

OCTOBER 28, 1959

H. A. ROSENBLUM, PRESIDENT
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
SHARON, PENNSYLVANIA

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS, WE HAVE HELD TWO MEETINGS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE. DURING THESE MEETINGS WE HAVE DISCUSSED, QUESTIONED, EXPLORED AND ARGUED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BESETTING OUR TEMPLE. WE HAVE NOT COME UP WITH THE COMPLETE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM, BUT WE HAVE A NEW AWARENESS OF THE SCOPE OF THE QUESTIONS AND A STRONG DESIRE TO ASSIST WHERE WE CAN AND AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IN HELPING OUR TEMPLE TO BE A BULWARK OF STRENGTH FOR ITS MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. WE REQUEST THAT YOU CAREFULLY REVIEW OUR SUGGESTIONS AND WE CANNOT URGE YOU STRONGLY ENOUGH TO LOOK UPON THEM IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT:

1. ELIMINATE THE SPECIFIC MINIMUM AMOUNT IN OUR DUES STRUCTURE AND REPLACE IT WITH A GRADUATED SCALE DUES PROGRAM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SPECIFIC MINIMUM DUES ARE TOO OFTEN THE CEILING AND SOME MEMBERS FEEL THAT THEY HAVE ADEQUATELY MET THEIR DUES OBLIGATIONS BY PAYMENT OF SAID MINIMUM DUES.
2. ESTABLISH A MONTHLY BILLING PROGRAM. UNDER OUR PRESENT SET UP, WE BILL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND WHEN DUES ARE NOT FORTHCOMING, WE CONTINUE TO SEND MONTHLY STATEMENTS REQUESTING ANNUAL PAYMENT. MONTHLY BILLING WOULD ALSO LESSEN THE IMPACT OF MANY MAJOR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FALLING DUE AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME OF YEAR.
3. ABANDON THE WORD "RATING" IN THE PRESENT "RATING COMMITTEE" ETC. THIS WORD AND ITS CONNOTATIONS HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF IRRITATION TO MANY MEMBERS.
4. A CONCERTED DRIVE TO RAISE THE DUES PAYMENTS OF THE TEMPLE MEMBERS. THIS IS A SELLING JOB. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL DECENCY AND INHERENT SENSE OF FAIR PLAY IN MOST PEOPLE AND IF THE PLIGHT OF OUR TEMPLE - NAMELY ITS FINANCIAL PROBLEM - IS PROPERLY CONVEYED BY TRAINED DEDICATED MEMBERS TO - SHALL WE SAY UNHEEDING MEMBERS - WE FEEL CERTAIN OF SUCCESS IN THIS VENTURE. WE REPEAT THAT THIS COMMITTEE STANDS READY TO AID AND ABET WHERE DIRECTED IN ATTAINING THIS GOAL.

5. (A) INSTITUTE "SIMCHA" GIFTS. SET UP A PROGRAM WHEREBY GIFTS ARE GRANTED TO THE TEMPLE ON THE OCCASION OF A BIRTH, BAR-MITZVAH, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES, ETC. THIS MAY NOT RAISE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY, BUT IT CAN PROVE A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
- (B) ESTABLISH BOOKS OR SCROLLS OF REMEMBRANCE ETC. THESE BOOKS OR SCROLLS CAN BE ENDOWED AND IF A MEMBER CARES TO HAVE A NAME OR EVENT INSCRIBED THEREIN IT MAY BE DONE AT A PREDETERMINED FEE.

WE, THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REITERATE OUR DESIRE TO HELP AND IN THE FUTURE WE HOPE TO PRESENT TO YOU FOR YOUR APPROVAL PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL FUND RAISING.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

M. E. EPSTEIN - CHAIRMAN