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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"



BY JACK TELL

(Continued from Page 1)

became a participant. Our thanks here and later on in the column to Joe Delaney for bringing to the listeners of Las Vegas, air wave fare they couldn't get at any price anywhere else in the country.

On the one side there was our eminent district attorney, George Franklin, insisting that "Hair," as it was being presented elsewhere, would be banned in Las Vegas. On the other side sat Las Vegas Sun City Editor Larrie Schmidt, comedians Jackie Gayle, Phil Foster and Joey Villa, and us. Franklin said obscenity was not the issue. He claimed there is a Nevada statute that prohibits the exposing of the human pubic area in a public place.

When each of us in turn pointed out to DA George the extreme promiscuousness taking place in our city in the modern risqué movies, he answered there was no statute barring depictions of human beings in certain actions, but there was definitely a statute barring persons from the same acts. As we all know, there is a scene in "Hair" in which the characters are nude on the stage.

George said he did not plan to attend the opening performance, that it was the responsibility of the sheriff's men to determine whether the nude scene violates the statute. If so, the performers would be arrested and the DA would then prosecute.

The DA said that the first offense was a misdemeanor. One of the possibilities the DA pointed out was an injunction that would get those arrested out of jail in time for the second performance, in which case they could be re-arrested, this time as a felony. This carries the stigma, if convicted, of a habitual sex offender for future police records.

Of course, as our readers are perusing this column, all the above will be past history and a matter of record. But some may question the advisability and necessity of the B'nai B'rith Women becoming involved. We did, and the answers received are plausible and acceptable, although Delaney seemed to feel otherwise.

We were advised from Mrs. Julie Mold and Mrs. Sylvia Hart, Co-chairmen of the benefit, that the B'nai B'rith had gone to extreme effort and expense to contract for the sponsorship of any play that was engaged to open the new Royale Theatre with a legitimate show in the International Hotel. The first production just happened to be "Hair." Delaney was of the opinion, and he has a point, that there must have been a clause in the contract which would have given the BB an out, if they so desired. Mebbe so.

But we explained to Joe that a contract is a serious piece of business to Jewish organizations, and while there was plenty of pro and con arguments at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the BB Women, it was finally decided to abide by the terms.

DA Franklin pointed out the difference between the performance rendered by the Rock and Roll group "The Doors," and the then impending show of "Hair." Although "The Doors" had a past record of indecent performance many months back, the managers, producers and the entertainers had signed affidavits that the performance to be rendered in Las Vegas would be in keeping with our local statutes. Therefore, George maintained, he had to let the show go on, and sheriff's deputies, who were in attendance would determine if any law was broken. George praised the performance of "The Doors."

As far as "Hair" is concerned, the DA stated he contacted the producers, far in advance, who insisted the show would go on as it was being produced in many other cities. Whatever did happen, certainly will be reported on here in this space; if it warrants being called to the attention of our readers.

As for Joe Delaney's show, we cannot reap enough praise on it and urge everyone in radio range to tune it in, starting at midnight weekdays. Here you get the bare facts on subjects uppermost in the news, from authorities and persons in the public eye. Joe, as moderator, is most informed of the topics being discussed and he has a way of being kind and considerate to all sides of any issue.

"OY VEY-GAS" (Continued from Page 1)

to the Strip. They harmonize a classy "Georgia Girl", a corny "Glory, Glory halleluja" and in their spare time whale up a storm on 27 musical instruments. A unique repertoire.

With one Newhart rib-cracker after another, there's no time to catch your breath. Even during a surprise 10 second electric blackout he retained his aplomb and won applause.

Newhart continues to win new hearts.

Collective Punishment

The Israeli system of collective -- or area -- punishment in the so-called occupied territories has opened a Pandora's box. Some Soviet press reports have likened it to the Nazi punishment of hostages. It does not matter if Soviet hands are not too clean, its press is read widely elsewhere in the world. There are even questions being asked in the United States about the advisability of effectiveness of such a tactic. The New York Times reported an instance, in the Gaza Strip, where some Arab inhabitants, tried to stop a grenade thrower. But there is a basic question, which is also being asked in Israel. Does this kind of activity harm the young Israeli soldier, does this brutalize him, does this implant in him an attitude of the master race when he has to act like a master?

Stalin is reported to have said once that when millions are killed it is a statistic. But when one dies it is a tragedy. Every Jewish boy killed in action today represents a tragedy, even to Jews elsewhere. But what about the Arabs, who are losing greater numbers? There is a tendency on the part of those sympathetic to Israel, not to consider the Arabs as people, but as some faceless kind of enemy. The same tendency allows its possessors not to be touched by an Arab death. There is no doubt that the method of collective punishment was carefully considered on the highest Israeli levels before implementation. Parallel but not necessarily related to this is the oft-repeated statement in Israel, when one is asked about the Israeli losses from guerrilla activities, that more deaths occur on the highways.

It is of course no excuse for war, nor for a tactic which could boomerang.

Peace and Justice

NEW YORK....Arab demands for solution of Middle East problems through "fire and blood" were condemned by Philip E. Hoffman, President of the American Jewish Committee, as contrary to the deep longings of both Jews and Christians for "peace and understanding for all mankind."

In a Hanukkah message marking the celebration of the eight day Jewish Festival of Lights (Hanukkah begins Dec. 5), Mr. Hoffman declared that this season of the year, which is of particular significance to Judaism and Christianity, called for reemphasis of "the eternal truth that peace and justice are indivisible." He added that there must be recognition by all of each individual's right to express his sense of identification with his own heritage.

This right, Mr. Hoffman added, must be extended to the Jews of the Soviet Union, where "3,000,000 Jews still cannot express their sense of communion with their brothers elsewhere." Echoing the recent public appeal by a group of Jews in the Soviet province of Georgia for world pressure on Soviet leaders to permit their emigration to Israel, Mr. Hoffman pointed out that "the pledge made by Premier Kosygin three years ago to allow Jews who wished to do so to leave the Soviet Union to rejoin their families in other lands has been largely unfulfilled."

The American Jewish Committee leader termed the

Israelis "modern Maccabees" in their expressed will to insure their survival and their rights to self-determination. Despite their "passion for peace and devotion to life they have been forced to take up arms to insure their very survival," he declared.

Mr. Hoffman's full statement follows:

"The approach of Hanukkah, the Festival of Light, recalls the valorous deeds of the ancient Maccabees, who gave Judaism and to all mankind a glorious example of man of man's noblest instincts in fighting for his right to self-determination and self-expression. The mightiest armies and the most powerful states cannot crouch the indomitable spirit of a people imbued with a dedication to freedom and possessed of a fierce will to live.

"In Israel today, the land where the miracle of the lights took place, the modern Maccabees are once again displaying this self-same spirit in their determination that the people of Israel will live. Imbued as they are with a passion for peace and devotion to life, they have been forced to take up arms to insure their very survival.

"In many lands, Jews face oppression and a determination by tyrants to wipe out their identity and their cultural and religious heritage. This oppression has taken many forms, but essentially it has sought to put an end to the 6,000 year old legacy of our people, which has so enriched Western civilization.

"In the Soviet Union, for example, 3,000,000 Jews still cannot express their sense of communion with their brothers elsewhere. They are subject to religious, educational and cultural oppression in a climate of anti-Semitic propaganda. The pledge made by Premier Kosygin three years ago to allow Jews who wished to do so to leave the Soviet Union to rejoin their families in other lands has been largely unfulfilled.

"In some of the Arab countries, the pitiful remnant of large and flourishing Jewish communities is still subject to persecution, arrest, show trials and executions. Again and again, we hear Arab leaders call for solutions to Middle East problems in terms of "Fire and blood," as if that corner of the globe had not long since been surfeited with the blood of innocent human beings.

"As this season of the year, when our friends and neighbors prepare to mark the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace, and with world commemorates Human Rights Day, we express our deep commitment to peace and understanding for all mankind. We urge that the responsible leaders show the way in recognition of the eternal truth that peace and justice are indivisible, that every man is entitled to express his sense of identification with his own heritage, and that our planet will achieve the security that we all seek when mutual understanding and the rights of all are respected."

ROME (WNS) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Abbe Eban and Pope Paul VI discussed the Mideast crisis and the future of Holy Places in Jerusalem during a "special audience" granted to the Israeli leader.

NEW YORK -- Mayor Lindsay called upon the Soviet Union to allow its Jews, who he said were trapped "half free and half slave," to come to New York City, "where they will find the kind of freedom you cannot grant."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The National Council of Jewish Women which sponsors a number of social action and community service projects, has recommended that such endeavors seek out the maximum participation of the people served and that efforts be made to work our partnership roles with newly formed local groups.

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