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Social Justice for All

Charges of Jewish withdrawal from involvement with civil rights and general social matters other than specific Jewish causes have been confirmed in a recent survey conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. For one Jewish leader, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, this alleged withdrawal is a cop-out. But he, like other Jewish leaders, recognizes that this is caused by the feeling that the non-Jewish community is little concerned with problems faced by Jews, including black anti-Semitism, and the relative silence of the Christian world in the face of concern for Jews in Russia and for Israel.

Another Jewish leader, Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow of Temple Beth El, Cedarhurst, N.Y., was perhaps more representative of current Jewish feeling when he reaffirmed American Jewry's continued commitment to liberalism and social justice, but declared his unwillingness to become involved with such concerns at the expense of American Jewry. The statement was a reference to a wide-spread belief in Jewish circles that Christians and some segments of Jewish leadership are willing to sacrifice the interests of lower and middle-class Jews for the benefit of other minorities.

This change of priorities by Jews and their institutions which places matters of Jewish concern first and other issues second require attention. Even if Rabbi Hillel said, If I am not for myself, who will be? and if not now, when? American Jewry cannot permit this legitimate concern to serve as an excuse to ignore issues of civil rights and social justice. For as the noted Jewish philosopher Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel said, Jews must not withdraw from the pursuit of justice for blacks because of the rude and murderous rhetoric of black demagogues.

We must remember that Jewish concern with social justice for all men is a long-standing tradition, as a reading of the Torah will confirm. It is also good for the Jews.

Unfinished Sermon

You will not find anyone more ingenious than a rabbi named Stanley Yedwab, whose pulpit is in Lakewood, N.J.

This preacher stood before his people last Rosh Hashanah and asked them, for the first time, to join him in delivering the sermon. He made a number of statements, but he left open spaces in his assertions.

For example, he declared: "We live in an age of..." The congregation was supposed

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YOUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED



THE KINDLING OF HANUKKAH LIGHTS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY COMBINES THE JEWISH CONTENT AND SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMMING OF JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS AND YM-YWHAS AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD. THE KEROSENE-FILLED MENORAH BEING LIT ON THE GROUNDS OF THE STAMFORD, CONN., JEWISH CENTER SETS OFF A COMMUNITY-WIDE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS OBSERVANCE ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY. THE RABBIS, ARE SAMUEL SILVER AND ALEX GOLDMAN,

to fill in the missing word. Later, he asserted: "It is our duty to..." and then he stopped, letting the people in the pews finish the sentence in their own way. "We serve warning on" was another line which was to be concluded in the pews not from the pulpit.

The rabbi then urged his people to continue preaching through the rest of the year. "You don't really need words," he said. "Imagine that you have been called upon to be the guest preacher, only you were not allowed to say anything. Your life would have to speak for you. What would your sermon say?"

Rabbi Yedwab calls his novel experiment "A Communal Sermon." And he concluded by urging his listeners, "Give the very best sermon that is within you."

OUR RABBI SILVER'S NEW BOOK EXPLAINS JUDAISM

"Judaism is a faith that likes to explain itself."

This is the opening sentence in a new book, "Explaining Judaism to Jews and Christians," by Rabbi Samuel Silver, of Temple Sinai, Stamford, Conn.

The initial statement is followed by more than 100 pages of text, describing Jewish festivals, beliefs and practices.

The rabbi wrote the book to mark the Bar Mitzvah of his fourth son, Noah. Father of five boys, Rabbi Silver has written a book to highlight the Bar Mitzvah of each of his children. He has one more son to go, Daniel, 11.

In the new volume, a paperback, which is already being used as a textbook in some schools, the rabbi deals with such topics as "The Holidays Jesus Observed," "Zionism," "Interfaith Marriages," the Ecumenical Movement, and "The Phar-

JEWISH LANDMARKS

Fleet Press announces publication of THE TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO JEWISH LANDMARKS OF EUROPE, by Bernard Postal and Samuel H. Abramson.

Mr. Bernard Postal is the distinguished journalist of the JEWISH WEEK and Mr. Samuel Abramson is the Director, UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

to maintaining the balance of power in the Middle East.

I know that many Senators share my concern that doubts about the stability of the balance in that troubled part of the world could give rise to a renewal of the conflict between the Soviet-supported Arab states and Israel. In recent days there have been ominous threats by President Sadat of Egypt of an attack against Israeli territory. These threats, however flamboyant and irresponsible, carry with them the danger that loose talk of invasions and war can set in motion a train of events only partially controlled, with consequences that are tragic in the extreme. Looking back it is difficult to understand how Egypt could have chosen to mobilize for war in June of 1967. Thus we should take little comfort from the optimistic view that because a renewal of war in the Middle East looks foolish to us it must necessarily look foolish to those who would initiate it. I, for one, view the prospect of an outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East with the most activated concern.

There is a consensus among experts in these matters that a repetition of the 1967 war would not end, as it did then, in a matter of days -- perhaps not even in a matter of weeks. In discussions here and during my visit to Israel I was made painfully aware that the next war, unlike the last, could become a war of attrition in which thousands of innocents could lose their lives, and in which the danger to world peace would increase beyond anything we have known in recent years. No one can take lightly such grim prospects. And no one can responsibly dismiss lightly the rhetoric that brings conflict closer.

I am convinced that at this moment the single most important step this country can take to help bring a measure of stability to the troubled Middle East is to make plain our determination that we will not prejudice Israel's ability to deter by further denying her the aircraft she needs to prevent an invasion across the Suez Canal or a renewal of the war of attrition against her defensive positions in the Sinai.

Mr. President, the principal element of this Administration's policy in the Middle East has been a pledge to maintain the military balance in a condition of rough parity. Measuring such a balance is extremely difficult -- especially, as in the present case, when superior equipment on the Arab (and Soviet) side is said to be offset by superior training and skill on the part of the Israeli Defense Forces. How does one compare an Israeli Air Force, highly skilled, with too few first-line planes with an Egyptian Air Force that has too many first-line planes and too few skilled pilots? And how, in such an uncertain calculation, should one weigh the massive deployment of Soviet-supplied SAM missiles throughout Egypt, any one of which is capable of destroying an Israeli plane? Finally, how does one estimate the role of the Soviet Union in the event hostilities break out? Can anyone say with certainty that the Soviets will not be drawn into a conflict -- that, no matter what happens in the Middle East, they will keep their combat aircraft and their pilots grounded and their fleet at a distance from the conflict?

I emphasize these uncertainties, Mr. President, because they suggest how fragile is a military balance with so many elements (and I have mentioned only three) about which it is impossible to be precise. Moreover, the balance in the Middle East is "subject to rapid change" to use the words of Secretary of Defense Laird. The conditions prevailing today can be dramatically different tomorrow. And in all of this the crucial and decisive factor is the balance in the air; and that balance depends, in large measure, on the available supply of first-line aircraft.

Mr. President, our most urgent immediate

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