

COLLEGE LOAN PROBLEM

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Education Secretary T. H. Bell has stated that his primary goal is to reduce federal spending on loans and grants for college students. That he is succeeding in that undertaking, few will deny.

Yet President Reagan asserts that students are being misled into believing the federal government is snatching away their loans. He puts it this way: "We haven't; we've cut the cost to taxpayers of making these loans." Furthermore, the President is upset when he learns that students have been incited to stage protest demonstrations "against what has been called Draconian cuts in student aid."

Well, Mr. Reagan is busy not only with the budget but with disappointment with Argentina for stirring up trouble with England, with high interest rates, unemployment, and a string of other pressing problems. If he could take a breather and go back over stark facts staring thousands of college students in the face, he might agree with Congressman Paul Simon, Chairman of the House Post - secondary Education Subcommittee, who says the President is "amazingly confused" about what's happening to the aid to education program.

As President Derek Bok, President of Harvard, puts it, the President might want to rethink a bit. After all, it's to the national interest to have well - educated young people, especially in an era of technological change and a deepening need for people competent to run the new machinery. Perhaps that helps to explain why the House Appropriations Committee has voted to add \$1.3 billion in emergency supplemental funds for student loans.

Consider a few facts: The President's own spokesmen in the Department of Education acknowledges that some 800,000 students in families in the \$18,000 to \$26,000 income bracket will -- if the President's program goes through -- be written out of the direct Pell grants earmarked for low and moderate income students. Moreover, the President not only wants to eliminate graduate students from the loan program but to hike the origination fee, now 5%, up to 10%. If he has his way, the student loan program will

be cut by \$1.7 billion by 1984. And effective in May, 1982, when thousands of boys and girls are leaving high school and looking forward to a college career, the government has seen to it that children of deceased, disabled, and/or retired workers no longer received social security benefits to help them through their undergraduate years.

Congressman's Simon's conclusion can't be ignored: "Never before in U.S. history has an administration believed it could build a better future while slashing education funds more than 53% in a two - year period; and that does not include the effects of inflation."

What's the fall out, then? Sure, students who desperately want a college education are protesting. Many who had worked hard to win admittance to highly rated private colleges where inflation has boosted annual costs to ten and eleven thousand dollars will now move into state and land grant colleges where tuitions are considerably lower. The state colleges, in turn, are feeling the pinch from state legislatures, cutting college appropriations, and thus opening the way to reduced standards in those institutions of learning.

Do students want to go to college? Studies indicate at least 50% of those coming out of high school today do. As for Jewish students, the figure is closer to 84%.

But Budget Director David Stockman, who got his college loan through a benevolent church, is now proposing even deeper cuts in grants and loans for college students.

Solutions? Many who have their hearts set on going to college just aren't going.

Some families will take out a second home mortgage at high interest rates.

One prominent college president proposes that government loans be earmarked exclusively for the most promising high school students.

Let the Internal Revenue Service double and redouble efforts to collect the income taxes -- estimated at \$60 billion to \$90 billion that tax dodgers and loophole artists fail to pay.

WERE WAR CRIMINALS SMUGGLED IN?

NEW YORK (WNS) -- A former prosecutor for the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) has charged that U.S. officials smuggled hundreds of Russian - born Nazi war criminals into the United States after World War II for anti - Soviet propaganda and intelligence purposes in violation of specific orders from Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

John Loftus, in an appearance on the CBS - TV "60 Min-

utes" program said that these government officials, including the State Department, covered up this operation as recently as 1978. According to Loftus, the fact that Nazi war criminals were brought into the U.S. hampered the OSI's efforts to expose and prosecute them.

The government must prove that alleged collaborators lied about their Nazi past when applying for admission to the country and for U.S. citizenship.

JOHN M. O'LANE, M.D. F.A.C.O.G.

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EL-AL FLIES ON SABBATH

JERUSALEM (WNS) - The Supreme Court ruled that the government cannot ban Sabbath flights by El-Al without Knesset approval. The decision was handed down on an appeal by employees of the airline who oppose the Sabbath ban on economic grounds. The Cabinet decreed earlier that the government owned airline must suspend service on the Sabbath and religious holidays and set a three month deadline for implementation of that order.

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HEY MOM, HOW COME GRANDPA DIED?



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE DIE?

Children experience death in many ways. When a pet dies, or perhaps a relative dies it's important to answer the child's questions directly and honestly, and not to say that the person went away or went to sleep. An indirect answer may cause children to become angry at the deceased for having gone away, or angry at God, or they may even be afraid of sleep. Hiding death from children is not helpful. Direct and honest answers mean saying that the person or pet has died and will no longer be part of our lives. It's helpful to tell the child that death is natural and that when we die our bodies don't feel anything. A child should be allowed to go to the funeral home, but never forced.

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