

# LETTERS

Dear Mr. Tell:

My attention has just been called to your column TELL TALES of January 2, 1970, in which you reprint letters received from Conservative rabbis Harold H. Gordon and Barry Dov Schwartz, in which said Conservative rabbis express great spiritual outrage because you used the term "mitsva" in connection with your quest for a liberal Rabbi to officiate at a marriage between a Jew and a non-Jew without requiring that the non-Jew convert to Judaism prior to the marriage.

Rabbis Gordon and Schwartz merely parroted the current party line of the Orthodox and Conservative groups. They did not at all come to grips with present realities or even with the facts. The fact is that many rabbis, including many Orthodox and Conservative rabbis, are disturbed by the harshness and the lack of realism in these current party lines and are searching for a more effective and rational method of dealing with this problem. The fact is that a high proportion of the Reform rabbinate, a proportion which would seem to be somewhere between one-third and one-half, is already officiating, at such intermarriages if the parties involved make certain premarital commitments, commitments which vary from rabbi to rabbi. Many of these rabbis are performing such marriages very quietly because they do not want to be subjected to the kind of rabbinical abuse which is represented in the two letters that you published.

I have in my possession a list of 68 Reform rabbis, well known rabbis located in every part of the country, rabbis who, in addition to being validly ordained, are also blessed with compassion and common sense, and who have signed the following statement: "I am willing to be included on a list of Reform rabbis who will perform a marriage between a Jew and a non-Jew without requiring the non-Jew to convert. This is with the clear understanding that this list may be given by anyone who has it to anyone else who needs it and wants it."

Please feel free to let your readers know that anyone who has need of this list may obtain it by writing to me, Rabbi David Max Elchhorn, Box 2629, Satellite

Beach, Fla. 32935.

As to the meaning and usage of the Hebrew word "mitsvah," the opinions of Rabbis Gordon and Schwartz are not the "last word" on this matter. Those of us who are performing intermarriages without including the indignity of a forced conversion are quite confident that the Master of the Universe approves of what we are doing and has no objection whatsoever to our feeling that we are involved in the performance of a genuine "mitsva."

Sincerely yours,  
David Max Elchhorn  
(Rabbi, Satellite Beach, Fla.)

(ED. NOTE: It is gratifying to note that we were not 100 per cent wrong when we volunteered to assist in the marriage of a Jewish woman with a non-Jew. It is also interesting to note that the topic became the subject of a lengthy discussion on the "OPEN LINE" forum radio show at K-TOO, moderated by Cy Newman, J.T.)

Dear Jack:

Pardon the informality of a colleague in the Anglo-Jewish and secular press (and you may call me Dave), but I liked your editorial comment on our mutual "friend", V.P. Shapiro T. Agnew, in your Jan. 9 issue of the Las Vegas Israelite.

That gentleman seems to have an exceptional aptitude of not only putting his foot in his mouth everytime he opens it, but chawing away at the ankle bones of our American Democracy at the same time.

I don't know whether you recall the undersigned, but I tried at one time to sell you my column of satire, etc., which I used to run

in the B'nai B'rith Messenger and the California Jewish Voice for almost forty years, when I was their editor.

I have been for the past six years, and still am, the contributing editor of the Los Angeles Reporter, and will have my editorial comment on Agnew's latest verbal vacuous statements on his Asian tour. You might like it, so I shall send you a copy of the Reporter for Jan. 21. Hope you like it. And good fortune on your job.

Sincerely yours,  
David Weissman.  
P.S. Will be 82 in March and am still active journalizing.

NEW YORK -- 1209 Americans are presently enrolled in Israeli Yeshivot (higher academies of Jewish learning), it was announced by Zvi Assael, director of the Torah Education and Culture Department of the Jewish Agency-American Section. Of this number, 587 are in their second or third years of study in Israel and 622 began their studies this past September. These figures do not include Americans studying in secular colleges and universities in Israel.

NEW YORK -- Youth Aliyah facilities in Israel are now available to American children at cost price, it was announced by Joseph Klarman of Jerusalem, member of the Jewish Agency Executive and head of its Youth Aliyah Department. An office of Youth Aliyah has been opened in the United States at the Jewish Agency, 515 Park Avenue, N.Y.C., N.Y., 10022.

NEW YORK -- Rabbi Harold Saperstein, spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El, Ross Plaza, Lynbrook, L.I. was elected president of the New York Board of Rabbis of more than 900 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis and is the world's largest representative rabbinic body.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY



**Beauty Salon**  
IN THE CENTER OF THE STRIP  
WIGS Styled and cleaned while you wait...  
WIGS Returned to Your Hotel FREE  
SHAMPOO and SET \$5.00  
Hair Fashions by **ZELLO'S**  
Across from the Stardust in Fashion Square Shopping Center  
Open 8 a.m. to Midnight including Sundays and Holidays  
735-7471

WE URGE ALL READERS TO  
PATRONIZE  
THE FRIENDLY  
**ENCO**  
SERVICE STATION

QUADRUPLE BLUE CHIP STAMPS

- ★ Engine Tune-Up
- ★ Brake Service
- ★ Balancing
- ★ Lubrication
- ★ Front End Alignment

Automatic Transmission Repair  
ATLAS TIRES, BATTERIES, ACCESSORIES  
**RANCHO ENCO**  
AT SAHARA & RANCHO  
2475 S. RANCHO RD. 878-9824  
PROP. KEITH E. HALL

Only At **SAMMY COHEN'S**  
**SANTA ANITA**  
Turf and Sports Book  
YOU CAN CALL OFF ANY DAILY DOUBLE OR PARLAY AFTER THE FIRST HORSE HAS WON AND BE PAID ON THE FIRST WINNER OF YOUR BET.  
**ON THE STRIP**  
Sammy Cohen's  
**Santa Anita RACE BOOK**  
JUST SOUTH OF DESERT INN HOTEL  
RACE BOOK BETTING ON ALL SPORTS

IN NEW YORK IT'S LINDY'S  
IN LAS VEGAS IT'S  
**foxy's**  
KOSHER STYLE  
DELI • RESTAURANT  
24 HOURS

DR. ROBERT W. PATTON,  
General Medical Practice  
**HOUSE CALLS**  
Hours 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday  
and Friday, 2117 Paradise Rd.  
384-2980 or 734-6896.

**KTOO**  
**RADIO**  
"OPEN LINE"  
IS WHAT RADIO IS ALL ABOUT. EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS TO HOST CY NEWMAN. MON-FR. 8:05 - 10:00 AM. THE "SOUL" OF L.V. RADIO  
**KTOO**  
1280KC  
5,000 Watts

QUINELLA  
BETTING  
ON ALL  
MAJOR  
TRACKS

*Nishons*  
Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge  
565 Desert Inn Road 735-7990

**FOR BETTER NUTRITION**  
**GENERAL Health Foods**  
Maryland Square Shopping Center  
10 A.M.-7 P.M. 734-6476 SUN. 11-4

**WASH "Your Baby's CLOSET Friend"**  
All Diapers Treated With Dioxan "Makes Fabrics Germ Resistant"  
★ No Deposit Required  
★ Use Your Diapers or Ours  
★ Same Diapers Returned  
★ Detergers & Containers Furnished  
★ FREE Layette Sterilization  
★ CHEAPER Than Doing Your Own  
★ Pick-Up & Delivery Twice a Week  
Call **384-3513**  
616 MARYLAND PARKWAY LAS VEGAS  
"Rock a Dry Baby"

I do more than answer telephones...  
24 hours... every day  
**ANSWERING SERVICE**  
"AROUND THE CLOCK"  
Reasonable Monthly Flat Rates No Extra Charges  
A-1 Telephone Answering Service  
537 East Sahara Suite 210  
735-1421