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The Jewish Question

During a news conference in Moscow on Soviet creative arts, the lack of Jewish newspapers was cited and answered by Alexander B. Cahakovsky, editor of the "Literary Gazette" with a reading from a 1935 novel written by two Soviet authors. A part from the absurdity of responding to a 1972 situation with material of 36 years ago, there are also some problems on our side of the question.

One has to take seriously the Soviet charges that acts of arson have taken place in a number of synagogues, that Jewish cemeteries have been vandalized as well as schools and centers. One has to be able to respond more sensibly to the Soviet assertion that Yiddish is known to less and less Americans. One has to say to the Soviets, that may be true, by the legal principle is established. Anybody can publish anything in Yiddish provided he has the funds, even if he does not have the audience. Once we accept these criticisms at their face, not ideological, value then perhaps we can approach the Soviets as reasonably, and even say, but you do not permit it or perhaps you prevent and limit Yiddish publications. We must also be able to respond with more reason than rancor to Meir Kahane's claim that an American holocaust for Jews is in the making. If there is any truth to what he says, then it weakens the American Jewish position vis-a-vis the Soviets.

The action of an American correspondent in walking out of one of the meetings is not the way to meet the problem; it is avoiding it. Curiously enough, the most sensible statement was made by a Soviet Jewish Poet, Alexander Demshitz to whom it was recommended that there be a round table of talks between American and Soviet artists on the subject of Judaism. Demshitz said, "I know that we are prepared to discuss any question beneficial to human beings. I must add that we Jews don't have problems different from common problems facing the Soviet people as a whole."

If Demshitz meant there should be such rap sessions, we ought to take him at his word - Maybe even something good could come from it. At the very least it could be published in Yiddish.

Taxes Aid Religion?

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

President Nixon, Ohio Senator Robert Taft, and New York State Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges have a goal in common --- one way or another, they are determined to get government money active in keeping religious schools alive.

Practically all respected authorities on the

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YOUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED



ROY WILKINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, WITH PROFESSOR ALEXANDER RUSSELL, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS AT HADASSAH-HEBREW UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, WHICH MR. WILKINS VISITED RECENTLY IN ISRAEL. AN ARAB FATHER FROM THE WEST BANK FEEDS HIS SON, ONE OF THE YOUNG PATIENTS.

Constitution are firm in their conclusion that the disestablishment tenet of the First Amendment makes illegal any use of tax money for religious education. And 25 years ago in *Everson v. Board of Education*, while ruling 5 to 4 that use of the taxpayers' money to provide bussing for parochial school children was constitutional, the Supreme Court made it clear that that wall of separation between church and state created by the First Amendment was applicable to the states through the 14th Amendment.

In that historic ruling, the Supreme Court went further. It made this pronouncement, now constantly cited in Church-state rulings:

"The establishment of religion clause means at least this: Neither a state nor the federal Government can set up a church. Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another. Neither can force nor influence a person to go or remain away from church against his will or force him to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion..."

So how do Messrs. Nixon, Taft, Brydges, and other powerful political figures plan to kill, circumvent, or weaken this guarantee?

An astute politician, clearly aware of the fact that 95% of the nation's private schools are run by Catholic orders and Catholic dioceses, the President has publicly made a vow to Catholic leaders that he will not let the parochial schools down. The Nixon Panel on Non-Public Education, chaired by Dr. Clarence Walton, President of Catholic University, reported recently, calling for a sweeping private school aid program, including arrangements whereby a \$500,000,000 item would flow into the pockets of parents by means of federal income tax rebates. The President's Panel also wants to provide government loans for parochial school construction, special grants to urban private schools, and an equal-footing share for private schools in any new federal aid plan for public education.

Bishop William E. McManus of Chicago has said that he is fairly confident that the President will move in one or more of these directions by September. The date is significant. Such a maneuver coming only two months ahead of the election should help the President get many Catholic votes, a goal eagerly pursued ever since Mr. Nixon lost to John F. Kennedy. In addition, the courts could move in after the election and try to put together the broken constitutional pieces.

Senator Taft is not quite as bold as the

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

disturbing issue in his article. Rather than repeat the editorial, may I suggest that you read it. I am sure you will come to the same conclusion as I, namely, that the power to disperse U.J.A. funds becomes a weapon in the hands of some to work off a grudge or to carry on a personal vendetta.

As a contributor to the worthy cause of U.J.A., and to other worthy causes, I am infuriated at the thought that there are those who would prostitute their so-called "dedication" to Yiddishkeit by the application of certain activities which smack, if true, of KuKlux Klanism and Father Coughlinism.

I, for one, do not choose to be a part of it. I expect that the leadership of the U.J.A. will take steps to repudiate such baseness and to eliminate from its councils those who would use U.J.A. money as a weapon to destroy or to bludgeon.

I have no knowledge nor interest in the personal affairs of Mr. Tell, Mr. Greenspun, Mr. Hait and Mr. Stevens. I do have a great deal of concern, however, in how the U.J.A. has become involved in their personal affairs.

May I have your thoughts on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,
 Irving Danies
 (Certified Public Accountant)

Copy to: Mr. Tell
 Mr. Greenspun, Las Vegas Sun
 Mr. Hait
 Mr. Stevens

We are wondering how long the Las Vegas leaders will allow this unwarranted condition to prevail?

The same circumstances surround the Israel Bond campaign, where an unscrupulous person, surrounded by dotting yes men, allows personal vindictiveness to be interjected in noble causes honest Jews want to support with our hearts and souls.

THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE is concerned with truth and decency and justice, and under no circumstances will we compromise our principles, regardless of who is involved.

That's what makes us sad.

President on this issue. He has recently proposed a constitutional amendment permitting the federal government to grant income tax credit for part of the tuition paid by parents of parochial and other private schools. The New York Senate Leader --- Earl W. Brydges --- having decided to retire from politics, is pressing for a constitutional change also. He wants the New York Assembly to call for a federal constitutional convention. But obviously aware that such a course is strewn with rocks, he is advocating state aid for parochial school building maintenance (for the sake of health, safety, and welfare) and also promoting tuition reimbursements for parents of private school pupils. All these schemes, together with unending agitation for issuing vouchers to parents who send their children to private schools, will eventually get up to the Supreme Court. In the interim, federal judges in Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania have recently ruled against stratagems to skirt the First Amendment. But there is every indication that religious school enthusiasts, some of whom discount the importance of maintaining public schools, are going to drive even harder to scoop up tax dollars for their institutions.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The Absorption Ministry has completed plans for cutting corners for new immigrants hertofore required to go from office to office to discuss their financial problems.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Groundbreaking ceremonies for the first 40 houses of the second Bedouin township designed for 3200 families, in the Negev took place near Kibbutz Shoval.