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LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

"For Those Who Deserve The Best"

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FRIDAY DEC. 25, 1970 870-1255

KANGAROO COURT FOR RUSSIAN JEWS

BEING TRIED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

HANUKAH FEATURE

IN HONOR OF HANUKAH, JEWISH 8-DAY TRADITION OF SACRED CANDLE LIGHTING, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH COMMENCES AT SUNDOWN TUESDAY, DEC. 22 AND LASTS UNTIL THE EVENING OF DEC. 30, 1970

(NO MATTER HOW YOU SPELL IT - CHANUKAH, HANUKKAH, HANUKA, HANUKAH - IT ALL ADDS UP TO HAPPY HOLY DAYS WITH SUCCESSIVE CANDLES ON THE MENORAH.)

Hanukkah, 5731-1970

By Philip E. Hoffman

President, The American Jewish Committee

As Jews the world over mark with rejoicing once again our ancient Festival of Light, our thoughts and our concerns are with the 3,000,000 Jews in the Soviet Union, who once again face days and nights of deep uncertainty, oppression, trials and imprisonment solely because they insist on their right to live as Jews as did the Maccabees of old. Scores have already been arrested. What is their crime? Only that of asking that they be allowed to leave, so that they can go to Israel or elsewhere where

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NEW YORK (WNS)-- Three more trials involving Soviet Jews will open late this month or in early January it was learned here. News of the new trials became known as the Leningrad trials opened behind "closed doors" --closed even to Soviet news media-- to the accompaniment of world-wide protests. Eleven Soviet citizens, seven of them known to be Jews, are on trial in Leningrad charged with "banditry and treason" and may be sentenced to death if found guilty.

As anger boiled over in Israel, the Knesset went into special session and adopted a resolution urging Soviet authorities to release all the defendants and to permit Russian Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel. The resolution

was supported by all factions except the pro-Moscow "Rakach" Communists.

Petitions, one of them containing 12,000 signatures, were presented to the Finnish Embassy which represents Soviet interests in Israel. Members of the Betar youth movement demonstrated outside the Embassy.

Classes at the Hebrew University were suspended for two hours in a demonstration of solidarity with Soviet Jewry. A huge student rally was held at Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University announced it will change its name for one day to "The Silent Jews University."

The Israel Students Union cabled to Pope

(Continued on Page 3)

TELL TALKS

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(In this era of ecumenism we bring you the following column prepared in 1961 and reprinted annually in the edition before Dec. 25th.)

TO OUR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa.

And there are Christmas trees, too!

No one asked but an innocuous wire service story, datelined Vatican City, and printed in the local press may have caused some concern among our neighbors.

The story quotes a Vatican weekly newspaper saying Santa Claus represents a "monstrous substitution" for the Christ child and "offends the faith."

The editorial in L'Osservatore delle Domeniche also assailed the Christmas tree as "an attempt to substitute for the crib . . . and a certain sense of naturalism and paganism."

The objection apparently stems from the general public's acceptance of St. Nick and the tree as indicative of the holiday to the gradual exclusion of the true religious conception, the Nativity.

A strict religious interpretation of the Holy day should unquestionably be total reverence and complete compliance with the Holy Writ. Those devout souls among us always have and will continue to adhere to the rigid theological celebration of the occasion and no amount of persuasion (if attempted) could dissuade them.

But Christmas Day with no distraction from all the solemnity it stands for, has, through the centuries grown, expanded, magnified into a spirit of Christmas. What started as a one day observance is now a weeks-long holiday. What began with personal greetings of cheer from one to another is now the exchange of hundreds of millions of cards expressing joy. What commenced as an occasion for the discreet dispensation of charity for the less fortunate has developed into the indiscriminate giving and receiving of gifts. The once simple recreation of one's version of the Crib has developed into addenda like trees, holly wreaths, tinsel and lights.

An occasion that was originally celebrated by just those of the Christian faith, now finds other sects, religions and beliefs looking forward to and rejoicing in the spirit of Christmas.

The metamorphosis of Christmas was not a straight, smooth road from the way it was, to what it is. There were bypaths, drawbacks, tangents and obstacles created by the natural course of history through the ages.

While Santa Claus is obviously a result of creative imagination, the thought was derived from and patterned after a real, historical person. During the 4th century, Nicholas, an eight year old orphan, but independently wealthy, spent his life being kind and generous to the less fortunate in his native town in Asia Minor. He was elevated

(Continued on Page 4)

NIXON TO OUST UN'S YOST

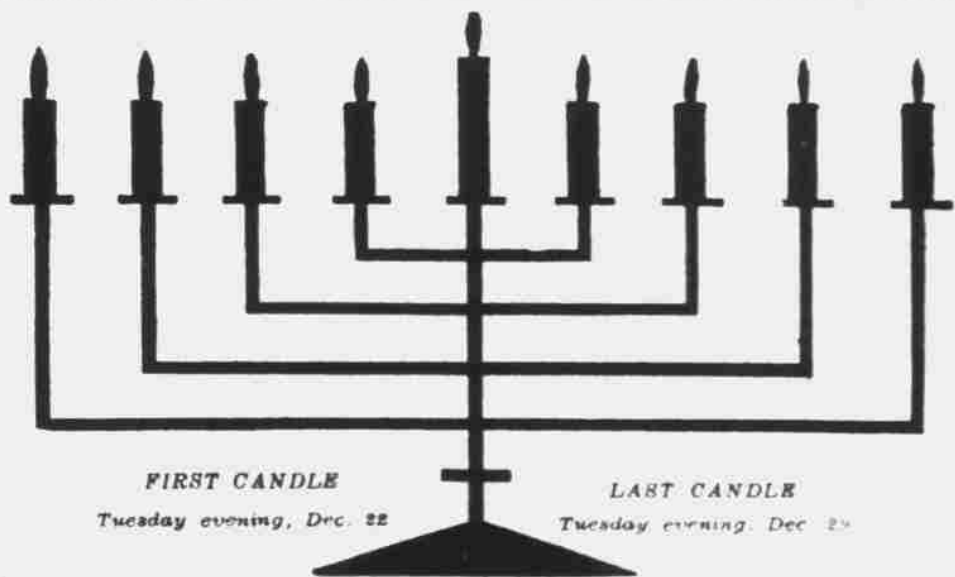
WASHINGTON (WNS) Charles W. Yost, chief U.S. representative to the UN has been "fired" by President Nixon because he was "insufficiently pro-Israel."

Last week, the Boston Herald-Traveler reported that Yost would soon be replaced as America's Ambassador to the UN. On Saturday, New York Times correspondent Henry Tanner

reported "controversy within the Administration over the Middle East is widely believed to have been a factor in Yost's dismissal."

HUSSEIN: ISRAEL MAY EXIST

NEW YORK (WNS)--JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN SAID HE THOUGHT IT "PROBABLE" AND "DESIRABLE" THAT THERE WOULD BE A SOVIET - AMERICAN PEACE - KEEPING FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST EARLIER, HE SAID "WE WERE AND ARE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST."



FIRST CANDLE

Tuesday evening, Dec. 22

LAST CANDLE

Tuesday evening, Dec. 29

Hanukkah 5731

YAHREZITS TONIGHT AT BETH SHOLOM

Friday, Dec. 25, 1970

- Jacob Norkin
- Yicusi Davidovitz
- Samuel Rubenstein
- Morris Cobrink
- Robert Lewis
- Louis Orchow
- Jacob Seidman
- Benjamin Katz

- Leona Brotman
- Jennie Mack
- Grace Spiegel
- Elsa Spindel
- Mary Burns
- Bella Ungerleider