



Nathan Ellsberg's strum-along at Metro Airport.

The Word Went Out

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Five weeks ago, all that existed of Detroit's plan for participation in the Dec. 6 Soviet Jewry rally was a list of names of charter airline companies, a general idea of how much it would cost to charter a plane, a list of 150 people interested in traveling to Washington and a committee ready to meet when a rally date was set.

By Sunday, though, the number of people eager to march for Soviet Jews had swelled to over 1,000, three airplanes had been chartered, kosher breakfasts and lunches had been brown bagged, picket signs, hats and song sheets had been printed, and the 877 who were to fill the planes had received three information updates through the mail.

The Michigan contingent was the largest non-east coast delegation to attend the demonstration. Outfitting and managing a group that size was a Herculean feat. Once at the rally site, the literal crush of humanity prevented coordination among the delegation's leaders. On the flight

back to Detroit, Jewish Community Council Assistant Director Allan Gale expressed relief — and some surprise — that despite the tumult at the rally, everyone made it back to the planes.

Aside from the planning by the Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Welfare Federation, and the assistance of numerous volunteers, much of the credit for keeping Michigan participants from disappearing into that sea of 200,000 souls can be traced to those silly white-with-red-lettering paper hats.

The hats were printed by the Craig-Richard specialty company at a cost of \$1 apiece, according to the Jewish Welfare Federation which arranged for their manufacture. Federation also took care of the printing and stuffing of the information packets which travelers received along with their tickets, and arranged for the fleet of 12 United Hebrew Schools busses, which ferried over 400 travelers between the airport and the pick-up/drop-off point. The site, at 30100 Telegraph Road, was made available by its owner, Lester Burton. Also important was the \$45,000



Robert and Arianna Gordon and Naomi Leobl switch from bus to plane in Baltimore.

approved by Federation's funding arm, United Jewish Charities, to underwrite the cost of transporting the delegation to the event. That sum included \$10,000 to assist the national effort.

But all the money in the world would have been for naught without a breakfast of bagels, lox and cream cheese. This surprise repast for 877 was donated by Borman Foods. Lunch, however, was planned, and was catered by Rabbi Henry Goldschlag, Gale said.

One hundred picket signs were printed, at a cost of \$300, by the Hacker Sign Company.

As the requests for seats poured in, Jewish Community Council staf-

fers found that they were unexpectedly becoming travel agents. "We got into the business of seating people," Gale said. "Every day we were getting calls. It was something we'd never done before."

Gale explained that the staff ran a computer program to arrange the constantly changing seating needs.

Sen. Carl Levin and U.S. Reps. Sander Levin (D-Southfield) and Dale Kildee (D-Flint) joined the Michigan delegation at the rally. State Senator Lana Pollack (D-Ann Arbor) was at Metro Airport to see the group off; Governor James Blanchard sent a proclamation to the delegation.

The rally practically sold itself, he said. □