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The Prayer Amendment

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

A proposal by President Reagan to introduce a constitutional amendment mandating prayer in the public schools has far more to do with partisan politics than with the serious issue of real prayers.

During the past three years, a coalition of Fundamentalist preachers and ultra-conservative political organizers have mounted a major systematic campaign to wrest control from liberals not only over American politics, but over every other aspect of American culture and society. These have included efforts to compel the Supreme Court to conform to the Fundamentalist ethos; domination of family policy, libraries, school boards, the content of TV programs.

The prayer amendment -- following on the "scientific creationism" drive -- is the latest effort to control the public school systems in a first step to conform the minds of America's pluralist school population to a Fundamentalist world view.

The last time the Fundamentalists undertook such a bold cultural revolution was in the 1920s with the campaign to impose prohibition through a constitutional amendment. Social historians document that the Prohibition amendment had more to do with Fundamentalist politics than with simply a passion to outlaw alcohol. Fearful of the growing strength of the so-called "alien" Catholic and Jewish immigrants who were "taking over" their Protestant America, rural Fundamentalists used Prohibition legislation to try to restore their domination over "their country."

The Fundamentalist strategy to impose their sectarian morality by manipulating constitutional amendments failed miserably in the 1920s. It is doomed to the same fate in the 1980s.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

The Falklands Crisis

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- All the charges of bias, one-sidedness and the double-standard which Ambassador Yehuda Z. Blum has time and again heaped upon this world organization have now at last been publicly proved before the whole world in the case of the latest crises over the Falklands-Malvinas Islands discussed behind closed doors in the quietude of private offices and chambers.

Although there is a real threat to international peace and lives have been lost and ships sunk, there has been no outcry here, no real

emergency, yet, as Israel's erudite and scholarly Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne has declared, "If Israel sends an army unit one mile across the border in hot pursuit of terrorists and brigands, there is an immediate world crisis, fanned from the United Nations. However, when a European power sends a small but powerful armada across some eight thousand miles of ocean on an obviously non-pacific mission, virtually nothing is done, so as not to exacerbate the situation; no condemnation in the Security Council, no highly orchestrated efforts to impose sanctions one one side or the other or even to isolate the conflict."

So here we have it plain and simple -- the UN double standard as far as Israel is concerned. God forbid, Israel must not protect itself against murderers; Jews must allow the PLO gangsters free reign to kill innocent civilians, men, women and children. Resist not this evil, Israelis are told, and if they resist, as they do, a cry goes out for help and the mighty Security Council responds with a hasty emergency meeting; also the 157-Member General Assembly. The Arabs crave blood, and the Soviets acquiesce.

Ambassador Rosenne's reference to the Falklands crisis as contrasted with Israel's defensive actions was made in a comprehensive address on the evolution of nation-states since the beginning of time delivered last week at the 56th convocation of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences held at the New York Academy of Medicine, an occasion marking the induction of the Ambassador as well as this writer as Fellows of the Academy, among others, and the granting of the Joseph Handleman Awards to Dr. I.J. Rabi and Jan Peerce. Prof. Abraham I. Katsh, Academy President, chaired the historic convocation.

Noting that in this latest British-Argentine crisis "we have a discreet effort -- alongside the doings, the antics, of publicity-minded politicians and generals -- "to seek out the underlying causes of the unwelcome conflict, and to put them right," he pondered the question: "What really discreet unbiased effort has ever been made, since 1948, to seek out and remedy the underlying causes of the Israeli-Arab conflict, rapidly becoming a conflict which we all hoped and prayed could be avoided, between the Jewish and the Arab if not the Muslim worlds?"

Considered one of Israel's best legal minds assigned to the Law of the Sea Conference, Rosenne spoke out in unmistakable terms: He exposed the partiality of this world organization. "The existence of 'double standards' in international dealing with the affairs of the Jewish people has long been noted by Jewish scholars and, of course, is now felt in Israel," he declared. "Just compare the outcry at the loss of life incurred in putting down attempted rebellions in Judea and Samaria, the condemnations in the Security Council and the General Assembly, the attempts to impose various forms of sanctions against Israel in all possible places, with the relative quiet with which the hews of the atrocious loss of life in the recent battles over the Falklands Islands." Indeed, let's make the comparison and see what a corrupt world we find ourselves in.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
 Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from Page 1)

on one sporting event.

But this one is special. It has a cast of characters that make it a world series, superbowl, Kentucky Derby and NBA playoff final game all combined into one. It is the heavy-weight championship fight of the decade featuring the white, gentle giant, Gerry Cooney, an Irish-Catholic fighter from Long Island. He will face the undefeated, undisputed black champion, Larry Holmes, of Pennsylvania.

It's a \$50 million fight with an expected \$8 million live gate from 32,000 seats at Caesars Palace. It has racial overtones only because the white folks are desperate for a champion. Not since the days of Rocky Marciano, Gene Tunney and, yes, Max Schmeling, have the white folks stood a chance. Gerry Cooney represents the modern day Rocky Balboa and Joe Palooka all wrapped up in one.

But regardless of who wins, the fight represents an even more crucial subject. The future of Las Vegas may rest on this event. Not by who wins, but the fact that Vegas will again be the focal point to hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. The place to be, the center of attraction, the land where dreams come true. That is why this could be the fight that saved Las Vegas.

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

HE CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL THE OTHER DAY, HE SAID, "MOTHER, I HAD A FIGHT WITH ANOTHER KID-- HE CALLED ME A SISSY."

SHE SAID, "WHAT DID YOU DO?" HE SAID, "I HIT HIM WITH MY PURSE."