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**60th Year of JDC**

This month the Joint Distribution Committee enters its 60th year of service to needy and distressed Jews throughout the world. It is difficult to pinpoint the exact number of people JDC assisted since its inception in 1914 but it is no exaggeration to say that it was about 2,000,000 men, women and children in about 75 countries at a cost which just this past summer exceeded one billion dollars.

The JDC was organized shortly after the outbreak of World War I by Jacob Schiff, Felix Warburg, Louis Marshall, Herbert Lehman, Cyrus Adler, Paul Baerwald and other outstanding Jewish leaders of the early nineteen hundreds to coordinate the relief efforts of three separate organizations. Before it was able to disband at the end of World War I JDC found itself facing a tremendous relief and reconstruction problem in Europe. There was vast devastation caused by the war. Jews were victimized by both the invaders and the defenders. When that problem seemed solved JDC inaugurated a program to help Russia's Jews by resettling them on land -- the Agro-Joint program.

And so crisis followed crisis, emergency after emergency brought new demands and the agency which was supposed to be temporary became instead a powerful, permanent arm of American Jewry extending aid to needy and distressed Jews the world over. Unfortunately its greatest chapters were written during the darkest hours of the Jewish people, rescue of German Jews after the rise of Hitler and in the early war years; and the relief and rehabilitation of the survivors of the holocaust. There was also the transport of hundreds of thousands of survivors to Palestine and other havens in the free world; the massive airlifts from Iraq and Yemen to Israel; the creation of the Malben program in Israel to care for tens of thousands of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers; feeding programs, package programs care of the aged, medical care, and support of Jewish schools and yeshivot. Whatever the need JDC was there helping to organize it, to find the people to implement and administer it and to fund it.

At the present time JDC is aiding close to 400,000 needy Jews in 25 countries around the world. With conditions as they are it is not likely that its programs will diminish in the coming year. If anything, the reverse is more likely. It would be a most welcome development if the JDC could, at some time in the near future, work itself out of existence. However, this is a utopian dream that is unlikely to be realized for many, many years, and as long as Jews are in need or in danger

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CHAPLAIN E. DAVID LAPP WITH CHILDREN OF JEWS IN THE MILITARY CELEBRATE HANUKKAH TOGETHER UNDER SERVICES PROVIDED BY NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD.

overseas it is gratifying and reassuring to know that there is a Joint Distribution Committee to come to their aid.

**Hail Mr. Nixon**

by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

A lot of derogatory things have been said about President Nixon.

Recipient of one of the greatest majorities in American election history, the chief executive soon after his victory came on hard times with the rush of the Watergate revelations.

The agony of Agnew further clouded the administration in Washington.

No one knows the outcome of Watergate, but it is time to say that in the Mideast situation, Richard Nixon has acquitted himself magnificently.

The Orthodox Jewish segment in American life have long huzzahed Mr. Nixon. They found him on the right side in opposing Communism in Asia. They admired his defense of aid to religious schools.

They especially hailed him for his support of Israel.

His support of Israel has certainly earned him high marks. He and his Secretary of State (about whom many Jews are worried because of his proneness to lean over backwards) have sensed that Israel is not alone endangered by the assaults of Arab brutalitarians, but that the cause of democracy itself is imperilled.

The enormous aid Washington sent to Jerusalem constitutes one of the bright spots of this administration and warrants the acclaim of some Orthodox spokesmen who said that Mr. Nixon has helped Israel more than all of his predecessors (some avowed pro-Zionists) put together.

By the time this appears in print, Mr. Nixon may also have managed to bring about a cease-fire. I pray that the diplomatic efforts of the president and Dr. Kissinger will indeed be fruitful. If Dr. Kissinger accomplished it, he will indeed have doubly earned his Nobel Peace prize.

And the president can say that his sympathy is not only with Israel, but with the Arab masses, because the greatest enemy of the Arab masses have is not Israel but the Arab leaders, who hate their people and keep them in bondage, in degradation and have wantonly sacrificed their sons in total disregard of the standards of decency or compassion.

Foes of Mr. Nixon may see in the president's resolute support of democracy in the Mideast a kind of atonement suitable to a war which began with a Yom Kippur attack.

Friends of Mr. Nixon will see his action as evidence of his consistent opposition to Communism.

Whatever be the views you hold, you will, I know, join in applauding the man in the White House for prompt and proper actions in a time when decisiveness helped to assure the triumph of human dignity.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The House of Representatives has adopted by a 272-140 vote the 1973 Trade Reform Act including the provisions banning U.S. trade credits, investment guarantees and most favored nation status for the Soviet Union until it relaxes restrictions on emigration.

**TELL TALES**  
 "One Man Plus The Truth  
 Constitutes A Majority"  
 BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

creative imagination, the thought was derived from and patterned after a real, historical person. During the 4th century, Nicholas, an eight year old orphan, but independently wealthy, spent his life being kind and generous to the less fortunate in his native town in Asia Minor. He was elevated to Bishop of Myra and in the 9th century was canonized. His Dutch name was Santa Claus.

The furthest reference to a Christmas tree is a legendary story of a wounded Swedish officer being cared for by the people of Leipsig during the 30 Years War in the 17th century. As an offer of gratitude he set up a lighted tree in a church on Christmas Day.

The Christmas tree was introduced to America in 1747 by Germans settling in Pennsylvania. Five years later the Moravian sect decorated their trees with lighted candles. Catholic and Protestant colonists from Holland introduced the annual St. Nicholas visitation to America.

Early colonists were divided in the recognition of December 25th. Members of Church of England, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and certain German sects honored the holiday. Quakers, Baptists, Presbyterians and Puritans ignored the date. It was on the night of December 25, 1776, George Washington crossed the Delaware River to defeat the Hessians celebrating Christmas at Trenton.

Fantasy had Santa arriving in a cart, a wagon, on mule, drawn by goats and other means of transportation until Clement Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas" in 1822, and thereafter the popular conception was a sled drawn by reindeer. In 1847, the first classroom Christmas tree was decorated in a New York City Episcopalian Sunday School.

The individual states commenced declaring Christmas a legal holiday. Alabama, which, like all southern states celebrated Dec. 25 with fireworks a la Fourth of July, was the first, in 1836, and the rest followed suit; California, 1851; Nevada, 1861; Utah, 1882, etc., with Oklahoma being last in 1890.

As late as 1855, all religions were still not in accord in their tolerance of the holiday. The Dec. 26 edition of the year's New York Times stated: Churches of Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists were not open yesterday. They do not accept the day as a Holy one, but Episcopalian, Catholic and German churches were open. Inside they were decked with evergreens. However, by 1880, all evangelical churches were accepting Christmas.

Passing of Christmas gifts in those days was not emphasized, except the wealthy were expected to be generous to the poor. In the middle of the 19th century, due to the influence of Charles Dickens' writings, singing of Christmas carols became prevalent, and the sending of cards began in 1875.

The classic editorial which began, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," in response to a child's query, was written by Francis Church for the New York Sun of Dec. 21st, 1897.

In recent years Santa Claus has become to be known as a communal folk figure. A Pennsylvania judge ruled in 1936, that any doubters of Santa Claus who appeared before him would be held in contempt of court. The court citation read: Santa is not a figment of the imagination but an actuality. He is the symbol of kindness, a token smiling charity and a badge of all that is cheerfully benevolent.

Commercial exploitation of Christmas has become systematic and thorough, impelling Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians and Jews, to band together in Milwaukee in 1949 and decree to put Christ back into Christmas.

Meanwhile millions of non-Christian homes in scores of non-Christian countries, including Japan and India, have taken unto their own the kindness and charity and cheer of Christmas and proudly display decorated and lit trees on December 25th.

All this proves the true sense of Christmas has not waned -- its just that the Spirit of Christmas has overwhelmed and is about to inundate all humans in the four corners of the earth.