

## CONGRESSIONAL WINNERS AND LOSERS

Political analysts have spent considerable time and effort in this post-election period debating in opinion articles and on television news programs who won and who lost the mid-term congressional elections, as if winners and losers in this particular political battle could be easily and clearly defined. Were the Republicans, holding onto control of the Senate the clear victors, thus providing the Reagan Administration with an endorsement of its economic and social policies? Or were the Democrats the victors, with their significant inroads in the House although limited dent in the Senate? These questions, and the future domestic agenda -- whether it will "stay the course" -- will be answered when the new Congress takes office in January.

But for the Jewish community, some interesting perspectives emerged in the wake of this congressional campaign. While the election primarily consisted of a domestic agenda, the incoming Congress will, if it chooses, have a significant role in appropriations and aid programs to Israel. With the economy in dire straits, there may be pressures from the local constituency to lower foreign subsidies. A total of 10 appointments to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and one to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the new Congress, two important committees, should thus be closely monitored by the American Jewish community.

Furthermore, the election was equally significant in that the large number of Jewish candidates, whether they were victorious or defeated, were able to run for Congress without their Jewishness being a factor. According to political observers in Washington, anti-Semitism was muted during the campaign. Overall, while the newly elected and re-elected Jewish congressmen will not mark a major bloc in either the House or the Senate, the American Jewish community can expect the new Congress to be at least as supportive of basic Israeli issues and Jewish concerns as the present Congress has demonstrated.

## BEGIN TESTIFIES BEFORE COMMISSION

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Premier Menachem Begin, testifying before the commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre, said he did not know in advance that the Christian Phalangist forces were to be admitted to the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps as part of the Israel Defense Force's operation to seize West Beirut following the assassination of President-elect Bashir Gemayel on September 14.

Phalangists would perpetrate a massacre. It never crossed our minds, the Premier said.

He said no "red warning lights" had been kindled in his own mind.

Begin told the three member panel that he only learned of this, along with the rest of the Cabinet, at a Cabinet meeting on Thursday evening, September 16, several hours after the Phalangists entered the camps. He conceded that there had been fears of revenge - killings by Christians of Moslems in the wake of Gemayel's assassination. But he insisted repeatedly that "none of us ever imagined" that the

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A national day of remembrance was declared for the victims of the blast in Tyre that destroyed Israeli military headquarters there November 11. Casualty figures were officially put at 89 dead and 56 injured. The dead included 76 Israeli military and civilian personnel and 14 Arabs, the latter Palestinians and Lebanese under detention. Twenty-eight Israelis and 28 Arabs were injured while 21 others in the building escaped or were extricated from the rubble unhurt.

The Israeli dead included soldiers, border policemen, security officials and members of the military government's civilian aid unit. Funeral services were held for 51 of the Israelis. The Cabinet decreed that flags will not be flown at half mast in order to differentiate the day of remembrance from a day of national mourning. The disaster was the worst to befall Israeli forces in Lebanon since the war ended in that country.

Meanwhile, uncertainty surrounded the cause of the blast which was initially attributed to a powerful car bomb and later to explosives concealed inside the seven story building. Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai told reporters that "The experts have established beyond any

doubt that it was not a sabotage action." According to Modai, it seems to have been a tragic accident. But a senior army officer criticized the Minister for making such statements while the committee appointed by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to investigate the disaster is still at work. He said Modai apparently misunderstood Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan, who, according to the officer, told the Cabinet that the cause of the explosion was unclear and sabotage was not completely ruled out. Similarly, acting Cabinet Secretary Michael Nir de-

clined to offer an assessment of the cause. He told reporters that Gen. (res.) Meir Zorea, who heads the investigating committee, had firmly refused to give the Cabinet a definitive statement as to what touched off the blast.

## IRA ZELL HAS BAR MITZVAH

Mr. & Mrs. Egon Ney's son, Ira Craig Zell, was called to the Torah and became a Bar Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Shalom, 1600 E. Oakey Blvd., on Saturday morning, November 20, 1982.

Rabbi Kalman Appel, spiritual leader of the Temple, officiated and

conducted the services which commenced at 9:00 A.M. Cantor Simon Bergman chanted the liturgy.

The parents of the Bar Mitzvah hosted the congregation to a Kiddush in the Temple's Entratter Social Hall immediately after the conclusion of services.

## DANA CRAMER HAS BAT MITZVAH

Dana Tracy Cramer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Cramer, recited a portion of the Haftorah to become a Bat Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Shalom, 1600 E. Oakey Blvd., on Friday evening, November 19, 1982.

Rabbi Kalman Ap-

pel, spiritual leader of the Temple, officiated and conducted the services which commenced at 8:00 P.M. Cantor Simon Bergman chanted the liturgy.

The parents of the Bar Mitzvah hosted the congregation to Oneg Shabbat refreshments.

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