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### Nixon-Brezhnev Talks

The forthcoming Nixon - Brezhnev summit talks can serve as a framework not only for extending peace and friendship between the two super powers, but also as a basis for exerting pressure on the Soviet leader to end the oppression of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate.

American and world Jewry will be watching carefully to see whether or not there will be a betrayal of the aspirations of Soviet Jewry and the vital needs of Israel's security in exchange for a profitable trade agreement.

Note should be taken of the poignant appeal by 42 Moscow Jewish activists to American Jews not to be lulled by Soviet offers to grant token concessions on emigration rights if American Jews refrain from demonstrating during Brezhnev's visit.

American Jews should further take into consideration other portions of the same appeal which stated in part: "We want peace and prosperity for all, too -- but not at our expense."

It is all very well for Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban to say that Israel is not apprehensive about the summit talks. And it is heartening to hear Premier Meir saying she is convinced that Nixon will not let Israel down. These two world Jewish leaders know the diplomatic score.

But to make sure that neither they nor world Jewry is disappointed, hundreds of thousands of Jews from every community across the nation should participate in the Freedom Assembly for Soviet Jews to take place on the ellipse in Washington June 17 on the eve of Brezhnev's arrival.

During the week of Brezhnev's stay here, American Jewry must underscore its commitment to press for the rights of Soviet Jews to emigrate freely. And it must assure that Israel's security is not bargained away.

### Shavuot

The pilgrim festival of Shavuot is an interesting example of two factors. One is that in biblical or rabbinic periods, agricultural festivals were sometimes transformed to mark the anniversary of significant historical events in the life of the Jewish people. The other is that different sectors of the Jewish people, even in biblical times, used different calendars and made different interpretations of dates provided by the Bible.

Shavuot marked the end of the barley and the beginning of the wheat harvest. The Bible does not show that Shavuot is anything else but an agricultural festival, that today's Kibbutzim in Israel are celebrating this feast. To them, it indicates the peak of the first grain harvest and the first ripe fruits. According to the ENCY-

CLOPAEDIA JUDAICA, it is possible that the character of the festival changed at an early period because the members of the Pharisaic party, as town dwellers, had little feeling for a purely agricultural feast.

The earliest clear references to Shavuot as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah come from the third century. The Encyclopaedia Judaica quotes that "the saying of R. Eleazar that all authorities agree that it is necessary to rejoice with good food and wine on Azeret because it was the day on which the Torah was given." "Azeret" is the rabbinic name for Shavuot. The meaning of this designation is uncertain, but generally translated as "solemn assembly." The transformation of the festival was based on the biblical verse: "In the third month after the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai." After Passover and Sukkot, both connected with the Exodus, Shavuot also became linked with this event.

Shavuot has relatively few special rituals. The Encyclopaedia Judaica tells us, however, "that in some medieval communities it was customary to introduce children to the Hebrew school on Shavuot, the season of giving the Torah. The child . . . was given cakes, honey, and sweets, 'that the Torah might be sweet on his lips'."

"It is a home custom," continues the Encyclopaedia Judaica, "to eat dairy products on Shavuot because the Torah is compared to milk, and because the law of the first fruits is placed in juxtaposition to a law concerning milk."

### Political Cannibalism

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Tough-skinned philosophers and politicians have long maintained that an enemy of one's enemy is a friend worth having. Could this be why Cuban exiles appear so prominently in the skulduggery variously known as the Watergate caper and the shambles in Washington?

If it is true, as grand jury and court proceedings now seem to show, that zealots determined to re-elect the President in 1972 left part of the work up to H. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, is it surprising that the Liddy-Hunt agency, vibrant with CIA knowhow, would turn to Cubans for a hand with the dirty work? For the Cubans could easily convince themselves that Senator George McGovern would be inclined to make peace with Fidel Castro. So if you wanted to have some filthy letters forged on Senator Ed Muskie's stolen stationery in Florida, why not hire Castro-hating exiles to help?

This one example of putting campaign funds to work in the hands of men quite willing to employ filthy means to achieve the party's aim chills the heart of all who want American freedom untainted by involvement with political extremists busy fighting other political extremists.

Fifteen years ago, while Vice President Richard Nixon said: "The trouble with Republicans is that when they get in trouble, they start acting like a bunch of cannibals." With due deference to Mr. Nixon's experience and wisdom, this observation might also be applied now and then to Democrats. Which partisanship is fiercer is not the issue at this juncture in the unwinding of the Watergate affair. The character of men in high places is the issue.

And because it is so much easier to "bug" your opponent these days, so tempting to employ the wonders of the new electronics for political dirty work, so simple to manipulate opinion through the use of newspaper advertisements sponsored by deceivers and paid for by campaign contributors, the character of those in high positions is much more quickly exposed for all to judge.

For we are living in a rather fast catch-up age. That is to say that the newsmen who covered the bitter California gubernatorial political campaign of 1962 can easily dig out the reminder that the California Supreme Court ruled it was Candidate Nixon himself who finally approved the dispatch of 500,000 post cards to Democratic voters warning that dire things would happen if Pat Brown, the Democratic candidate, won the election. The postals urged Democrats to send contributions to "The Committee To Preserve A Democratic Party in California." That "committee", it was revealed in the long legal proceedings that followed, was definitely not made up of Democrats. For the California Supreme Court concluded that those involved in this political rough play included Herbert Klein, Herbert Kalmbach, Caspar Weinberger, Maurice

### TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

currently city attorney for North Las Vegas. As in every other instance, when Greenspun goes out on a limb, we look behind the issues being presented to the public, and seek the motive, if any, on the part of the publisher.

We frankly concede that we became acquainted with Earl Gripenrog since the day he was named deputy district attorney some ten years ago. Since then we have considered him a friend and have always regarded him as a man of good character. Although we have disagreed with him on occasion, we have learned to respect his efforts as a good public servant, who has never been involved in misdeed or corruption.

Equally as frankly, we admit that we never met Lovell, but we have been informed that he is a fine gentleman, and like Gripenrog, has never been involved in a public scandal.

As in most political campaigns, there are charges and counter-charges, some over-stated, some far off the mark and some without basis. But since the welfare of the public is at stake, it is important that each point be aired so that individuals may evaluate its relative merits before determining what lever to pull in the polling booth.

The circumstances that evolved in North Las Vegas during the past two weeks, have some bearing, in our opinion, on the relative capacities of the two men seeking the job as Las Vegas City Attorney.

It appears that the police department, almost in its entirety (93 out of 103), had signed a petition complaining of the shortage of law enforcement personnel, leading to the growth of crime in the second largest city of our state. The lawmen appeared en masse, before the North Las Vegas City Council, to present their grievances. The Council decided the matter was not on the agenda and refused to hear from the spokesmen of their own police department. We know of countless instances where public officials suspended a concern of the moment to hear out a large group of irate citizens. It is a matter of expediency and certainly good judgment.

Now just what has this to do with the two men seeking the post of L. V. City Attorney? Just what are the responsibilities of any city attorney in respect to the complication that arose in N.L.V.? We questioned Gripenrog very closely on that point.

Gripenrog informed us that, to begin with, the city attorney is the legal representative of each of the city departments, as well as legal counsel to N.L.V. City Council. Therefore, he was in position to bring about a meeting of the minds, at the moment, if he were present, to quell a queasy situation.

Someone was at fault, and while it would be unfair to place the entire responsibility in the lap of N.L.V. City Attorney Carl Lovell, we feel he should have made some comment on the incident, explaining his position. This, to our knowledge, he failed to do.

Before writing this piece, we informed Lovell's campaign manager of the Gripenrog press releases we were printing in this edition, and asked that he submit stories in behalf of his candidate. At press time no such stories arrived.

THE ISRAELITE endorses Earl Gripenrog for City Attorney.

Stans, H. R. Haldeman, and Mr. Nixon.

But here we are 11 years later. And any wiser? One has to wonder. Don't we all shudder at least a little when we learn that a Washington attorney is authority for the conclusion that John J. Wilson, selected by Mr. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichmann as their attorney in this time of life still another crisis, is "anti-black, anti-Jewish, and anti-everything that happened since the First World War, and makes no bones about it?"

And don't we tremble even more when we behold insensitivity attending the determination of the White House to keep the investigation of Watergate in the hands of the in-group?

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