

ONLY JEWISH MINISTER IN FRANCE DEFEATED

PARIS (WNS) -- Socialist Cultural Minister Jack Lang, the only Jewish minister running in the nationwide municipal elections was heavily defeated in Paris' predominantly Jewish Third District. Lang had wooed the Jewish electorate which seems, according to first poll studies, to have failed him. His competitor, Gaullist Jacques Dominati, known for his pro-Israeli views, did not specifically seem to court the district's Jewish electorate.

Israel's main friend within the government, Interior Minister Gaston Defferre, failed to win in the first round and will have to face a second run-off election March 13. It is the first time that Defferre, who has served as Marseilles Mayor since the end of the war, is in trouble. A Socialist, he also counted on the area's Jewish vote and even took time off during the campaign to pay a brief visit to Haifa, Israel, to which his city is twinned. Poll studies say it is too early to determine whether a majority

of the city's Jews voted for him in the election, as they usually do.

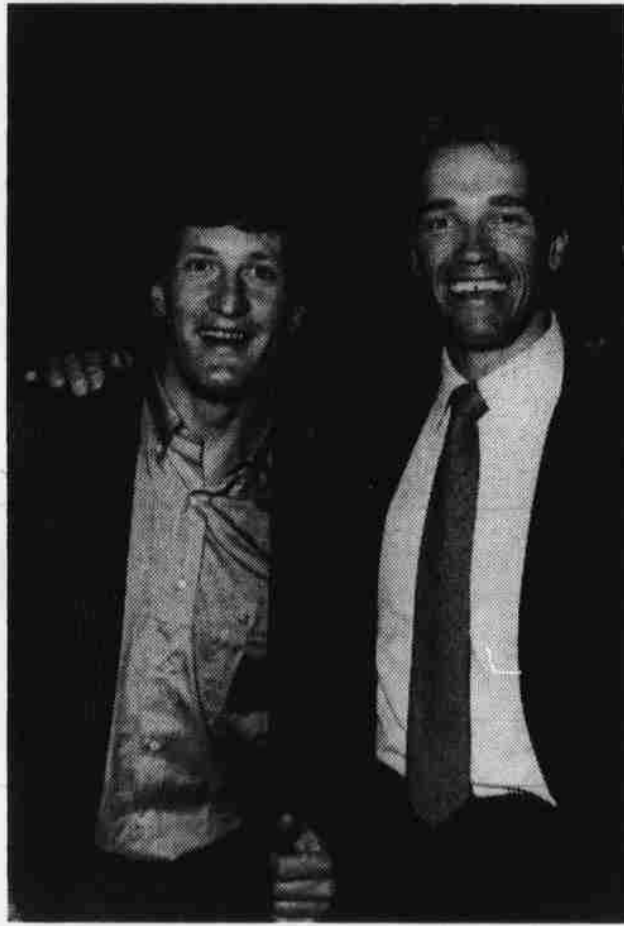
Local observers say some Jews failed to support him because for the first time he headed a list which included representatives of the Communist Party.

The government's three other Jewish ministers, Socialists Robert Badinter and Laurent Fabius, and Communist Charles Fitermann, either did not run or did not head a list. Fabius, budget director, was elected municipal councillor in a small city in the north of France.

Claude Cheysson, the man the Jewish community generally blames for what they see as an anti-Israel turn in France's Middle East policy, was elected in the first round as Mayor of the small city in which he ran.

The electoral results, a major victory for the right and center -- right opposition, seriously weakened Francois Mitterrand's Socialist Administration, and many observers believe he will reshuffle his government sometime next month.

AUSTRIAN CHAMPS



AMONG THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AT A RECENT AUSTRIAN SKI INDUSTRY RECEPTION HELD AT THE TROPICANA HOTEL & CASINO WERE (LEFT) INNSBRUCK OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST AND THIS YEAR'S WINNER OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DOWNHILL CUP, FRANZ KLAMMER, WITH (RIGHT) FORMER WORLD CHAMPION BODY BUILDER-TURNED ACTOR, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER.

Holy Week and Anti-Semitism

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

During the last week in March, our Christian neighbors will be observing Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and climaxed by Easter. As most Jews know, in eastern Europe, Holy Week frequently became open season for anti-Jewish pogroms and massacres. The "engine" which propelled those massacres of our forbears was the millennial-old Christian teaching, dramatized in the Good Friday Liturgy, that the Jewish people collectively were responsible for the death of Jesus.

Significantly a movement has begun to develop among Catholic and Protestant scholars in recent years to uproot that unholy lesson from Holy Week Liturgy. On March 8th, a conference of Christian clergy and laity was held in a Detroit church devoted entirely to the subject of "Good Friday Worship - Jewish Concerns, Christian Response."

I presented a paper on "The History of Passion Plays and Their Role in Fostering Anti-Semitism," in which I documented the demonologizing of Jews as Anti-Christ and Satan over the past 1,900 years.

Father John T. Pawlikowski, a brilliant Catholic scholar from Chicago, then delivered an address which called for the fundamental transformation of Good Friday liturgy. "A solid core of Christian scholars today have concluded," he writes, "that any theory of collective guilt for Jesus' death applied to the Jewish community of the time lacks historical foundation." He adds that "whatever Anti-Judaism exists in the Gospel of John (and the other Passion narratives) can no longer be considered authentic Christian belief in our day."

Jesus' death on the cross, he further states, "did not bring death to Judaism and its religious tradition as Christians have often claimed."

A growing number of Catholic dioceses have issued guidelines for Holy Week: to try to curb its anti-Jewish impact. Should this movement grow and take hold, some day the Gospel of Love may yet overcome the Gospel of Hatred for Jews and Judaism.

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