

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Tell:

Jerusalem aunt, Mrs. Rachel Rivlin. I appreciate your kindness.

Every good wish.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Aaron M. Wise

Thank you for your kindness in sending me some copies of the photograph you recently published of my

THAT SEAMLESS WEB OF FREEDOM

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Here was a useful American who had the trust and admiration of General Douglas MacArthur in the same season that he drew the distrust and contempt of Senator Joe McCarthy. He was Roger N. Baldwin, tracing his maternal and paternal ancestry back to passengers on the Mayflower, seeking freedom in a new land. When he died recently at 97, he left a heritage of shining devotion to the onerous and often unpopular task of fighting to maintain the strength and sanctity of the Bill of Rights. If we forget his example of patriotism, we diminish the nobler side of this nation's history.

Refugees from the Hitler horror, when they founded the International League For The Rights Of Man in New York in 1942, honored Baldwin by naming him Chairman. In recent times, frightened people have dishonored him for defending the rights of extremists, including Ku Klux Klansmen and members of the American Nazi Party, to prance around in masks and nightshirts and to flaunt the hated swastika in Skokie, Illinois.

Baldwin's creed was epitomized by his declaration that "our nation's security lies in our liberties; and if we sacrifice our liberties, then what do we have to fight for?" When he founded the American Civil Liberties Bureau (now Union) in 1917, he was a prime champion of pacifism who served nine months in jail for refusing to register for the draft. How closely he hewed to the line of protecting the rights of all was illustrated when he was busy simultaneously to defend Klansmen daring to assemble in Catholic Boston while working to convince doubters that Catholics had the right to teach in the public schools of Akron, Ohio.

He celebrated the indivisibility of our protected liberties. The guarantee of these liberties, chiseled into the Bill of Rights, assures rich and poor, fanatics and sane Americans, newcomers and old settlers the freedom to speak and print opinions, to assemble unmolested, to petition for the redress of grievances, and to enjoy privacy in religious choice. These threads constitute a seamless web; once unraveled we begin to march lock - step towards the police state.

"I like the organization of the American government," Jefferson said in the days of our emergence from revolution. "But I will tell you what I do not like: the omission of a Bill of Rights, providing clearly for freedom of religions, freedom of the press, and trial by jury. Let me add that a Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth."

Jefferson's view prevailed. But in a later day when our freedoms were under attack, we were fortunate to have Roger Baldwin and those

who believed and deported themselves in the Baldwin manner to speak up. Justice Robert H. Jackson strengthened this tradition when he said: "It is not the function of our government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the government from falling into error."

And in the sordid days of the McCarthy blight, when so many were thrown into panic by so few, Elmer David reminded the courageous few that this republic was not established by cowards, nor will cowards preserve it.

Now we come to a testing time when the wise President of Yale, A. Bartlett Giamatti taking aim at those he defines as "peddlers of coercion" warns against a new radical assault on pluralism and political and religious freedom in America. He speaks of "a native blend of old intimidation and the new (electronic) technology now used to threaten American values" and decries "the cult of those who are peddling absolutism in morality."

This danger signal needs to be raised when we behold the antics of the so - called Moral Majority and hear members of Young Americans For Freedom demonstrating their contempt for much that freedom has long meant to most Americans by singing such nonsense as this at their recent convention: "Wield we now our sharp stilletti; carve the pinks into confetti."

We lost a giant in Roger Baldwin. We shall need new giants in the days approaching.

SAUDI PLAN GOES TO U.N.

WASH. (WNS) -- The State Department indicated that it had no advance warning that Saudi Arabia had plans to take Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Fahd's eight-point Mideast peace plan before the United Nations.

Department Deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said the United States had no official word from the Saudis and had only read press reports about the statement in Riyadh by Prince Saud, the Saudi Foreign Minister, that the Saudis would seek UN General Assembly endorsement of the Fahd plan and then ask the Security Council to sponsor an international conference in which the Soviet Union would participate.

Romberg had no comment on the proposal which was made shortly after the departure from Riyadh of Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC). But it was clear from Department sources that the United States had

been taken by surprise by the proposal.

"We are committed and continue to be committed to the Camp David talks as the only basis for continued negotiations," toward a Mideast peace, Romberg said. He had no comment on the Fahd proposal, a position the Reagan Administration has taken recently following the strong Israeli negative reaction to U.S. expressions of interest in some parts of the plan.

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EVRON WILL RETIRE IN JANUARY

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Reports that Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron, will retire next January were confirmed by a Foreign Ministry spokesman here. The statement said Evron had informed Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir several months ago that he plans to leave the foreign service after a career of 33 years. Evron's successor will be named in the near future, the Foreign Ministry said.

The favored candidate to succeed him appears to be Moshe Arens of Likud's Herut faction who is chairman of the Knesset's powerful For-

eign Affairs and Security Committee. Arens has refused to comment so far on reports that he would be posted in Washington. Informed sources said that one serious obstacle to his nomination for Israel's key diplomatic post abroad is his consistent opposition to the current peace process. He

voted in the Knesset against the Camp David agreements, against ratification of the peace treaty with Egypt and, most recently, against the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which is to police Sinai after Israel completes its final withdrawal from the peninsula next April.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The number of Israeli families of the poverty level rose during the years 1978 - 1980 to the point where it had 10 years ago, according to the annual report of the National Institute.

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