

## A Capital Obscenity

One of the most obscene and bizarre episodes in recent history surely must be President Reagan's visit to Bitburg cemetery in Germany and his belated and perfunctory agreement to visit the site of a former Nazi concentration camp.

Reagan's declared purpose in visiting the cemetery and originally rejecting a visit to the site of the Dachau concentration camp was that he wanted to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II as a reconciliation of former enemies and not "reawakening of memories" of the war.

What is obscene is the concept that a reconciliation must take the form of visiting -- in effect, paying homage to -- former Waffen SS soldiers who were in the forefront of killing American troops. What an obscenity to imagine that the soul of the world is so callous as to ignore -- or to acquiesce with -- such a gesture.

What is equally obscene is the way some of the President's advisers scurrying around in Germany looking for an appropriate concentration camp site to visit that could fit into Reagan's schedule -- as if this were a shopping trip to a supermarket or some side show at a carnival.

Is it really an act of non-reconciliation with former enemies to visit a concentration camp site, to remember and recall that those who perished there were not even former enemies but friends? What scale of values and of justice does Reagan use to determine an act of reconciliation with former enemies?

But the most obscene and grotesque element in this entire episode was Reagan's statement -- in the midst of the controversy over his visit to the cemetery -- to a group of editors and

publishers at the White House. Defending his visit to Bitburg, the President said that most of the 2,000 soldiers buried there were 18-year-old boys conscripted into the army and "they were victims just as surely as the victims of the concentration camps."

Given this almost compassionate view of the German soldiers, one is tempted to ask whether the American G.I.s were right in dispatching the Waffen SS to Valhalla.

There is it -- victims and victimizers are really, after all, interchangeable, equal; the slaughtered and the slaughterers ought themselves to be reconciled. This is not merely an obscenity. It is a capital offense.

## Demjanjuk Must Be Deported!

John Demjanjuk, known as "Ivan the Terrible" by inmates at the Treblinka death camp during the Holocaust because of his sadistic behavior, thought he could endlessly thwart justice in the United States. He was wrong. His days are now numbered.

Two weeks ago, U.S. District Court Judge Frank Battisti ruled in Cleveland that Demjanjuk should be deported to Israel to be tried for his war crimes -- the alleged complicity in the murder of tens of thousands of inmates at the Treblinka death camp where he was responsible, the Justice Department says, for turning off and on the valve which regulated the flow of poisonous chemicals into the gas chambers.

But the 65-year-old Ukrainian maintains he is innocent, that he is not the "Ivan the Terrible" who terrorized inmates at Treblinka 40 years ago. Instead, he says he was in the Soviet Army, later captured by the Nazis and held as a prisoner of war. This all despite eye witnesses accounts to the contrary.

Nonetheless, the U.S. courts apparently are convinced he is Ivan the Terrible. He has been stripped by an Immigration Board of his U.S. citizenship for having lied about his past activities when applying for entry into this country. But his peaceful life in America, working as an automobile worker and living in Seven Hills, Ohio, is coming to an end.

The Judge's decision will most likely be appealed and a final decision on deportation must be made by Secretary of State George Shultz. Sending an alleged war criminal to Israel would set a precedent and raise serious legal questions.

Nonetheless, the ruling on the Demjanjuk case, coming as it does during a week of Holocaust commemorations serves notice to war criminals that there is no statute of limitations in this country regarding Nazi atrocities. It also sends a signal to the American Jewish community that these atrocities will never be forgotten.

BONN (WNS) — A cooperative agreement has been signed in Jerusalem between the Hebrew University and the Academic Center for Jewish Studies at Heidelberg University. It will further the Academic Center's bid for formal recognition and may eventually result in the issuance of certificates or ordination for rabbis at Heidelberg.

## Yearning To Sing Free



An example of the Jewish renaissance movement in the USSR is noted folk and rock singer Alexander Tsarovtsev of Leningrad. Shown in a photo obtained by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the 29-year-old musician has performed in Hebrew in unofficial concerts in several Russian cities, despite threats from the KGB. His denial of an exit visa to Israel is seen as the authorities' revenge.

## Holocaust Revisionist Ordered Deported From Canada

TORONTO (WNS) — migration Commission Ernst Zundel, an anti-Semitic Toronto publisher convicted under Canada's anti-hate laws of spreading literature which claims the Holocaust was a Jewish hoax, was ordered deported. He said he would fight the order to the highest tribunal. But he told the Toronto Globe and Mail that he would welcome deportation to West Germany because he has a "power base" there.

Zundel was sentenced to 15 months in prison. He has been allowed to remain at liberty pending his appeal against the conviction and against the deportation order issued by the Im-

migration Commission Adjudicator.

Zundel is a resident alien in Canada. Under the law, any non-citizen sentenced for a criminal offense to a jail term of longer than six months is subject to deportation.

Zundel flouted his racism when he appeared outside a courthouse here in black-face. "I didn't get justice as a white man so maybe I will as a Black," he said, implying that Blacks get favored treatment in the courts. He said if he is deported to West Germany "I will be no more nice guy. Over there I have a power base. Here I'm a fish out of water."

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