



1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 110

February 24, 1998 - Introduced by Representatives PLALE, WASSERMAN, FREESE, BALDWIN, GREEN, GROTHMAN, HASENOHRL, JENSEN, F. LASEE, NOTESTEIN, PLOUFF, R. POTTER, SYKORA, TURNER, WALKER and R. YOUNG, cosponsored by Senators GROBSCHMIDT, ROSENZWEIG, BURKE, DARLING and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** a humanitarian fund for Holocaust victims.

2 Whereas, recent published reports have indicated that before and during World
3 War II money and assets taken from Jewish victims of Nazi Germany were deposited
4 into Swiss bank accounts; and

5 Whereas, an attempt is being made by the Swiss government and the banks of
6 Switzerland to establish a foundation to make amends for their country's dealings
7 with Nazi Germany; and

8 Whereas, the Wisconsin legislature welcomes the establishment of a
9 Humanitarian Fund for Holocaust Victims by Switzerland's 3 largest banks and
10 recognizes that that action represents a hopeful sign of Swiss determination to
11 resolve fully and fairly the matter of missing Jewish assets deposited into Swiss
12 banks before and during World War II; and

13 Whereas, a full-page advertisement in the Swiss press is recent testimony to
14 the wish of many citizens that their nation move firmly in the direction of
15 compensation; and that advertisement, a petition by more than 100 Swiss academics

1 and artists demanding that Switzerland and its people acknowledge their moral
2 obligations toward Jewish groups, reportedly generated an outpouring of support
3 from Switzerland's leaders to address the issue of public attitudes towards Jews, the
4 Holocaust and the past in a serious way, including education that raises issues
5 concerning the moral dilemmas facing Switzerland during and after the war; and

6 Whereas, 2 commissions have been established by the Swiss government to
7 investigate Switzerland's wartime dealings, and the legislature believes that the
8 establishment of these commissions further reflects Swiss recognition of a moral
9 obligation to uncover the truth, especially in light of the advanced age of the
10 Holocaust survivor population; now, therefore, be it

11 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature of
12 the state of Wisconsin calls for the Swiss government to make clear, unequivocal and
13 forceful statements to the Swiss citizenry condemning any expressions of
14 anti-Semitism in Switzerland; and, be it further

15 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature, along with the United States government and
16 the organized Jewish community, welcomes the establishment of a Humanitarian
17 Fund for Holocaust Victims by Switzerland's 3 largest banks; and, be it further

18 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature joins with the United States government and
19 the organized Jewish community in a call for a full and honest accounting of
20 unclaimed funds and for adherence by all to the highest ethical standards in
21 advancing a just and moral resolution that will serve the interests of all parties
22 involved; and, be it further

23 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
24 resolution to the members of this state's congressional delegation, the United States

1 Secretary of State and the Counsel General of Switzerland, located in Chicago,
2 Illinois.

3 (END)