



NEWS

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FROM: William Ryan

O - 202-659-6700

H - 202-686-1824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOK EXAMINES SOCIAL POLICY FORMATION IN THE CATHOLIC AND JEWISH TRADITIONS

WASHINGTON--A book which grew out of a dialogue between Catholic and Jewish representatives examines the social-policy making structures of the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish religious community in the United States.

"Formation of Social Policy in the Catholic and Jewish Traditions" was edited by Eugene J. Fisher, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and Rabbi Daniel F. Polish, Associate Executive Vice-President, Synagogue Council of America.

The book contains the papers presented at a meeting held at the University of Notre Dame in the spring of 1979 under the co-sponsorship of the NCCB Secretariat and the Synagogue Council. It was published by the University of Notre Dame Press.

The authors note that the American tradition of religious involvement in the shaping of public social policy is evidenced by the fact that official representatives of all faiths continue to address a wide range of issues such as welfare reform, gun control, human rights, euthanasia and abortion.

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They describe the actual policy-making structures within the Catholic and Jewish communities, addressing such matters as the point at which an issue becomes crucial enough to demand a position, the kind of reflection which precedes formal statements, the goals of such statements, and the matter of whose testimony is sought for authentic presentation of the religious tradition as well as for an accurate assessment of the social issue under consideration. The book examines these and other questions in the context of actual Catholic and Jewish positions on family policy, national economic policy, and international human rights.

Contributors to the book include Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Director, Department of Interreligious Affairs, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, on "Social Policy-Making Structures of the Jewish Community"; Msgr. Francis J. Lally, Secretary for Social Development and World Peace, United States Catholic Conference (USCC), "Social Policy-Making Structures of the USCC"; Auxiliary Bishop J. Francis Stafford of Baltimore, Chairman of the USCC Commission on Marriage and Family Life, "Religion and Family Policy: A Catholic Perspective"; Dr. Seymour Siegel, Professor of Theology, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, "Religion and Family Policy: A Jewish Perspective"; Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser, Forest Hills Jewish Center, New York, "Religion and National Economic Policy: A Jewish Perspective"; Msgr. George G. Higgins, former USCC Secretary for Special Concerns, "Religion and National

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Economic Policy: A Catholic Perspective"; Father J. Bryan Hehir, USCC Associate Secretary for International Justice and Peace, "Religion and International Human Rights: A Catholic Perspective"; Dr. Michael Wyschogrod, Baruch College, New York, "Religion and International Human Rights: A Jewish Perspective"; Rabbi Sol Roth, Executive Committee, Rabbinical Council of America, "Methodology and Social Policy: A Jewish Perspective", and Father John L. Pawlikowski, O.S.M., Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, "Method in Catholic Social Ethics: Some Observations in Light of the Jewish Tradition."

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