

ROSH HA SHANAH FEATURE

IN HONOR OF ROSH HA SHANAH, JEWISH NEW YEAR OF 5731, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH FALLS ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH OF TISHRI, THURS, OCT. 1 AND FRI., OCT. 2. ROSH HA SHANA MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 10 DAYS OF REPENTANCE, AWE-INSPIRING, DAYS CULMINATING AT YOM KIPPUR, ONSAT., OCT. 10.

Histadrut Golden Jubilee

YITZHAK BEN-AHARON

Secretary General of Histadrut

As we approach the Hebrew New Year of 5731, during which Histadrut will be marking its Golden Jubilee, life in Israel will continue to be a composite of total mobilization for defense and an equally determined effort to advance the national economy. The rule of the organized labor movement in both these areas

is of paramount importance, today as in the past half century.

There are those who say that Israel cannot afford to improve its standard of living, to maintain its trade union dynamism in the face of the overwhelming needs of national security. This is not the case. In reality, the men at the front lines, at the Suez, at the border settlements, in the kibbutzim, are the same men who don the clothes of a worker and go to work in fields and factories, seaports and construction crews. They fight for a free Israel, but also for a free society within Israel, a society based on democratic principles. These principles are not to be curbed because danger lurks everywhere; on the contrary, it would be a greater danger to Israel's survival if democracy, economic as well as political, were to be suspended even for a day.

Today there is full employment in the country. Much of this is due to the needs of the defense forces. But even in times of peace, we can and should plan for full employment. We are in an age of high technology, of computerization. We shall have to produce more for export, and make our products competitive on the world market. At the same time, we cannot ignore the human factor, especially in the quarter of our economy managed by the labor movement itself. Histadrut enterprises should involve the workers in the management of the places where they work, thus assuring true democracy and encouraging higher productivity. Just as in the kibbutz, where agricultural workers share fully in the decisions, so in industry, is it possible and essential that workers shoulder managerial responsibilities. I hope that in the 1970s we shall see something develop along these lines, not only in Israel but in other free countries as well.

During the coming decade, Histadrut will have an entire new group of leaders, as the founding fathers and the second generation pass from the scene. Everything will change, not only the personalities, but more important, the way of life, the style of doing things. By the time of the next Histadrut convention in three or four years, more than half the delegates will be "new" men and women. The leadership will also come from different backgrounds, from the membership of specific trade unions rather than on a strictly party basis. More of them will be professionals, university graduates, foremen in factories as well as "graduates" of the armed forces. They will be mainly sabras, especially children of parents from the African and Asian countries; the ratio of European-born workers will drop very low, but the Americans will gain. Of course, if the gates of the Soviet Union are opened, we shall have a vast new group of immigrants with special qualities and special problems.

In the 1970s, the electoral system of the

Knesset, and probably of the Histadrut, may be altered to include regional representation. This will open the way for locally known candidates for trade Union leadership -- workers in Galilee and the Golan Heights, for example, would have direct representation in the national councils.

These changes are all feasible. Whether or not they come about is for the future to tell, but there is no doubt that change is in the wind. Israel's social and economic life is in a process of development, and as long as there is a strong labor movement, such as Histadrut, based on democratic ideals, those developments will certainly be in the direction of a better society for all the citizens of Israel.

NEW YORK--77 young Americans and Canadian high school graduates and college students for Israel, to spend one year on the Sherut La'am Kibbutz Program. Together with the groups that left for Israel in January and July, the number of this year's Sherut La'am participants totals 240, 20% more than last year.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Cholera cases in Israel passed the 135 mark with the source of the disease still being sought by Israeli health officials.

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