



# QUOTH THE MAVEN

BY BEVERLY KING POLLOCK

## Affair With Caterer

When my daughter and "You-know-who" decided that they would like a home wedding in January, I knew just as surely as night must follow day that I would have to consult The Caterer. So I made an appointment.

My daughter assured me I didn't have to wash down the walls beforehand. For The Caterer like a doctor or lawyer would never discuss my housekeeping habits with his other clients.

The Caterer arrived three minutes early and while my daughter answered the door I hid the cereal pot I had been washing in the stove. So the kitchen I must admit was absolutely immaculate.

To me The Caterer looked like a nice Jewish boy about eight or maybe nine feet tall. He took big steps and walked into the foyer. I expected maybe he'd say something lovely about the antique hat-rack-bench I personally refinished but all he said was "H'mmm" and looked for the living-dining area.

The Caterer didn't even comment on the pretty pictures my husband painted. (Most guests when they learn the identity of the artist say, "Now that's a painting!")

Instead he asked to be shown to the game room and all where his people would be working. When I showed him the set-up, he said, "H'mmm."

Then The Caterer came into my kitchen. I like my kitchen. It's the size I can pivot around in just fine by myself. And sometimes

## HUMPHREY: PHANTOM JETS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey called on the President to lift his suspension on delivery of Phantom jets to Israel.

"The first step the United States must take in an effort to secure a negotiated peace in the Middle East," the Senator said, "is to assure Israel of the economic and military support she needs to uphold the balance of power in that area of the world and maintain her defensive capabilities."

"After a 50-minute private conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Mrs. Golda Meir in Washington on Saturday, I am even more convinced that deliveries of Phantom jets must resume without further delay."

"The Soviet Union has shown no sign of reducing its supply of destructive weapons in Egypt. Therefore, any further delay on our part in supplying Israel with the Phantom jets one maybe two more people can be there at the same time."

I expected The Caterer to say "H'mmm" but instead he opened the oven, saw my dirty cereal pot, discreetly didn't accuse me of being a slob right to my face and said (about my 15 year old stove) "That thing work?" (Now it does -- \$56 later.)

Then we sat down at the dining room table and he smiled and I knew he accepted us for ourselves alone and we started discussing the menu.

I tell you the food will be elegant (we're having artichoke hearts in the salad). The dessert caused us the most anguish because there was such a wide selection.

You could have ices in the shape of a parfait glass which you could eat glass and all. And there were edible Jewish stars, menorahs and even bibles. My daughter rebelled at the thought of eating a bible, but The Caterer told her bibles were for Bar Mitzvahs anyway.

We asked The Caterer lots of questions. Like we just got new carpeting. (A year old is new, isn't it?) And we're concerned about breaking the traditional glass on the rug.

The Caterer said, "No problem. The glass is usually put in a plastic bag."

I tried to sound intelligent. I said, "The glass is put in a plastic bag?"

And The Caterer said, "Yes. As a matter of fact, most rabbis nowadays use a lightbulb."

My daughter's mouth said, "A lightbulb?" But The Caterer said we shouldn't be concerned. He assured me it's an OLD lightbulb.

Then I came to the most important part. I asked The Caterer how many people we could serve a seated dinner in the living-dining room. He said if we moved all the furniture into the garage, including the two chairs we had upholstered specially for the wedding, we could have six round tables with eight (or nine, squeezed) at each table. No more than 54 people.

That means only aunts and uncles can be invited; no first cousins (because we have 37 without counting the mechutonim's) and no friends.

So to any friends I may still have, I'm sorry I can't invite you to my daughter's wedding for I truly want all the world to be there. But if you like, you can come over soon and help me clean the kitchen cupboards so they'll be ready for The Caterer in eight weeks.

The Senator spoke at ceremonies dedicating the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at American Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem here.

"The 12 to 18 Skyhawks which the Administration has promised Israel are not enough to restore the military balance," Senator Humphrey said.

"The United States must pursue a clear and consistent policy. Any doubt or hesitancy only promotes instability."

"The Soviet Union has shown no sign of reducing its supply of destructive weapons in Egypt. Therefore, any further delay on our part in supplying Israel with the Phantom jets

increases the danger of renewed hostilities. American diplomacy must not veer from our stated purpose of negotiations between Israel and her neighbors to achieve a peaceful settlement.

"Conflict in the Middle East has been steaming for over twenty years. What is needed is patience, perseverance and firmness."

"The Administration's policy of equivocation has backfired. Sadat claims he has been misled. But the American people and Israel have been misled."

"At stake is peace in the Middle East. And the stakes are too great for equivocation or confusion."



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