

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

OF NEVADA

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VOICE OF NEVADA

by
Gov. Grant Sawyer



TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
 Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



Peeping Eardrums

Each man's right to privacy was cherished by the framers of our Constitution, and many Americans have died to protect the freedom that guarantees it. Today this right is threatened from within by a revolution in electronic eavesdropping and an army of snoopers.

We have been shocked to learn of the widespread use of listening devices for surreptitious interception of private conversations in the home, office and elsewhere. And it has been even more disturbing to learn that "bugging" has been used by government agencies to pry into the affairs of private citizens.

Presently the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure, headed by Senator Edward V. Long of Missouri, is holding hearings on allegations of wiretapping by federal agents. Nevada will be watching those hearings with interest, because of charges that people in this state were victimized.

Nevada state law, forbidding interception of phone messages or eavesdropping on private conversations, is clear. It states that each Nevadan has the right to expect that his privacy will not

be disturbed except with his permission or by court order.

Infringements of that right are punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Anyone violating Nevada law, regardless of his affiliation or purpose, will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. Federal, state and local agents will not be immune to prosecution if the performance of their duties has been contrary to our statutes. I will ask the Attorney General to act on any evidence of violations, whether it is uncovered by congressional hearing or other investigation. Any private citizen with information in this regard should report it to his district attorney.

Wiretapping is a valuable weapon in the fight against crime and it is properly used in the apprehension of the enemies of society. But there is a prescribed method for securing a court order so that wiretapping becomes a legal instrument of society, not a method of disrupting it.

Nevadans have a right to live their own lives without fear of electronic invasion. The government of this state is pledged to protection of that right.

PARENTS INVITED

On behalf of the Board of Education and the staff of the Religious School, parents are invited to attend a school Open House on November 22nd at 7:45 P.M.

There will be two class visitation according to the schedule below. At this time the teacher will explain the program of each particular class.

Dave Torjman - Room 4	Chaim Yehros - Room 3
ALIF I 7:45	ALIF II 7:45
GIMMEL I 8:00	GIMMEL II 8:00
Confirmation 8:15	DALID I 8:15
Jay Ingerlid - Room 2	Abe Schwartz - Room 5
ALIF I 7:45	DALID II 8:00
GIMMEL II 8:00	High School 8:15
SUN. & WED.	Willa Kohn - Room 5
CLASS 8:15	BET I 7:45

The second phase will consist of an informal coffee and cake session in the Social Hall where the teachers may be approached for individual questioning.

Hoping to see you there, I remain
 Cordially yours,
 Richard David, Board of Education

All Religious School classes will be dismissed at 7:30 P.M. on November 22nd.

WHY GO TO SYNAGOGUE?

I come to the Synagogue to probe my weakness and

my strength, and to fill the gap between my profession and my practice. I come to lift myself by my bootstraps. I come to quiet the turbulence of my heart, restrain its mad impulsiveness and check the itching eagerness of my every muscle to outsmart and out distance my neighbor. I come for self-renewal and regeneration. I come into the sadness and compassion permeating the Synagogue to contemplate and be instructed by the heaving panorama of Jewish martyrdom and human misery. I come to be strengthened in my determination to be free, never to compromise with idolatry or bow to dictatorship, cringe before autocracy or succumb to force. I come to orient myself to the whole of Reality, to the thrusts of power beyond the comprehension of my compounded dust. I come to behold the beauty of the Lord, to find Him who put an upward reach in the heart of man.

--Solomon Goldman

TO BE CERTAIN THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, THE OBSERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY JACK TELL ARE HIS AND HIS ALONE, AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THE OPINIONS OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

Somebody Failed

It is most disturbing to all Jews to read about a young man, born and raised in our Faith, who was devoting his life towards anti-Semitic aims until his heritage was exposed and he committed suicide.

Max Lerner referred to Daniel Burros as having lived a twisted life and died a twisted death. Lerner said: "Both his life and his death shed some light on the tensions of our time. Today, more than ever in our century, the children of Jewish families have a pride in their Jewishness. For Daniel Burros, living in a Jewish neighborhood, growing up in a Jewish family, the feeling was not pride, but shame and self-hate. Perhaps rather early in his life there were episodes of maddening frustration in satisfying some of his drive and psychic needs."

Lerner goes on, telling of a West Point appointment that never materialized as a dream that failed Burros.

Newsweek magazine (reprinted in full on P.5) reports in detail on how the New York Times unearthed the facts. One paragraph deserves restating here, for the point we desire to bring out in this column:

"Though the image jars layment, psychiatrists recognize Burros. He was a self-hater, the archetypical anti-Semitic Jew. The puzzled Phillips (who wrote the story) sought out a Jewish friend, who suggested "ALL JEWISH BOYS GO THROUGH A STAGE IN ADOLESCENCE WHEN THEY HATE THEIR JEWISHNESS FOR HAVING MARKED THEM AS DIFFERENT... THEY GO INTO A TAIL SPIN; MOST PULL OUT, BURROS DIDN'T" (The caps are ours).

We do not know who the "Jewish friend" was who made the above observation. If the "suggestion" is true, every Jewish parent of a son between the ages of nine and twelve should be alerted. These were the dangerous years for Burros, who died at 26, and who the Times story described "But in the late 1940's while public opinion recoiled at the full horror of Hitler's savagery, Burros was being perversely drawn to Nazism."

Since Burros had been a Bar Mitzvah, it is safe to assume he attended Hebrew, and therefore, not only should parents be alerted but Hebrew School teachers, Rabbis and Cantors.

Somewhere, somehow, there was a lack in instilling in Burros an understanding and reverence for his Jewish heritage and compassion for other members of his Faith. This warped view had to start at a single, definite moment in his life. It might have been a most insignificant act of indifference by one of the above-mentioned adults responsible for his proper guidance. It may not have been any of these who were at fault. It could have been the cruelty of a playmate that invoked the perversion.

If an outside source instituted the cause of the bias, parents and adults associated with Burros religious childhood did little or nothing to correct his slanted view. If anything, however it started, other acts must have compounded the horror to inflame and multiply the intense desire, not only to remove himself from his heritage but also to plunge into an overt part of destroying his brother-Jews.

If there was one Burros among us until a few days ago, there probably are others somewhere in this world. We now know this incredible circumstance is possible. Every effort should be made by all who come in contact with children for their spiritual guidance, to be certain the seed of disclamation is not planted.

Even if the parents are indifferent, through ignorance or selfishness, it is the duty of those who operate our temples to extend themselves in every manner and form to keep our children from straying. In every synagogue there are volunteers as well as paid employees, who come in contact with our youngsters. Although the volunteers are giving of their time and effort, their responsibility is no less than the professionals'. A Men's Club or Sisterhood committee chairman planning events for the children, should not be swayed by lack of interest on the part of the parents. As a matter of fact, so long as the child displays a desire to participate, that should be the determining factor. We believe the religious future of a child is the temple's responsibility despite an inept parent.

We believe children are sensitive beings. They may not be able to express or convey their reaction to a reprimand, but somewhere inside their immature minds or in the perceptive senses of their growing bodies there mounts a rebellion when placed in an embarrassing position. True, and thank God, in nearly every Jewish family there is an upbringing that instills respect for those who deserve respect, and therefore a resentment for a momentary dis-

(Continued on Page 5)

Editorial

All Respect Rabbi

BY Rabbi Samuel Silver
 (A Seven Arts Feature)

Do you like your rabbi?

Perhaps you didn't expect that question. After all, a rabbi is someone you think of in terms of respect rather than affection. Rabbis are often admired or revered.

Many, of course, are also liked. Recently I met a rabbi who is positively adored.

His name is Rabbi Nathan Witkin, and he serves one of the most unusual congregations in America.

People often jest that Rabbi Witkin's parish is intercontinental; it runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Isthmus of Panama, and that sliver of land joins the two oceans.

For thirty years this remarkable rabbi has ministered both to men in uniform and to the Jewish civilians of Panama. During World War II he himself donned uniform and served as a chaplain.

But, as soon as the war was over, he went back to his Jewish Welfare Board building in the town of Balboa and continued to spread sunshine in an area where inspiration and reconciliation are needed. The thousands of Americans in the Army, Navy, and Air Force located in Panama need a "home away from home" and they get it in Rabbi Witkin's chapel, in his lounge room, and most of all, in his genial personality. A thousand problems are always dancing around in Rabbi Witkin's head; these are the matters which concern the men in uniform who take their troubles to the rabbi.

The Jews of Panama also need Rabbi Witkin, for often they are without a rabbi of their own. At weddings, baby-blessings, holidays and in times of sadness they know they can turn to their friend and spiritual counselor.

Rabbi Witkin is a walking ecumenist. Ordained by the late, sainted Rabbi Kook, chief rabbi of Palestine, he is at home with Orthodox or liberal Jewish groups.

He is also at home in non-Jewish circles. Indeed, he is as adulated by Christians as he is by Jews. He has stamped upon the minds of multitudes an image of the Jew which redounds to the benefit of each one of us, wherever we are.

Rabbi Nathan Witkin has sustained personal sorrows, but he has borne them with incredible gallantry. This has enhanced his lovability and has sharpened the inspiration which he provides.

Find anyone who has ever been in Panama for any length of time and play a game with that person. Say the word "rabbi," and you can be sure he will immediately respond with "Witkin." Then stand back and let that person tell you the tales and marvels of that extraordinary servant of God who has chosen to remain in Panama, there adding to the sunshine of the area the spiritual sunshine of helpfulness and sweetness. And if you chance to go to Panama yourself you should include, among the sights to see, a personal glimpse of "that adorable rabbi."

By the way, don't forget Oy Vey

OY VEY

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