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# Young Israel President Calls For Full Kashruth Disclosure In Wake Of Scandal

4-13-6

In the wake of a nationwide *kashruth* scandal, in which scores of kosher products under a variety of supervisions were found to be using an unacceptable wine alcohol derived vinegar ingredient, the president of the international Young Israel movement, Harold M. Jacobs, has demanded that, "all *kashruth* supervision agencies make full disclosure to the public of their internal

standards and operations." Noting that the offending ingredient, "was assumed to be under *kashruth* supervision itself, but, in fact, had been in violation of basic standards for as long as six months," Jacobs concluded that, "it is clear that the operating procedures in use by the *kashruth* supervision agencies have broken down. In order to re-establish the

credibility of the system in the eyes of the kosher consumer, it is vital that they make public the list of approved suppliers of raw ingredients which they permit to be used as well as all other pertinent details of their supervisions on each product."

The Young Israel president also decried, "the slow and incomplete release of information concerning the

wine vinegar incident as typical of the delaying and stonewalling tactics used by many of the *kashruth* supervisory agencies adding to the confusion and distrust of the consuming public. Seven weeks after the incident was discovered, a few days before Passover, the kosher consumer has still not been given a complete list of those products affected or unaffected, nor an adequate explanation of how the mistake happened in the first place."

Jacobs noted that "rumors of other serious lapses in *kashruth* supervision continue to spread. Therefore, unless the *kashruth* agencies accept their responsibility, kosher consumers will be compelled to repudiate the reliability of these national supervisions and be forced to go back to an earlier standard, when we relied exclusively on the judgement of our individual rabbis, to accept as kosher only those products for which our "Morah D'Asera" is willing to vouch