

**JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS**

**MONTREAL (WNS)** Three former Nazis accused of killing hundreds of Jews during World War II have been sentenced to death by a Latvian court in the Soviet Union after a trial in absentia.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** Minister of Labor Yigal Allon, who is to head an Israeli delegation to the International Conference on Social Security in Leningrad next May, will be the first Israeli minister to visit the Soviet Union.

**RIO DE JANEIRO (WNS)** Franz Stangle, notorious Nazi commandant of the Treblinka and Sobibor death camps, may escape extradition to Austria under Brazil's statute of limitations, it was hinted here by a spokesman for the Brazilian Ministry of Justice who said Stangle cannot be extradited unless it is proven he committed the crimes within the last twenty years.

**JOHANNESBURG (WNS)** Three Jewish communal leaders, a professor of chemistry, an educator and a local legislator, have been named to high posts in South Africa.

**PARIS (WNS)** Michael Steinberg, a fourteen-year-old Jewish youth from the Soviet Union recently won the junior chess championship of Europe in a tournament in Holland in which he did not lose a single game.

**STUTT GART (WNS)** A jail term of five months was imposed here by a local court on Dietrich Schiller, a forty-year-old school teacher, who denounced democracy and held out Hitlerism as "Europe's best opportunity."

**GENEVA (WNS)** The governing council of the World Jewish Congress, meeting here in a two-day session, took note "with concern evidence of the radicalization of the extreme nationalist movement in Germany."

**TRENTON, N.J. (WNS)** B'nai B'rith is a religious fellowship and therefore has the right to limit membership to people of the Jewish faith, it was ruled here by the New Jersey State Civil Rights Division following a complaint of discrimination by George Demetry, an admitted member of the John Birch Society.

**ISRAELITE RECEIVED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO PRINT THE ONLY AUTHENTIC REPORT ON LEGALIZED GAMBLING IN NEVADA TO DATE. J.T.**

**HOTELS MADE RECORDS AVAILABLE**

**Casinos' 'Open Door' Slammed by Editors**

By GABRIEL R. VOGLIOTTI

When the Del Webb people bought the Sahara they joined the Nevada Resort Association and their officers began attending meetings. In their dress, the Del Webb executives were a mite more Brooks Brotherish than local men, but otherwise spoke the same corporate idiom.

Surreptitiously, for a while, the Del Webb executives studied the older Las Vegans, and the older ones studied the Webbs, both with some bemusement, for there was a certain challenge in the air.

In implication the newcomers conveyed that there can't be anything too different about the gambling business, that it has to be subject to laws of good, orthodox corporate management. The local men could hardly argue with what had not been said, but in their smiles you could see, "You'll learn."

**Why Don't You Fight Back?**

The Del Webb entry into Nevada gambling came soon after publication of the book "Gamblers' Money." This was the book that expressed rage at gambling people and the gambling business.

As an aside, this book was odd in several ways. Even though it dealt with gambling, which even hacks can make interesting, it was so tedious, its revelations so muddy, that it had a poor sale. Still, the industry could not discount its effect because, whatever its tedium, it did come from a New York Times writer — and could become something of a desk manual for American editors.

Faithfully, "Gamblers' Money" went all the way back to the Kefauver hearings, naming men who have been dead for years. It made charges which were monotonously ridiculous, so uninformed that the New York lawyers whom we asked to read it for libel phoned to say it was too boring to finish. There could be little libel in a book so hard to understand.

Still, it did showcase the dilemma of Las Vegas owners, the polite question asked so often. "Doesn't the industry ever reply? Don't you do anything to disprove what is so easy to disprove? Do these imbecilities go unchallenged, as with your consent?"

**Questions Bother**

The industry winces when it gets these questions and winces often because they come often.

Parry Thomas, the Nevada banker who has become an authority on internal affairs of so many hotels, also

asked it. Thomas has a unique position in Nevada. He is one of the men who knows the facts about alleged "skim," the facts about supposed hidden owners, and about the profits of the industry, real and fancied. Thomas had to find out.

Seven times in recent years he was called on to raise eastern money for purchase or expansion of Nevada hotels. Eastern investors — bankers and insurance men — showed no interest in lending to any hotel where "skim" was possible, where skim could falsify the earnings figure and endanger repayment of loans. Eastern bankers had no interest in lending to any Nevada place owned, not by the owners of record, but by gangsters.

Thomas had to convince some of the toughest lending institutions in America. To do so he had to do the kind of x-ray — the kind of biopsy of Nevada gambling houses — as has never been done, even by state government. In every case the lending groups put up the necessary millions.

Thomas thus becomes one of the most informed men on Nevada gambling, ranking with Ed Olsen, recent boss of the Gaming Control Board.

This is the third in a series of articles on Nevada gaming by Gabriel R. Vogliotti. They are adapted from his forthcoming book. Vogliotti is a former nationally syndicated columnist and a native Nevadan. He is executive director of the Nevada Resort Association, representing 11 major hotel casinos in Las Vegas.

Thomas also asks the industry why it plays dumb-mute, why it fails to present its side of the case. The answer involves not one but several reasons.

**Magazines Don't Want Nice Stories**

A year ago, this writer made a silly trip to New York to propose to editors of a magazine that they do an article on Nevada counting rooms. We offered them access to any of a dozen Strip counting rooms, without condition. We suggested they hire any accounting firm in the United States to go with them, free to examine every counting room procedure, at our cost. The managing editor frowned. "What is the main point of the story?"

We said such an investigation would show that counting rooms are straight. His reply was instant. "But what magazine would print that? There is no color in that story."

"Plenty of color," we insisted. "How many reporters have ever been in a counting room? In your case, you can see a dozen. Moe Dalitz of the Desert Inn says you can put a cot in his, sleep there if you like."

"No," he insisted. "No sex in an article that simply says everything is okay."

**Even the Facts Draw Frowns**

Some weeks later, one of America's great newspapers sent a reporter to Las Vegas. He was a financial writer with a respected byline in business reporting.

At one point in our talks he asked for something as if asking for the moon. "Man," he said, "how I would like to see the books of some of these places."

"No big problem," we told him, "Let's start with one of the biggest."

That week the comptroller of the huge hotel got instructions to give the New York reporter all figures he wanted: gross earnings, net, percentages for entertainment, percentages for salaries, interest, taxes, dividends. The reporter was authorized to use the name of the hotel. He went to work eagerly and in three weeks had a two-part series giving figures never previously given to newspapermen.

Some weeks later he called from New York. "The editors killed my story," he said.

"Why?" "They think I got a snowjob when I was out there."

"What about yourself?" we asked. "What do you believe?"

"You didn't snow me," he said. "You can't. I'm a financial writer."

**Who Wants a Humdrum Story?**

The moral had been known, of course, to dozens of the industry's public relations men, men who have been with Nevada hotels from the days they were built.

No writer electrifies anybody by describing a Philadelphia bar that features a juke box and closes at ten.

But readers do love to read that chorus girls obediently prostrate themselves at the nod of a pit boss. The fact that the typical chorus girl has two children and is married to the pastry chef doesn't fascinate. The story that Las Vegas casinos are really bedeviled by orthodox business problems might interest Fortune or Business Week, but it doesn't make a throbbing TV script.

Still, apart from the disinterest of eastern editors, there were other reasons for the muteness of the industry. They will be discussed in the next column.

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