

Greed and the Hitler Hoax

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Now that a sordid portion of the press has, in the matter of "Hitler's Secret Diaries," found it profitable to play loose and greedily with fraud and forgery, at least four warning flags need to be raised:

1. No longer must doubt remain about Hitler's responsibility of "The Final Solution" -- the Nazi murder of six million Jews.

2. It is time for journalists and their overlords, newspaper owners and publishers, to devise, adopt, and follow a Hippocratic Oath for reporting and editing.

3. Historians, proud of their reputation for scholarship, would do well to bone up on the need for caution when requested to examine and pass judgement on Nazi myths disguised as authentic records.

4. New exposes of the work of Hitler and Holocaust revisionists are a must if truth is to be served.

As to speculation about whether it was Hitler or Himmler or Goering or some other Hitler sycophant who gave orders for "The Final Solution," skepticism has had its day; and it's time for facts to take over. In the course of the Nuremberg trials, Hans Lammers, chief of the Reich Chancellery, said on the witness stand: "I know that a Fuehrer order was transmitted by Goering to Heydrich... This order was called 'Final Solution Of the Jewish Problem'." No doubt Hitler took added pains to pin responsibility on others; but William Shirer's 27th chapter of "The Rise And Fall of The Third Reich" should be sufficient for any honest doubters. From his January 30, 1939 Reichstag speech, in which he threatened "the annihilation of the Jewish race throughout Europe" on to the end of his career as a merchant of murder, Hitler had the destruction of European Jewry as a sworn commitment.

The editors of Newsweek insisted the world wants a confession from Hitler. This foolishly plants an evergreen of doubt in print whether Hitler was too preoccupied with his digestion and the petty rivalries among his aides to note that he was killing six million innocent people.

Will the newspaper and magazine world tear up current copies of the Canons of Journalism and prescribe better oaths? Not likely. Rupert Murdoch, whose widespread press empire includes "The London Sunday Times," was cavalier in his conclusion about the advisability of buying and splattering the Hitler forgeries into his presses. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained," was his comment on this startling example of wayward journalism. And the price for the spurious diaries was right, a mere \$400,000.

What then of historians? Sir Hugh Redwald Trevor Roper, known also as Baron of Dacre of Glanton, who serves on the board of Murdoch's London Times, said early in the game that he would stake his reputation as a historian on the authenticity of the works ascribed to Hitler. He thought this "history of their wanderings since 1945" was true. Later, of course, when Document Detective Kenneth Rendell probed the manu-

script paper, ink, handwriting, and bindings and exposed the fraud, Sir Hugh changed his mind and apologized. Thus was one part of the record set straight by the author of "The Last Days of Hitler" and editor of "Hitler's War Directives."

We can expect other reputable historians to tuck away a valuable lesson from the misadventure into this Hitler booby trap. But what of the ever-present revisionists? What of David Irving, the British writer who declared in his "Hitler's War" that the world has no acceptable evidence that Hitler gave orders to kill the Jews? Does he still believe, as he has said, that we've been too hard on Hitler? What of Professor Arthur R. Butz of Northwestern University who in his "The Hoax of The 20th Century" asserted it was not true that Hitler exterminated millions of Jews? Will the gullible of the world still be bamboozled by the "Hitler Welle" in Germany, by such British documentaries as "Swastika?" Will the indifferent continue fascinated by Eva Braun's home movies and impressed by a coy Hitler as portrayed by Alec Guinness in the flick, "Hitler, The Last Ten Days?"

In the end, Newsweek concluded that Hitler's malevolent life continues to fascinate millions, even as it fills them with loathing and dread. Now the magazine can add that the fake 60 volumes of the Nazi monster's life also fills the pockets of old Nazis and dealers in Nazi trinkets.

THE HOWARD COSELL CENTER IN JERUSALEM

The Howard Cosell Center for Physical Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will be created in the name of the ABC Sports commentator, it was announced in New York.

The announcement was made by David A. "Sonny" Werblin, president of Madison Square Garden and the national chairman of the Cosell National Committee, on behalf of The American Friends of the Hebrew University. The organization has begun a \$1.5 million campaign to endow the Cosell Center.

Cosell has been deeply involved in the work of The Friends of the Hebrew University, and particularly the organization's annual sports dinner, held in memory of the Israeli athletes killed during the 1972 Munich Olympics.

The Cosell Center will serve all 16,000 students at the Hebrew University as well as its faculty. Activities will include intercollegiate and intramural sports, recreational activities and research in sports medicine. The Cosell Center faculty also will work closely with the Israel Ministry of Education in the development of physical education curriculums for the country's elementary and secondary school systems.

The Center, which will be dedicated in Jerusalem, next year, will award the annual Howard Cosell Prize to a student who has shown excellence in both athletics and scholarship.

LAXALT TO TALK AT AIPAC CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

Following a tense year in U.S. - Israel relations, more than 1,000 friends of Israel from across the country will gather in Washington this month for the 4th Annual AIPAC Policy Conference. Entitled "Citizen Action in American Foreign Policy," this year's conference -- to be held June 12 - 14 at the Washington Hilton Hotel -- will bring together the political cutting edge of the pro-Israel community. The heads of major American Jewish organizations, community leaders, and activists from the 50 states will be among the delegates.

This year's conference -- expanded from two to three days -- will begin Sunday afternoon, June 12. Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, and Kenneth Dam, the Deputy Secretary of State will address the opening session. That evening, Tom Dine, Executive Director of AIPAC, will speak on the current state of U.S. - Israel relations. At the next general session, Monday at lunch, the conclave will hear remarks from Meir Rosenne, Israel's new Ambassador to the United States, in what may be his first major public address in this country. That evening at the banquet, Senators Paul Laxalt (R-Nevada) and Christopher Dodd (D-Connecticut) will speak to the assembly. Delegates will hear from Speaker of the House Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill (D-Massachusetts) at the last formal session on Tuesday.

When not gathered in plenary sessions, the delegates will participate in several workshops, each focusing on a different aspect of the political process. Panelists will include Members of Congress, AIPAC lobbyists, leading House and Senate legislative aides, and foreign policy experts.

The first workshop will examine "The Legislative Process," and the speakers will explain the mechanics and politics of passing a foreign aid bill and other legislation through Congress. Some of Israel's strongest elected supporters -- Representatives Larry Smith (D-Florida), Mel Levine, (D-California), Robert Torricelli (D-New Jersey), Howard Berman (D-California) and Mark Siljander (D-Michigan) -- will contribute to this workshop.

The second session, "Nuts and Bolts of Political Action," will cover a wide range of campaign-related topics: volunteering for campaign work, fundraising, media relations, and candidates. Well-known Democratic and Republican leaders, such as Ann Lewis, political director of the Democratic National Committee; Mitch Daniels, executive director of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee; and Billy Keyserling, architect of Senator Ernest Hollings' presidential campaign, will appear at this session.

The third workshop, "How to Lobby," will teach the art of politicking on the local level and on Capitol Hill. Seasoned Washington lobbyists, from AIPAC and other organizations, will answer questions. On Tuesday afternoon, June 14, delegates will have a chance to practice their skills as they meet, either individually or in small groups, with Members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Appointments will be made in advance.

For the first time, the Conference will include a special session on the growing number of politically savvy and sophisticated organizations working to undermine support for Israel in the United States. Drawing from a forthcoming study on "The Campaign to Discredit Israel," two of AIPAC's propaganda specialists will discuss the predominant themes and methods used by anti-Israel groups to weaken the bonds between the United States and Israel in Washington and on the college campus.

Another special session will focus on "Political Action from the College Campus." The two-part workshop -- led by AIPAC's political leadership development coordinator -- will teach student participants how to counter Arab propaganda and to maximize their effectiveness in legislative and electoral campaigns.

This program is an opportunity for all those who care about strong U.S. - Israel relations to make their collective voice heard on Capitol Hill and in the Administration.

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