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# LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

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## Austria Flunks The Test

By Robert E. Segal

Fate plays tricks causing the righteous to weep. The 65,000 Austrian Jews killed by the Nazis and thousands of other Austrians tortured, robbed, and forced to flee during the Holocaust have few to speak for them now while Kurt Waldheim rides in triumph to Austria's presidency by capturing 54% of his nation's votes.

There is no limit to the sordidness of the Waldheim story. But before the 1986 drama fades from memory, an evaluation is in order.

First there must be recall of the evil works of two Austria-born figures of history. They are a turn-of-the-century Mayor of Vienna, Karl Lueger, the sinister leader of the Christian Social Party who taught Hitler how to hate Jews. Hitler, lowly born in Braunau, Austria, near the German border, said of his crafty mentor: "He is the greatest German mayor of all times, a statesman greater than all the so-called diplomats." The more accurate measure of Lueger's statesmanship can be found in a statement he made in 1911: "Jews should be beheaded or hanged, just as long as they are killed." Hitler, to no one's surprise, thought Lueger was too tolerant. Historians credit Lueger with sowing so much Jew-hatred into Austria's civic fabric as to make Austria more anti-Semitic than Germany.

Hitler escaped trial at Nuremberg by giving immolation as his last command and may be burning still in the depths of hell. Three other Austrians -- Adolf Eichman, Arthur Seyss-Inquart, and Hans Rauter -- murderers all, were put to death because of their major roles in carrying out Hitler's final solution.

Israel, naturally, still hopes to bring Waldheim to a courtroom where his career as a Nazi, long kept hidden, can be thoroughly reviewed. Indeed, the United Nations War Crimes Commission concluded 23 years before he became Secretary General of the UN that sufficient evidence existed to prosecute Waldheim in connection with the murder of Yugoslav civilians.

As he settles in as President of Austria, Waldheim has the praise and support of most Austrians convinced the case made against him amounted to slander. Such approbation is not shared by some Austrian intellectuals who have challenged his moral fitness to be president. Even the Austrian media has its bold dissenters. In the Austrian weekly, Profil, these brave lines have bobbed up: "We now appear as a country which elected as President a man who at least lied twice and who, until the very last moment, could not come up with a credible explanation of his past."

Richard von Weizsaecker, President of West Germany, differs sharply with Chancellor Helmut Kohl who now looks upon Waldheim as "a great patriot." Weizsaecker, who fought for Germany in the invasion of Poland, reminds his compatriots and the Austrians that those who close their eyes to the past are blind to the present.

Few national capitals have been heard from. Moscow provides a significant exception. In

words consonant with the spirit of the Nazi-Soviet wartime pact, the Kremlin, with seeming disregard for the fact that 20 million Russians perished when the Nazis were trying for world conquest, has stood tall for Waldheim. Villains in the Austrian presidential campaign, Moscow says, are Washington leaders and Zionists who have shown unjustified hostility to Waldheim.

After all, says the new Austrian President, there was suffering on both sides during World War II. Alas, we heard a similar appeal to reinvent the past when President Reagan, undoubtedly ill-advised by one or more staff members, communicated to the world the shocking observation that the German soldiers interred at Bitburg "were victims, just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."

Again, words spoken by West German President Richard von Weizsaecker rise in rebuttal: "All of us, whether guilty or not, whether young or old, must accept the past. We are all affected by its consequences and liable for it. The young and old generations must help and can help each other understand why it is vital to keep alive the memories."

## Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

### Oscar S. Straus, America, Israel And The Fourth

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — An unusual guest appeared here at the UN last week.

Roger W. Straus, the grandson of a great American-Jewish diplomat patriot, was the invited speaker at a special meeting sponsored by the UN Judaica Book Club and the Society of Writers held in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium.

Mr. Straus' presence immediately brought to mind his distinguished grandfather, the late Oscar S. Straus and a significant little book he had written titled "The Origin of Republican Form of Government" which has a special meaning for the Jewish people in that it reveals how closely the American form of Government was patterned after the Republic established by Moses at Sinai.

As Mr. Leonard Hartment, President of the Club, introduced Mr. Straus -- who today is the President of Farrar, Straus and Giroux Publishers and whose topic dealt with "The Search for Books and Authors" -- he found it fitting to quote the following from an article written some years back by this writer about his grandfather's book:

"It is worth taking note of a fascinating book, now out of print and written by the late Oscar S. Straus (1850-1926), who was twice Ambassador to Turkey under Presidents Grover Cleveland and McKinley (1887 and 1897). In one of the volume's

## King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

Gigolo: A fee-male.

chapters, 'The Genesis of the Republic,' Straus shows how closely the early American settlers had followed the pattern of life set by the ancient Israelites:

"The Bible was to them not only their guide in religion, but their textbook in politics. They studied the Old Testament and applied its teachings with a thoroughness and literal devotion that no people, excepting only the Jews, and perhaps the Scots, had ever exemplified; for they seemed to recognize a striking similarity between their own hardships, history and condition and those of the children of Israel under Moses and Joshua. They quoted its texts with a literal application."

The noted American-Jewish patriot-historian continued to stress the amazing link between the spirit of the Founding Fathers and that which motivated the ancient Israelites. "Their condition," he emphasized 'they characterized as Egyptian bondage, and James I, they styled Pharaoh; the oceans whose dangers and hardships their ancestors were given to encounter they spoke of as the Red Sea.

"They likened their own numbers to that of the children of Israel, three million souls. America, in whose wilds they had come, was their Wilderness, and in after days, Washington and Adams were frequently referred to as their Moses and Joshua. Their first conception of the form of an American union was a Theocracy, the same form of government in all its essential characteristics and expressly modelled thereaf-

(Continued on page 7)



## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth  
 Constitutes A Majority"



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GOLDA MEIR (1898-1978) - Prime Minister of the State of Israel.

CYNTHIA OZICK - Award-winning author, lecturer and proponent of Jewish Ethics.

HELEN SUZMAN - Jewish Community Leader, Member of Parliament and anti-apartheid spokeswoman from Capetown, South Africa.

EMMA LAZARUS (1849-1887) - Whose sonnet is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty; outstanding poet and philanthropist.

RITA HAUSER - Attorney and U.S. Representative to Conferences and Commissions on Human Rights.

BETTY FRIEDAN - Women's Movement leader and author.

MOLLY PICON - Veteran Yiddish actress and star of movies and TV.

AVITAL SHCHARANSKY - Who led the successful struggle to free her husband and who still fights for Soviet Jews.

MADELEINE KUNIN - Governor of Vermont.

ROBERTA PETERS - Metropolitan Opera star active in many humanitarian causes.

DR. JUDITH RESNIK (1950-1986) - Heroic biomedical engineer, and astronaut who lost her life in the space shuttle explosion.

RABBI AMY EILBERG - The first woman to be ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

MATHILDE SCHECHTER (1859-1924) - Founder of The Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

The calendar contains blessings over the Sabbath candles, the prayer recited on separating the dough when baking a Sabbath loaf (hallah), counting the Omer (harvest), a prayer for a safe journey when travelling, and blessings before and after meals.

The fourteen honorees in the Women's League Calendar were selected by the organization's Reading and Editorial Committee. The calendar can be obtained through Synagogue Judaica Shops or from the Women's League for Conservative Judaism National Office at 48 E. 74 Street, New York, N.Y. 10021 for \$2.50 per copy (plus postage and handling).