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Member of Worldwide News Service Now in the 7th Year of Continuous Weekly Publication Serving the Jewish Community of the State of Nevada.

American OR7 is 50

Decades before the phrase "self help" entered the lexicon of American minority groups, an organization was founded that not only spoke of but taught and aided an economically marginal people to practice self help.

American ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) Federation was born in 1922 as a response to the plight of Jews of Eastern Europe who in the post-war world faced an uncertain future, shrouded in hostility, chaos and danger. ORT stood for reconstruction: the arming of Jewish craftsmen with tools, children with skills and education. Jewish farmers with seed and implements. In short, it helped create a more viable economic foundation for Jewish life.

Today, American ORT with its 90,000 members is the largest unit of the World ORT Union which supports a network of some 700 schools on four continents in which some 65,000 students ranging in ages from 12 to 60 are taught trades, American ORT's 1971 budget was \$21,840,000.

By far the greatest need today is Israel, and that is the focal point of ORT activities. It provides Israel with its basic resources for the creation of a skilled labor force. In Morocco, Iran, India and elsewhere, ORT is the force for community modernization.

American ORT is the direct descendant of the original ORT which was founded in St. Petersburg in Czarist Russia in 1880 with the purpose of freeing Jews from charity by teaching them trades. It reconstructed Jewish life which was burdened by discrimination, hemmed in geographically and forced into a marginal existence. ORT was a powerful instrument in breaking the economic and psychological shackles of ghetto existence.

In 1930, Albert Einstein noted that ORT was striving "to remove a social and economically burdensome wrong from which the Jewish people have suffered from the time of the Middle Ages" by opening to them "new fields of vocational activity for which they are striving all over the world."

As American ORT prepares to hold this month its kick-off celebration for its 50th birthday ORT's viability is unquestionable. It is as basic to Jewish existence as ever, but still changing, still advancing,



LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

day that the next challenge is that of trying to end poverty among the 500,000 to 900,000 American Jews in households with income of \$3000 or less.

As is the custom in Jewish life, several agencies have already started the race to get there first with the most. And before the competition grows hotter, the Joint Distribution Committee, which has announced that it is mounting an anti-poverty campaign for the State of Israel's 250,000 impoverished, may want to add the U.S. sector to its agenda.

Or perhaps the National Community Security Council, now in formation under leadership of Dr. Seymour Siegel of the Jewish Theological Seminary faculty, will take on the onerous fight on behalf of the amazingly large number of Jewish poor in America.

Leaving aside the issue of getting there first, we would do well to put the problem in the broad context of the poverty scandal in the world's richest nation: According to "Counter-budget," the blueprint for changing national priorities, developed by the National Urban Coalition, approximately 24,000,000 of America's nearly 200,000,000 people in 1969 were existing on incomes below the subsistence level established by the Census Bureau----\$3743 for a family of four. More than 45,000,000 Americans have incomes below the Bureau of Labor Statistics poverty level, which represents the lowest standard of living consistent with wellbeing (\$5948 for a family of four). Again, the President's Commission On Income Maintenance has found that a family of four with an annual income of \$3408 a year spends all but 108 on food, housing, public transportation, clothing, and personal care. No margin for luxuries there!

Now bringing the issue closer to the Jewish poor, one needs to note first that contrary to a myth long afloat, 70% of all poor in America are white. (The percentage of poor among blacks and Puerto Ricans is shockingly high, of course; but for the American population as whole, the number of poor who are white far exceed the figure many would expect.)

Recent studies regarding the Jewish poor in America stress these facts; many Jews who are impoverished are scattered through metropolitan areas and away from poverty zones; hence they can easily go unnoticed. Most Jewish poor are older persons.

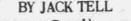
Again, inflation and the inability to live without distress on pensions of dwindling value have hit elderly Jews of our larger cities with a special impact. There is a disinclination also "to go on welfare"; rather the tradition holds for the Jewish community per se to provide for its needy.

So now with the call raised that "poverty must be treated on the basis of need, not residence," several Jewish organizations are wading into the battle to get a fair break for Jewish poor. Having ascertained that 15,3% of Jewish households have incomes under \$3000 a year, compared with 15,6% of Catholic households and 22.7% of Protestant households, people in the Jewish community are quite properly demanding changes in the Economic Opportunity Act so that the Jewish poor will be included equitably and a greater voice will be granted impoverished Jews in setting up and conducting the programs of modern anti-poverty councils.

All of which may prove a shock to those who were dead certain that all American Jews had adequate incomes, suitable shelter, and recent health care.







(Continued from Page 1) proper functioning of \$300,000,000 in state operations?

Let us say, for the sake of argument, that all that Greenspun contends, with the support of the governor, is 100% accurate.

Let us suppose there is no Howard Hughes, or that he is incapacitated, or that he is on ice or whatnot. Let us furthur accept for the moment that some directors of the Hughes Tool Co. are attempting to wrest control of a two billion dollar empire. Even if all this could be proven, there still is not reason enough to deny them license to manage the properties now functioning without top leadership.

All the accusations made by Greenspun, without a single bit of authentication, and the stubborn attitude of Gov. Mike, which is beyond understanding, are not in any shape, manner or form in the interest of our state. Walt Casey, Clark County Republican Party chairman described the governor's language "inflammatory and embarrassing to the state.' Greenspun suggests that Casey not make the Howard Hughes matter a partisan political issue.

We disagree most vehemently with the Sun publisher. The livelihood of 20,000 families and the economic level of Nevada, are definitely a matter of political concern. If Greenspun and O'Callaghan want to gamble the future security of every Nevadan, we will protest as long and loud as our energy will endure.

All the so called personal memos of Mr. Hughes in Greenspun's office are not a single indication of the operation of the Hughes Nevada properties. If and when those alleged violations should occur, the Gaming Commission, and all responsible parties can throw the book at the offenders.

As of now, up to this very minute, every action, every move, every participation in civic and charitable affairs, has been most commendable by the Hughes operatives. They have been gentlemen in every respect. They have faced one setback after another, in legal, proper response. Men of the nature they are accused of having by Greenspun and O'Callaghan would have lost patience with the treatment they have been getting and commenced retaliation long ago.

All they ask is to be allowed to run the Hughes properties in proper and productive manner. All that Greenspun and O'Callaghan have been doing for more than a year, is to stymie the progress of Hughes operations and the State of Nevada.

We do not know many of the answers to the Hughes mysteries, which are being compounded almost daily. Neither do Greenspun or O'Callaghan. But with their lack of knowledge, they insist on enlarging the confusion and broadening the chaos.

We can inform them and all Nevadans, that there are millions allocated, right this very moment, to be spent on improving the Hughes properties, as soon as the company is permitted to reorganize with proper licensing. It will mean many more jobs in many areas. It will be a flurry of spending that will boost the economy.

The present operators, waiting to be licensed are conducting the largest business in the state without proper stationary. They cannot have letterheads printed until the Commission grants the new corporate set-up. Why the delay? Why? Why? Why?

