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THE NEW SHAARE ZEDEK MEDICAL CENTER IN JERUSALEM RACES UPWARD AS WORK ON THE SKELETON OF THE MAIN AND SOUTHERN SECTIONS NEARS COMPLETION.

Ford Untested in Mideast

The assumption of the Presidency by Gerald Ford is not expected to lead to any major changes in United States policy toward Israel, at least for the immediate future. While American Jews, like other Americans were divided over the move to impeach President Nixon, most Jews credited Nixon with helping Israel vastly during his Administration, particularly in the Yom Kippur War and its aftermath.

At the same time, President Nixon's Water-gate problems affected his foreign policy by causing him to turn his attention to his defense against impeachment and undermining his influence abroad. There was also the danger that in order to save himself in office he might have tried a diplomatic ploy at the expense of Israel, as one Israeli newspaper commentator suggested.

President Ford has pledged to continue Nixon's policy in the Middle East as well as his other foreign policy efforts. His reliance on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in a field where Ford is novice should ensure this continuation. Ford has promised that his Administration will continue American friendship for Israel and economic and military aid for the Jewish state while at the same time seeking to improve American relations with the Arab states and working for a peace settlement in the Middle East.

In addition, Ford has long been considered one of Israel's chief supporters in Congress. Judging by his past record it would appear that he would be more likely not to press Israel as hard as Nixon and Kissinger sometimes seem to be willing to do.

But while Ford has got off to a good start in his statements on the Mideast he is still untested in the area. The real test will come when he has to act, a test that should not be too far off.

Hands Off the Press

By Robert E. Segal

Pat Tornillo may again try to tell Lee Hills how to run his newspaper. But he'll get nowhere. By unanimous vote, the United States Supreme Court has seen to that.

Pat Tornillo is a Florida teachers' union official. Lee Hills is publisher of The Miami Herald. When Pat ran for the Florida legislature in 1972, two editorials about him printed by Lee's newspaper infuriated Pat. So he dusted off a sixty-year-old Florida law and insisted that The Herald print what he had to say about the paper and its editorials. Rebuffed, he demanded that the courts enforce the 1913 law. The Circuit Court in Dade

County refused. Mr. Tornillo carried his fight to the State Supreme Court. There he succeeded. But now, in a most significant decision, the highest court in the land has ruled the Florida right-to-reply law unconstitutional.

In effect, Chief Justice Burger, speaking for the Supreme Court, said that you can't have "government regulations of this crucial process" and still keep the First Amendment inviolate, as modern Americans regard that precious barrier to government interference. In a concurring opinion, Justice Byron R. White insisted that the First Amendment "erects a virtually insurmountable barrier between government and the print media so far as government tampering, in advance of publication, with news and editorial content, is concerned."

We can thank the Miami Herald management for putting up this memorable fight. And we can go way back a couple of hundred years to thank John Peter Zenger for opening up the trail to press freedom in America. Publisher of an 18th century newspaper sternly opposed to the New York colonial government, Zenger was prosecuted in his day for seditious libel. He wrote a few things that King George's deputies in this country disliked. They arbitrarily ordered Zenger to be done with his criticism. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of Alexander Hamilton, Zenger's lawyer, an acquittal was won on the revolutionary grounds that truth is not libel.

Editors and some other Americans who have said blunt things through the years have helped to keep the nation on guard against the kind of restrictions imposed by the Alien and Sedition act of 1798, the U. S. Espionage Act of 1917, and --- in our own time --- the demand for press curbs raised by the Joe McCarthy cult of true believers. Indeed, one of the benefits of staying out of a war is the avoidance of the inevitable post-war hysteria inevitably generating wild demands for outspoken people to keep quiet and outspoken editors to cool their presses.

Only a handful of people in this country would rule out government attempts to suppress news if the government can really prove that national security is at stake. (These past few months of Watergattis have led thoughtful Americans to think carefully about bona fide instances of national security and the political claims for a national security unable to survive under close examination.) We'll forgive the press for keeping mum in times of real threats to our survival, but we won't stand for governmental interference that adds up to unwarranted censorship.

All of which is not to claim perfection for the Miami Herald or any other newspaper. Mistakes are frequent and willingness to correct errors is not always demonstrated. The disappearance of good dailies disturbs us. And all too often publishers are protecting their sacred cows and advancing the causes of their favorite fat cows instead of giving full ear to the little guys of the land. But even so, we have something of extraordinary value in the unshackled press; and we can be grateful to the Magna Carta, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, Peter Zenger, and Lee Hills --- among others --- for helping to maintain the people's rights in a free land that's pretty wonderful after all.

Remember Me?

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

"I bet you don't remember me?"
 Do you make it a practice to say that sort of thing to a political personage, a lecturer or the guest of honor at some gathering?
 If you do, may I plead with you to cut it out. It isn't fair to expect people to remember who we are.

It is especially difficult for an individual who normally meets multitudes to single us out and remember who we are, especially at an assemblage where there is considerable commotion.

The considerate person will go to the receiving line and introduce himself to the celebrity or dignitary, saying "I'm Joe Smith. We met some years ago at such and such a place."

If you do this, you will merit a blessing. There are some politicians and clergymen who will be rather brusque when the ploy is pulled on them by people who say "Do you remember me?" I heard one of them once retort: "Why should I?"

Or, as Groucho Marx once put it: "I never forget a face, but I'll make an exception in your case."

One distinguished clergyman once answered the statement, "I'll bet you don't remember me," by saying, "I'll take half that bet."

Please, let's be more considerate!

Return to Life

By Judy Krausz

Most Israelis have never heard of Levenstein Hospital. Tucked away in a verdant rural setting with a view of the sea, it is half an hour's drive from Tel Aviv -- and a whole world apart. Levenstein Hospital is an end, and a beginning. It is a rehabilitation hospital, the only one of its kind in Israel.

Because of the Yom Kippur War, sixty families will come to know Levenstein Hospital well this year. Sixty young men -- sons, husbands, fathers -- will pass through at various periods, some for weeks, some for months, some for a year. Afterward they will be out patients.

They will come here from neurosurgical departments of other hospitals throughout Israel, where they will have received acute treatment to insure that they will live. What the neurosurgeons could not do, though, is to restore those parts of the brain which were destroyed by shells and missiles and bullets.

And so the young men are brought to Levenstein, where they will be taught to compensate for their disabilities as far as possible.

Dr. Theodore Najenson, director of the hospital, estimates that there are nearly 100 brain-injured victims of the Yom Kippur War. The 60 who have begun to arrive at Levenstein are the hard-core cases who need long-term treatment.

"Basically, the treatment is twofold," Dr. Najenson explains. "Locomotive treatment -- that is, physical therapy and vocational retraining, which means a careful evaluation of mental capacity and then training in communication -- talking and writing."

The professional personnel involved in this multi-discipline treatment are many and varied: physical, speech and vocational therapists, psychologists, bio-engineers (who develop individualized vocational equipment for each patient) and social workers join with doctors and nurses who are specially trained in rehabilitation medicine.

Dr. Najenson, who is also chairman of the Rehabilitation Department in the University of Tel Aviv Medical School, has personally directed the training of the ten doctors who work in the hospital, which is a teaching hospital. As elsewhere in Israel, a large proportion of the medical staff are immigrants, many of them recent arrivals from Russia and Rumania. Najenson himself is an "old-time" Israeli -- to come from Argentina in 1951.

NEW YORK, -- The major institutions of Reform Judaism have launched a 2.3 million dollar campaign aimed primarily at expanding existing educational programs, facilities and personnel to meet a growing demand by member families in the movement's 715 synagogues seeking a greater Jewish knowledge and identity.

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