

CESJ Trip to Israel

● Having completed their successful visit to the Vatican on Feb. 4-9, 1987, CESJ delegation members Norman Kurland, Bruce Mazzie, and Rabbi Herzel Kranz travelled on to Israel where they met with a number of leaders in government, business, and labor, as well as members of a major public policy think tank. One of the most important meetings was with Knesset member Israel Kessar, who also heads the Histadrut, the Israeli labor federation. The CESJ representatives made a detailed presentation on economic justice to key staff members and offered two concrete action proposals which the Histadrut could take toward implementing some of the ideas in the report of the Presidential Task Force on Project Economic Justice (PEJ).

Another important session took place with Arye Mechel, the political advisor to Prime Minister Shamir, who expressed keen interest in the report and the potential for employee stock ownership to help the Israeli economy. In addition to a productive meeting with Chairman of the Board Arnon Gafny, President Y. Gavish, and other top officials of Koor Industries, the delegation made luncheon presentations hosted by the Israel Management Association and the Jerusalem Center for Economic and Social Progress, leading to a mutual desire for collaboration between that group and CESJ.

● Following the Rome meetings, CESJ board member Kris Ludwiniak travelled to Paris. There he met with industrialist and philanthropist Remy Schlumberger, the President of FONDACT, an organization dedicated to promoting expanded capital ownership in France. Kris gave the PEJ report to Mr. Schlumberger, and after discussing in depth the moral aspects of employee stock ownership, the two agreed to explore a possible collaboration between FONDACT and CESJ.

Other Expanded Capital Ownership News

● In a summary of its international conference last fall in Jakarta, the Global Economic Action Institute has identified expanded capital ownership as an important means of promoting economic development in the Third World. The report lists, as one of its recommendations, that "Voluntary employee stock ownership schemes should be fostered by enabling legislation." CESJ was represented at the Jakarta conference by Norm Kurland and Joe Recinos.

● The PEJ report continues to reach a growing audience. Among the groups buying copies of the report in bulk are USAID, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Inst. for Free Labor Development, the Teamsters Union, and the U.S. Global Strategy Council.

● At CESJ's February meeting, two old champions of employee ownership joined the fold. Daniel Haley heads the Center for Employee Ownership and Participation, created by Gov. Cuomo of New York. Mr. Haley is working with business, labor and government leaders to encourage and increase employee ownership throughout New York State. Bill Bishop is director of the newly formed (Nov. 1986) Pennsylvania Employee Ownership Council, which has similar goals for the Keystone State. Mr. Bishop has received strong encouragement from Gov. Casey, who wrote him in an Oct. 17, 1986 message, "I want to both extend and expand the state's commitment to ESOPs. I look forward to working with you and your associates in the years ahead to bring the benefits of ESOPs to the commonwealth and its people."

● According to the Wall Street Journal (Jan. 7), the General Accounting Office reported that as of 1983 there were 7200 ESOP businesses in America, with

\$18.7 billion in assets owned by ESOP shareholders, involving 7.1 million worker-owners, or 7% of the labor force. The amount of equity held by ESOP participants was still small--1% of total U.S. stocks; still the GAO concluded that ESOPs have succeeded in increasing employees' ownership of stock in their companies.

Special Sunday Lecture

When: Sunday, March 22, 9:45 a.m.

Where: Silver Spring Jewish Center

1401 Arcola Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

Information and Directions: Call (301) 649-4425

This month CESJ travels to Silver Spring, MD to hear a presentation by Dr. Meir Tamari, Chief Economist of the Office of the Governor, Bank of Israel. Dr. Tamari is author of *Jewish Ethics and Economic Life* and *With All Your Possessions*. His presentation, entitled "Can Israel Bite the Economic Bullet? An Insider's View," will examine issues of economic justice from a Jewish perspective.

Breakfast and lecture: \$5.00; lecture only: free. For breakfast, call (301) 649-4425. The public is invited.

*** Closing Thoughts ***

"Greater is he who lends than he who gives,
and greater still is he who lends, and with the loan,
helps the poor man to help himself."