

Bingo

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

I've read hard-hitting editorials, but few more so than one that recently appeared in one of the finest Anglo-Jewish journals in the country, the Chicago Jewish Sentinel.

Its editor, J.I. Fishbein, a seasoned student of Jewish life, who has been kudosed for his stalwart personal journalism, blasts the rabbis who oppose bingo in the synagogues.

To Fishbein bingo is an innocuous problem compared to other troubles facing organized Judaism: "alienation of our youth, a rapidly rising rate of intermarriage, run-away assimilationism, empty temples, the problems facing Israel."

Yet, the rabbis in the Chicago area have made a Tzimmes about bingo.

Bingo, at least, will bring people into the synagogues, says Fishbein.

Synagogues think nothing of inviting stock market specialists to speak to their groups, Isn't that glorifying gambling? And what about raffles?

One out of every four synagogues in the U.S. is having financial difficulty. Bingo will bring a bit of revenue. And Judaism doesn't regard gambling as a major offense. So why the uproar against bingo, asks Fishbein.

"God bless our rabbonim? If it is possible to figure out a way to turn people away from the synagogue, they will be sure to fine it!" That's the opening paragraph in the Fishbein editorial.

What about you, gentle reader, do you agree with the editor or with the rabbis who are banging away at bingo?

JWV OPPOSES RENOMINATION OF BROWN

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The Jewish War Veterans has expressed opposition to President Ford's nomination of Air Force Gen. George Brown to a second two-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In a telegram protesting the nomination "vigorously," Judge Paul Ribner, national commander of the JWV, declared that "there are severe questions concerning Gen. Brown's judge-

ment as evidenced by his past public statements and conduct with respect to policy determination." Ribner said the JWV would actively oppose the nomination when it comes before the Senate Armed Forces Committee. Brown

was forced by Ford to make a public apology after the General told a university audience that Israel has too much influence in Congress and that Jews own the banks and newspapers in U.S.



DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD (RIGHT) DISCUSSES WORLD-WIDE MILITARY PROBLEMS WITH JUDGE PAUL RIBNER, NATIONAL COMMANDER, JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF U.S.A., AT RECENT SPECIAL SESSION IN DEFENSE SECRETARY'S OFFICES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOT TRUE MORROCAN JEWS TO LEAVE ISRAEL

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Jewish Agency treasurer Leon Dulzin has denied a report that a substantial number of North African Jews are planning to return to Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan.

Addressing a delegation of visiting Sephardic leaders, Dulzin said that "all the talk about Jewish yerida to Arab lands and to Morocco is the fruit of Arab -- and particularly PLO -- propaganda." He stressed that the in-

vitations from certain Arab lands to their former nationals in Israel are nothing but traps.

Likud leader Menachem Begin has proposed the establishment of a commission to study the reasons for yerida, Shaul Ben-Shimon, chairman of the World Union of North African Jews and a Histadrut official said he knew of no actual case of Jews returning to Morocco. He said it was more often the well-to-do that threatened to leave than the poor.

NEW YORK -- According to a recent study of values and attitudes of Israeli youth conducted over the past two years, the popular belief that the morale of Israel's young people has eroded is erroneous. Psychologists, sociologists and educators, in their sampling of several thousand Israeli high school and university students claim that there has been a rise in the national consciousness in addition to a strengthening of ties between ethnic communities.

NEW YORK -- The first-ever West Side Jewish Street Festival will be held on Sunday, June 20, 1976, south of the Museum of Natural History.

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