

Billy Graham's Blunder

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Strange as some may regard it, this is a vote of appreciation to Billy Graham.

He is woefully wrong in giving us the impression that there is a greater measure of religious freedom in the Soviet Union than we think. Yet he has obliged reasonable people to take a fresh look at the issue of the Totalitarian State vs Religion. In the process, the Crusader for Christ himself may realize how mistaken he was. He has been wrong in the past and big enough to acknowledge error.

A few examples: In Johannesburg in 1973, he advocated castration for rapists, but a few days later regretted the proposal: "I realize it is not the responsibility of a minister of the gospel to go around setting penalties for crime." Long regarded by John Connally and other conservatives as "the conscience of America," he shook off his silence on the issue of racism in America, insisted on integrating his revivalist spectaculars, and came eventually to realize he was wrong when he contended that modern black ghetto dwellers didn't need federal assistance in driving rats from their depressed turf.

Billy Graham learned from the Watergate experience. His first reaction was that the Nixon scandal was only "a symptom of the deeper moral crisis." He scolded the media for printing rumors, forgetting that it was the media that turned the spotlight on Watergate. Yet after reading the White House tapes, he cried: "We have lost our moral compass," found Nixon's language objectionable and placed distance between himself and the President who had used him to intertwine the Crusade for Christ with American chauvinism, to try to superimpose the cross of Christianity upon the stars and stripes.

His admiration for athletic competition led to the evangelist's campaign to underscore the sanctity of "Christian" coaches and players. He was proud to serve as grand marshal of the 1971 Rose Bowl parade. "Sports keep us busy," he said. "Athletes, you notice, don't take drugs." Now he knows better.

Throughout America's mid-century revolt against segregation and struggle to gain equality

of opportunity for all, Billy Graham was a slow learner. He agreed with those who said you can't legislate morality, forgetting that a dozen southern states had legislated immorality in the form of discriminatory laws. He fought individual sin but was silent on the evil of dropping bombs on Cambodia. But there came a day when he faced up to the possibility of planetary destruction through nuclear stockpiling.

Hence, his participation in Moscow's "World Conference Of Religions Workers For Saving The Sacred Gift Of Life From Nuclear Catastrophe." Billy Graham went, he thought he saw much evidence of religious freedom in the Communist world, but he didn't conquer. He stumbled.

Having reversed, or modified, his views in the past, Billy Graham should now take notice of the Kremlin's sly use of religion as a tool for regimenting the Russian populace and spreading Communist influence. Olin Robinson, President of Middlebury College, who has spoken often in Soviet churches, has advised Mr. Graham thus: "For the Soviets, religion is something to be tolerated, always controlled, and, when convenient, used. It is not honored, and it is not construed to be a human right in any sense that would be acceptable in a western democracy." Certainly, the six Siberian Pentecostals who have been sheltered in the U.S. Embassy for four years while Moscow denies them exit visas know that. Every Jewish refusenik knows it.

If further proof is needed, a review of Hitler's shrewd conquest of deeply-rooted religious strongholds in Germany is helpful. The fuhrer said early in his bloody regime that the Nazi party "stands for positive Christianity." He promised to respect Christian rights. Pope Pius XII at first defended the concordat giving the Church the right to regulate its own affairs but later defined the Nazi doctrine as "the arrogant apostasy from Jesus Christ... the cult of violence, the overthrow of human liberty and dignity."

Martin Niemoeller, early in the Hitler years, saw Germany's salvation in the triumph of the Nazis; but in 1937 on the eve of his arrest and subsequent imprisonment, he lamented in his final sermon: "No more are we ready to keep silent at man's behest when God commands us to speak. For it is, and must remain, the case that we must obey God rather than man.

Totalitarianism's gambit of toying with religion is mouse-and-cat deception. It is the devil's work. And Billy Graham who has broken so many lances with Satan will serve humanity best by facing up to this truth.

ISRAELI FIRM DEVELOPS PREGNANCY KIT

JERUSALEM -- Eli Hurvitz, President of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. (NASDAQ:TEVIY), announced that the Company has completed the development of a new "do-it-yourself" pregnancy detection kit that represents a major innovation in the early detection of pregnancy.

The kit, entirely researched and developed in Israel, provides for pregnancy detection in only ten minutes through the use of an easy-to-read color indicator. Most other kits now in use take approximately two hours for pregnancy determination.

The market for do-

it-yourself pregnancy kits has been developing rapidly in recent years in the Western countries and particularly in the United States where kits are sold in pharmacies and supermarkets to permit easy accessibility for women. In the United States, alone, the market for pregnancy detection kits is estimated to exceed \$50 million annually.

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. is Israel's largest manufacturer of pharmaceuticals, the only manufacturer of baking yeast and alcohol, and a producer of chemical and veterinary products for use domestically and abroad.

UJA RAISED OVER \$1 MILLION

NEW YORK -- United Jewish Appeal's Sixth Annual Walk-A-Thon, held in communities throughout the United States and Canada in May, raised a total of \$1,082,958, according to the latest figures compiled at Walk-A-Thon headquarters here.

The counts indicate that 75,897 people walked, biked, skated and jogged in 41 communities in the United States and Canada, sponsored by 46,688

businesses and individuals. Additional communities will hold local Walk-A-Thons in the weeks and months to come.

"Our slogan was 'Make Every Step Count -- For Jewish Life, Freedom and Renewal'," said Judy Slater Levy of Boston, Massachusetts, National UJA Walk-A-Thon Chairman and Chairman of UJA's Northeast Region Women's Division.

BEGIN WILL BE IN NYC, JUNE 18

Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who will be in the United States to address the General Assembly of the United Nations on disarmament, will be welcomed by Israel Bond leaders from around the country at a luncheon on Friday, June 18, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. The luncheon will be held immediately after the Prime Minister's appearance at the United Nations.

The announcement was made by Sam Rothberg, General Chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, which is a major instrument for the economic development of the State of Israel.

A special place of honor will be occupied at the luncheon by Founders of the Mediterranean - Dead Sea Canal project which is designed to produce hydroelectric power. Prime Minister Begin has sponsored this project as a means of helping to solve Israel's critical energy needs.

In his announcement, Mr. Rothberg pointed out that "at a time when world attention will be focused on Israel and the Prime Minister's address on disarmament, we will demonstrate the American Jewish community's recognition of the impor-

tance of building a strong economy in Israel as the foundation for its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East."

The luncheon will mark the culmination of a three-week "Operation Welcome" effort by the Bond Organization in honor of Prime Minister Begin's visit to the United States.

GLASS GREENHOUSE
 *PASSIVE SOLAR ENERGY
 *YEAR-ROUND GARDENING
 *SPA ENCLOSURE, ETC.

SUN ROOMS OF NEVADA INC.

2901 SO. HIGHLAND, SUITE 14B
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109
 (702) 796-0662

THE PRINTER

Jack Eichelman

919 East Ogden
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
 (702) 382-8860

FREE

WITH COUPON

IMPORTED CERAMICS

Including ceramic slot machines, teabag holder, salt & pepper set, more.

COUPON

GET YOUR FREE IMPORTED CERAMIC at the EL CORTEZ Promotion Desk

No obligation. Limit one per person. Offer good while supply lasts. Please present this coupon. Sorry, no minors.

COUPON

EL CORTEZ
 HOTEL & CASINO
 DOWNTOWN - 6th & FREMONT