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Mideast Peace Prospects

Egypt's President Nasser has signified by saying aye to American peace proposals. There are some buts attached to his agreement and some threats. Israeli acceptance is now necessary in order to take the next step. It is interesting, however, to note in a column by C.L. Sulzberger in the New York Times that NATO, of which the United States is a member, has two goals, one of which is "pacifying Russia's western border and obtaining recognition of the existing status quo to free Soviet hands for the contest with China."

In other words, the quest for peace in the Middle East is not an isolated situation. It is geknupt und begunnen with the total global maneuverings. Doubtless, were it a matter for Israel and the Arab countries alone, the issue might have been settled a longer time ago. If, as press reports indicate, Russia did not, several days after the Arab losses of the Six-Day war, supply Egypt with military material and the United States to whom "the Middle East is more dramatically perilous although less important... than Europe where so many billions are invested..." decided they wanted peace in the Middle East sooner, it could have been had.

There is now one phenomenon accelerated by the Six-Day War which the super powers cannot control and which might be to the interest of Soviet Union to help - and that is the Palestinian paramilitary units, the nationalists, the guerrillas and the terrorists. This will be a problem for Israel for years to come and she will need official peace to deal with it.

More Flags?

By ROBERT E. SEGAL

Somewhere in between Billy Graham's good sense about the recent "Honor America" 4th of July extravaganza and Bob Hope's nonsense on the same issue may lie the nub of what troubles so many Americans regarding the division that haunts us all.

Billy Graham was quite right in acknowledging, before thousands of troubled, confused people who poured into Washington, that "we have allowed the word, 'patriotism', to get into the hands of some rightwingers." He knew that end of the American spectrum would be well represented at the production mounted by the wizards of Disneyland. Dr. Graham went further: he said he hoped that "critical patriots" would participate, adding that people who really love their country should acknowledge its faults and work to correct them.

Bob Hope, on the other hand, said he would welcome the critics only if they provided entertainment.

Well, there was a lot of entertainment, some of it quite good and some of it inadvertently ridiculous. Red Skelton carried his idea of amusing the people to the point of making a snide crack about his desire to have prayers in the public schools, an issue rather serious to those who truly grasp the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and, more particularly, the Bill of Rights. The sweet young beauty queen who spoke with fervor for the kind of Americanism dear to her must have been innocent of the way in which most American slum dwellers would react to her salute to roast beef, mashed potatoes, and fluffy female sweaters.

This is put down not by way of criticizing the goings-on in Washington in 1970 but rather to suggest that if we are to have bigger and better Hollywood productions of orgies exalting American nationalism (quite different from honorable patriotism), we may find a horrendous, jingoistic climax reached in 1976 when we mark this nation's

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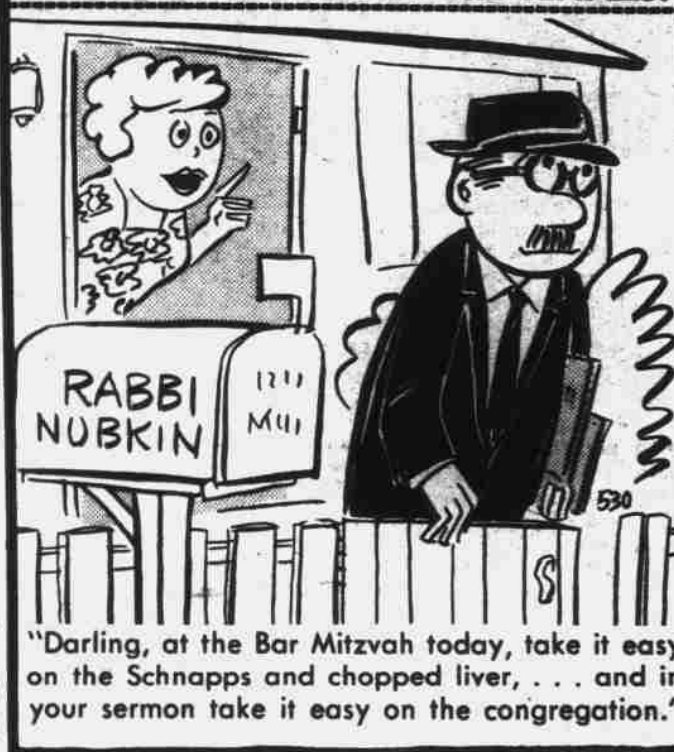
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DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD

WHY RABBIS GET GREY AT THE TEMPLES:



"Darling, at the Bar Mitzvah today, take it easy on the Schnapps and chopped liver, . . . and in your sermon take it easy on the congregation."

bicentennial. We hope that in the next few years, the hotel magnate, K. Willard Marriott, who appeared to be the major domo of the Washington program, will come up with better ways to "bring us together." In leading off the 1970 pageant, Mr. Marriott borrowed from Edmund Burke to remind those assembled for the prayer meeting and the vast television audience beyond that "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Burke, who annoyed his fellow Englishmen by extolling the guts and ideals of the American Colonials who broke away from King George, said on another occasion: "To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely." (A telling observation and a good one to use when the Disney people point up the shame of pollution any day of the year, the 4th of July included).

There was something else that Burke said: "Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants. Men have a right that these wants should be provided for by this wisdom."

When the British government didn't meet the needs of early Americans, revolution proved inevitable. Nor were those needs confined to relief from taxation. The settlers wanted freedom, they wanted a fair share of participation in government, they wanted to have more to say about their future in this fair land.

Herein may lie a guidesign to a still better understanding of the uneasiness besetting many Americans when they are importuned to wear flags, wave flags, and idolize flags as proof certain of their loyalty. The independent among us bridle at the mandates of what one sharp critic of the Washington shindig called "the pious hucksters of cosmetic patriotism." They think wistfully and with tenderness of a national leader close to them in spirit who at his inaugural in 1961 summoned them "to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out... a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself." When John Fitzgerald Kennedy sounded that trumpet call, he had neither fear nor hatred in his heart - only an enduring concern for those who put more store by the quality of their government than by its flourishes and trappings.

Job

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

The greatest literary achievement of all times is said to be the Book of Job.

Found in the Jewish Bible, Job is the well known story about the righteous man who undergoes horrible suffering.

The question raised by the book is, "Why do the innocent suffer?"

The book is literally superb. Translated rather recently all over again by the great scholar, Rabbi Robert Gordis, the poem contains passages of sublimity. Especially touching is the list of virtues which Job enumerates: kindness, considerateness, gentleness, charitableness, devotion to family. It is a compendium of those qualities glorified in Judaism (even though Job is not necessarily delineated as being Jewish).

What makes Job both timely and timeless is the message that we are wrong in thinking that our woes are necessarily the consequences of our own conduct.

When something bad happens to us we are prone to cry, "What did I do to deserve this?"

True, some things we do will result in suffering. If you desecrate your body through excessive smoking, sleeplessness, or the taking of alcohol or other drugs, you are certainly going to suffer.

But a lot of things happen to us that are not the result of our wickedness but the result of the wickedness or the carelessness of others.

Therefore, we must not feel the sense of guilt whenever a reversal or adversity strikes.

Most of the Jewish Bible lays down this connection between our actions and what happens to us. The Book of

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

springboard for allout attack to control both shores. Then they can open the Suez canal for shipping. Do you know the main shipping they desire? It's that short cut through the Indian Ocean to North Vietnam. What else?

The Russians also proposed a peace plan, which they knew, again, as certain as God made little apples, would be turned down. It was made, of course, only to embarrass the Israelis and for no other purpose. The Red proposal was a return of all land taken after the 6-Day War in 1967. The Soviets know that Israel will never relinquish the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights or the West bank of the Jordan. And here's the payoff. Russia wants Israel to surrender Jerusalem. Get a load of that. The Commies are so religious minded they want the Holy City to go over to the Arabs. Who's kidding who?

That's not all that is happening, Mr. President.

Right here in Nevada some peculiar things are taking place. There's a newspaper publisher, a "loyal" Republican (and you can have him) who single handedly settled the Culinary Union strike that crippled the Las Vegas Strip. He really did it, and it was a noble deed. It happened right in his office. What we wondered, at the time, was why didn't this man allow his party to get credit for the settlement, instead of grabbing the glory for himself. He could have allowed the governor or at least, the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate to take the bows. The publisher would have been such a big man if he did. Don't you agree, Mr. President?

A little later the engineers at the Test Site went on strike against the contractors. The walkout dragged on for weeks and weeks, into months. The newspaper publisher worked frantically to get that one settled. He really did. All that time your pal, the lame duck governor, Mr. President, was sitting on his hands in Carson City. Suddenly, without any notice, he flew to Vegas on a Tuesday night, no less, to settle the strike. Those in the know winked at each other and the scuttlebutt was that this time the newspaper publisher had again accomplished the deed and was coming to the aid of his party by letting the governor do the announcing after he had ironed out the fine points. But was he?

A leopard does not change his spots, Mr. President.

The trusting governor made headlines all day Wednesday, and filled the radio and tv airwaves with news of the settlement of the strike. It wasn't exactly a settlement of the main strikers, the governor announced. It was the tangent employees, you know, the hod carriers and the menial helpers, who would be returning to work. This reporter got a little suspicious when the governor stated the tangent workers would meet the following Monday, five days later, to determine whether they would return to work. This didn't sound kosher to us, because striking workers meet in hours on a possible settlement and get on the job the next day. So what happened on Monday? You guessed it, Mr. President, the tangent workers turned down the terms, except a handful, who went to work. That's where it stands today.

So the newspaper publisher showed his true colors again. When he had a strike sewed up, positively settled, he took the credit. When the settlement was a maybe, or a probably not, he called in the governor to be the goat. The poor governor, caught in the middle, is working desperately to bring the union and management to terms. No luck, so far.

Then the Democratic Senator, up for reelection announced he would ask for the Ching Panel to come in from Washington to force a settlement. After all, the strike was practically in the third month. That's when your friend, Mr. President, the governor called the White House to plead that the Ching Panel would not be sent. It would mean a Democrat had a hand in settling the strike.

We've got to keep politics out of this, screamed the governor. Uhuh, we nod. Then the governor went on tv and radio airwaves and into the newspapers to warn the public of the horrible danger of the Ching Panel coming in which would force a settlement of the strike. That's used only as a last resort, pronounced the governor, and we don't need the federal government meddling in our affairs. So the strike goes on and on and on and on.

The mere threat of the Ching Panel coming in, stated the governor, was a deterrent in settling the strike. It made the operating engineers and the site contractors wary, reasoned the governor. So within hours, the governor's personal pipeline to the White House prevented the Ching Panel from taking part in the settlement of the strike. The threat does not exist any more.

Apparently, we have not reached the necessity of a last resort. But the strike goes on. The weekly paychecks are not being earned and the rents and car payments are piling up. The good governor must know what he is doing, Mr. President. Do you?

Job is great because it seeks to change that connection.

We should love God, says the author of Job because of the general benefits He bestows upon us, not because we have been shielded from harm.

Like a parent, God seeks our good. If we deviate from prudent behavior or caught up by circumstances beyond our control that does not mean that divine love does not hold sway for us.

So the Book of Job has an important message for us today. It is our task to reduce as much as possible those social situations which make for problems.

To live up to the message of Job is quite a job!