

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Richard M. Nixon--for the first time as President--has seemed to hint that the U.S. may move towards a more neutral approach in the Middle East. The President declared that both the Israelis and the Arabs are at fault in the seemingly endless deadlock; and that U.S. influence in expediting negotiations in the area is now at the top of priorities.

In his 33rd press conference last week--in the East Room of the White House--the President indicated that the energy crisis has added an extra dimension to the need for a swifter settlement in the Middle East.

He revealed that he would soon send his former adviser and former Secretary of The Treasury John B. Connally to the Mideast and possibly to the Soviet Union. Connally, a former Governor of Texas, has important contacts in the oil industry both in the U.S.A. and in the Arab world. Connally was a guest at the White House State Dinner for King Hussein (last February) as well as for Golda Meir (last March).

Mr. Nixon conceded that the Arab countries do link the oil matter with the Israeli-Arab conflict. And he warned Congress that if it doesn't pass important bills in his energy 'package' that the U.S. will be at the mercy of the oil producers in the Mideast.

The President was asked if it is possible that the threat of limiting the supply of oil would cause a moderation in U.S. support of Israel. He replied that it would be highly inappropriate for him to suggest that the U.S. is going to relate its policy toward Israel with the American need for oil from the Middle East.

But, he did say:

"Israel simply can't wait for the dust to settle and the Arabs can't wait for the dust to settle in the Mideast. Both sides are at fault. Both sides need to start negotiating. That is our position. We are not pro-Israel and we are not pro-Arab, and we are not any

more pro-Arab because they have oil and Israel has not. We are pro-peace and it is the interest of the whole area for us to get those negotiations off dead center. That is why we will use our influence with Israel and what influence we have with the various Arab states, to get those negotiations off....

"Now one of the dividends of having a successful negotiation will be to reduce the oil pressure."

As for what he is doing to meet the threats from the Arab countries to use oil as a club for the U.S. to force a change in the Mideast policy, the President said that that has been a subject of major concern.

"Some of what we are doing can be talked about, and some cannot. We are having discussions with some of the companies involved. As far as some of the nations involved--Libya, for example--our relations are not that close that we could have much influence," he said. "Perhaps the relations we have with Saudi Arabia might lead to more influence there."

He added: "One side of the problem--as far as the Arab countries are concerned--is that it is tied up with the Arab-Israeli dispute, and that's why we have put at highest priority, moving toward making some progress toward the settlement of that dispute."

The other problems are the radical elements that presently seem to be on ascendancy in various countries in the Mideast, like Libya. We aren't in a position to control those elements, although we may be in a pos-

ition to influence them, because oil without a market, as Mohammed Mossadegh (Iranian Premier) learned many, many years (22) ago, does not do a country much good."

Mr. Nixon said that the oil market itself, both in the U.S. and Europe, and responsible Arab leaders, will see to it that if the price continues to rise, present markets will be lost, and other sources of oil will be developed.

Happy New Year



Howard W. Cannon
U.S. Senator



New Year Greetings

SEN. & MRS. CHIC HECHT
& FAMILY

Happy New Year



EMILIE WANDERER

May this Jewish New Year fulfill our hopes for a world of peace, prosperity and

ALAN BIBLE, U.S. SENATE



to the Jewish Community

JOHN C. MOWBRAY
Supreme Court Justice

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foxy's
KOSHER STYLE DELI • RESTAURANT 24 HOURS
Just North of SAHARA HOTEL

HAPPY NEW YEAR
To Our Friends in The Jewish Community



Mr. & Mrs.
Joe Delaney & Family



Greetings from our hearts

COMMISSIONER AND MRS. RON LURIE AND FAMILY