

Lefever is Haig's Man

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Ernest W. Lefever, who mustered only four affirmative votes in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when he aspired for the post of Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, now get paid on a per diem basis -- not as a human rights expert -- but as an advisor to Alexander Haig on terrorism and nuclear non-proliferation issues.

Stung by Mr. Lefever's failure to make it with some of his fellow Senators, Jesse Helms of North Carolina is reported ready to introduce legislation calling for the abolition of the post to which his friend, Mr. Lefever, aspired in vain. (Don't get mad; get even!)

Before Mr. Lefever drifts too far out of public view, we owe it to the cause of human rights to take one more look at the drama leading up to his withdrawal from the bruising race he fought.

When he finally threw in the towel, Mr. Lefever insisted that his opposition was "Communist - inspired." He may have reached that conclusion by noting that Izvestia was outspokenly against him. Although in the witness chair, he tried to deny he had called his critics "Communist - inspired," the Committee's chairman, Senator Charles Percy, asserted that "there isn't any question that you used the word communism to me; you did so to Senator (Paul) Tsongas, and you did so in a separate conversation to our counsel."

Connect this with the assertion by Mr. Lefever -- an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren -- that he was a victim of character assassination. Here is a double standard in operation: Mr. Lefever wants the right to label as Communist - inspired many clearly anti-Communist Americans, thus victimizing them, while going on to say he himself was victimized by character assassins. Maybe we can understand this example of projection psychology better if we recall the old yarn about the two morally upright ladies who broke their long dry spell by downing too many cocktails on their first go - around with hard liquor. Blurry-eyed, one gazed across the table at her companion and cried: "Oh my dear, you have two noses."

At times the students of behavior tell us,

we aim our hostility at those we have harmed. And by accusing them of nurturing faults with which we ourselves are burdened, we win the illusion of putting our anxieties to rest.

Surely, the country had a goodly share of non-Communists - people who know well that a police state is a police state whether its capital is Moscow or Buenos Aires -- who don't subscribe to the Lefever thesis for adulterating human rights. Even Ronald Reagan in a far off day is recorded as having said: "We will never buy our freedom by trading away the freedoms of peoples in other lands not ours to give."

Congressman Jack Kemp, a staunch Republican, has declared: "I don't think the United States can afford to signal the world that it is relaxing its fight for Human Rights." The current Security Advisor to the President, Richard V. Allen, puts it thus: "American foreign policy is inescapably linked to human rights by the very fact that we are what we are, and our adversaries are what they are." Could all this be Communist claptrap?

Leaving aside the fact that three years ago, Mr. Lefever publicly urged that America's legislated human rights commitment be ditched and leaving aside that he once wrote that Washington should consider extending a nuclear guarantee to Egypt, Syria, and other Arab states and thus provide a deterrent against the use of Israel's force for military purpose or blackmail, one still may conclude that to install a person with Mr. Lefever's philosophy in the sensitive human rights post could invite disaster. And this not only for our national reputation but for the possible harm to national security.

For when we overlook the record of repression or repeated unjustified arrests in an authoritarian regime in our hunt for military allies and economic gains, we risk the danger of thrusting the down-trodden into the arms of Communists. And Communists these days possess huge armaments, posing danger to our security.

If we sell our commitment to universal charters upholding the rights of man for a partnership with amiable but cruel tyrants of any stripe -- left or right -- we sully American tradition.

ISRAEL BLASTS EGYPT PROTEST

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has sent a letter to Egypt's Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali, in what was termed here as a "sharp protest" over Cairo's hostile criticism of the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor June 7, it was reported here. The letter which was understood to have been written in close coordination with Premier Menachem Begin, was delivered by Ambassador Moshe Sasson.

Shamir cited Egypt's leading role in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) condemnation of Israel, issued by the OAU summit in Nairobi during

June. Israel regarded the speech made by Cairo's Minister of State Boutros Ghali as unwarrantedly strident and hostile. Shamir also cited Egypt's behavior at the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna where Egyptian delegates echoed Israel's most hard-lined foes in their attacks on the Israel raid.

Shamir sought to remind Ali that the peace treaty between the two states requires that "parties shall seek to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and will, accordingly, abstain from hostile propaganda against each other."

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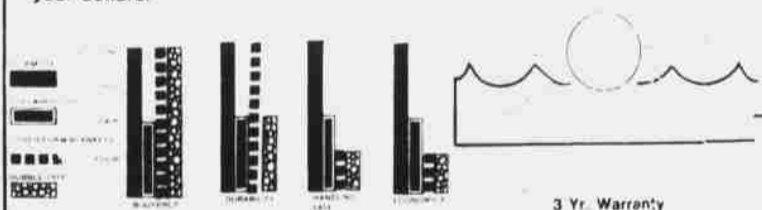
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