

**LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE**  
 OF NEVADA  
 PHONE 876-1255  
 Published Every Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada  
 Price per copy 15c - Per year \$7 - 2 Years \$12  
 P.O. BOX 14096 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89114  
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 Business Manager . . . . . Bea Tell, 876-1255  
 Vegas News . . . . . Helene Stadler, 384-3685  
**MARK TAN, DICK MC INNES,  
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## Oil Prices Test U.S. Mideast Policy

The Ford Administration's determined effort to convince the Arab oil-producing nations to cut the price of petroleum is of special concern for the American Jewish community. The Arab policy of using oil as a political weapon is directly aimed at Israel and, if successful, could lead to a loss of political support for Israel in the United States as it has done elsewhere.

Everyone remembers how West Europe, with the exception of The Netherlands, caved in to the threat of an Arab boycott. These countries, separately and through the Common Market, are still acting in fear of the Arab threat. In the United States the Arab boycott, while causing hardships, backfired since most Americans blamed the shortage of oil rightfully on the Arabs rather than Israel and Jews.

But there were some minor signs of anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish feelings. This could increase if oil prices soar or if oil is severely rationed. There are indications that we may be in for a cold winter which would mean that more oil would be needed for heating and shortages will increase and prices will rise. So President Ford was on the right road when, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, he warned that nations must not manipulate fundamental needs for national or bloc advantages. He also warned that if one nation uses one commodity for political gain another nation could use another commodity and pointedly stressed that, "It has not been our (U.S.) policy to use food as a political weapon despite the oil embargo and recent oil price and production decisions."

President Ford is obviously determined on this issue since it is a major factor in his fight on inflation. But some observers believe that the future of the American peace initiative depends on how successful Ford's efforts are, for if the U.S. cannot prevent the Arabs from playing havoc with the economies of the industrial nations how can the U.S. ensure Arab compliance to a peace settlement? The oil question will also provide a test of whether the U.S. will continue to stand by Israel in its quest for a just and durable peace or whether the U.S. will seek to force Israel into a dangerous settlement in return for a steady and economical flow of oil.

## Spend to Elect

By Robert E. Segal

Jewish community relations organizations have for several years stewed over certain

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public election campaign practices disturbing to many people and making for considerable bitterness in some Jewish organizations. Now, with the adoption of political campaign spending laws in nearly half of our 50 states and with federal action indicated, still more Jewish organizations are showing interest in the relationship of campaign funding, campaign promises, and campaign practices to ethnic units. Looking back for a moment, we now recognize great foresight on the part of those Jewish groups that had the courage to object to public statements supporting specific candidates and made by leaders clearly identified by Jewish organizational offices. The practice ran counter to Election Guidelines adopted in 1971 by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and subsequently endorsed by the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. Advertisements placed by well-known Jewish leaders identified as such and calling on the Jewish community to support individual candidates also were frowned upon in the NJCRAC and CJFWF policy guidelines.

Questionable practices of the nature we have in mind have stirred bitter debates in several Jewish organizations during the 1972 Presidential election campaign.

And now, looking ahead, we see leading Jewish bodies taking a fresh look at the need for reform as a result of adoption of campaign financing legislation. For example, both the Jewish Labor Committee and the Union of American-Hebrew Congregations have taken stands in support of public financing of elections. Other Jewish bodies may soon do likewise.

Much of this activity takes its cue from the dismay churned up in the Watergate scandals. Individuals and organizations determined to preserve the democratic process are coming more and more to realize that freedom to spend millions of dollars in election campaigns and the temptation to gobble up television and radio time with the help of overflowing campaign treasuries can turn Democratic processes upside down.

This does not mean that we are going to be able to take political campaign financing away from the millionaires and billionaires by 1976 when we celebrate 200 years of American progress. Nor does it mean that the new federal legislation will be put into practice without opposition. Not at all. Senator Mansfield, and Senator Scott, respective democratic and Republican leaders, can take proper shares of credit for the campaign spending reform bills adopted in the Senate, but diehards remain vocal and determined.

Reformers find themselves midway between the 1972 and 1976 Presidential campaigns. The fights in 1972 saw \$49 million plus spent by Mr. Nixon and \$45 million plus spent by Senator

## TELL TALKS

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

educational course in ESPERANTO will receive the impetus for universal understanding among nations. It will open the door for social and economic problems to be viewed, discussed and understood at arm's length. It would be the most opportune means of seeking the solutions.

Where, you may ask, will the \$8,000,000 come from? Quinn is confident he will receive initial support from the world-wide membership in the existing ESPERANTO. But it will not stop there, he contends. Once the program becomes internationally known, humanitarians, philanthropists and altruists, will come forward to aid the cause. The benevolent organizations could be a major factor.

If it succeeds it will be a monumental wonder of our world.

How about that?

McGovern in that marathon of advertisements, speeches, doorbell ringing, and endless appeals. And naturally, we all wonder what the battle down the wire in 1976 will bring.

So the reformers are asking searching questions: Can private contributions really be limited? Will public financing get a firm hold on the electorate? Can we seal off the boundaries on the amount of money that candidates can spend in the media? Will we make headway in the effort to oblige serious candidates to reveal their income and its sources? Shall we be able to find a sharp answer for Congressman Will Hays of Ohio, Chairman of the House Administration Committee, who maintains stoutly that we can't apply public financing to congressional contests for fear that "every rip-off artist in the country with \$50 and a hundred petition signatures will make the race?"

A resolute electorate, disgusted with the scandals of campaign financing, can face such challenges and triumph.

## Scoop

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

A remarkable man is Senator Henry Jackson. The dynamic politics from the State of Washington has labored long and mightily for many causes, and one of them is the right of the Jews to emigrate from Russia.

"Scoop," as he is called, has been belittled by some as a hawk, as the "Senator from Boeing," as a cold warrior, etc.

He is indeed concerned about Russia. One does not have to be a right-winger to feel that Communism is something against which we should guard ourselves.

The Kremlin's reluctance to permit our people to live or leave as Jews is a symptom of the harshness of that regime. The recent bulldozer attack on modern art and media people is another reminder of that harshness.

Or read the texts of the speeches by Moscow's men in the UN, and you detect malice and hypocrisy, as when they, representing a nation which has gobbled up oodles of other nations, charge Israel with being aggressive.

Sen. Jackson, from a State with a small number of Jewish voters, has been a gallant defender of Jewish rights, of the Israeli case, and of humanitarianism in general.

Those who have heard him speak are stirred by the palpable sincerity of his statements.

True, he wants to sit in the White House. But it is notable that he thinks he can get into the White House by supporting Jewish rights. May all his rivals take the same position!

In a recent gala event in Los Angeles (honoring Edward Sanders, a noble man) Sen. Jackson attacked the "Arab oil cartel." Would that all of his rivals would take that tack, too.

NEW YORK -- American agreement to provide nuclear reactors to Egypt and Israel must be accompanied by "strict and detailed arrangements" with each country to guard against "sabotage and the illicit diversion of nuclear technology or materials," the American Jewish Congress said.