

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

"For Those Who Deserve The Best"

The Only English-Jewish
Newspaper in Nevada
Published Weekly in Las Vegas

NEWS
STAND
PRICE
15¢

NOW BEING READ WEEKLY BY AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 JEWISH LEADERS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

VOL. 15 NO. 6

P.O. BOX 14096 LAS VEGAS, NEV. 89114

FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 1979

876-1255

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN RABBIS MAY BE ON THE WAY

FLEXIBILITY BEFORE NEXT SUMMIT

WASH. (WNS) -- President Carter will not participate in another summit conference with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat until both Israel and Egypt show more flexibility, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said.

"The requisite pre-conditions, flexibility by both sides, do not exist at this point," he told reporters. Powell noted that Carter had said he would not hesitate to call another summit under appropriate circumstances. "Those circumstances don't exist at present," Powell said another summit at this time would only raise false hopes

and waste the time of the President, Begin, and Sadat.

At the State Department, chief spokesman Hodding Carter has stressed earlier that "there are other possibilities" than a presidential summit or a ministerial meeting to solve the gap found by special Ambassador Alfred Atherton during his 12-day visit to Israel and Egypt. Atherton returned Jan. 29 and acknowledged failure at being able to bridge the gap between Israel and Egypt on the so-called minor issues in the treaty drafted by the United States. There had been speculation that the next step would be another meeting between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil. Hodding Carter however, said "I don't suggest that there are only two ways we can go," a presidential summit or ministerial meeting. "There are more than just two boxes possible for the future."

Meanwhile, Powell revealed that President Carter and visiting China Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping spent more time on the Middle East than on any other regional topic. He said that "basically" the President reported to Teng on the "situation as he saw it" in the Middle East and in "general terms" on Atherton's mission.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY

LOS ANGELES (WNS) -- The faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America will decide May 30 whether to admit women to the rabbinate.

The rabbinical school of the Conservative rabbis will be acting on a recommendation by the Commission for the Study of the Ordination of Women as Rabbis which urged that "qualified women" be admitted to the Seminary starting with "the academic year beginning in September 1979." The commission, which was headed by Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, chancellor of the Seminary, was appointed in 1977 by the Rabbinical Assembly, Conservative rabbinical body, presented its recommendation at the 79th annual convention of the RA here Jan. 30. The RA convention voted 127 - 110 to forward the recommendation to the Seminary but did not make any recommendations of its own.

The commission's recommendation was approved by an 11-3 vote of that body. The 29-page report urges the Seminary to "revise its admission procedures to allow for applications from female candidates" and said this should be done "as quickly as possible," preferably by this September. The report also recommends that "the major arms of the Conservative Movement immediately begin discussion of procedures to be followed to educate the community concerning issues raised in this report so as to ensure as smooth and as harmonious an adjustment to the new policy as possible." The majority members of the

(Continued on Page 3)



ADMIRING THE ART WORK OF A YOUNGSTER IN A PIONEER WOMEN DAY CARE CENTER IS MRS. RIVKA EVRON (RIGHT), WIFE OF ISRAEL'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, WITH HER IS ESTHER HERLITZ, FORMER MEMBER OF THE KNESSET, WHO NOW HEADS PIONEER WOMEN PROGRAMS IN TEL AVIV.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



Battle of the Sexes

We do not wish to make light of the Conservative Movement's Rabbinical Assembly's recommendation that "qualified women" be ordained as Rabbis, by the faculty of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America to be voted on May 30. Many interesting thoughts come to mind of women.

It is obvious the ability and willingness of women to perform rabbinic duties as well as men, the right to equal job opportunities, and the right to pursue a career of one's choice are serious feminist issues.

But we look further with something else in mind.

Imagine if you will, the president of the Temple standing in the center of the pulpit announcing there will be two sermons this evening. "On my left is Rabbi Meyertell, who will lecture on the ways and means the followers of Moses toasted matzos on the 40-year trek out of Egypt."

Following that, Rabbi Jackie Sweet will explain the advantages of more liberal robes to make the speech more interesting to the congregation. While she dangles the curls away from her eyes from time to time to explain a slit or a cut here and there which the men cannot help but notice.

Then comes the rebuttal where Rabbi Meyer-tell details how matzos to this day have progressed to salty, garlic, whole wheat, dietitic, and etc. Rabbi Sweep goes on about the showing of the ankles.

Jewish law is not uniform according to the Conservative Movement since its founding. It falls into two main categories (D'oraita) meaning Biblically ordained, and (D'rabbanan) rabbinically meant to develop. It is flexible and fluid and this is a major distinction between Conservatism and Orthodoxy. Any development must come from within the community.

Certain considerations remain inviolable. KASHRUT and SHABBAT may not be altered or displaced, and women are traditionally ineligible to serve as witnesses in judicial religious pro-

ceedings or serve as judges. But there is relaxation on these points. The use of women as part of a "Minyan" is steadily growing in some congregations.

There is no direct "Halachic" objection to the acts of the training and ordaining a woman to be a rabbi, preacher and teacher in

(Continued on Page 4)