

Passover Feature

IN HONOR OF PASSOVER, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE ISRAELITES FROM EGYPTIAN BONDAGE, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF FEATURES. THIS YEAR THE PASSOVER FESTIVAL IS INAUGURATED AT SUNDOWN ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 AND ENDS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 6.

Don't Spy On Us

By ROBERT E. SEGAL

If you take a long, fresh look at Passover, you are reminded that well before the Exodus from Egypt and the stirring appeal to "let my people go," Jewish shepherds of antiquity marked a Spring festival of great significance. An agricultural folk in origin, the Jews rejoiced over the birth of lambs, daubed their tent posts with the blood of sacrificed animals, and took delight in the first sheaf of newly-cut barley,

the omer.

Generations later, we came up out of Egypt; and the joy of deliverance was happily intertwined with the joy of Spring's arrival.

Still later, when Jews knew bitter suffering at the hands of Roman oppressors, the prayers for deliverance at Passover time added new meaning to the holiday. And so it has been in every period of tyranny: appeals to God for deliverance come forth on this great holiday.

Some may think it trivial now to express the hope that we shall utilize the approaching Passover as historic framework for new thoughts about the need for freedom---freedom from being spied upon, freedom from that kind of surveillance born of national paranoia, freedom from those who would tamper with our private lives.

But in an era of electronic eavesdropping when dossiers on the most innocent among us are piling up in government archives, Passover may well become much more than a Jewish holiday; it may grow to epitomize the universal longing to be done with busybodies who record our license numbers and computerize our habits as if we were commodities to be merchandized rather than human beings with an innate right

to be let alone.

Professor Arthur R. Miller of Harvard tells us something about this need for a new lease on freedom in his book, "The Assault On Privacy." Therein we are reminded that in just 15 seconds, piles of data concerning 110,000,000 Americans can be mobilized and made available for a slight charge. Some people will say that managers are entitled to credit information obtained in this manner. And if we had assurances that all such data proved accurate and that no indiscriminate use of the records would result, we might not be inclined to make an issue of the matter.

However, we are discussing something much more important here than the mere collection of credit information. We cite in addition the operations like those of the House Internal Security Committee with its staff of 58, its budget of \$525,000 and its extensive files on thousands who may not conform completely to the hard-line criteria that stamp us as patriotic Americans afraid to question such procedures.

This observer has a hunch that many people are much more concerned about such prying, listings, and stampings than the average Joe realizes. Nor does our concern stop with the compilation and dissemination of the private facts of our lives. The anxiety of enlightened Americans today spreads out to governmental efforts to encroach on mass media freedom; to police spying on political gatherings; to no-knock laws; to excess of date gathering by the military.

Time for universal prayer for freedom from such interference? Indeed, it is. Time for the addition of a Fifth Freedom to Franklin Roosevelt's Four (freedom of speech and expression, freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom of worship)? Yes, we must add a Fifth---freedom from a serious abuse of being ticketed, data banked, catalogued, and looked upon with suspicion in an era when electronic sophistication combined with national paranoia can make victims of hundreds of thousands of us.

We were slaves in Egypt and gained our liberty. In the spirit of Passover, let us resolve not to be slaves in a land where freedom long has flourished.

NEW YORK--American Zionist Youth Foundation is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Summer Theatre Workshop in Israel, featuring three weeks of intensive study with Broadway and Israeli artists, scene study, dance, speech, etc.

NEW YORK--Rev. Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, rabbi emeritus of Congregation Beth Shalom, Elkins Park, Pa., died Jan. 27, 1972 in Philadelphia, at the age of 77 years.



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How well should a woman know her own body?

Do you examine your breasts once a month for any sign of a lump or thickening?

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