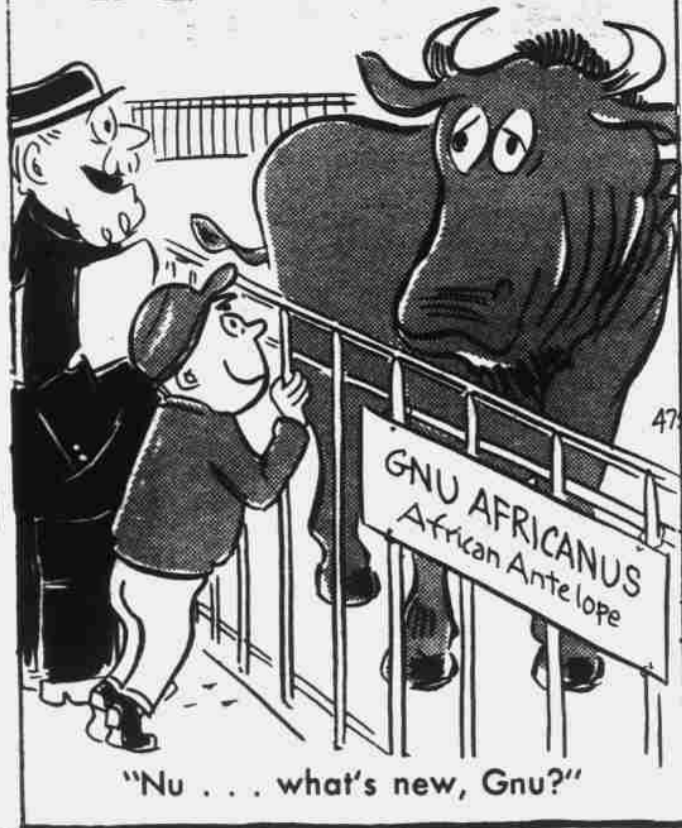


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# DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD



"Nu . . . what's new, Gnu?"

## Shocking Surprise

By Nathan Ziprin

Although it was known in informed circles that Premier Levi Eshkol was straining his damaged heart against the advice of physicians, his sudden death last week came as a shocking surprise to his intimates in the Government, his party and the country.

The past few months have been especially critical for Israel, not alone on the security but on the diplomatic front, and the overworked Premier was known at times to have followed a work schedule of eighteen to twenty hours a day. On the one hand there were the mounting pressures by the Arab terrorists, whose villainy extended to Israeli civilian planes in international airfields and on the other there were the devious chess moves on the international diplomatic arena to have Israel submit to a peace formula that was tantamount to a death warrant - the surrender of all territorial gains and the restoration of the insecure boundaries which led to the six-day Arab - Israel war in 1967.

Adding to the burdens of the men at the helm of government was a degree of restiveness in the land over what many thought was the military's and the government's failure to stop terrorist infiltration and the burgeoning of political division in the land as the country was nearing the national elections this fall.

It is being said that the death of Premier Eshkol has generated a political power struggle in Israel. In fact however that struggle has been going on for months, if not for years, with Eshkol as the main target, as is always the fate of incumbents in office.

Premier Eshkol was somewhat short in charisma, but what he lacked in color he made up in substance. A wise and sober statesman, he could not be deterred from purpose under the severest of pressures. His calmness never deserted him, whether in conversations with heads of states or in confrontations with political opponents within and without his own party.

Though a visionary and of the tribe of dreamers of Zion who settled in the land early in the century in the certainty they would be witness to its redemption in their own lifetime, the late Israeli Premier was a practical man and a moderating influence in the affairs of the country. His greatest asset perhaps was his readiness to accept compromises for the welfare of the country. Gazing at him one would instinctively feel that there was a man of stature, for he conveyed an air of seriousness and thoughtfulness. Yet he was possessed of an old-country folkiness that often aggravated the sabra members of his government, whom he frequently called "kinderlach" and whom he often addressed in Yiddish even though that tongue was completely alien to them.

Eshkol's political path was strewn with many thorns. Though groomed for the high office by none other than the patriarch-looking David Ben Gurion, who was Israel's chief architect and first Premier, the two men had a fall-out which many believed would mark the end of Eshkol's political career. But to the surprise of everyone except his intimate friends, Eshkol not only survived the feud but actually was gaining in stature with the passing years despite the emergence of younger and native-born competitors for his job.

Israel after a week of mourning is now emerging from the shock of its Premier's death in the knowledge that his ultimate successor, whoever he might be, will unite the country in the struggle against its enemies and dubious

**TELL TALES**  
*"One Man Plus The Truth  
 Constitutes A Majority"*  
 BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)  
 and knowhow behind his "investment."

By now any reader of this space should be aware the column today is devoted to horse racing. So, if you are not a follower of the Sport of Kings, and have no interest at all in being told about a horse that could win the Kentucky Derby at "gastronomical" odds, turn elsewhere for your reading pleasure.

Early this week 187 of the most promising three-year-olds on the American turf, were nominated for the 95th Kentucky Derby to be run at Churchill Downs on May 3. Shortly, the horse rooms, the legal ones in Las Vegas, will be posting "Future Book" odds on every one of the steeds entered for the classic. Naturally, when the race is run, about 15 thoroughbreds will spring from the barrier, give or take a few, and only one nose (barring dead heat) will be first at the finish line. That means some 170 of the names going up on the bookies' boards will never make the Run for the Roses. That, precisely, is why the odds available shortly, will be as out of line, as the probability of the horse you choose now being in the competition. You see, a bet in the "Future Book" goes, even if the horse doesn't. There are no refunds for scratches.

Before we plunge headlong into the specific procrastination of the next Derby winner, allow us to diverge into generalities concerning bang-tail devotees. Like gamblers of any specie, they usually lose two dollars on their first bet and then spend a fortune and a lifetime attempting to get back their original two dollars. After the first day's outing at a race track, they're hooked. The Racing Form becomes their favorite, if not their only, form of literature. They'll listen to others, but invariably have a mind of their own, especially if they chance on a winner or two. Then they become aware of apparent consistencies: a "hot" jockey, a post position at a particular track, a winning stable, a handicapper, whose numbers are clicking. Ah yes, even more obscure points of consonance, like the number of letters in a name, or a particular combination of colors, or some such phenomenon, have been a reason for hocking the family jewels and/or going for the rent money.

As a turf enthusiast, in these many years, we've had ample opportunity to observe and evaluate all manner and mood of degeneracy that stalks a horse player. The ones who get out of bed with the same foot each day as the time they hit with four winners in a row. The idiots who won't change their socks, or tie or shirt they wore when they got lucky. The saps who bet their heaviest when the moon is full. Boy and man, we've seen them all, even admit personal indulgence, for short periods, in one or another of these ineffectual practices.

There is no substitute for experience in selecting one horse to beat another. Actual repeated observation and acquaintance with circumstance is a strong factor, but that alone is not enough. Otherwise all oldtimers would be consistent winners, which is not so. There must be also, a sense of security in a final decision, eliminating sentiment and personality.

Damon Runyon once said he would never accept a tip, no matter how strong it came, unless a story went with it. We are of the same disposition. Not a cent of this writer's hard earned money has been wagered, in the recent years at least, on information even from an owner, a trainer or jockey. We would be of the same mind if the nod had come from the horse itself. The one and only exception, like Runyon put it, was when a story went with it.

Well we've got a story to tell that goes with the reason we have for touting the next winner of the Kentucky Derby.

About 20 years ago, a copy reader at the cable desk of the New York Times, casually mentioned that his uncle, one of the most famous names in racing, had a horse set and ready to win its first maiden race. Every horse player in the City Room made a bet on the nag, except one, little old us. We didn't go for tips. The two year old finished up the track. For all intensive purposes that was the end of the horse and incident, as far as we were concerned. But a few weeks later it happened, without premeditation or forethought.

About 5 a.m. of a bitter cold and rainy night, we dropped into Howie's Restaurant on New York's 6th Ave. in the fifties, for libation to combat the elements, and sociability we knew we'd find in a meeting place of friends. Mrs.

(Continued on Page 5)

friends. The Israelis are a disciplined people who in this hour of sadness can be counted on linking hands in common purpose, especially in view of the fortunate fact that Israeli leadership has produced quite a number of people who are highly qualified to take over the country's premiership in this or any other crisis for their country.

## Levi Eshkol

The death of Levi Eshkol startled the world. It seemed sudden and the gap caused by his abrupt passing raised questions as to who will succeed him. Will it be a "hawk" or a "dove" and how will the new leader handle the myriads of problems facing Israel.

But Mr. Eshkol leaves a legacy and it will guide whoever follows him. The late Prime Minister was an early immigrant to the then Palestine. He was a Kibbutznik, member of Degania, in the JORDAN Valley. He helped lay the foundations of an Israel reborn, a state whose social structure and advancement became a beacon light in the Middle East. True, there were times when this shining beam dazzled the eyes of its neighbors and created, not admiration, but hostility. So Israel in recent times has had to struggle, and struggle beyond its means. And during that period, particularly the Six-Day War and shortly thereafter, Mr. Eshkol was a reasoned and seasoned hand, guiding a small ship of state, a little heady with victory.

Israel will miss him but his contributions to the growth of the country will be absorbed by history and in the days to come, will find expression once again.

## Israel Bonds, 1969

Dr. Chaim Weizman, the first President of Israel, and one of the world's foremost scientists of his day, looked forward hopefully to a scientific industrialization of Israel. The country, he saw, was not particularly rich in natural resources except one -- the intelligence of her people -- and this could be made most by their employment in projects which require intelligence and mental preceptiveness.

The Israel Bond Conference beginning in Miami in February 27th has established priorities which reflect this new accent, particularly since about half of the Israel Government's Development Budget of \$333,000,000 is expected to be raised by Jews outside of Israel and especially in the United States. The priorities for 1969 will be the construction of the huge chemical complex at Arad, which is expected to be the largest single enterprise in the country and the development of a whole chain of optical, electronic and chemical industries.

Preferred consideration will also be given the industrialization of thinly settled Negev and Galilee. This will bring more population to these areas. It is the thinly settled portions which offer the temptation to the invader. Emphasis will also be on the completion of the oil pipe line from Elat to Askalon, which is expected to play a leading role in meeting Europe's oil needs. Had this pipe line been in existence several years back, it is conceivable Nasser might have been less arrogant about the Suez Canal.

In the last analysis, the success of the Israel Bonds Conference will be measured by the amount of cooperation and support which American Jewry will give the program and plans of the 2,000 representatives at Miami. And that success, for Israel, is most important.

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