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Israeli Hospitals Face Shut Down

CHANUKAH 1985

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

With the lighting of the first candle on Saturday evening, December 7th, the celebrations of the eight-day festival of Chanukah, or the Feast of Lights, began. Chanukah commemorates the victory of Judah the Maccabee over the massive invading armies of Syria. The festival also celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the year 165 BCE following its pagan defilement by the Syrians.

As a result of their struggle against these ancient Arabs who sought to impose their monolithic state religion on the Jews and everyone else, the Maccabees became the first successful fighters for freedom of conscience in the ancient world. Ironically, the Jews of Israel today are engaged in an heroic defense of the identical principle that their Maccabean ancestors fought and died for - the right for national self-determination in a pluralistic Middle East.

Recently, a group of American Jewish and Christian leaders visited Lebanon, Jordan and Israel, and were told flat out by a PLO spokesman, "The Middle East is an Arab World. There is no room here for a non-Arab state." This is to say that everywhere else in the modern

(Continued on page 7)

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Israel's state hospitals are faced with paralysis and the danger of having to close down, because of a shortage of funds to pay suppliers. The director of the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, one of the largest medical centers in the country, was quoted as having begged the electric corporation not to cut off current to the hospital because of a large debt because "this will be condemning patients to death."

Other hospitals report they have been informed by the Tnuva Dairy Company that no more milk or dairy products will be supplied because of over \$1 million outstanding for past deliveries. Hospitals also complain that they have run out of injection needles and equipment for blood testing and dialysis machines, and suppliers refuse to send in new stocks until old deliveries are paid for.

The Finance Ministry says the Health Ministry must pay its part in overall budget cuts, and the shortage of hospital funds can be made up by

(Continued on page 7)

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

To Our Christian Friends

(In this Era of Ecumenism we bring you the following column prepared in 1961 and reprinted annually in the Chanukah Edition.)

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa.

And there are Christmas trees, too!

No one asked but an innocuous wire service story datelined Vatican City and printed in the local press may have caused some concern among our neighbors.

The story quotes a Vatican weekly newspaper saying Santa Claus represents a "monstrous substitution" for the Christ child and "offends the faith."

The editorial in L'Osservatore delle Domenica also assailed the Christmas tree as "an attempt to substitute for the crib...and a certain sense of naturalism and paganism."

The objection apparently stems from the general public's acceptance of St. Nick and the tree as indicative of the holiday to the gradual exclusion of the true religious conception, the Nativity.

A strict religious interpretation of the Holy Day should unquestionably be total reverence and complete compliance with the Holy Writ. Those devout souls among us always have and will continue to adhere to the rigid theological celebration of the occasion and no amount of persuasion (if attempted) could dissuade them.

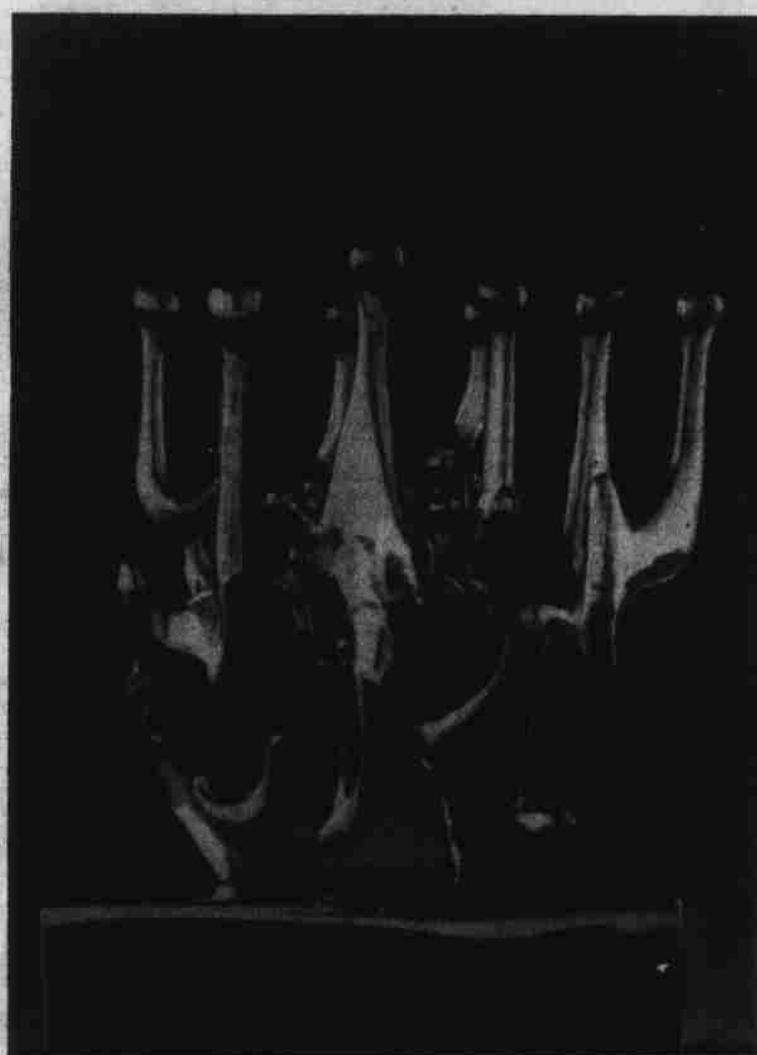
But Christmas Day with no distraction from all the solemnity it stands for, has, through the centuries grown, expanded, magnified into a spirit of Christmas. What started as a one-day observance is now a weeks-long holiday. What began with personal greetings of cheer from one to another is now the exchange of hundreds of millions of cards expressing joy. What commenced as an occasion for the discreet dispensation of charity for the less fortunate has developed into the indiscriminate giving and receiving of gifts. The once simple recreation of one's version of the Crib had developed into addenda like trees, holly wreaths, tinsel and lights.

An occasion that was originally celebrated by just those of the Christian faith, now finds other sects, religions and beliefs looking forward to and rejoicing in the spirit of Christmas.

The metamorphosis of Christmas was not a straight, smooth road from the way it was to

(Continued on page 4)

Enhancing Hanukah's Beauty



The candles of Hanukah take on a special glow this year in homes graced by the "Rejoice" menorah, made available by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The nine-branched menorah, designed in polished bronze by artist-sculptor Eli Karpel, stands 11 inches high on its own base. Each menorah in this limited edition is numbered and signed by the artist. The "Rejoice" menorah is \$2,500 from the UAHC Art Project, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021.



MORTUARIES AND
MEMORIAL PARKS

Yahrzeits Tonight At Beth Sholom

(Friday, December 13, 1985)

Beatrice Krivel
Jean Sherwin
Morry Deitch
Sara Brookman
Joseph Weiner
Harry Rosenberg
Usher Diener
Albert Goot
Simon Axler
Max Elster
Benjamin Katz
Max Bluestein
Harold Spector
Jacob Ober
Joseph Haft
Charlotte Lebovitz
Lillian Buckin

Moe Sedway
Jacob Marcus
Dorothy Katz
Millard G. Gray
Etta Israelson

Dr. Isaac Goldberg
Bela Willinger
Dora Schlofsky
George Weinstein
Mollie Weiner

Harry Plotkin
Myer H. Meltzer
David Kornbluth
Benjamin Spector

Isaac Diamondstone
Fanny Goldberg
Dr. Alexander Mason

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