

9 Sivan 5735

AD HOC REPORT OF RABBINICAL BOARD OF THE YESHIVA GEDOLA OF PITTSBURGH
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A KOLLEL

-Preamble-

Whereas the centric importance of continued Torah study on the graduate and post graduate levels is mentioned so frequently and pervasively in various Biblical verses and Talmudic passages, and whereas the purpose of this proposal is to deal rather with the specific details of establishing a Kollel (subsidized post graduate fellowships) in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., it will suffice then to cite but two sources - appropriate to the basic concept of KOLLEL.

I - AMEILUS BATORAH

1)

The study of Torah in its proper milieu involves expending strenuous mental effort in order to reach the ultimate, in depth understanding of the Sugyas Hashas (Talmudic Dissertation).

2) This is based on the awareness that mental application, especially as it applies to Torah study, is a more difficult endeavor than any physical labor.

3) It is incumbent upon every Jew to study Torah in this fashion. However, because of family and economic considerations he may defer his obligation by supporting those who can devote themselves to learning Torah on this level. He may even enter into contractual agreement with a Torah scholar to share equally the reward for Torah learning, by providing for the scholar's sustenance. (Yora Deah : 246, Rama)

II - SHEVET LEVI

Maimonides has determined that the "army of G-d" is not limited to the priestly tribe of Levi. All those who sacrifice financial success and professional status to devote their lives to the study of Torah constitute the "Chail Hashem ", and should be accorded all the privileges and respect that the Torah provides for Shevet Levi.

-Proposal-

The establishment of a Kollel in Pittsburgh under the aegis of the Yeshiva Gedola

- Purposes -

I - SPECIFIC PURPOSES; vis a vis the community

- 1) To improve the quality of Jewish life, and raise the level of dedication to Torah in all segments of the community through exposure to a high level Torah life style and scholarship.
- 2) To provide the future Poskim, Rabbis, teachers, writers, community professionals, etc. for our area.
- 3) To infuse the Yeshiva Gedola with maximum standards of excellence, which will inevitably trickle down even to the lower High school grades.
- 4) To bring our sons and daughters home. Dozens of our children who originally left home to study in Yeshivos elsewhere have married and settled in those cities. A Kollel will provide them with the intellectual stimulation and social setting that they seek.

II - SPECIFIC PURPOSES; apropos the Kollel fellow

- 1) A unique program is planned in order to produce a unique Torah scholar.
- 2) The uniqueness of the Talmid Chochom lies in his ability to translate his wealth of knowledge into a highly moral and ethical life style. The total Torah personality must achieve the desired fusion and balance of mental prowess, emotional stability, and character strength in his own development.
- 3) True uniqueness lies in the ability to combine and incorporate the desired traits, rather than specializing in one area, as has become the standard in other Seminaries. We propose to digress from this trend by emphasising synthesis and equilibrium instead of specialization.

- Program -

I - CORE STUDIES

- 1) Advanced courses in Talmud, Biblical exegesis, Forensics, History, Education, Psychology, Philosophy, Ethics, Practical Rabbinics, and Comparative Law.
- 2) Emphasis will be on those Talmudic tractates that deal with the current and timely questions of jurisprudence facing the Rav and Posek today.
- 3) The traditional derech hayeshivos of lomdus and havono (analysis and research) to be implemented in the learning of Shas and Meforshim.

II - SUPPLEMENTARY STUDIES

- 1) Poskim Program - To develop a proficiency for converting the theoretical depths of the "sugyas hagemorah" via meforshim and poskim, to the practical "psak halocho". Special concentration on Tur and Shulchan Aruch.
- 2) Mechanchim Program - To guide those showing leadership and teaching ability in the science of Chinuch ((Education), and in the understanding of the specific psychological and educational problems of the Day School student and of the Yeshiva bachur..
- 3) Hashkofo Program - To encourage the long neglected studies of Emuna, Tanach, and Machsheves Yisroel, and to be capable of translating these concepts and values into a comprehensive Weltanshaung; the ability to answer the questions of our time.
- 4) Fellows of the Kollel will be eligible for the special liaison program the Yeshiva Gedola has established with the Graduate School of Duquesne University, whereby most courses offered in the Yeshiva Gedola are recognized for full credit upon transfer to the Duquesne Graduate School.

- Fellowship Grants and Selection -

We propose to draw from the superior students of the various Talmudical Schools of higher learning, in order to bring together the various areas of expertise of each school, thereby producing the desired exchange of ideas and interplay of experiences.

- Recommendation -

Recognizing that the singular and most vital contribution to Jewish survival and continuity, and to the survival and continuity of the entire universe, is made by those who devote their lives to the study of Torah, the Rabbinical Board of the Yeshiva Gedola of Pittsburgh wholeheartedly supports and endorses the establishment of a Kollel under the aegis of the Yeshiva Gedola.