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A Non-Religious Fast

The fast of Yasha Kazakov, the twenty-three year old Russian Jew emigre raises some questions. Mr. Kazakov was alloed out of the Soviet Union about a year ago and migrated to Israel. Just recently he came to the United States to arouse world opinion against the Soviet Union's refusal to allow his parents to join him. This past week, he began a fast near the United Nations to draw attention to his story.

Fasting is a traditional means of dissent. It is also a method of penance. It is a question whether Mr. Kazakov's single entry into the campaign against the Soviet Union for its attitude towards Jews will have any effect. The justice of his cause and the desire to be re-united with his family would normally invite sympathy. However, there is the danger that it emphasizes a singular aspect of a much larger problem. The Soviet Union is under sufficient pressure in the matter of its Jews. It has responded to this pressure, not perhaps as the pressure-puffers would like. It has trotted out a number of its Jews in its support; a separate number, perhaps more courageous, have opposed Soviet policies. But it was constrained to answer. The hard line, however, which the Soviet Union has taken towards "Zionism" will not be softened by Mr. Kazakov's action. Nor will he succeed in ameliorating its position towards Jews. It has a calculated political philosophy in these matters, whether Jews here or in Israel like it or not, and that philosophy is substantive and operative for them.

It would seem that Mr. Kazakov's or any similar action is self-defeating and destructive. The energies and attention of people should be drawn to the bigger problem, that of peace and reduction of tensions, both in the Middle East and here. With that, pressure applied, to whatever legitimate problem, can have much greater effect.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Yasha Kazakov, the 23-year-old Russian born Israeli stopped an eight-and-a-half-day fast outside the United Nations to dramatize the plight of his family after his father telephoned from Moscow and asked that his son finish his hunger strike. Israeli UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah personally conveyed the message from the elder Kazakov after the call was received at the Israeli UN Mission. The father also made a second call to inquire about his son and was told that he had ended his fast by sharing tea with Mr. Tekoah in the Ambassador's office.

Marriage

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Can a Reform temple get married to a Conservative shul?

Some American Jews think it's time to put an end to denominationalism. For example, Rabbi Amiel Wohl, of Sacramento, Calif., is of the opinion that the life style of Reform Jews and Conservative ones are so similar that they could come together under one roof.

In fact, in San Francisco, conservative Beth Israel and Reform Temple Judea did get married not so long ago. They adopted the following guide lines, which may serve

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OUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED

DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD

TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB
ANNUAL BANQUET

"What shall we do? 90 people showed up and we only have 88 Honor Plaques to hand out!"

- to inspire mergers in other communities:
1. On Friday nights they use the Reform prayerbook.
 2. The Conservative prayerbook is used Saturday mornings.
 3. Yarmulkas and tallesim are optional at all services, but all on the bima wear headcovering.
 4. A kosher kitchen is maintained.
 5. Religious school standards of the Reform group moved up to Conservative standards in terms of Hebrew training, etc.
 6. Affiliation was maintained with both national organizations.
- Interesting, eh?

B'nai B'rith Anti Drug

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Drug abuse in high schools, no longer the special problem of a troubled few, now impartially afflicts "normal" and neurotic students alike.

This chilling contention is documented in the latest of a series of pamphlets devoted to new methods of countering the trend. Titled "Drugs Are Still Not the Problem, But . . .", the publication updates a previous work with an almost identical title: "Drugs Are Not the Problem," issued only six months ago.

Both pamphlets - an an adult advisory guide - were written by Seymour S. Cohen, programs and publications director of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization as part of its continuing anti drug-abuse campaign.

Even in the short period since the initial pamphlet was distributed, drug abuse, according to Mr. Cohen, has entered a new stage: that of a major teen-age fad. This "contagion", it is held, can only be reversed by massive effort of youth and social service agencies to provide "exciting alternatives" to the drug experience which will bring to young people a "sense of meaning" in modern life, especially through programs of social action.

But the pamphlet also holds - as did the earlier publications - that drug abuse is, for each individual, a specific personal response to today's rapidly changing cultural and social climate. Parents are advised that the drug abuse problem even on an individual basis cannot be solved "as long as we focus primarily on drug abuse itself rather than on the whole syndrome of social and psychological problems that besets our own and so many other teen-agers today."

According to this view, "parents need to know their youngsters even more than they need to know the symptoms of drug abuse."

Parents, the pamphlet indicates, must "escalate" their power to understand the spirit of current youth-culture. They must learn the art of "creative listening" and "cool communication," behavior considered "most in tune with the youth scene today." They are warned to shun "panic, preachments, moralizing and scare tactics," especially with a generation that values "youth power" and often opposes the "establishment."

More broadly, the pamphlet recommends renewed effort to enlist "peer leaders" of teen-agers in schools, clubs and agencies in a campaign to "unsell" the drug fad. This, it is stressed, must always be conducted by youth rather than adults. Personalities of high prestige among young people: recording stars, young actors and entertainers, can help considerably by expressing anti-drug statements at national and local meetings.

But along with the anti-drug campaign, greatly increased involvement of youth in vital programs for social betterment is seen as the long-term basis for a "counter-fad." Anti-poverty drives, the struggle for racial justice - and especially the new campaign for a cleaner environ-

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

not the negotiations and conclusion before the industry and on occasion the nation are tied up? This reasoning makes sense, and may have some modicum of principle, but it is not feasible. That is why it was not wholly applicable in the past. But time marches on.

Let us start off by analyzing the causes, the procedures and the inevitable conclusions of days gone by.

Labor strikes for more money and better conditions. What else? Management balks to save money for increased returns on investment. Anyone dispute that simple logic?

It has been said that everyone loses by a strike. That's a fallacy. Everyone gains in the long run, except, perhaps, the public that appears to suffer most when a national commodity is affected.

Here's how it works. Let's take as an example, the coal miners strike.

There is a very good reason why the companies refused to sit and negotiate at the beginning. Shutting down the mines caused a shortage of coal when it was necessary as fuel not only for industry but for private homes. The shortage gave the companies the opportunity to dump mountains of coal dust on the market at prices comparable to the good coal when it was available. When the stockpiles of useless dust were exhausted, management sat and settled the strike.

The same took place in the iron and steel industries and auto manufacturing, etc. As soon as non or hard saleable merchandise was depleted, the companies settled. Then came the rub. Even before the added cost due to labor was felt by management, the price of the merchandise was raised, raised more than not just the amount necessary to cover the cost of added labor demands, but raised to include higher profits than before the strike.

The same thing is happening with the letter carrier strike of U.S. mail. The President is advocating a price increase from six to ten cents for a first class letter. Not, mind you, to seven cents or even eight cents, to cover the cost of higher wages to all government employees, but ten cents to attempt to put the Postal Department into solvent operating level.

We do not object to this. We favor it. What we find depressing is the necessity of the strike to end in a result that eventually comes about.

There are some drawbacks to the simple suggestion we are about to propose as a solution to the whole area of strikes, but once they are understood they can be overcome with simple expediency.

Some union officials are corrupt, and some management representatives have grandiose estimations of their superior status. Its the human element in each case, one ruling by arm power, the other ruled by ego. Neither has any place in the new order of progress.

Basically, what we propose is a national body, supplemented by individual state and county boards, specifically entrusted with the duty of arriving at the earning rights of each level of working man. These boards may be partially or wholly appointive or elective. They must be truly representative of all factions. The conclusions reached by these boards would be determined in part by the cost of living charts, aided by a rule book that would cover every contingency. There would be recourse of appeals by both sides to higher authority, and many other details that could be worked out. Sounds monumental, but so was the drawing of the U.S. Constitution. It could be done.

Then, as you can see, union leaders need not be negotiators, just organizers. And business could dispense with costly labor relations executives. That's the general idea.

You take it from there.

ment, are regarded as promising alternatives to teen-age drug oriented culture.

The new pamphlet will be distributed to professionals, social workers and volunteers of the 50,000-member B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. Copies at 5c each (Code No. ADV-43) are available from the Department of Publications, B'BYO, 1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The earlier pamphlet, "Drugs Are Not the Problem" (Code No. PG-56) written and designed primarily for young people in the idiom of the "now" generation, is available at 15c per copy. The program supplement to assist adult use of the pamphlet for teen-age programs (Code No. ADV-41) may be obtained at 5c each.

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization is the world's largest Jewish youth movement. Chapters throughout North America, Latin America, Israel, Great Britain, France and Australia, engage in many programs of community service, social action, leadership training and Jewish studies.