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DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD



Storm over Black Panthers

By Robert E. Segal

Now that the boiling controversy over the Black Panthers has brought to the fore the tendency of some in government to subpoena the notes of reporters, it may be that the overriding concern for the right of dissent in America will draw more sober attention.

Put crudely, some of the "feds," in their zeal to help some of the "fuz" break the back of the Black Panther movement, are twisting the arms of mass media news gatherers to the extent that publishers, editors, and reporters alike have raised grave warning signals. And their action comes not a minute too soon.

For there is far more to the Black Panther affair than citizen misunderstanding of Mrs. Leonard Bernstein's motives in calling upon her social peers to give money to help defend the militant, vocal, gun-toting, unpopular guerrillas of the tuming ghettos. There is far more to the issue also than fury in Jewish circles over the melodramatic link between the Panthers and El Fatah, the Arab terrorist movement -- far more than Jewish contempt for Eldridge Cleaver as he declares that his colleagues can no longer "allow Zionists to point to the bones of the victims of Nazism and blind us from the piles of bones they are making of the Palestinian (Arab) people."

Much that the Black Panther leaders shout is contemptible; but the more significant concern here is for constitutional traditions now assailed by some government lawyers, by some police, and by others who, in their wrath over Black Panther ideology, saber rattling, and boorishness, are doing grave damage to some of the guarantees in the Bill of Rights.

As to government demand for notes and pictures about and of Black Panther activities, fortunately the more resolute publishers, editors, and air wave managers spoke out fast; and cooler heads and more experienced hands in the justice department saw to it that the less thoughtful guardians of the law got a refresher course on certain aspects of the constitution.

The police record is something else again. Panther tendency to lay in arms is proper cause for deep anxiety. The Second Amendment speaks of the right to bear arms; but there is a broad gap between the way the Panthers read that amendment and the way most of the rest of us do. However, police zest for shaking up Panther strongholds has been excessive in some areas, inevitably leading to a proper challenge of such zeal by law school deans, religious leaders, civil rights and civil liberties practitioners and other dauntless citizens.

In New York, Mayor Lindsay and Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary were obliged a few months ago to bring into check several off-duty police officers who attacked Black Panthers. Little wonder that the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of New York openly condemned a rightwing cadre within the police department, wildly hostile to the Panthers and going under the misnomer of Law Enforcement Group.

In Sacramento, Mayor Richard Marriott publicly expressed shock at the amount of damage done to Panther headquarters. San Francisco has a questionable record on the handling of the black insurgents. And, of course, the Chicago shooting, resulting in the killing of two Black Panther leaders, raised a host of questions about fundamental rights and elementary justice. One scorekeeper has reported 28 Panthers killed by police in 1968 and 1969.

A valuable segment of our national life bearing the proud name of the American Civil Liberties Union conducted a careful study of nine metropolitan areas not long ago and issued a disturbing report: "The record of police actions across the country against the Black Panther Party forms a prime facie case for the conclusion that law enforcement officials are waging a drive against the black militant organization resulting in serious civil liberties violations." The report cited "provocative and even punitive harrassment, defying the constitutional rights of Panthers to make political speeches or distribute political literature."

Mao Tse-tung is said to be one of the most exalted of the Panther heroes. He has advised: "In order to get rid of the gun, it is necessary to pick up the gun." Any group of Americans following that advice is certain to invite suspicion and hatred. Threats of violence, the use of weapons, cannot go unchecked. The American way is to meet such menacing forces with constitutional -- not illegal -- methods.

WASHINGTON D.C. - The crisis in the Middle East, the status of women, and the challenges facing Jewry in Europe and Israel. . . these are among the issues to be studied by three top leaders of the B'nai B'rith Women, who leave Washington, D.C. for the continent and the Middle East on March 6.

NEW YORK: - The Joint Distribution Committee will provide at least \$2,450,000 during 1970 toward the overseas vocational training programs of ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training.

A Happy Event

Sometimes, one week is so chockfull of events which invoke anger, one is torn about which happening to score. A simple look at the headlines each day can make a person think it is not worthwhile, that the young people who freak out do so with good cause. Wherever one looks, there is war, civilian planes bombed out of the sky, there is crime, there are drugs, racial tensions and conflict of all kinds. There is Mr. Pompidou who is so elitist in his point of view and so olympian as to appear unassailable. Where does the ordinary citizen turn.....?

Perhaps to the birth of the quintuplets in New York this past week. At this writing, until a hundred and twenty, all are alive. It does not matter that the mother took a fertility drug (drug?), because here, finally, is a constructive fact, and an act of life. It is also interesting to discover that the obstetrician is a Jew, a man who was born in Poland, lost his parents during the Holocaust, migrated to Israel where, at the Hebrew University, he received his M.D.

There are positive elements in this life situation and one on which we can dwell. At least, this could fortify us until the next shock.

Jerusalem Post Editorial

What is important now is not the active lunacy of terrorist gangs in Amman, which have discovered it is too hazardous to launch attacks at Israel itself and that foreign airlines in particular are less wary than El Al, make easier targets; there is also passive lunacy of countries that have put up with a shrug with this particular form of brutal crime for fear of political embroilments with Arab States and direct threats. In the past, there were countries and firms that yielded easily to the Arab boycott, only to discover that they received no better treatment than others who carried on their business with Israel.

When first an El Al plane was hi-jacked to Algiers there was a stir and unease among airlines, and agreement was very nearly reached that pilots would refuse to fly to any country that permitted hi-jacking and harbored guilty men. On that occasion the effort was frustrated by the French Pilots Association under pressure of Air France which has major interests in North African Airlines. The Swissair crew of nine that died yesterday might be alive today if original decision had been carried out.

The Greeks have done worse. After two attacks on El Al planes at Athens, they have made only meaningless gestures instead of trying the culprits they caught at the time. The Swiss reacted in a more orderly fashion and sentenced three terrorists who killed a pilot of the Israel plane in Kloten Airport. Yesterday's act proves that this is not enough.

Ahmed Jabril, leader of a small splinter group of the Liberation Front in Ahmram, has proclaimed that his organization carried out this particular act of senseless mass-murder without any particular Israeli target, without compassion for non-Israeli passengers, or the Swiss crew. Let Swiss pilots mark their colleagues' memory by de-

claring that until Jabril is brought to justice in Amman Swiss planes not fly to Amman, and bring pressure on their government to ensure that Jordanian planes do not come to Switzerland. It is shameful that business should go on "as usual" while a man brags about such acts. It is also dangerous.

All that is really needed is for all those involved to realize that blowing up civilian planes is not by any stretch of the imagination a political act. In doing so that they would be preventing future attempts of murder and not making a "pro-Israeli stand." This is simply Arab blackmail for which no one in their senses need fall. It is the misconception that has prevented action up to now and it has become urgent that it should be understood.

"Project Transfer"

NEW YORK -- The Interracial Council for Business Opportunity and the American Jewish Congress announced joint sponsorship of "Project Transfer", a pioneering program that has been operating quietly for nearly a year to arrange the orderly sale of profitable businesses in New York City ghetto areas from white to Black owners.

A dozen white-owned businesses are now in active negotiation for sale to new Black owners and four sales have already been completed, it was reported at a meeting in Harlem of Black lawyers, accountants and prospective buyers. The businesses include:

- a major landmark drugstore in Harlem;
 - a Harlem tobacco store;
 - an Army-Navy store in Bedford-Stuyvesant;
 - several cleaning stores in Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan;
 - shoe stores and paint companies in Brooklyn and Manhattan;
 - a hardware store in Jamaica, Queens and
 - several food and liquor stores in ghetto areas.
- The stores range in net income from \$15,000 to \$40,000 annually and nearly all have employees in addition to the owner. Many of the buyers are persons who have worked in the stores in managerial roles, it was noted.

THREE KINDS OF HELP

Project Transfer is unique in that it provides three different kinds of help to prospective buyers:

- A "guarantee loan fund" helps the prospective buyer obtain financing from banks and other institutions in cases where the credit risk involved might otherwise be a barrier;
- An "internship fund" provides the potential owner with a salary for a specific period so that he can learn the business while working at it. This fund also encourages the seller to train his successor until the transaction can be completed;
- A "guarantee note fund" -- the first of its kind in the country -- encourages sellers to accept notes in cases where full financing is not available.

Although Project Transfer was funded in January 1969 by the Ford Foundation, its sponsors said they were unwilling to announce it publicly until smooth-running machinery could be established to insure concrete negotiations and actual transfers. Such machinery now exists, according to the report made to the conference in the YWCA Auditorium at 361 West 125th Street.

WASHINGTON -- B'nai B'rith is offering a special first-day West German stamp cover commemorating a 1970 book exposition conducted by its lodge in Berlin.

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