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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
 Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)
 congregations can now count men and women equally as members of a minyan.

Rabbi Jehuda Nadich, the organization's president, said the change, which is left to the individual decision of each rabbi and congregation, recognizes the new role that women are playing in Jewish communal life. The decision was approved by the Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards after long and serious discussions.

A significant minority was opposed, feeling that tradition should be maintained. The Conservative move brought denunciations from Orthodox groups.

The heads of Agudath Israel of America, the Rabbinical Council of America and the Rabbinical Alliance of America all accused the Conservative movement of violating halacha and attempting to attract new worshippers. Rabbi Moshe Sherer, Agudath executive president, also said the action should convince Orthodox groups to leave the Synagogue Council of America, the umbrella organization for Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism, because the decision "demonstrates the failure of the contention that such interdenominational affiliation contains the non-Orthodox from further deviation from halacha."

The move was also criticized in France by Paris Chief Rabbi Ernest Gugenheim, who said it "reflects a profound mis-understanding of the fundamentals of the Jewish religion."

Praise for the change was voiced by Mrs. Henry Rapaport, president of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America, who said the move reflects the thinking of the group's membership.

Rabbi Sherer also declared:
 "The decision of the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly and United Synagogues to break

omplishments in the face of adversity, and the flourishing of democratic institutions there. We offer Israel our continued support and assistance. Looking to the future, we foresee an expanded role for American Jews to play in interpreting Israel's needs and policies to the U.S., and in helping to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

We feel that constructive thought must be given to the changing role of women in the general and the Jewish community. This is a need that has been too long neglected, with a loss to society of the full benefit of much talent and energy.

We are concerned about the shameful abuse of the democratic process exemplified by the Watergate scandal. We call for the strictest enforcement of existing laws as well as a bipartisan enactment of comprehensive new laws reforming the electoral process. We also need laws with tougher provisions affecting both the collection and the use of campaign funds. Where will Watergate lead us? It is difficult to tell at this moment.

Some will argue that it's too late; that the decay of decency has set in and that there has been an erosion of confidence that cannot be repaired. I don't share this pessimism. I believe that many Americans hunger for a new inspiration and a restoration of the standard of decency and morality. America has had its fill of sabotage, secrecy, bugging, breaking in and excessive use of power. There is a yearning for fair play—living in and not without the law.

We should not let anything distract us from the pursuit of social justice. We must stand behind those affirmative action programs pursuant to the American tradition of helping categories of people on whom society has imposed hardship and injustice or who have special needs that could not otherwise be met.

At the beginning of this New Year, let us work for the enrichment of our Jewish heritage and the strengthening of equal opportunity for all. Together we will help develop a new vitality and a new inner strength to answer the changing needs of our people, our country and the world.

with Halacha and count women in the minyan should not be surprising; it is rooted in the Conservative movement's refusal to recognize the sanctity of Torah and Halacha as the revered word of G-d. A Judaism which considers religious law authored by mortals, can naturally be altered by other mortals to fit new trends and moods, and many new radical breaks with Halacha can be expected in future years.

"The decision to count women in a minyan is merely another step in the constant erosion of Jewish law and tradition perpetrated by the Conservative movement. However, it has a peripheral benefit: The unwary and misguided who still believed that the Conservatives are upholders of tradition will perhaps now see the light.

"The Jewish woman who is steeped in tradition does not need this new 'right,' and the Jewish woman for whom Halacha is meaningless, will not be brought closer to our spiritual roots because of this 'right.' The failure of the Conservative as well as the Reform movement's 'innovations' for the sake of 'attracting the youth and the women' to religion is abundantly evident from the growing flight away from the Jewish religious life-style by its constituents.

"The only valid Judaism is that which recognizes the Torah as the work of G-d, and which lives by the Torah as interpreted by the rabbinic authorities to whom our teachings are sacred writ."

However, a statement by Rabbi Arthur Herzberg of American Jewish Congress, expresses a contrary view. He said:

"The recommendation that Conservative Judaism allow women to take part in the minyan is a most welcome development. The right to be counted in the quorum required for communal worship underscores the equality of the sexes.

"With the right to be counted in the minyan comes the responsibility to attend it. Let us hope that Jewish women who have long and rightfully demanded equal opportunity to participate in the minyan will accept this right recognizing the obligation it now imposes on them to come regularly to the synagogue to pray.

"And let us hope that this step will be adopted by the other branches of Judaism as well, not only in and of itself but also as a major step in removing all other restrictions that have for too long served to diminish both the rights and the responsibilities of Jewish women toward the faith and practice of Judaism."

All we can add, as father of three sons, born and raised in a home a few doors from the synagogue in North Bergen, N.J., we wish the move had come some 15 to 20 years ago. At that time, almost nightly, the inevitable knock came during the dinner hour. The boys took turns, and if necessary to complete the 10-man minyan, all four of us went. We could have sent Bea.

SELICHOS SERVICES SEPT. 22

SELICHOS SERVICES, THE ONLY MID-NIGHT SERVICE IN JUDAISM, WHICH HERALDS THE APPROACH OF THE JEWISH HIGH HOLIDAY SEASON WILL BE HELD IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM, 1600 E. OAKLEY BLVD., ON SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 22, 1973. AT 11:45 P.M. IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE MIDNIGHT SERVICE, RABBI PHILIP SHNAIRSON, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE TEMPLE, WILL DELIVER A SHORT ADDRESS ON THE MEANING OF SELICHOS. CANTOR JOSEPH KOHN WILL CHANT THE LITURGY ASSISTED BY THE TEMPLE'S HIGH HOLIDAY CHOIR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CANTOR HERMAN KINNORY.

A BREAKFAST--REFRESHMENT PERIOD, HOSTED BY TEMPLE SISTERHOOD WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SOCIAL HALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF SERVICE. ROSH HASHONAH, THE JEWISH NEW YEAR 5734, BEGINS WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPT-EMBER 26, AND CONTINUES FOR TWO DAYS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 and 28. KOL NIDRE NIGHT WILL OCCUR ON FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 5 AND YOM KIPPUR DAY IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6.

Bigots VS Kissinger

"Plenty of native-born Americans would make a good Secretary of State." This in a flyer by the extreme right-wing Liberty Lobby is the most open in an organized hate mail campaign against the confirmation of Dr. Henry A. Kissinger as Secretary of State. The statement is a violation of an American principle that a man is judged here by his merit not by his religion, race or national background. The letters received by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee also oppose Kissinger because he is a Jew or a "Zionist". "We have had lots of hate mail," Senate Majority Leader Hugh Scott told Dr. Kissinger.

This reaction was not evident when Dr. Kissinger helped negotiate an end to the Vietnam war. Nor was his foreign birth or Jewish heritage raised when he traveled the globe to improve United States relations with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

But his nomination for the highest post ever held by a Jew in the U.S. has brought the bigots out of the woodwork. There seems to be a small but sizeable minority who cannot accept the fact that a Jew, let alone a foreign-born Jew, can be named to such an important position. Added to them are the pro-Arab groups who see some sort of "Zionist" plot now that Dr. Kissinger will be dealing with the Mideast for the first time.

Some small comfort can be drawn from the fact that the hate campaign has not reached the type of widespread vilification that greeted the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis as the first Jew on the Supreme Court. But this should not lull us to drop our guard.

Dr. Kissinger himself summed up the essence of the matter when he told newsmen that he will conduct U.S. foreign policy "regardless of religious and national heritage. There is no other country in the world in which a man of my background could ever be considered for an office such as the one to which I have been nominated. That imposes upon me a very grave responsibility which I will pursue in the national interest."

That statement should settle the issue for people who believe in the principles upon which this country was founded. But no one should expect the hate campaign to end even when Dr. Kissinger is confirmed as Secretary of State. The American Jewish Community as well as the whole American people, must meet this hatred head on whenever it appears, because the bell tolls for all of us.

**Rosh Hashanah - 5734
 A New Year's Message**

by ELMER L. WINTER
 (Pres., Amer., Jewish Committee)

We join Jews everywhere in these holy days marking the beginning of the year 5734, grateful for all the blessings of democracy and especially for those that permit us to live as Jews without hindrance or handicap. Our fondest hope is that these benefits will be extended to Jews wherever they may be.

As Jews we are deeply concerned over the plight of Russian Jews seeking emigration. We decry the harassment applied against Jews who seek visas for emigration. We deplore the loss of jobs, the trials and the severe punishment which oftentimes accompany the filing of a visa.

We look with pride upon Israel's many acc-