I will also push for legislation that includes block grants to states for urban development. In addition, the Federal Mortgage Insurance Program needs to be updated to prevent the wastes and abuses of the present program.

Jobs: I think the two prime goals should be continued growth of the economy, without inflation, and the enactment of the Manpower Revenue Sharing program to give the people closest to the job problems of the community an opportunity to meet them head on.

I also support special emphasis on creating jobs in areas of high unemployment such as the Emergency Employment Act of 1971. I also support closer regulations of private pension plans to prevent workers from losing benefits which they have rightfully earned.

Education: In my recent position paper on education, I made two specific proposals which I would hope would be considered by the next Congress. First, special attention should be focused on elementary and pre-school education, and Head Start should be expanded. We have this year adopted a Higher Education Act, which I strongly supported, and it seems to me that it is time to focus on younger students. Secondly, I have proposed that education be funded by the Federal government on a two year cycle in order to give educators and professionals time to plan and evaluate their curricula. My education position paper discusses both of these in considerable detail, and is available upon request.

Aid to the poor and elderly: I think that the welfare reform proposed by the President (H.R. 1) provided an excellent balance in reforming an outdated welfare program. It provided assistance to those in need, jobs for those who are employable, day-care centers for mothers who can work, and included work requirement provisions. I was disappointed to see it shelved by the 92nd Congress, and I hope it can be reintroduced and passed by the next Congress. On the matter of the elderly, I have proposed creation of a Special Committee on the Aging in the Congress. I have supported increases in Social Security benefits, I have supported tying Social Security benefits