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Rosh Ha Shanah

Within a few days we will be gathered in our synagogues and temples in contemplation of the hand of judgment and on Yom Kippur seals our fate.

We will be standing then at the threshold of Rosh Hashana, when we gather in prayer for expiation from sin and forgiveness. Many are the prayers on those days, but in essence they add up to one supplication: May the Scribe in the coming year keep full covenant with our hopes. Moreover, even though we pray from the script that is before us, on those days many of our supplications are uttered in stillness from unwritten script. For the tortures that beset us as we unburden ourselves of our sins are often beyond the reach of the script that is the ritual of the observance. In a sense then, while we pray for the welfare of the many, we reach genuine ascent when we are with ourselves.

The year has been one of grave crisis for the world, our country and for Israel. And even as we enter the New Year the clouds of trouble, tension and war are over the land, ominous, disturbing, frightening.

As the year was drawing to its close there were dark shadows over Europe as Moscow expanded its domain into the very heart of Czechoslovakia, starving in Biafra and concern in Israel as its foes again were flexing their muscles. Surely we will be praying for peace, but, perhaps more importantly, we ought to pray for courage to bring peace to this stricken world.

Lauds Moscow Rabbi

By Rabbi M.S. Eisemann
Torah Academy of Minneapolis

One of the most noteworthy events of the current year has been the recent visit to this country of the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levine. It was quite natural, therefore, that his first public address, at Hunter College, was thoroughly covered by all the news media, but especially by the Jewish press. As was to be expected, the Rabbi defended the Soviet Union's treatment of the Jews and was loudly jeered by many of those who had come to hear him. It is difficult to imagine what the audience expected to hear from a man who for over forty years had never left Russia and whose family, children and grandchildren and fellow Jews, still live in Moscow. It must have been a tremendously difficult confrontation and it is to the aged Rabbi's credit that he stood his ground on that first night.

Undoubtedly there was a purpose in his coming, a purpose he was not about to jeopardize by choosing to be personally insulted. How just his reward then when a few days later he was invited to address a rally in the spacious Sephardic Synagogue in Borough Park, one of New York's most densely populated Jewish areas. There he was

given the reverence and respect befitting a man of his stature. Not only was he listened to - he was understood. He was understood not only so much by what he said, as by what he did not say. "A word to the wise . . ." There were many wise present, Rabbis, students, laymen. Happy were those close enough to see him and perhaps to touch him, to give him a Sholom Aleichem, and unhappy and miserable the many thousands who crowded the avenue and side streets around the Synagogue behind police barricades unable to gain entry.

The rally, organized by Rorah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, and attended by over two thousand students, teachers and school leaders, made a profound impression on the seventy-five year old Rabbi whose opening words expressed his innermost emotions at the tumultuous welcome he received.

"In forty-five years I have not been privileged to gaze on such a multitude of Torah students and Torah teachers" and the Rabbi proceeded to intone the benediction "She-hecheyonu Vekimonu Vehigiyonu Lazman Haze." An indescribable feeling of common bond and common purpose could be sensed. Indeed a moment never to be forgotten by those privileged to be present.

Rabbi Levine then expressed his admiration and wonder at the educational achievements of American Jewry which in some instances even surpassed those of prewar Europe. He encouraged the students to pursue the learning of the Torah with zeal and industry quoting from the Talmud, he compared life to man's precarious crossing of a bridge spanning mighty waters, always fearful of stumbling, and warned the young people to be mindful of sudden pitfalls. "Hold fast to the precepts of our Torah, for she is the bond that binds each of us to Klall Israel."

He concluded, Greetings during the rally were given by Rabbi Yakov Kaminitzki, Nachman Bulman and Dr. Joseph Kaminitzki of New York. Out of town representatives who were privileged to address the audience were Rabbi N. W. Dessler of Cleveland and Rabbi Meier S. Eisemann of Minneapolis.

Following the moving recitation of a Chapter of the Psalms, a student of Yeshiva Toras Emes presented Rabbi Levine with a silver Mazzuva, no doubt symbolical of the Almighty's Providence, "When thou sittest in thy house and when thou walkest on thy way."

As the crowds slowly dispersed, following the two hour rally, many expressed disappointment at the absence of the battery of newsmen who might have given the American public a very different account of the Jewish community's reception of its revered guest.

There were other rallies that followed. Visits to Yeshiva University, Yeshiva Chaim Berlin, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and finally the grand farewell banquet attended by Rabbi Pinchas Teitz, Rav of Elizabeth, N.J.

Every where enthusiastic crowds thronged to meet the visitor. Tens of thousands of American Jews reached out to their brethren in the Soviet Union, through the person of Rabbi Levine. The Hunter College incident was long forgotten.

No matter how bitter our criticism of the anti-Zion and anti-Israel policies of the American Council of Judaism, who sponsored the visit of the Chief Rabbi, we are grateful for the service they rendered to the Jewish community and stirring our emotions and prayers for Soviet Jewry.

What greater purpose of the visit need we look for?

A Lasting Peace

After twenty years of building a nation through pioneering and development, after three wars in defense of the nation, after all the toil, sacrifice and courage, Israel is determined more than ever to achieve a lasting peace. While reason and logic point to the benefits for all in a long-term settlement of problems in the Middle East, the path to peace is strewn with tensions and frequent outbreaks of hostility.

How costly the waging of peace has been for Israel is demonstrated by the fact that recently a supplementary defense budget had to be provided. What hurt even more was that this money had to come out of the Development Budget. This means that the progress of the economy will suffer, that there will be less money for agriculture and irrigation, less for industry and transportation, less for housing and roads, and less for every new project so important for the country's future.

A conference of direct concern to these events in and around Israel is taking place this weekend (September 6-8) at the Hotel Commodore in New York City. It is the Economic Emergency Conference of the Israel Bond Organization bringing together some 400 community leaders from the United States and Canada. Out of their deliberations will come plans for an intensified Israel Bond campaign this Fall to help Israel meet the needs of its development program and remain economically strong in the face of unprecedented burdens.

The principal speakers at the Conference are two Israelis fairly new to their posts, but eminently qualified and uniquely appropriate for the particular circumstances which dictated the calling of the Conference. General Itzhak Rabin, who was the CHIEF OF Staff during the conflict in June, 1967, has been Israel's Ambassador in Washing-

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



The Price Was Second

The primary races are over in Nevada and it is only fair we bring our out-of-town readers up to date on the winners.

Ed Fike took the Republican nomination for U. S. Senate and he will oppose Sen. Alan Bible in the general election. Rep. Walter Baring (D) will be pitted against State Senator Jim Slattery in the race for U. S. Representative. State Senators Floyd Lamb and Helen Herr won the Democratic nominations for re-election, and Assemblyman Eileen Brookman and Richard Bryan were among the nine elected by the Democrats to run for assembly. Joe Pavlikowsky topped the slate of four including Lee Walker who will compete for two Justice of Peace spots. Al Becker ran fifth.

Bill Brennan beat out Paul Price for County Commissioner and we are genuinely sorry. Brennan is a cinch to be elected and he will probably make as good a commissioner as any who have held that post, but who will tell the public what is going on?

It was a thankless task on our part to endorse Price, who we stated months ago would have difficult time winning because newspapermen are lousy vote getters. We had to follow our convictions even if it meant the loss of ad revenue and possibly some very dear friends. We had nothing to gain personally by this or any other endorsement. We just called them as we see them.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Jewish Labor Committee has pledged to increase its efforts for closer cooperation between the Negro and Jewish communities in America, and to combat separatism, anti-whitism, anti-Semitism and anti-Negro sentiments and expressions. This problem for interracial cooperation was described by Emanuel Muravchik, national director of the Jewish Labor Committee, at the opening session of the organization's biennial convention.

DETROIT-- Martha K. Selig of New York City was elected president of the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service at the organization's 70th annual meeting.

Jewish Community Services

London - The Standing Conference of European Jewish Community Services, initiated with the Joint Distribution Committee's assistance in 1960, has voted to change its name to the European Council of Jewish Community Services. In addition, the newly-named organization decided on an intensive effort to maintain fund-raising in European Jewish communities at or near the levels reached in the emergency campaigns following the Six-Day War, it was announced by Josef Komkommer, Chairman of the Council's Commission on Fund-Raising.

The Council will work in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency and Karen Hayesod (UIA). The recent meeting of the Council was attended for the first time by Louis D. Horwitz, JDC Director-General, and S.J. Kreutner of Jerusalem, Acting General Manager of Keren Hayesod.

Mr. Komkommer reported that in 1967 the total raised for Israel in the United Kingdom and Western Europe was twelve times as much as in 1966. At the same time, the number of contributors in Western Europe rose by 250 per cent in the United Kingdom by 150 per cent.

There was evidence, Mr. Komkommer added, that in European communities the campaigns for local needs could benefit in future years from the spontaneous outpouring of manpower and funds that followed the June war, if properly followed up. He welcomed the return to Europe of Murraray Sklar to head the JDC Department of Community Organization and Fund-Raising.

"As JDC has frequently pointed out," Mr. Komkommer noted, "better fund-raising is the only way in which European Jewish communities can improve their health, welfare and education services. In addition, through fund-raising, the European Council cannot only get support for new projects, but help to develop the young leaders who must carry on in future years."

ton since February of this year. Zeev Sharef, Minister of Commerce and Industry since 1966, simultaneously took on the heavy responsibilities of Minister of Finance a month ago.

These are the men and these are the circumstances surrounding the Economic Emergency Conference of the Israel Bond Organization. Their reports should prove highly informative for the community leaders in coming up with the kind of a program equal to the needs of these critical times for Israel.

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