

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

FERNE KATLEMAN

When I took office two years ago at the Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, I did so in anticipation—I quote from my inaugural speech of May 29, 1984: “. . . —anticipation that the Conference of Jewish Communal Service and its affiliated professional associations can be an even greater influence for good. The Conference must continue to grow and develop as a vehicle for the professional enhancement of its members. It must stimulate and encourage standard-setting to enhance the level of practice in all areas and it must coalesce its constituents—recognizing that our strength is rooted in our collective ability to communicate our commitment to Jewish life by demonstrating professional expertise, knowledge and values. Less parochialism and more interdependence, less concern about management and more stress on leadership—these are the qualities that must characterize our field. I anticipate that membership will take greater responsibility for attracting talented people into our field, that we will help make strides in assuring career opportunities for women and men and that we will work with all of our partners—APA's, national agencies and community leadership—to establish a Jewish communal service environment which nourishes the best in human resource development.”

Throughout the past two years the committees, task forces and leadership of CJCS have worked diligently to help the Conference move in the directions indicated in that address. Cooperation between CJCS and its affiliate groups has enhanced the effectiveness of all and,

Adapted from Miss Katleman's remarks at sessions of the 1986 Annual Meeting.

through mutual support, we have begun to make headway in a number of important areas. These include continuing and professional development, public issues involvement, recruitment for the field of Jewish communal service, professional leadership development and personnel practices. The recent publication of “The Rights and Responsibilities of the Practitioner” which represents several years of labor by scores of colleagues, is an example of collaborative effort; this document should make an important contribution to our profession for years to come.

I am pleased to be able to report that progress has been made in all the areas covered in my “anticipations” and in another area as well. Because of the commitment and leadership of past president Gerald Bubis, I am able to announce an exciting development—through Jerry's efforts CJCS has received, to date, three endowment gifts totalling \$45,000; income from these gifts is designated to support future Annual Meetings of this Conference.

I want to congratulate the new officers and board members and thank my leadership team: Evan Bayer, Alan Bennett, Gerald Bubis, Cindy Chazan, Ronald Coun, Ted Farber, Gene Greenzweig, Daniel Mann, Bernard Rosen, Herbert Shore, Ethel Taft, Daniel Thursz, Joe Weinberg, and Joel Ollander and Matthew Penn, Executive Director and Executive Director, Emeritus, respectively.

No professional can hope to fulfill the top leadership role in this Conference without the strong support of his or her agency—and I have certainly had that from the leadership of the CJF, lay as well as professional. For all of that, I am grateful.

We've used a lot of words over and over these three days of the Annual Meeting:

- friend
- colleagues
- distinguished
- thanks

I want to use these words just one more time. . . and so, to all of you and to the entire membership of CJCS I say — **distinguished colleagues and friends**, it's been a terrific two years for me. I've learned from you. I've been nurtured by you. I will forever be warmed by my memories of the opportunities, the experience and, most of all, the relationships you have made possible. **Thank you all!**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his poem, "The Builders," states:

"Build today, then, strong and sure
with a firm and ample base;
and ascending and secure
shall tomorrow find its place"

I know our Tomorrow is in good hands—the hands of Ethel Taft, the

Associate Executive Director of the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles.

For nineteen years, we have been good friends. For the past four years, I have had the privilege of working with her in CJCS leadership. For the past year, I have had the privilege of working with Ettie in her role as president-elect. She played that role with a sense of commitment, of loyalty, integrity, support and, I'm sure at times, restraint!

The preamble of the new CJCS Model Code of Ethics states: "Among the qualities that a communal service practitioner must possess are integrity, compassion, belief in the dignity and worth of human beings, respect for individual differences and commitment to service."

Service to our professional organization is also a communal trust and the qualities of leadership needed to fulfill that trust are the same: integrity, compassion, belief in the dignity and worth of human beings, respect for individual differences and commitment to service. When we add to these qualities warmth, wisdom and Yiddish *tam*, there is no doubt that we have the next president of the Conference of Jewish Communal Service—Ethel Taft.