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Remarks, Presentation of 1984 Award to Frank Rich, National Conference of Christians & Jews

Roger J. Miner '56

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS
CONNECTICUT-WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS REGION
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5, 1984 - 7:00 P.M.
MARRIOTT HOTEL, STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

MY WIFE AND I ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND INVITATION TO ATTEND THIS CEREMONY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR 1984 AWARD TO OUR GOOD FRIEND, FRANK RICH. IT IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE HONOREE'S LIFE, WORK, CHARACTER AND HUMAN QUALITIES. I HOPE THAT I SHALL BE ABLE TO DO THIS IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER. SOME YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE NEW YORK SUPREME COURT, I HAD THE OCCASION TO SERVE AS THE AFTER DINNER SPEAKER AT A SMALL GATHERING OF RURAL SUPPORTERS. WHEN THE OLD-TIMER SEATED NEXT TO ME AT THE HEAD TABLE ASKED WHY I ATE NOTHING DURING THE MEAL, I REPLIED THAT I NEVER ATE BEFORE GIVING A SPEECH. AFTER I GAVE THE ADDRESS, AND AS THE PEOPLE WERE FILING OUT OF THE HALL, I HEARD THE OLD-TIMER SAY TO ANOTHER FELLOW: "HE SHOULD HAVE ET." ALTHOUGH I ABSTAINED AT THE RECEPTION TONIGHT, I AM HOPEFUL THAT NO ONE WILL SAY: "HE SHOULD HAVE DRANK."

TONIGHT THERE APPEARS BEFORE YOU A MAN WHO HAS RISEN TO THE VERY HEIGHTS OF HIS PROFESSION BASED ON INTELLIGENCE, GRIT AND THE WILL TO PUSH ON WHERE OTHERS HAVE FAILED; A MAN WHO IS SO DISTINGUISHED AMONG HIS PEERS THAT NO RIGHT-THINKING PERSON DARE SAY A WORD AGAINST HIM. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. I AM HERE TO TALK ABOUT FRANK RICH. I COULD SAY THAT FRANK IS MODEST, HUMBLE,

UNASSUMING AND SELF-EFFACING; I COULD SAY THOSE THINGS BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE TRUE. IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT YOU CAN GO NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST AND ASK ANYBODY ABOUT FRANK AND GET THE SAME ANSWER: "WHO THE HELL IS FRANK RICH?" THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS HIS STORY.

LIKE GEORGE M. COHAN, FRANK RICH WAS BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY. I DO NOT GIVE YOU THE YEAR OF HIS BIRTH, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT THE YEAR IS GIVEN ON HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN ROMAN NUMERALS. IT IS NOT TRUE, AS REPORTED BY CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS, THAT HIS MOTHER HAD MORNING SICKNESS AFTER HE WAS BORN. AS A YOUNG LAD, HE MADE AN INDELIBLE IMPRESSION ON ALL WHO KNEW HIM. HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME AT THE AGE OF FIVE AND, WHEN THE POLICE CAME, HIS PARENTS COULDN'T DESCRIBE HIM. AT THE AGE OF SIX, HIS FATHER GAVE HIM A SET OF BLOCKS TO PLAY WITH. FORTUNATELY, THE BLOCKS WERE LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN STAMFORD. THE YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE HIS YOUTH HAVE BEEN KIND TO HIM, BUT THE WEEKS IN BETWEEN HAVE KNOCKED HIM TO PIECES.

FRANK RECEIVED HIS ENGINEERING DEGREE FROM PRINCETON, BUT MOST OF US HAVE FORGIVEN HIM FOR THAT. WHILE AT COLLEGE, HE WAS KNOWN FOR DILIGENCE IN HIS STUDIES -- OF THE OPPOSITE SEX. HE ONCE ASKED A YOUNG LADY IF HE COULD SEE HER APARTMENT -- SO SHE DREW HIM A SKETCH. ANOTHER YOUNG WOMAN, AT THE END OF A DATE WITH FRANK, WAS HEARD TO SAY: "I'VE HAD A WONDERFUL EVENING, BUT THIS WASN'T IT." AFTER HE FINALLY DEVELOPED A LONG-TERM

RELATIONSHIP, HE APPEARED AT HIS GIRLFRIEND'S HOME ONE NIGHT WITH A PACKED SUITCASE AND ANNOUNCED HE WAS LEAVING FOR MEXICO. WHEN SHE ASKED HIM WHY HE WAS GOING THERE, HE SAID: "I HEARD THAT THEY PAY A MAN \$50.00 A NIGHT FOR HIS SERVICES IN MEXICO." THE LADY IMMEDIATELY PACKED HER SUITCASE AND ANNOUNCED SHE WAS GOING WITH HIM. WHEN FRANK ASKED HER WHY SHE WAS GOING, SHE REPLIED: "I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE ON \$100.00 A MONTH."

FOLLOWING HIS GRADUATION FROM PRINCETON, FRANK SPENT A YEAR AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY UNDER THE MARINE CORPS V-12 PROGRAM AND, AFTER OFFICERS TRAINING SCHOOL, WAS COMMISSIONED A MARINE CORPS OFFICER. HE SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CHINA, WHERE HE OFFERED TO REBUILD THE GREAT WALL AT COST PLUS TEN PERCENT. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT GAVE HIS UNIT SPECIAL RECOGNITION, AND THAT WAS AN UNUSUAL THING FOR TEDDY TO DO.

AFTER HIS MILITARY SERVICE, FRANK BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH THE F.D. RICH COMPANY, WHICH HE NOW SERVES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE COMPANY HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD, DEVELOPING AND BUILDING PROJECTS AND FURNISHING BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. FRANK HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE DESIGN OF MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS -- ONE STORY FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION, ONE STORY FOR THE TENANTS, ONE STORY FOR THE FINANCING INSTITUTION AND SO ON. PART OF HIS SUCCESS IS

ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE EARLY ADVICE ON SEX AND REAL ESTATE INVESTING GIVEN BY FRANK'S FATHER -- "GET LOTS WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG." FRANK ONCE RAN A PROMOTION FOR PROSPECTIVE TENANTS IN ONE OF HIS BUILDINGS. THE PROSPECTS WERE TOLD THAT, IF THEY RENTED SPACE IN THE BUILDING, THEY WOULD BE ENTITLED TO FREE SECRETARIAL SERVICES SUPPLIED BY A COMELY YOUNG LADY. A GENTLEMAN WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OFFER WAS SEEN TO WHISPER IN THE LADY'S EAR SHORTLY AFTER HE BECAME A TENANT IN THE BUILDING. HER RESPONSE WAS THIS: "OH NO -- YOU GOT THAT WHEN YOU SIGNED THE LEASE."

WHEN A GOVERNMENT AGENCY REQUESTED A ROSTER OF RICH COMPANY EMPLOYEES BROKEN DOWN BY AGE AND SEX, FRANK REPORTED IN A LETTER AS FOLLOWS: "WHILE SOME OF OUR EMPLOYEES MAY BE BROKEN DOWN BY ALCOHOL, NOT ONE IS BROKEN DOWN BY AGE OR SEX." MANY OF FRANK'S EMPLOYEES SAY YOU CAN'T HELP ADMIRING HIM, BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T YOU'RE FIRED. BUT HIS EMPLOYEES REALLY HAVE A HIGH REGARD FOR HIM. HE GIVES THEM SOMETHING EXTRA EVERY YEAR. THIS YEAR IT WAS ULCERS. ONE OF HIS CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISORS ONCE MADE THE MISTAKE OF TELLING HIM THAT ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY. FRANK REPLIED, "I DIDN'T RUN THAT JOB." WHEN HE CONSTRUCTED AN AIR FORCE HOUSING PROJECT HALF A MILE FROM THE DESIGNATED SITE, FRANK WAS HEARD TO SAY: "IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT WORK."

IT IS UNFORTUNATE, THOUGH NECESSARY, THAT ONE WHO DIRECTS THE OPERATIONS OF A LARGE ORGANIZATION SUCH AS F.D. RICH COMPANY MUST DEAL WITH LAWYERS AND JUDGES. FRANK HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN

SOME HEAVY LITIGATION DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CAREER AND ONE IMPORTANT CASE INVOLVING F.D. RICH EVENTUALLY REACHED THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AND NOW IS WIDELY CITED. FRANK OFTEN HAS SAID THAT ANYONE WHO SAYS TALK IS CHEAP NEVER HIRED A LAWYER. HE DECIDED TO APPEAR FOR HIMSELF IN ONE CASE AND WHEN THE JUDGE ASKED WHO WOULD REPRESENT HIM, HE SAID: "GOD IS MY LAWYER." THE JUDGE REPLIED: "YOU SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE LOCALLY." FRANK ONCE HAD A LAWYER SO BRILLIANT HE COULD LOOK AT ANY CONTRACT AND IMMEDIATELY TELL IF IT WAS ORAL OR WRITTEN. WHILE WAITING FOR HIS CASE TO BE CALLED BY A COLLEAGUE OF MINE IN A UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, FRANK WAS PRIVILEGED TO HEAR SENTENCING PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING AN EIGHTY YEAR OLD MAN. MY COLLEAGUE IMPOSED A FIFTEEN YEAR SENTENCE AND WHEN THE DEFENDANT PROTESTED THAT HE COULD NOT SERVE SUCH A LENGTHY SENTENCE DUE TO HIS AGE, MY COLLEAGUE SAID: "DO AS MUCH AS YOU CAN." AN EMPLOYEE OF F.D. RICH ONCE WROTE TO A JUDGE COMPLAINING OF INJURIES SUSTAINED AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE. THE EMPLOYEE WROTE: "EVER SINCE I FELL AT THE RICH COMPANY JOB, I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO HAVE MARITAL RELATIONS MORE THAN THREE TIMES A WEEK." THE JUDGE WROTE BACK: "WHERE IS THAT CONSTRUCTION SITE? I'D LIKE TO FALL THERE MYSELF." FRANK HAPPENED TO BE IN A STATE COURT ONE DAY JUST IN TIME TO HEAR THE JUDGE IN A DIVORCE CASE ADDRESS THE HUSBAND AS FOLLOWS: "YOUNG MAN, I AM GIVING YOUR WIFE \$500.00 A WEEK IN ALIMONY." THE HUSBAND IMMEDIATELY SAID: "THANK YOU JUDGE, I'LL THROW IN A FEW DOLLARS MYSELF."

FROM TIME TO TIME, FRANK HAS GIVEN OF HIS RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT POLITICAL OFFICE. MANY HAVE RUN AS FAVORITE SONS, BUT FRANK THINKS THEY SHOULD HAVE FINISHED THE PHRASE. HE ONCE SUPPORTED A CANDIDATE WHOSE MOTTO WAS "HONESTY IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR EXPERIENCE." FRANK CONCLUDED THAT ONE CANDIDATE WHO HEARD THE CALL OF THE PEOPLE REALLY WAS A VENTRILOQUIST. ANOTHER WAS THE BACKBONE OF HIS PARTY, ALTHOUGH SOME SAID HE RANKED LOWER ON THE ANATOMY. AFTER HEARING A WELL-KNOWN POLITICIAN GIVE A STIRRING AND PATRIOTIC SPEECH, FRANK SAID: "WHEN THEY MADE HER, THEY THREW AWAY THE SHOVEL." HIS CONNECTION WITH POLITICS HAS CAUSED FRANK TO BELIEVE IN CAPITAL PUNISHMENT -- HE BELIEVES EVERYONE IN THE CAPITAL SHOULD BE PUNISHED. AT ONE POLITICAL MEETING, THE WIFE OF A PERENNIAL CANDIDATE COMPLAINED TO FRANK THAT SHE HAD BEEN MARRIED FOR THREE YEARS AND STILL WAS IN AN INNOCENT CONDITION. IN RESPONSE TO FRANK'S INQUIRY AS TO THE CAUSE OF THIS UNUSUAL SITUATION, THE LADY REPLIED: "ALL HE DOES WHEN HE COMES HOME AT NIGHT IS SIT ON MY BED AND TELL ME HOW GOOD IT'S GOING TO BE."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRANK RICH IS THE HOLDER OF SEVERAL DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PATENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD, AND HE HAS AUTHORED NUMEROUS PAPERS AND PARTICIPATED IN MANY SYMPOSIA. ONE OF HIS PATENTS IS DESCRIBED AS "A BUILDING EMPLOYING PRE-FABRICATED ROOM-ENCLOSING MODULES WHICH FUNCTION ALSO AS BOX SHAPED HORIZONTAL BEAMS AND TIES FOR CONNECTING VERTICAL

WEIGHT-SUPPORTING COLUMNS INTO A RIGID FRAMEWORK." ONE OF HIS PAPERS IS ENTITLED "EXPERIENCES WITH SYSTEMS CONSTRUCTION ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM." AS YOU CAN SEE, FRANK HAS THE ABILITY TO TAKE ANY DRY SUBJECT AND MAKE IT DULL AND BORING.

FRANK RICH IS A PATRON OF THE ARTS. PRESIDENT OF THE STAMFORD STATE OPERA AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE STAMFORD CENTER FOR THE ARTS, HE IS A CONFIRMED OPERA BUFF AND HAS WRITTEN OPERA NOTES ON MOST OF THE LEADING OPERAS. AMONG HIS TITLES ARE "COMMERCE AND ART," NOTES ON AIDA, WRITTEN IN 1979, "THE GIRLS FROM NAGASAKI," NOTES ON MADAME BUTTERFLY, WRITTEN IN 1982, AND, COMBINING BUSINESS AND PLEASURE, "ARCHITECTURE AS OPERA," NOTES ON TOSCA, WRITTEN IN 1983. IT IS SAID THAT HE ATTENDED A DRESS REHEARSAL AT THE STAMFORD STATE OPERA AND, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF A DIFFICULT ARIA BY A DISTINGUISHED ARTIST, SHOUTED: "SING IT AGAIN!" THE ARTIST COMPLIED AND FRANK AGAIN SHOUTED, "SING IT AGAIN!" THIS HAPPENED FIVE TIMES, UNTIL THE ARTIST FINALLY SAID: "I THANK YOU, MR. RICH, BUT I AM JUST TOO TIRED TO SING THIS ARIA AGAIN, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU MAY ENJOY IT." FRANK SAID: "YOU WILL SING IT UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT." IT IS SAID THAT FRANK, AS A YOUNG MAN, DROVE TWENTY MILES THROUGH A BLINDING SNOWSTORM TO SEE JASCHA HEIFETZ PERFORM. WHEN HE ARRIVED, HE FOUND THAT THE CONCERT WAS CANCELLED AND THAT TICKET REFUNDS WERE AVAILABLE. HE STRODE INTO THE THEATER, FOUND HEIFETZ AND SAID: "MR. HEIFETZ, I HAVE DRIVEN TWENTY MILES IN A SNOWSTORM FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF

SEEING YOU. CAN'T YOU JUST SING ONE SONG?" FRANK ONCE ASKED A BOOK PUBLISHER WHAT HE SHOULD DO ABOUT THE COMPLETE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE WITH WHICH HIS WRITINGS WERE BEING MET. THE PUBLISHER ADVISED: "JOIN IT."

FRANK RICH IS AN EDUCATOR. HE HAS BEEN A TRUSTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT FOR TEN YEARS AND PRESENTLY SERVES AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HIS RECENT GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY WAS THE LARGEST EVER MADE BY A TRUSTEE AND WILL GO TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING. HE TAKES AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE UNIVERSITY AND ONCE ASKED THE DEAN OF ENGINEERING HOW MANY STUDENTS THERE WERE IN HIS SCHOOL. THE DEAN REPLIED: "ABOUT ONE IN A HUNDRED." FRANK LOOKED OVER SOME OF THE FRESHMAN APPLICATIONS. THERE WAS A QUESTION: "DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT BY FORCE OR VIOLENCE?" HALF CHECKED FORCE AND THE OTHER HALF CHECKED VIOLENCE. THE UNIVERSITY IS ONLY ONE OF HIS MANY PHILANTHROPIES, AND HE TAKES CHARITY VERY SERIOUSLY. HE ONCED FIRED A VICE-PRESIDENT BECAUSE OF THIS EXCHANGE WITH A BEGGAR: THE BEGGAR SAID: "I HAVEN'T TASTED FOOD IN A WEEK." THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE WAS: "DON'T WORRY. IT STILL TASTES THE SAME." THE BEGGAR CONTINUED: "I MEAN I HAVEN'T EATEN IN A WEEK." THE VICE-PRESIDENT REPLIED: "FORCE YOURSELF."

FRANK HAS TRIED TO STAY IN SHAPE BY PLAYING TENNIS. HE REALLY HAS IT ALL TOGETHER. NOW, IF HE COULD ONLY FIND WHERE HE

LEFT IT. THERE IS NOT A SINGLE THING HE DID AT EIGHTEEN THAT HE CAN'T DO NOW, WHICH SHOWS YOU HOW PATHETIC HE WAS AT EIGHTEEN. RECENTLY, HE HAD TROUBLE WITH HIS FOOT AND WENT TO THE DOCTOR COMPLAINING THAT HIS FOOT HURT. HE ASKED THE DOCTOR WHAT TO DO AND THE DOCTOR SAID: "LIMP." THE DOCTOR THEN TOLD HIM THAT HE COULDN'T PLAY TENNIS, WHICH IS WHAT MOST OF THE REST OF US HAVE BEEN TELLING HIM FOR YEARS. HE NOW IS AT AN AGE WHEN HIS BACK GOES OUT MORE THAN HE DOES. HE HAS WILLED HIS BODY TO SCIENCE, BUT SCIENCE IS CONTESTING THE WILL. FRANK IS TODAY A MAN WHO COMBINES THE WISDOM OF YOUTH WITH THE ENERGY OF OLD AGE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN IMPORTANT WORK SINCE 1927. THIS WORK, AIMED AT DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING, DISPELLING PREJUDICE AND PROMOTING BROTHERHOOD -- IS MORE IMPORTANT TODAY THAN IT WAS IN 1927. IT IS MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PLURALISM THAT IS AMERICA'S POTENTIAL CONTINUES TO BE NOURISHED BY NEW ARRIVALS FROM ALMOST EVERY NATION IN THE WORLD. THE DIALOGUE MUST CONTINUE -- THE YOUTH CONFERENCES, THE CAMPUS SEMINARS, THE SCHOLARSHIPS, THE POLICE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, THE INTER-RELIGIOUS DISCUSSIONS, AND THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE IN 1927 RESOLVED "TO PUBLISH THE FACT BEFORE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THE COUNTRY'S BEST LEADERSHIP IS ON THE SIDE OF UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD WILL BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIVERGENT KINDS AND CREEDS." I SAY TO YOU THAT FRANK RICH

REPRESENTS THE KIND OF BEST LEADERSHIP THOSE FOUNDERS WERE TALKING ABOUT. HIS PHILANTHROPY, HIS CONCERN FOR HIS COMMUNITY AND FOR THE WORLD AROUND HIM, HIS SERVICE FREELY GIVEN TO HELP PEOPLE OF ALL RACES, RELIGIONS AND ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, HIS FAITH IN THE NATION AND ITS DETERMINATION TO BE INDIVISIBLE, BUT WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, HIS ENJOYMENT AND APPRECIATION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY -- THESE QUALIFY HIM FOR THE WELL DESERVED HONOR YOU GIVE HIM TONIGHT. HIS IS AN EXAMPLE WHICH INSPIRES US ALL. TIME HAS NOT PERMITTED ME TO DISCUSS ALL HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THERE IS ONE SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT CANNOT BE LEFT UNMENTIONED, HOWEVER. THAT ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS TO PERSUADE THE LOVELY JEAN HOPKINS TO MARRY HIM IN 1948. SIX WONDERFUL CHILDREN WERE BORN TO THAT MARRIAGE. [INTRODUCTION] IN MY OPINION, WHICH MEANS SOMETHING ONLY IN A COURTROOM, THIS AWARD BELONGS TO JEAN AS MUCH AS IT DOES TO FRANK. WHEN SOMEONE ACCUSED FRANK OF BEING CONTROLLED BY POWERFUL FORCES, HE SAID: "WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT JEAN?"

FRANK, YOU ARE A LEGEND IN YOUR OWN MIND; YOU HAVE CARRIED ON A GREAT LOVE AFFAIR UNASSISTED; YOU ARE A MODEST MAN WITH A LOT TO BE MODEST ABOUT; YOU ARE A NAIVE MAN -- WHEN YOU WERE TOLD THAT ONE OF YOUR EMPLOYEES WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR, YOU ASKED: "WHO'S CATERING?" BUT YOUR NAIVETE IS PART OF YOUR CHARM. AND SO IS YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR, THANK GOD. YOU HAVE DONE MORE THINGS FOR MORE PEOPLE WITHOUT THOUGHT OF REWARD THAN ANYBODY I KNOW.

NO ONE IS MORE DESERVING OF HIS HONOR, BUT I AM GLAD THAT THE
AWARD IS NOT A GOLD MEDAL BECAUSE YOU'D PROBABLY HAVE IT BRONZED.
MAY YOU AND JEAN CONTINUE TO HAVE LENGTH OF DAYS, LOYALTY,
LAUGHTER AND LOVE. GOD BLESS YOU.

THANK YOU,

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, INC.

CONNECTICUT - WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS REGION
111 PEARL STREET / HARTFORD, CONN. 06103
(203) 522-4231

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November 28, 1984

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ROBERT J. MINER
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

The Honorable Roger J. Miner
United States District Court Judge
United States District Courthouse
P. O. Box 858
Albany, New York 12201

Dear Judge Miner:

We are very pleased, indeed, that you and Mrs. Miner can be with us next week in Stamford to participate in the 1984 N.C.C.J. Award presentation to Frank Rich. Enclosed are a few notes concerning Frank's activities which you might find helpful in preparation for your comments of introduction.

In these Fairfield Area dinners we have adopted a format which has proven quite successful for several years. All spoken portions of the program including the introduction, award presentation and response by the Honoree precede the dinner. This allows those attending to eat at leisure and depart as necessary without missing the primary occasion of the evening. This becomes helpful because people will be attending from all parts of Fairfield County.

Immediately following your comments of introduction, Philip Drake, Dinner Chairman, will present the citation, reading the inscription, to Frank Rich and Frank will respond in whatever vein he feels appropriate.

We have found it adds to the evening to have someone indicated by the honoree to make those introductory comments which illuminate some aspects of the honoree's life, work, spirit and whatever else seems significant before the presentation is made.

The reception begins at 6:15 p.m. and we expect to move into the Ballroom for the program just shortly before 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the notes on Frank Rich, I am enclosing a small brochure which outlines the work of the National Conference and in very general terms indicates some of the areas in which our programs are developed.

This is not a black tie dinner. However we do have seating by assignment and the several people at the head table for the presentation will be seated together, with their spouses, at

an assigned table for the dinner.

I believe arrangements for your stay at the Marriott are being cared for. Please do not hesitate to call our office if there is any additional information which would be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles T. Sardeson

Charles T. Sardeson ³

CTS/rb

Enclosures

Dear Judge Miner:

The following appeared in our HARTFORD COURANT - Sat. - Nov. 10, 1984

TRUSTEE DONATES
MONEY TO UCONN

A \$100,000 donation for a new engineering building has been made to the University of Connecticut by university trustee FRANK D. RICH JR. of Darien, officials announced Friday.

University President John A. Di Biaggio said during a board of trustees meeting Friday that the money is "the largest gift ever given to this university by a trustee." He said, the money is part of the university's effort to raise \$1 million for a new engineering building.