

RECEIVED

MAY 29 1979

NEVADA STATE LIBRARY
CARSON CITY, NEV. 89701

IN OUR 15TH YEAR

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

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

NEWS
STAND
PRICE
15¢

"For Those Who Deserve The Best"

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

VOL. 15 NO. 20

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

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1979 876-1255

ISRAEL GETS HIT WITH LARGEST INFLATION JUMP SINCE 1952

RABBI URGES RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

GROSSINGERS, N.Y. (WNS) -- Israel needs "alternatives" to the rigid Orthodoxy that has become synonymous with a state religion in the Jewish State, Rabbi Stanley S. Rabinowitz, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, told the opening session of the Conservative rabbinical organization's convention here.

"Israel harms itself when it denies to Conservative and Reform institutions the opportunity to reach out in influence," he said. Rabinowitz stressed that "Whatever rights will be granted to non-Orthodox institutions will be granted to both Conservative and Reform or to neither. And if we allow ourselves to be trapped by a policy of divide and conquer we will both be shunted aside."

He said despite

**Y AHRZEITS
TONIGHT AT
BETH SHOLOM**

(Friday, May 25, 1979)

- Ben Kaplan
- Shirley Willick
- Rachel Melinda Roland
- Shirley Unger
- Samuel Marems
- Steffany Follander
- Julius Gottlieb
- Isadore Tarr
- Stephen Howard Leppo
- Abe Schwartz
- David Eisenberg
- Eva Flaum
- Abe Katz
- Alfred Lee
- Abraham Braverman
- Mollie Durr
- Samuel I. Katz
- Harry Sinotsky
- Abraham Shapiro
- Joseph A. Meltzer
- Harry L. Fine
- Joseph Scheiner
- Mathilda Brown
- Harry Schwartz
- Joseph Price

the lack of governmental recognition, Conservative Judaism is growing in Israel where 23 congregations now function.

Rabinowitz, a Washington, D. C. rabbi, urged American Jews to support Israel in the political sphere because "it is arrogant for American Jews, who bask in the warm security of the U.S., to advise concessions and consent to hazards for the people of Israel." However, he said that American Jewry has a right to debate the religious and social aspects of Israeli society.

BEGIN DENOUNCES GUSH EMUNIM

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Gush Emunim has been labelled as "liars afflicted by a Messiah complex" by Premier Menachem Begin.

He made the charge during a Cabinet discussion May 6 about a group of women from Kiryat Arba who have illegally occupied the old Hadassah building in Hebron. Begin said that Gush Emunim will not dictate to the government when or where settlements should be established on the West Bank.

Begin urged the squatters to leave peacefully. He said the government would not tolerate the illegal seizure of property whether in Hebron or Tel Aviv.

SUPPORT YOUR LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE NOW IN 15TH YEAR.

ISRAEL (WNS) -- Inflation increased by 8.7 percent in Israel during April, the third highest jump since 1952 and the highest since November, 1977 when there was an 11.8 percent increase.

The April figures, published by the Central Bureau of Statistics May 15, showed that housing led the upward spiral, and, together with food

prices, accounted for 70 percent of the increase. Prices increased by 23.4 percent during the first four months of the year and inflation is running at an annual rate of 88 percent. Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich is coming increasingly under attack both from within the government and outside. Following the release of the April figures several Cabinet ministers reportedly urged Premier Menachem Begin to deal personally with economic policy, something he has left up to now entirely to Ehrlich. Begin reportedly said that he feared the galloping inflation would hurt Likud in the next elections.

Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel denounced the government's economic policy and demanded a new increase in the government's cost-of-living allowance by July. The wages and savings of Israelis are linked to the c.o.l index and periodically adjusted to provide a cushion against inflation. A 28 percent c.o.l was paid out in April. Meshel said that since Ehrlich became Finance Minister inflation increased by 140 percent. "There is no point in a five-year plan," Meshel said in reference to the economic program presented by Ehrlich to the Cabinet May 13. "It is the next half-year that will be fateful."

(Continued on Page 3)



SYLVA ZALMANSON AND HER HUSBAND, JUST-RELEASED PRISONER OF ZION EDWARD KUZNETSOV AND MARK DYMSHITZ, AT KENNEDY AIRPORT. SEEING THEM OFF TO ISRAEL ARE MRS. CHARLOTTE JACOBSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE WZO, WHO IS ALSO AN OFFICER OF THE NCSJ.

TELL TALKS

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



Explaining Shavuot

(Shavuot is a holiday that most Jews and practically all Christians know very little about. Rabbi Samuel Silver tells us about this important celebration.)

The Jewish holiday called Shavuot (pronounced Sha-vo-ote) is one of three Pilgrim Festivals mentioned in the Bible.

The other two are Passover (Hebrew: Passach) and Tabernacles, or Booths (Su-kot).

Originally nature festivals, these three holidays marked important milestones in the agricultural year. Passover was at first the plea to God to make the Spring harvest a good one; later it became the time to observe the deliverance from Egyptian slavery. Sukkot started as a time to mark the beginning of the autumn harvest and was later identified with the protection God granted the Israelites as, for forty years in the desert, they lived in Sukkot (tents or booths).

Shavuot means, in Hebrew, Weeks, and is the festival which takes place seven weeks after Passover, the time of the Spring planting. Those 49 days are the length of time needed for the appearance of the first results of the planting. For this reason Weeks is also called the Festival of the First Fruits. In ancient times, stalks of grain were brought to the temple in Jerusalem and there thanks were offered up to God for His part in producing the food we eat. That is the origin of the idea of pilgrimages, of trips to a holy place. As indicated, these visits to the shrine also took place on Passover and Sukkot.

Because of the fifty-day period between the holidays, the climax of this span is called not only Shavuot (Weeks) but Pentecost (related to fifty).

That fifty-day stretch later took on new significance with respect to the happenings to the Israelites after the Exodus from Egypt. According to tradition, those seven weeks in the desert were used by Moses to provide moral training to the former slaves, and this course in ethics reached a "high point" fifty days after the Exodus on Mt. Sinai where the Ten Commandments were given. Shavuot, therefore, has come to be known as the Birthday of the Ten Commandments, and one of its Hebrew names, in fact, is the Time of Giving of the Moral Law.

The holiday was celebrated for one day in Biblical times. Traditionalist Jews added another day to its observance for complex calendar reasons. Reform Jews have reverted to the original one-day pattern. In Israel, too,

(Continued on Page 4)