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 Editor and Publisher Jack Tell
 Business Manager Bea Tell, 870-1255
 Vegas News Helene Stadler, 384-3685
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DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD



riors of the John Birch Society have now been lifted bodily to the top echelons of government. The President, far from dissociating himself from the Agnew course, has, through aides like Clark R. Mollenhoff, endorsed it. Hence the only question remaining seems to be whether Mr. Agnew is the old Nixon or Mr. Nixon himself has reverted to his McCarthy-like stance. Robert Welch and his lieutenants can go home now, mission accomplished. Their tactics and standards are installed in the White House.

By seizing upon that section of our communications system operating under government sanctions (television and radio), the Vice President has shrewdly hit upon an explosive approach. In the Red Lion case, the Supreme Court of the United States has emphasized the truth that not everyone who wishes to operate a television or radio station can do so. Channels are limited. The more precious they become, the more zealously they will be watched over by Washington. So those of us who used to be worried primarily about the horrendous possibility that large advertisers will make the final decision as to what news hits the air and how that news is packaged may now add to our apprehension the far more serious threat of a soured Administration's efforts to throttle commentators.

Washington's newly-launched drive against free speech will do far more to tear the fabric of our democratic society than will the antics and stratagems of the Yippies and Crazies. America has always been able to accommodate a few wild ones; it cannot, however, tolerate bullies at the top of its government. Mr. Agnew's practice of the art of divisiveness mocks those who appealed to Mr. Nixon during the presidential campaign to "bring us together." Ultra-conservative congressmen now have the green light from the highest officials to demand that the American flag be idolized as holy cloth, that death on the battlefield be advertised as the greatest glory, that the word of the President and Vice President be accepted as final. Those in command think of all this as Patriotism when actually it is a new form of supra-nationalism, antithetical to our best interests and more becoming a Franco, a Peron, a Salazar or a Mao than our domestic rulers.

"OY VEY-GAS"
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a synchronized evening to be remembered. Wayne -- thinner, matured, always projecting unique self-confidence -- belts a flawless string of melodies: "Rockabye Your Baby", "Red Rose For A Blue Lady", "Little Green Apples", "Have Nagela", "Bill Bailly", "Donka Shane", "Hawaiian Wedding Song", "Those Were The Days", "What Kind Of Fool Am I", and more.

Warming up the opening night audience were the King Cousins -- four blonds who beautifully harmonize; "What Now My Love", "On A Clear Day", "Scarborough Fair", and others. They hold their spot.

Jerry ("Oh God Yes") Newton, replete with mock walk-out in mid-act, has never been funnier. Add Wayne on banjo, John Mendoza on drums and you're satisfied with an evening well spent.

Eight years ago Wayne and Jerry appeared free for the youth of Las Vegas, at Mike Tell's Twin Lakes Twist, an outdoor, poolside teenage nightclub. The Newton Brothers and Bob Darin opened the club gratis. We can still see the tears and hear the cheers of exuberant, entertainment-starved Las Vegas teenagers.

We Tells, and the Youth of So. Nevada are very glad indeed that Wayne and Jerry made it to the top. Oh God Yes!

Israel To Go It Alone

Israel's Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, is due to talk with U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers this week. Regardless of the outcome of these pourparlers, as they called them in the old diplomacy days, there is a fact that should be stated. And that is that Israel is prepared to go it alone. What is interesting, or revealing, is that the American government has performers for different roles. When a tough buy is needed, out is trotted Mr. Agnew. When there is need for a tone of sweet reasonableness, then Secretary Rogers is rolled forth. Mr. Rogers makes an earnest and friendly impression. But one has to read between the lines where the indelibility lies. If this is exposed to the chemistry of hard glare, the hidden meanings emerge. And what appears as sweet reasonableness is more likely a chipping away of the American position on a proper Middle East Peace. If the United States yields and the present stat of mini-war continues, then the situation in Israel will develop into a "financial crisis of the greatest magnitude," according to Louis Pincus, Chairman of the Jewish Agency. Expenditures for weapons will impose a severe drain on the economy.

Israel is prepared to make this and other sacrifices. But it is important to eagle-eye the government, and where the cracks show some fissure, to pour in with the daylight protest.

Agnew, Whip-Cracker

By ROBERT E. SEGAL
 In trying valiantly to support the Vice President of the United States in his attack upon television, Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania recalled that "it is the pig that is caught under the fence that squeals." Which pig? Which fence? Whose squeal?

The Pennsylvania Republican leader appears to think the heads of the networks, scored for commenting critically on Administration speeches immediately after delivery, are now squealing because the Agnew fence banged down on them. A vast array of public leaders, a huge section of the communications industry, and millions in the alert and vocal minority of the United States conclude the opposite when the fence of dissent trapped the Nixon Agnew team, the quealing began. Indeed, while Mr. Agnew was still a comparatively unknown in Maryland and Mr. Nixon was nursing his wounds sustained when he lost his race to be governor of California, squealing was heard from the Nixon entourage, petulantly declaring that the press wouldn't have Nixon to kick around any longer.

But times change and men cover over old wounds and try again; and here we are with the second highest officer in the land, spurred on by the President, huffing and puffing against critics.

Vice President Agnew, with his gut-launched attack upon people in New York and Washington, has found a hearty response among like-minded folks, especially in the South and out West. Senator Fulbright's sharp reference to "the swinish blight of anti-intellectualism" comes to mind as Mr. Agnew spits out such terms as "Judas goats," "Vultures," "the self-righteous, guilty of history's worst atrocities," "parasites of passion," and "impudent snobs". One report is that Patrick Buchanan, supplies the insatiable Mr. Agnew with these inelegant terms. Others believe that Cynthia Rosenwald of Baltimore writes, or helps write, these speeches that will live in infamy.

Regardless of authorship, the Agnewization of the Bill of Rights Now unleashed by the Administration is frightening to behold. The Vice President of the United States, sworn to uphold the Constitution and obliged morally to bring dignity to his high office, seeks to freeze dissent, to curb speech, to place a stranglehold on the press, television, the radio, and to scare people away from seeking redress to their well substantiated grievances. Mr. Agnew's fury, his political passion, his intemperance won't soon be forgotten.

Indeed, it seems reasonable to conclude that the fright tactics and bellowing long associated with the wordy war-

TELL TALES

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



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 ed to Bishop of Myra and in the 9th century was canonized. His Dutch name was Santa Claus.

The furthest reference to a Christmas tree is a legendary story of a wounded Swedish officer being cared for by the people of Leipzig during the 30 Years War in the 17th century. As an offer of gratitude, he set up a lighted tree in a church on Christmas Day.

The Christmas tree was introduced to America in 1747 by Germans settling in ePansylvania. Five years later the Moravian sect decorated their trees with lighted candles. Catholic and Protestant colonists from Holland introduced the annual St. Nicholas visitation to America.

Early colonists were divided in the recognition of December 25th. Members of Church of England, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and certain German sects honored the holiday. Quakers, Baptists, Presbyterians and Puritans ignored the date. It was on the night of December 25, 1776, George Washington crossed the Delaware River to defeat the Hessians celebrating Christmas at Trenton.

Fantasy had Santa arriving in a cart, a wagon, on mule, drawn by goats and other means of transportation until Clement Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas" in 1822, and thereafter the popular conception was a sled drawn by reindeer. In 1847, the first classroom Christmas tree was decorated in a New York City Episcopalian Sunday School.

The individual states commenced declaring Christmas a legal holiday. Alabama, which, like all southern states celebrated Dec. 25 with fireworks a la Fourth of July, was the first, in 1836, and the rest followed suit; California, 1851; Nevada, 1861; Utah, 1882; etc., with Oklahoma being last in 1890.

As late as 1855, all religions were still not in accord in their tolerance of the holiday. The Dec. 28 edition of that year's New York Times stated: Churches of Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists were not open yesterday. They do not accept the day as Holy one, but Episcopalian, Catholic and German churches were open. Inside they were decked with evergreens. However, by 1880, all evangelical churches were accepting Christmas.

Passing of Christmas gifts in those days was not emphasized, except the wealthy were expected to be generous to the poor. In the middle of the 19th century, due to the influence of Charles Dickens' writings, singing of Christmas carols became prevalent, and the sending of cards began in 1875.

The classic editorial which began, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," in response to a child's query, was written by Francis Church for the New York Sun of Dec. 21st, 1897.

In recent years Santa Claus has become to be known as a communal folk figure. A Pennsylvania judge ruled in 1936, that any doubters of Santa Claus who appeared before him would be held in contempt of court. The court citation read: Santa is not a figment of the imagination but an actuality. He is the symbol of kindness, a token of smiling charity and a badge of all that is cheerfully benevolent.

Commercial exploitation of Christmas has become systematic and thorough, impelling Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians and Jews, to band together in Milwaukee in 1949 and decree to put Christ back into Christmas.

Today Jehovah's Witnesses and members of the Christian Science faith oppose the tree, festive lights and Santa and other secularization of the holiday. But they have deep reverence for the religious observance.

Meanwhile millions of non-Christian homes in scores of non-Christian countries, including Japan and India, have taken unto their own the kindness and charity and cheer of Christmas and proudly display decorated and lit trees on December 25th.

All this proves the true sense of Christmas has not waned -- its just that the Spirit of Christmas has overwhelmed and is about to inundate all humans in the four corners of the earth.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Ministry of Tourism will present a replica of an ancient oil lamp to Christian pilgrims coming to Israel during the Christmas holiday. Midnight masses have been scheduled at Bethlehem for Catholic and Protestant pilgrims on Dec. 24-25, for Orthodox on Jan. 6-7, and for Armenians on Jan. 18-19.