

Let My People Go

By BARBARA WALDEN

While some Russian Jews charged with anti-Soviet "agitation" were apparently brainwashed into confessing, others openly defied the court and refused to admit their Zionist activity was subversive, according to a new book on Soviet Jewry entitled "Let My People Go."

The book, published October 8, reveals hitherto unpublished testimony from the closed trials of Jewish activists in Leningrad, Riga and Kishinev earlier this year. The testimony was reconstructed from memory by Jewish sources in the courtrooms and smuggled out to the West.

"Let My People Go," a paperback original, was compiled and edited by Richard Cohen, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress. It is published by Popular Library (\$1.25).

How one of the Jewish defendants was seemingly "broken" during the nine-month period between his arrest and trial may be seen in the confession at the Leningrad trial last May by Lev Kornblit, a 48-year-old physicist and mathematician.

"I had an absolutely false idea of the term 'anti-Soviet,'" Mr. Kornblit told the court.

"I thought anti-Soviet literature was material that called for the overthrow of the USSR and for a change of the Soviet regime.

"As has been dinned into me in the time since my arrest, 'anti-Soviet' is any suggestion that differs from the official Soviet line, anything that does not coincide or is contrary to the letter of the Soviet newspaper articles.

"In this sense, those articles that expressed sympathy for Israel and support for its struggle for existence are really 'anti-Soviet' even though the Soviet Union might not even be mentioned in them.

"Therefore I admit that I am guilty in the distribution, preparation and keeping of 'anti-Soviet' literature and I am prepared to bear punishment for this."

Mr. Kornblit was given a seven-year prison term.

In contrast to Lev Kornblit's confession, defiance of the court characterized the testimony of Mikhail Shepshelovich at a trial in Riga that began four days after the Leningrad trial ended, the book reports. In a declaration to the presiding judge, Mr. Shepshelovich declared:

"I state that I have no anti-Soviet convictions and never had them. My views in the public and social plan are socialist, and in the national plan, Zionist..."

"I state that the sole aim and inspiration of my actions was a desire to study the history and the cultural heritage of the Jewish people. I also wanted to have a better knowledge of the problems of Israel and of the situation

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Tell:

I have an interesting vignette to convey to you that happened in our VA Hospital at Sepulveda.

Max Corsun who is in charge of the delicatessen at the Dunes Hotel was admitted as a patient at our hospital. While I was visiting with him, he was apprised of the fact that I was going to go into the Mojave Desert on maneuvers with the U.S. Army. The time that I was to be there coincided with the sacred Holy Day of Tisha Bav.

Maxie Corsun said that he would arrange for an outstanding delicatessen evening for the "break the fast," which he did. One of the most outstanding delicatessen repasts was arranged through Maxie Corsun as a donation to the Army Chaplaincy.

Another interesting episode happened for the Tisha Bav in the desert; namely, the Catholic Chaplain, Father Engberg of Oakland, who was also there on maneuvers, and the Protestant Chaplain, Rev. Lee Burris, joined the Jewish Services and they read from the book of Lamentations and led in the Services with me and they also participated in the repast supplied by Maxie Corsun.

I hope this is an interesting item for you. With all best wishes,
Benjamin J. Elsant
Jewish Chaplain

in the Middle East.

"The facts of forced assimilation that are cited in 'Our Mother Tongue' -- a document circulated among Soviet Jews asking them to declare Yiddish as their native language in the 1970 Soviet census -- 'did take place; the description is accurate.

"The sole aim of our publications was to inform Jews who wished to know the truth about Israel; this aim is not criminal.

"I do not consider myself guilty."
Mr. Shepshelovich was given a two-year prison sentence.

"Let My People Go" also discloses a statement to the Riga court made by A. I. Rozhansky, lawyer for the defendant Arkady Shpilberg, criticizing the prosecutor's demand for a four-year term for his client. Mr. Rozhansky told the court:

"It is the first time that I hear that the length of punishment is measured not by what has been done but by conduct during the investigation and in the courtroom. Such an approach is absolutely inadmissible...The law enumerates the circumstances that either extend or attenuate guilt... (and) does not mention the inadmission of guilt on the part of the defendant as an estending circumstance."

Subtitled "Today's Documentary Story of Soviet Jewry's Struggle To Be Free," the book contains factual and statistical material on Soviet discrimination against Jews, excerpts from Jewish underground publications.

Nevada Nuggets

BY JACK TELL

EL CORTEZ \$25,000 ⁰⁰ KENO									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

8-SPOT KENO: For the un-inflated, Keno is a glorified bingo game. There are 80 numbers in 8 rows from 1 to 10, 11 to 20 etc. If you circle the vertical rows on top and on bottom, you get 20 groups of 4 numbers each. Any two of these groups compose an 8-spot. There are 190 possible 8-spots among the 20 groups. At 60 cents each 8-spot, it costs \$114 to play the ticket for a single game. You must get 5 numbers for the lowest pay-off (\$5.00) for an 8-spot play. Six numbers pays \$50, seven returns \$1100 and all eight, \$12,500.

In order to get any return for your \$114 investment, at least 3 numbers have to appear in one group of 4. If two groups of 4 have 3 numbers each, those two alone pay-off \$50.

We noticed this particular play posted on a bulletin board near the Keno game at the El Cortez. Then we watched with interest, how the numbers were flashed on for the next 10 successive games.

Five games returned nothing. Two games had one of 3 in a group. There were twelve, two in a group, which made 5 for the eight spots, returning \$60. One game had three groups of 3, which meant \$150 plus four, 2 in a group, for 12 payoffs of \$5 each and a total of \$210. One game had a four in a group and five two, for a return of \$250, plus six, 1 in a group, which, with the 4-spot, made it five out of eight, for \$30 more and a total of \$280. One game, the sixth, had a four spot and two, three in a group for a return of \$2200. The total investment for the 10 games, at \$114 each, would have been \$1140. That's a gamble for you.

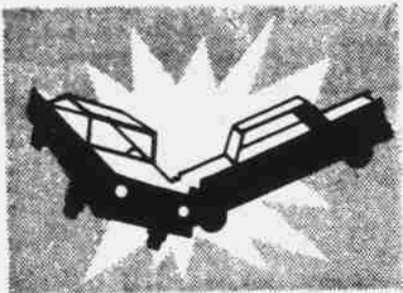
NICK THE GREEK: The story recently about the dealer with brown shoes reminds us of a true incident the late Nick The Greek told us many years ago. It happened at the Old Frontier when that "Dude Ranch" was one of the few attractions on the Las Vegas Strip. Nick was in his room waiting for a call from Ava Gardner. When the phone rang, Nick said he'd be right down to the lobby. In his haste he put on one black and one brown shoe. That evening he got lucky and won a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Someone noticed the unmatched shoes and the whole hotel was buzzing about Nick's big score. The press agent sent the item on to Ed Sullivan who ran it in his column. The next day half the race track patrons on the "Aquaduct Special" were wearing one black shoe and one brown.

EL CORTEZ JACKPOTS: We saw it happen the past week. A couple was playing the ten cents slot machines at the El Cortez, where the top hit is a \$200 payoff. They played for about four hours with varying success, and were losing \$40 to \$50. Suddenly the husband yelled out \$200. He was payed and within 5 minutes he hit the same machine for another \$200. Fifteen minutes later the wife called out \$200. They were set to go home, when the wife decided to invest the remainder of dimes in her hand. She went to another row of 10-cent machines. Within three minutes she was heard to exclaim: "I cannot believe it. I simply cannot believe it." She had hit for another \$200. That's the El Cortez slots, like we've been telling you all along.

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