

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



### Cantorial Notes

by Cantor Joseph Kohn

### Dr. Fisher Visits L.V.

A thrilling and exciting lecture was heard by those privileged few who attended the Adult Education lecture last Tuesday evening, November 30th. The subject was "The Early Beginnings of Christianity." It was a stimulating lecture for anyone: lay people, educators, Jew and non-Jew alike.

This is not a new topic. A lot has been written about it. It has been debated and re-debated and probably will be for a long time. Therefore, it is seldom that anything really new is interjected by a lecturer to an audience. Yet Dr. Fisher was stimulating even to those who have done research or read extensively on this subject. It is a great credit to our Adult Educational program that men of this caliber are brought into this community.

Speaking for myself, I would travel one-hundred miles to hear a lecture of this caliber, for it is this type of intellectual experience that I found missing in our community and often times traveled to Los Angeles to hear. It is regretful that there were not at least

300 people to hear this dynamic and forceful speaker. I am sure there are a lot more than 45 people in our community interested in culture, in knowledge, in historical fact, than showed up for the lecture.

I can truly say this lecture compared more favorably in color and resourcefulness than many a lecturer I have heard at the Nevada Southern University.

I am only hoping that we will be able to have Dr. Fisher back once again. And to give this caliber of speaker true recognition we should have to use the Social Hall and not merely a few class rooms.

It would be nice of the Jewish community at large and the membership of the Temple in particular would put aside at least some Tuesday nights to attend the series of lectures for this was not the only one that was so inspiring. Other men of equal stature lecture every Tuesday night on various subjects. If you will just look into it I am sure you will find one or two a month that will interest you.

### U.S.Y. YOURS

by Jan Klein

The Leadership Training Institute, attended by Elias Agron, Judy Gold, Sharon Gold, Marty Kravitz, Susan Laxer, Mike Newman, Beth Weinstein and myself, was a huge success. The Las Vegas delegation was the largest there, and received special mention in the keynote address given by Danny Pressman, past regional president.

Our sociodrama was presented as part of Friday night's program -- it was about Russian Jewry and on Jewish civilizations throughout history.

Much of our time was spent in discussion groups studying material presented in a series of lectures given by community leaders and rabbis from the Los Angeles area on ethics, youth activities, leadership in the individual chapter, and many other interesting topics. We all agreed, however, that the best discussions were the chapter workshops, where we got together with kids from other chapters and went over problems in different areas of the chapter and how to eliminate them. The group headings were: B.S. B., Membership, Cultural-study, Newspaper, Standards, Recreation, Religious

Activities, and Fund-raising.

Saturday afternoon was free time, but there were various activities set up -- football, volleyball, basketball, Israeli dancing, and buzz sessions on any questions about USY and its functions as applied to each chapter.

Saturday evening was scheduled for fun -- a carnival was held in one area, with booths of all kinds (apple-bobbing, soak-the-counselor, Marryin' Sam, and many others) and a dance was in progress across the hall. Regional officers Neil Selman, Mike Schneider, Linda Weinstein, Marianne Kraus, Robbie Rome, Steve Rosen, and Robbie Summers put on a skit with music from Fiddler on the Roof; and Gary Fybel, Tommy Shannon, Gary Altman, Sharon Moore, and myself, of the Omar and Theta Pi Beta organizations, with assistance from counselors Ira Simonds, Bob Dworsky, and Rick Needelman, presented a demonstration initiation.

Sunday afternoon, after lunch, scribbling of phone numbers and addresses, and fond (!) farewells, the USYs split up into their buses and headed back to the Land of the Living.

### Nevada's Taxes

Nevada's tax structure, developed through the years, reflects both the political conservatism of the state and its heavy reliance on the tourist industry.

As was true in most states, the initial tax structure included only a property tax. Although local governments continue to rely heavily on this tax source, the state does not. Only about 6 percent of the state's general fund revenue now is derived from the property tax.

Our major tax is the sales tax. This raised 44 percent of the general fund revenue last year, or about \$22 million. This tax started in 1955 at 2 percent and has not been increased. Of the 39 states employing a sales tax, no state has a lower rate than Nevada's. This tax is particularly appropriate for Nevada because of our tourism rate. Through this tax, tourists pay much of the revenue that supports our educational and other state obligations.

Unfortunately, our tax does not exempt food stuffs and drugs. In my opinion, as soon as Nevada's tax structure can stand the change, unprepared food and drugs should be exempt from the sales tax.

Perhaps the most unusual Nevada tax is our gaming tax. As the students of Nevada history will recall, much of the wealth from Nevada's early mining booms was siphoned off to found fortunes elsewhere, particularly in California. As more than half of our tourist business comes from California, the gaming industry provides a method whereby the interest on this historical debt can be repaid. This tax source raised 27 percent of the general fund revenue in 1964-65, about \$13 million.

All states except one impose a cigarette tax. Nevada's rate of seven cents is surpassed by 28 states. Nevada's tax continually is being shared to a greater extent with the counties and cities. The state receives only two cents per pack and this tax source accounted only for 7 percent of the general fund revenue.

The liquor tax is one of the oldest Nevada taxes. Nevada's tax is six cents per gallon on malt liquors. At least 33 states impose a higher rate. On distilled spirits, about half of the states impose a rate higher than Nevada's \$1.40 per gallon.

The 1965 legislature enacted a casino entertainment tax which the state now is collecting. After January 1, 1966, this tax merely re-

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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.



### Israel's Top Envoy

It isn't often you attend a function, just like a hundred others, and you come away with a glow of satisfaction on being present to hear an outstanding speaker convey sentiments you have been sensing all your life, but never had the fortitude to put to words.

This is what happened when noted author and playwright Leonard Spigelgass addressed the recent Book Fair, sponsored by the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom.

In order to fully appreciate the essence and scope of his homey anecdotes, it would be best if we related the background of the man and the circumstances surrounding his visit to Las Vegas.

Do you remember, away back in the days of radio, the program with an ominous voice? "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" -- "The Shadow knows." Spigelgass wrote that delightfully thrilling epic of a bygone era. He penned many Broadway stage hits including a recent season's smash, "A Majority of One." His contributions to Hollywood have been numerous and brilliant from "Big Street" to "Gypsy." His manuscripts for television always carried the stamp of maturity like, "Eloise" and "Helen Morgan." His books, "Fed To The Teeth" and "Scuttle Under The Bonnet" have been accepted by fastidious readers, which is fair indication of what to expect from his soon-due novel, "The Free Thinkers."

This is the man who committed himself to appear at our Book Fair, mainly because he is a favorite nephew of our own Mrs. Preston Feingerg, serving as chairman of the program committee. What was not in the cards when he consented to come, was an unforeseen smog-bound Las Angeles airport which grounded all planes. Spigelgass, frustrated, waited until the very last minute, then boarded a train, - his first railroad trip probably since he rode the N.Y. subways in his teens.

Spigelgass is living proof that the biggest of men are those who are mindful of the small responsibilities in life. That's why he showed up.

By his background and stature on the podium, he was easily identified as an intellectual. By his opening words, you realized he was not an egg head or a professional intellectual. He showed his character by talking to his audience - not down to it.

Spigelgass told of his youth, a typical Jewish boy. He gave examples of the proximity of Jewish drama and humor and explained the derivation of slang words, like "kike," which originated when Jewish immigrants were asked to sign their names at Ellis Island. Most couldn't write, and all refused to designate their names with a cross. They made circles. Hence they were referred to as "Kikes" meaning circles.

Then he explained his conversion to Zionism, a masterpiece in simplicity, coupling stark realism with inherent Jewish family background, much like any of us.

Spigelgass was in Rome when someone suggested the short hop over to Israel. Up until that time his interest in the new Jewish state was wishy-washy. When he arrived in Tel Aviv, the tremendous activity caught up with him and he marvelled at the growing community. Like many of us, anything Jewish touched his heart. He found himself crying at tire factories and bicycle plants. This is normal, without being profound or lasting.

Then he experienced an incident that transformed him from indifferent to a one-man ambassador for Israel.

He had returned late to his expensive hotel, only to find the dining room closed to the general public. The captain informed him the room was reserved for a private party. Spigelgass became indignant. At the prices he was paying he demanded his dinner. He still was refused admission. He observed the persons who were being admitted to the dining room. They were very ordinary, non distinguished looking, and some quite elderly.

"How important could this private party be," Spigelgass

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### The Deputy

By Tina Werner

(Continued from last week)

While the older people refuse to talk about the war because of intense guilt feelings (they want to forget), the youngest group sees no use in discussing the past, which "doesn't concern" them.

A product of contemporary Germany, Hochhuth, 32 year old and a protestant, directs his play toward the younger and middle generation. He displays qualities of both these groups.

Dr. Sheldon feels that the central theme is one of universal guilt for the Nazi persecutions, not just the Germans. This is brought out when Hochhuth says "Our guilt is everyone's guilt, although it does not decrease the responsibilities of the Germans."

The contemporary theater reflects the social thoughts of the time but Dr. Sheldon feels that "The Deputy" failed to have the desired impact on the German people. Because of its attempt to hit two age groups, it hits none. In the same way, Sheldon says that because Hochhuth expresses qualities of both these generations, he belongs to neither.

Covering the theatrical aspects of the play, NSU speech and drama instructor, Dr. Jerry Crawford, reiterated on the structure and creative process, characterization, and important theme and central idea of the play, only lightly touching the meaning lost in the translation from German to English.

Dr. Crawford charges this exciting morality drama with switching the theme from the guilt of Pope Pius to "Where is G-d?" and international guilt. There is a universal condemnation of silence in a time of history where acquiescence meant murder. Hochhuth expresses his severe opposition to neutrality and denounces "fence-sitting" through Ricardo, the Jesuit priest who marched to his death at Aushwitz. He faced what he believed and acted accordingly.

It was evident, Tuesday, that Crawford agrees with Hochhuth in his condemnation as a vital and important expression of the people. It was definitely needed in Nazi Germany and is necessary in any country, including contemporary America.

Bailliff, a specialist in existentialism and a philosophy instructor at NSU, discussed the philosophical implications of the play. Again he brings up the question of responsibility and the ability of an institution (Christianity) This is refuted in Act IV where the Pope's great decision lies; whether to speak up on moral grounds or remain silent for political reasons.

Pope Pius, choosing to remain silent, said his decision was rendered "to avoid a greater evil" But, what greater evil is there than murder? It is evident that the "greater evil" which the Pope speaks of is reprisals to the Catholics. For this, Hochhuth charges, ten million people were ruthlessly mass murdered; six million Jews!