

NVTimes
Another View of the President's Defender

OCT 22 1973

To the Editor:

Since The Times printed the letter "One View of the President's Defender" [Oct. 8], the defender being Rabbi Baruch Korff, I feel that your readers are entitled to a view from one who has known Rabbi Korff for forty years, to contrast with that of a total stranger who has to rely on distorted news accounts to "introduce" him to your readers.

From the time of our student days at Yeshiva Rabbi Isaac Elchanan (Yeshiva University), Baruch Korff was recognized as a highly sensitive and compassionate human being, always responsive to the needs of his fellow men.

Rabbi Korff is a scion of an illustrious Hasidic family, which includes such luminaries as Prof. Abraham Joshua Heschel, of blessed memory. With singular dedication to the oppressed, Rabbi Korff earned a reputation during the war years as a "one-man rescue squad." He refused to relax his superhuman efforts for the victims after the holocaust. He is known to have engineered some of the most daring rescue activities which saved so many of his fellow Jews.

Permit me to say that it ill befits The Times to print an obviously erroneous view when its own unlimited resources could have established a more accurate view of the "President's Defender."

Also, I resent the attempt to discredit a cause by discrediting its sponsor. Even though I am not in accord with Rabbi Korff's National Citizens' Committee for Fairness to the Presidency, nevertheless, knowing him as I do, I respect his efforts, and I venture to say that his "Fairness Appeal" might well be rooted in his earlier

cause, that of the survival of Israel.

After all, U.S. aid to Israel during President Nixon's first four years exceeded the combined aid given to Israel under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. This, to me, would be a more plausible explanation of Rabbi Korff's motivation.

(Rabbi) NATHAN N. ROSEN
Providence, R. I., Oct. 9, 1973

To the Editor:

As a grandson of the revered Grand Rabbi Jacob I. Korff, of blessed memory, I am bound by both Biblical prescription and simple decency to take exception to the Oct. 8 letter entitled "One View of the President's Defender." This is the least I can do after so unwarranted and unjustified an attack on the memory of a righteous man, loved and esteemed by so many hundreds of thousands of men and women all over the world.

I was too young to remember the throngs which bore my grandfather's body through the streets of Boston to its final resting place, but I am continually and continuously inspired by accounts of that day, related by two generations of his disciples, recalling the world, national, state and local secular and religious leaders of that time including 300 rabbis who headed the official list of mourners, and the memorial mass meeting of the Union of Grand Rabbis of the United States and Canada, which decreed a special period of mourning.

As remembered in a volume by Rabbi Abraham Schapira of New York, "All of his days were lived in holiness and in purity" as he "established . . . his household on the pillar of *Gemilus Chasodim* [deeds of lovingkindness]."

Criticize my uncles; criticize my father. They, thank God, are alive to defend the honesty, integrity and sincerity of the motivation of their actions, as well as to debate the worthwhileness of their causes. But this distortion, in the guise of comment on my uncle's actions, of a dead man, a saint and a scholar, a devoted, compassionate, pious and humble man who helped so many during his lifetime and whose Torah legacy lives on in the hearts of so many more merely reflects upon the character and sincerity of the letter writer and upon all that he has written.

One then doubts the motive which led him to write such a letter, and to so deeply pain all those who knew my beloved grandfather, Grand Rabbi Jacob I. Korff. (Rabbi) IR. A. KORFF
Hull, Mass., Oct. 10, 1973