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Truth About Oil

by ROBERT E. SEGAL

Some who follow the vagaries attending the Middle East shifts of fortunes are upset by the glee with which the Federation of Arab Petroleum Workers hailed Standard Oil of California's recent propaganda letter calling for a shift towards the sheikdoms in U.S. Middle East policy. Others are exasperated by the Standard letter itself and not too convinced by the west coast coast company's belated effort to give assurance that it really didn't mean to heave a brick at Israel.

Lifting eyes to wider horizons, the sympathetic television reaction King Faisal of Saudi Arabia draws from otherwise pretty well-informed Americans in his new assaults against Zionism provides more cause for worry. Faisal's move towards a new alignment with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt carries a thousand times the clout of Libya's Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi's flirtations with Cairo. Qaddafi offers primarily bombast and boastfulness and a hungry desire to take Nasser's place in the affections of the Egyptians; but Faisal, as oil rich as a modern despot can be, brings to the bargaining table not only barrels and barrels of lubricant but also the potential for delivery of Phantoms and other military hardware to Sadat.

In all of these considerations, Americans who desire to translate their anxiety into something constructive can take comfort from the following:

1. The United States is not apt to change its traditional and firmly-established policy of working to maintain a balance of deterrent force in the Middle East and to stand back of an on-going assurance not to let Israel be ground to pieces by oil bargains, Arab mergers, oil company propaganda, the dedicated opposition of Moscow, or any combination of these and other factors. John A Scall, representing the U.S. at the UN, has pointedly in recent days refreshed the memory of the forgetful by stating without equivocation the U.S. policy toward Israel remains today what it has been through the years of Israel's emergence and progress.

2. The most authoritative figure serious students of the oil problem can find today is that of 10% of U.S. oil and gas imports actually coming from the Middle East. The oil wealth of Canada and Venezuela is by no means exhausted. And there is every reason to believe that the U.S. will find oil available in shale deposits, in oceanic beds, in Alaska, or in other regions now under constant probe.

3. Those foes of Israel who have tried to picture the "Energy Crisis" as a spreading

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YOUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED

Conservative Jews Vote to Allow Women in Minyan

(Continued from Page 1)

the "changing role of women in society now makes it advisable, in view of the majority of our committee, to afford equality to women."

The ruling, he explained, is not obligatory or binding on Conservative rabbis throughout the country. He said the rabbi of a congregation was the "mara d'atra"—the final authority—on matters relating to Jewish law, including the minyan.

A Talmudic tractate records that "every act of sanctification requires no less than ten," he noted, and the tractate did not specify males.

However, he added, the Code of Jewish Law, codified in the 16th century by Rabbi Joseph Karo, interpreted the Talmudic text as applying to 10 males or more.

The Talmud is a repository of views of Jewish scholars

and sages on Biblical texts.

According to 2,000-year-old tradition, observed by the Orthodox, women are separated from men in religious worship. A woman may not be counted in the minyan, is not accepted as a witness in Jewish court and may not be granted a divorce without her husband's permission.

Rabbi Siegel said that the ruling followed animated debate over a period "of several years." He said rabbis and women representing the feminist movement with Conservative Judaism had participated in various discussions.

Rabbi Siegel and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, predicted that the liberalized ruling would be followed by most Conservative rabbis. Rabbi Kelman said that before the ruling "less than 10 per cent of Conservative synagogues were asking women to be

members of a minyan."

Rabbi Kelman said that his rabbinical body would conduct "an exhaustive study in the immediate future" to determine how many Conservative congregations would follow the ruling.

In this city, Rabbi Kelman said that about six Conservative synagogues, headed by the Park Avenue synagogue, have been counting women in a minyan. In 1955, Conservative Judaism's religious law committee ruled that women could be summoned by rabbis for a reading from the Torah. Rabbi Kelman said that 500 Conservative synagogues were now following this practice.

The Park Avenue synagogue began permitting women to be counted in a minyan and also to be summoned to the altar for Torah readings a year and a half ago.

Commenting on Conservative Judaism's ruling, Rabbi

Israel Klavan, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the leading Orthodox body, said that "Orthodoxy holds that the richness of Judaism's heritage, its tradition, forecloses such drastic changes in religious practice."

Reform Judaism makes no distinction between men and women and even has ordained women as rabbis. The Orthodox adhere to a strict observance of religious laws. Conservative Judaism has tempered its observance of these laws with a tradition of rabbinical reinterpretation and, like Reform, conducts confirmation services for girls who reach the age of 13, the age at which Judaism consider adulthood to have been reached.

Reform Judaism, a radical departure from both Conservative and Orthodoxy, stresses the need for adjustment to contemporary needs.

MINYAN VOTE IRKS ORTHODOX RABBIS

Conservative Action Called 'Move of Desperation'

By IRVING SPIEGEL

A major group of Orthodox rabbis asserted yesterday that there was "no justification for the continued existence of the Conservative movement at it assailed the Conservative decision to allow women to be counted in a minyan.

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Rabbinical Council, said in a statement that the Conservative body, the Rabbinical Assembly, "has now poted to completely follow the Reform movement." Traditionally only men had been accepted in the minyan, the minimum number of adults required for communal worship.

Rabbi Bernstein contended that the "latest Conservative act is a move of desperation to attract new worshippers."

Referring to Conservative rabbis, he said: "Those whose

breach of Halacha [Jewish religious law] is final will find a ready welcome in the Reform movement. Those who retain a loyalty to the Torah and its sanctity are invited to rejoin the Orthodox community and work for the elevation of the quality of Jewish religious life without resorting to 'gimmicks' or courting the favor of those whose loyalty to Judaism is at best peripheral."

Conservative spiritual leaders, headed by Rabbi Judah Nadich, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Seymour Siegel, professor of theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the assembly, had made known the radical break with rabbinical tradition on Monday.

Not an Obligatory Ruling

The ruling is not obligatory or binding on Conservative rabbis, but Rabbi Kelman predicted that most would follow the liberalized rules. The rabbi of the congregation remains the sole authority on matters relating to Jewish religious law, including the minyan.

Orthodoxy demands a strict observance of Jewish laws, governing daily religious and ethical conduct. Conservative Judaism, while adhering to religious laws, allows for reinterpretation in accordance with present-day situations. Reform Judaism stresses ethical principles and the need to keep abreast of the changes of everyday experience.

In another criticism of the Conservative ruling, the president of the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America, said that "the action is to be repudiated by all who are loyal to

authentic Judaism, its laws and tradition."

Rabbi David Hollander, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, an Orthodox group, charged that the Conservative rabbi "did not offer a Halachic basis for their decision," adding that "it was simply arrived at by a majority vote . . . Jewish law is not based on voting, but on authority."



TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

Don Tell

(Continued from Page 1)

booker attraction is growing older and their act appeals to all age levels.

The voices are changing, especially Donny's, but it was unanimously agreed by a most appreciative audience, the boys have put together their best sound to date.

But don't get me wrong. Teenage girls, sitting ringside were still goggle-eyed when Donny sang "Puppy Love" and "Sweet and Innocent." He still holds hands from the stage and passes out his famed velvet hats to the lucky ones, who go ape. But the group as a whole has broken the bubble gum barrier and now holds grown-ups in captive professional admiration.

Not since the Beatles has a group accomplished what the Osmonds have. Remember the Beatles started with "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and the little flappers went bananas. Then they grew to capture hipper college students and finally adults. The Osmonds have by passed the hippie cult and commenced building fans among adults that will carry them for years to come.

The brothers brought back their "Fiddler on the Roof" medley, always contagious, and for nostalgia buffs a smash medley of some of the hits of the rocking 50's. At this point, little 10 year old Jimmy Osmond, who many swear has got to be a midget, wows them with "Blue Suede Shoes," "Evil," and "Hound Dog." This kid packs a lifetime of professionalism into his six year stage career.

Beautiful 13-year-old Maria Osmond, the only sister in the family gets a solo slot this time around. She comes across with loud, clear voice in renditions of "Paper Roses," and "Maybe this Time."

Brother Merrill was teased about his recent marriage to Mary Carson Osmond, a 22 year old school teacher from Provo, Utah. The boys confided they were lucky to keep Merrill on stage since he had become a husband only three days prior to their Sept. 20 opening at Caesars.

Now the Osmonds have arrived on a new threshold, as super star performers to all ages, with this latest milestone, we look forward to a long career of exciting entertainment in the evolution of the amazing Osmonds.

plague, with its roots in the oil politics of the Middle East, are gradually going through an unravelling process. That there is an energy shortage is as obvious as the hottest day of summer. But that Israel's headaches over Arab intransigence have churned up an "energy crisis," world wide and ominous, is ridiculous. So far-fetched, in fact, that even the Wall Street Journal has warned the world to take its eyes off the figleaf (Israel) in a search for somebody or some nation to blame for the energy difficulties. The Arabs, the Journal point out, are more in need of American technology and expertise than America is in need of Arab oil.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee has convinced many that it is not a crisis the oil-hungry world faces, but one more solvable problem. Says that body: "The answer to our energy problems will not be found in Arab-Israel politics. A solution requires joint economic planning with other oil-importing states, increased utilization of our own resources, energy conservation, and rapid research for the development of alternative sources of energy. These measures are imperative if we are to resist and combat political and economic blackmail."

4. A final bit of comfort: Arnold Toynbee, constantly gleeful when Israel seems threatened, has recently hinted that the U.S. ---in oil desperation---may try to seize some Arab states. From such a nightmare, we may all consider ourselves quickly delivered, registering still one more wrong hunch for Mr. Toynbee.