

Inspired by President **Ronald Reagan's** Israel policy.

Skorsky, a member of the Young Israel of West Hempstead, hopes to win a three-way primary to challenge incumbent Democrat **Carolyn McCarthy** in November. "She's probably a nice person who meant well," says Skorsky of the three-term representative who ran for office after her husband was murdered on the Long Island railroad by a deranged gunman in 1994. "But after six years she has no record to run on."

Skorsky alleges that McCarthy "has to ask the Democrats how to vote" on key issues and "takes her marching orders from **Dick Gephardt**, whose agenda is to be House speaker. ... On issues that affect my district, I won't have to ask another congressman from another district."

Skorsky, whose Web site bio details his parents' experiences during the Holocaust, says McCarthy has made all the right votes on Israel. "But there is no risk involved for her in a heavily Jewish district. She has never been a leader or an advocate. Why does it take someone from Texas like **Tom DeLay** to be a leader [on Israel]?"

McCarthy spokeswoman **Cecilia Prewett** countered that "it's always disturbing to hear remarks that may not be from a fully informed person. The congresswoman has been really busy on congressional matters, and has stood steadfastly by our only ally in the Middle East."

A kosher snack-food distributor who describes himself as middle class, Skorsky said he would challenge what he considers class warfare by the Democrats. "Their mantra is that the rich are the winners of life's lottery and the poor are constantly discriminated against," says Skorsky.

Skorsky would be the only Orthodox Jew in the House. But first he'll have to beat **Dan Frisa**

Orthodox-backed measure that requires insurers to cover infertility treatments. He's also working on a state-sponsored conference on security concerns for yeshivas.

Speaking of security, Democratic gubernatorial hopeful **Andrew Cuomo** is calling for random inspections of fuel trucks, background checks of drivers, and assistance from the National Guard to protect "significant centers of Jewish life."

Cuomo is responding to reports from captured Al Qaeda operatives that fuel trucks could be used to attack synagogues here.

In a letter to Pataki, Cuomo writes, "We have seen Jewish communities under attack in Israel, France, nearby in Canada and across the world. We must take ... actions to make sure that similar attacks do not occur in New York."

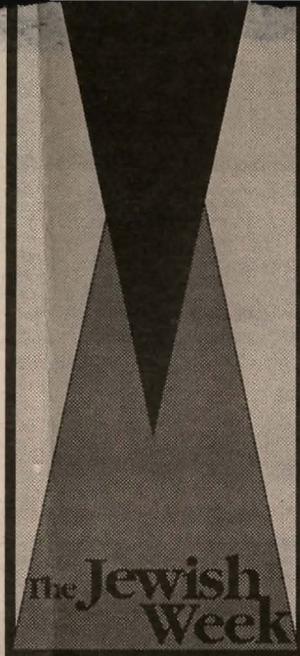
Cuomo's letter followed a visit to Borough Park with Brooklyn Councilman **Bill de Blasio**.

What was Oklahoma Sen. **James Inhofe** doing in Brooklyn last weekend?

Raising money, of course. The Republican picked up around \$50,000, more than enough to cover his trip to the Manhattan Beach home of businessman **Ruben Margules**, president of the Zionist Organization of America's Brooklyn chapter.

A leading member of the informal Christian Zionist caucus in the Senate, Inhofe has been increasingly vocal about Israel in the past year. "The senator has been a leading advocate of issues of concern to the American Jewish community," said political consultant **Ezra Friedlander**, who set up the parlor meeting.

Inhofe, who faces former Oklahoma governor **David Walters**, a Democrat, in November, is not considered in danger. □



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