

1975 CONFIRMANTS AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

DAVID HOROWITZ
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in their position by their acceptance of the PLO whose avowed aim is the annihilation of the Jewish State and which, he said, "denies the existence of any historical and spiritual tie between the Jewish people and our country, and which in Article 21 of its 'Palestine Covenant' rejects all plans that aim at the settlement of the Palestine issue."

"If you are honest with yourselves," he challenged the delegates, "how do you reconcile your declarations with this Article 21 of the Palestine Covenant? I listened to the distinguished delegates reaffirming their governments' often - repeated policy supporting the rights of all states in the area to exist including, of course, Israel. I should be most intrigued to know how the distinguished delegates of all the countries who support this view reconcile their statements, made doubtless in good faith, with their support of the PLO in the light of the statements of the representative of the PLO."

"I have posed this question time and time again and have in the cynical traditions of this body received no reply," Herzog stated. "I ask it again and am only too aware of the fact that I shall receive no adequate reply. Nevertheless, I repeat my question: how do you reconcile PLO policy with yours? How do you expect us to negotiate with people whose open avowed policy is to destroy our existence?"

There was no response. It appeared as if the delegations had no eyes and ears. The 'big lie' prevailed!

But Chaim Herzog let them all know that "we will not negotiate our own suicide."

When towards the end of the week, Israel's enemies tabled a vicious anti-Israel, pro-PLO resolution calling for military and economic sanctions against Israel so long as she does not recognize the PLO, Ambassador Herzog spoke up again branding the biased resolution as being "discriminatory in accord with the tradition of anti-Semitism which has become the prevalent idiom in this World Assembly" and which "ignores the principles of Article 2 of the Charter and above all Section I which provides that 'the Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members'."

The Rabbi's Dilemma

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

In Hartford, Conn., there's a rabbi, Dr. Howard Singer, who writes so well that his creations have been published and even cinematized. He produces a literary gem for his bulletin at Temple Emanuel every week. His congregation is lucky to have him.

A recent bulletin described the dilemma of the rabbi. You should get the entire column, but I'll give you a few snatches which are so true: "When I tried to teach the authentic tradition they said I was insufficiently modern and relevant."

"When I tried to be relevant, they said I was too political and controversial."

"When I was serious, they said a light touch is needed..."

"When I was humorous, they said a rabbi should be staid and dignified."

"When I spend time with my books, they said I was a recluse."

"When I became active in organizations, they said a rabbi should be scholarly and spend his time in his study."

"When I became friendly with active members, they said I was cliquish."

"When I sought out the more aloof, they said I was neglecting the real workers."

"When I concerned myself only with religious matters they said I was narrow."

"When I revealed I had other interests they said I was probably neglecting my synagogue."

"When I tried to encourage parents to take their children's religious education seriously, they said I was interfering with the orderly pattern of their lives."

"When I left them alone, they said I didn't care about their children's education."

"When I attended their social gatherings they gave me the impression I inhibited them."

"When I declined invitations they said I was a snob."

"When I tried to be folksy, they insisted a rabbi belongs on a pedestal."

"When I mounted the pedestal, they said they wanted the rabbi to be one of the boys."

That's only a snippet of the Singer column. Isn't he right on target?



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, ALANCHENIN, LORIE WARREN, RABBI PHILIP SHNAIRSON, FRAN COHEN, INSTRUCTOR - LEAH ALTMAN, STEPHANIE FELDMAN, CANTOR JOSEPH KOHN AND LISA SHORE. THE FIVE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE CONFIRMED IN SPECIAL EXERCISES ON FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 5, 1975, DURING SERVICES IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM. BOTH THE RABBI AND THE CANTOR PARTICIPATED IN THE TRADITIONAL BLESSING OF THE CONFIRMANTS. APPROPRIATE GIFTS WERE PRESENTED BY OSCAR B. GOODMAN, PRESIDENT OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM.

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