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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

Sukkos is, therefore, a time when people are urged to make gifts to the poor and help to find ways of putting an end to poverty.

Our Thanksgiving Day in the United States was modeled after Sukkos by the Pilgrims who loved the Bible. The Pilgrims felt that they were like the Jews of olden times because they, too, left a land of bondage, wandered over unknown territory towards a land of promise and freedom. So, when they got over a very hard time, they proclaimed a feast of thanks to God, like Sukkos. They were going to make Thanksgiving on Sunday, but they wanted it to be separate from their own Sabbath. They thought of making it on Saturday, but they remembered that was the Jewish Sabbath. They decided not to make it on Friday either, for that is the Mohammedan Sabbath. So they chose Thursday, a day when people of all faiths could have an extra celebration. Sukkos and Thanksgiving remind us that we prove how mature we are by the speed with which we say thanks and by the ways we show our gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy.

everybody's business give a better ear to the fact that America's own food reserves are reported down to 27 days. Let this fact alone be absorbed by way of challenge to all who continue to think that feeding the hungry is not the responsibility of all of us.

Wunderkinder

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

I dare you to pick a Jewish periodical and not find in it an article either by Jacob Neusner or Jakob Petuchowski, or both.

They are two of the most brilliant Jewish scholars this country has ever had. Neither is yet fifty, but both have produced a large number of important books.

The two "Jacks" have the hottest typewriters in the West. The American Jewish community is deeply indebted to both.

Each of them gravitates toward the center of American Judaism.

Neusner derives from a family in Hartford, Conn., noted for its achievements in Jewish journalism and in law. As a youngster, he was a protege of the famous Reform rabbi, Dr. Abraham Feldman. He came under the spell of Cecil Roth and was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative). After a series of fellowship awards, he has settled down at Brown University in Providence, R. I. where he has developed what is regarded by many as the leading department of Jewish studies of any college in the country.

Petuchowski comes to us from Germany via England. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and is now a professor at that Reform school, but tilts towards the more traditionalist wing of his denomination.

These wunderkinder do not confine themselves to matters academic (where they shine), but also get involved in polemical disputes. Contentious, controversial, opinionated as well as scintillating, they are the enfants terribles of American Jewish life. Neusner has been telling American Jewry to rely less on Zionism for its spiritual subsistence, and in the meantime, he has denigrated Jewish scholarship in Israel.

Petuchowski has been bemoaning the laxities in the Reform movement, and has simultaneously been chiding his Orthodox friends for too much rigidity.

These young men are adding a great deal of liveliness -- as well as luster -- to the American Jewish scene.

Keep an eye on them.

CHICAGO (WNS) -- Rep. Ralph H. Metcalfe (D. Ill.) believes that while the Black community is divided over Israel "there remains, and I believe there always will remain tremendous support within the Black community for Israel."

Anti-Israeli UN Session

Israel has all too sadly learned over the years not to expect too much from the United Nations debates except vilification of and accusations against the Jewish State. But the present 29th session of the General Assembly is expected to even outdo past performances.

There are many issues concerning the Middle East on the Assembly agenda. But rancor should reach its heights over the request by 56 nations that the Palestinian issue should be a separate question and not, as previously, included as part of the general Middle East debate. Even more shocking is the expected demand by the Arabs that the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization be given observer status. The tenor of the forthcoming debate can be predicted from the statement by Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the president of the General Assembly, who abandoned the traditional neutrality of the Assembly president, to strongly back the Palestinians. Israel is not expected to get fair treatment under these circumstances.

Nevertheless Premier Yitzhak Rabin has vowed a vigorous opposition to granting the PLO official status at the UN. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon is expected to lead the attack personally.

Parenthetically, the General Assembly is also scheduled to deal with the issue of terrorism, something it has so far shirked. The General Assembly will sink to a new depth should it once again avoid that issue while at the same time giving official status to one of the major perpetrators of terrorism on the international scene.

What Israel and the American Jewish community will be watching is the stand of the United States on this issue. While the U.S. may not be able to prevent observer status for the PLO, it must take a vigorous moral stand on this issue. On this the American Jewish community must insist.

World Food Reserve

By Robert E. Segal

To the credit of Henry Kissinger, it is he who has taken the lead in urging the U.S. to participate in plans to set up a world food reserve. His initiative is credited also with helping to make possible the international conference on the food crisis, set for Rome in November.

When there assemble in Rome those who know most about crops and drought, population growth, hunger and the thrusts of science to bring forth more food on an ever-dwindling land area, may the admonition set down in Deuteronomy be itself a guest at the conference: "If...there is a needy person among you, one

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of your kinsmen, in any of your settlements in the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman. Rather, you must open your hand and lend him sufficient for whatever he needs."

And further, if those who are hungry are not actually kinsmen, let them be fed. For when there is danger of starvation in many parts of the world, as there is today, we are all kinsmen, those who overfed themselves as well as those who hunger.

The facts are put before us nearly every day in a variety of ways. Among our elderly -- the more than 20 million who are 65 and over -- the consumption of food marketed for and labeled for cats and dogs is clearly on the increase in the U.S. Set down in print, this shocks and perhaps angers. Well, then, it is less shocking to be reminded that half of the world's 3.7 billion men, women, and children are constantly hungry? And if, as now predicted, the global population rises to more than 7 billion by the year 2000, will any come forward to say that added billions will not be starving?

"I hear always the dreadful ticking of the biological clock," says Norman Borlaug who, in 1970, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his extraordinary efforts to being the fruits of his wheat research to the "agricultural backwaters of the world." In "Facing Starvation," the new biography of Borlaug, an Iowan of Norwegian ancestry, this hunger fighter points out that five births are now recorded in the world every two seconds. And despite death, drought, and other disasters, this means 70 million new mouths to feed each year.

It is too late to express irritation about huge profits made by in-the-know Americans when our wheat was hurried off to Russia. Too late to be wrathful over the news that bread now selling for 10 cents a loaf in Moscow costs perhaps 60 cents here and gives grim promise of going much higher. That damage is irreparable.

But time remains to bring home the bitter fact that the poor among us, especially those with large families, are being forced to spend an ever higher percentage of their inflation-eroded income for food, often inferior in quality. "Over the past three to four years, our nation's needy have become hungrier and poorer," one report, made recently to the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, declared. (And if the cost of keeping a roof over the heads of a poor family is now 25% of the budget, how many dollars can possibly be left for food?)

The guidelines for pulling out ahead of the food-and-population crisis are clearly established: The United States dare not default on its responsibility to make appropriate contributions to the supply of funds and food needs to curb hunger, either here or in the have-not nations. Oil-rich nations, now feverishly investing their skyrocketing prices in American real estate, must raise their contributions. A global approach to the marketing and use of fertilizer must be developed. Population growth must be controlled if we expect the generations ahead to face a fate other than universal starvation.

If such guidelines are not acceptable, let those who still contend that world hunger is not