Iranian Crisis

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Taking a cue from Senator William Proxmire's practice of awarding the Golden Fleece for outstanding examples of waste of government money, one may conclude this is the time to offer awards for the best case histories of incredibility in connection with the Iranian crisis.

While the Ayatollah's own chutzpah, in blaming "Zionists and America's colony, Israel" for the attempted seizure of the Grand Mosque at Mecca undoubtedly tops the list of candidates for the seal of hypocrisy award, he has passionate competitors breathing down his neck.

The ubiquitous Yasir Arafat, kingfish of the Palestine Liberation Organization, got into the race for a prize early when he sought to curry favor with Washington by practically guaranteeing that he could win freedom for the Americans held hostage by Iranian zealots. Way back on Nov. 15, Arafat told the world that Iranian officials, "out of consideration for our Palestinian brothers," had promised the chief of PLO military operations that the lives of the Ameri-

can prisoners would be protected. On this point, it is important to recall that Arafat's terrorists have an odorous history of seizing both Saudi Arabian and Egyptian embassy people administering to those "brothers" demonic treatment.

Closely identified with the PLO failed effort in Teheran was Congressman Paul Findley of Illinois who was on the phone with a PLO leader at the time of Arafat's futile international acrobatics. (The PLO appears to be one of Congressman Findley's favorite outfits).

Adding to the embarrassment the PLO suffered when Arafat's loud appeal to the Iranian captors sputtered was a subsequent rebuff to the PLO at Tunis. That time around, the PLO escorted three Iranian revolutionaries to the Arab League's summit conference, only to be told to get lost.

A minor award for dealing in double standards should go to Dr. Joseph Lowrey, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who appears to be the only American black leader who praised the Ayatollah's men for discriminating against white males when 13 hostages were released.

Front runners in the incredibility sweepstakes include those influential Americans who have themselves to blame in part for the plight of our embassy people. If news reports are accurate and the word of State Department folks holds up, Henry Kissinger and David Rockefeller will bear the onus of pressuring President Carter and Secretary Vance to grant the exiled Shah entry to the United States. Too many highly respected doctors, including cancer researchers, have pointed out the availability of other practical ways to handle the Shah's illness for doubt to remain that the

Shah's illness for doubt to remain that the Kissinger - Rockefeller maneuver was not so much just the humanitarian deed it was represented to be but more a political effort rooted in blind friendship and economic expediency.

The Kissinger-Rockefeller affinity for the Shah flows with tragic logic from John Foster Dulles's meddling in Iran in 1953 when the Iranian ruler on the Peacock Throne was helped by the CIA to oust Foreign Minister Mohammed Mossadegh. That deposted Iranian leader had forced the Iranian parliament to nationalize the nation's oil industry.

HAPPY HANUKKAH







