PAGE TWENTY-EIGHT HAPPY PASSOVER

Atlanta's Black Children

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

Atlanta, Georgia, once an inconspicuous railroad camp, in the 1980's became the commercial and industrial center of the Confederacy, holding the entire economy of the South. Today, Atlanta is a bustling city on the move, dominated by skyscrapers, massive new hotels, and one of the busiest airports in America.

But Atlanta today is also an emotionally battered city whose culture and technology stand impotent before the vast human tragedy of 21 murdered innocent black children.

I came to this city to address some 1,400 people attending a meeting convened by the Atlanta Council of Churches. The only redeeming fact to emerge from this numbing, senseless savagery is that it has united this city - Christians and Jews, blacks and whites in a spirit of solidarity as nothing else has in recent history.

In the presence of Mayor Maynard Jackson, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. ("Daddy King") and other dignitaries, I tried to indicate why the Jewish people feel a particularly deep sense of identity with these forlorn black families. Children hold an especial place of esteem in Jewish tradition. Judaism describes children as "our messiahs of tomorrow;" they carry all our hopes for the future, our very

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immortality.

And historically, Jews have still not recovered from the trauma that the Nazis cruelly murdered one million of our children, many of them the same age as these black children. No less terrible for us than the searing fact of the murder of Jewish children, was the knowledge that they and their families were abandoned by the world, that their lives meant little or nothing to anyone.

That is why we traveled to Atlanta, to tell the families and the black community that we know that anguish in our bones. And we want them to know that they are not alone and that we stand by their side throughout this madness.

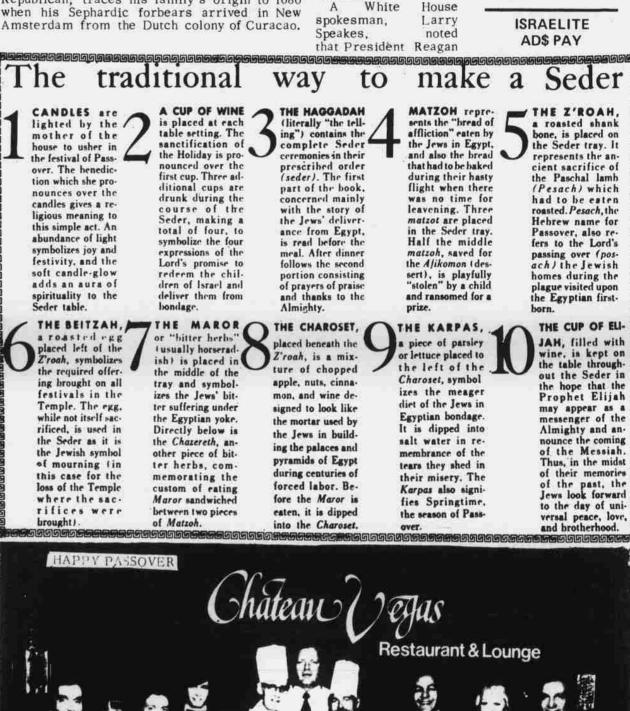
WASHINGTON (WNS) -- President Reagan is expected to name John Loeb Jr., a New York investment banker and a member of one of America's most prominent Jewish families, Ambassador to Denmark. Loeb, a prominent Republican, traces his family s origin to 1680 when his Sephardic forbears arrived in New Amsterdam from the Dutch colony of Curacao. FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1981

WASHINGTON MAYOR IS CRICIZED

(WNS) --WASH. Washington Mayor Barry has Marion been criticized by the White House and representatives of Jewish organizations for saying that if the Black children 21 murdered in Atlanta "had been Jewish. the federal government would have moved much faster'' to help solve the crimes. "If they had been anything except Black they would have moved faster," Barry said at a recent press conference.

had said about the Atlanta killings that "Let's get one thing straight. This Administration is Reagan color blind." made the statement after the Administration appropriated \$1.5 million to help Atlanta meet the costs of the police investigation into the murders. Washington represen-

tative of the American Jewish Committee, said for Barry "totalk about the Jews and imply that we are all safe and protected is an outrage.





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