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PLAIN TALK

BY ALFRED SEGAL

SCARED CHICAGOAN

A gentleman in Chicago writes to me: "Here are our rabbis again butting in where they don't belong and where even angels would fear to tread. They are getting us all in bad."

He means the several rabbinical organizations that in strong language have reaffirmed the rights of Americans to liberty of thought and speech and to read whatever they please.

"They are on dangerous ground, considering the climate of these times," he goes on to say. "What right have they to speak publicly for me and you as they do when as an organization they pass resolutions. The Chicago Tribune has said that they did a disservice to the Jewish people in coming out on this public matter as they did. That's the way I feel. The rabbis are embarrassing us as Jews. I am not saying that they are not right but are they expedient, since prejudice always is seeking out Jews to put them on the spot. Are they serving us well in their true rabbinical function?"

"Come on along, Segal, and stand up for us all against this disservice of the rabbis."

But Segal can't go along with the Chicagoan either as American or Jew. This Chicagoan will have to depend on the Tribune for comfort. For Segal himself is most thankful to these rabbis who, in an hour when many men are afraid of their own voices, speak up courageously as Jews and Americans. As Americans they know that the Declaration of Independence and its principles are not just topics for speeches on the Fourth of July. As Jews they have Biblical and historic cause for emulation: The children of Israel setting themselves free from the Pharaohs; the Macabbees fighting unto victory for the freedom to worship their own God.

The Chicagoan says further: "Why should we Jews voluntarily take on more troubles when we already have to carry so many that are forced on us: Can't we learn our lesson never to stick our necks out unless we just have to. Let others who can afford it better stick their necks out. Our place is in the shadowed area where no enemies can discover us. We'll just mind our own business and they won't see us. These rabbis didn't mind our own business and what happens? The Chicago Tribune gets after us and in this press I get pointed out as a Jew in my own native town, because of these rabbis."

I answer him: Let's say thanks to the rabbis for sticking our necks out for us. Stuck-out necks belong wherever there is need for decent men to cry out against political and social wrongs regardless of what that may cost us in the opinion of individuals who don't like us anyway. That's our function as Jews who profess the

(Continued on Page 8)

Effect of Transfer on Holy Places

The presence of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem will strengthen Israel's capacity to discharge its special responsibility in respect to the Holy Places. The Israel Government has always made it clear that it is agreeable to international supervision of the Holy Places of Jerusalem. This readiness was reaffirmed by the Israel Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, in his major foreign policy statement to the Knesset on June 17, 1953. Mr. Sharett stated that "should the United Nations at any stage in the future find it necessary to institute international supervision of the Holy Places in Jerusalem, it can rest assured in advance of the acceptance of that supervision by Israel and the readiness of its Government to cooperate with whomever is charged with the execution of this function. This attitude of the Government of Israel has been repeatedly stressed in official pronouncements of its authorized representatives. It remains unchanged.

The Foreign Minister emphasized that there is "no contradiction whatsoever between Israel's sovereignty in new Jerusalem and the satisfaction of international requirements concerning such Holy Places as are located within it."

Of the thirty Holy Places in Jerusalem referred to in the United Nations documents, only two, the Tomb of David and the Cenacle, both on Mount Zion, are in Israel territory. The others are located in the Old City of Jerusalem, under the control of Jordan.

HILLEL HOUSE FOR MIAMI UNIVERSITY

MIAMI, (JTA) — Plans were completed this week for construction of a new Hillel House on the main campus of the University of Miami. Actual ground-breaking will take place this summer.

The building plot was presented to the Hillel Foundation as an outright gift by the University. Nearly 2,000 Jewish students attend the university.

Arrives In U.S. With Last Hope To Walk



Ben Zion Kuncman, two-year-old Israeli polio victim, whose last hope to be able to walk lies in the unique treatment he can obtain at the Bellevue Medical Center in New York, as he arrived in the U. S. along with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Kuncman, with the aid of HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. The child, son of World War II refugees, was stricken with polio last year, which claimed the life of his sister. After ten weeks treatment in Paris, physicians declared that the boy could be made to walk if he was brought to the U. S. for the unique muscle re-education treatment offered here.

HONORS

MIAMI, Fla. — (JTA) — The Chamber of Commerce has awarded a citation to Dr. Nathaniel Levin, Miami laryngologist, for his work in rehabilitating the handicapped. The citation noted his work in teaching persons whose larynxes have been removed to speak by the use of abdominal muscles.

HONORS

ATLANTA, Ga. (JTA) — Sol P. Benamy, local Zionist leader, has been elected to the Atlanta City Executive Council.

Western Powers Oppose Foreign Ministry Move to Jerusalem

NEW YORK, (JTA) — Transfer of the Israel Foreign Ministry from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem brought criticism this week from Washington, London and Paris and sharp protests to the United Nations from the Arab States.

State Department sources in Washington said the United States had no intention of moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem because the question of the internationalization of Jerusalem is still pending before the United Nations.

At Tel Aviv, a representative of the embassy informed the Foreign Ministry's liaison office there that all communications from the embassy would be through the liaison office.

The British Ambassador in Tel Aviv previously had notified the Foreign Ministry of a similar stand by the British and Foreign Office source in London were critical of the Israeli move.

In Paris, the Quai d'Orsay reported that France would not recognize the move and pointed out that as long as three months ago, the French Government had indicated that it would not recognize such a decision, which it considers contrary to the United Nations proclamation of Jerusalem's international character. France's role in the Near East and its desire to maintain good relations with Syria and Lebanon are considered a reason for its stand.

On the other hand, several foreign missions acknowledged receipt of the ministry's notification. The Greek envoy was the first foreign envoy to visit the new headquarters of the ministry in Jerusalem, and the Netherlands envoy was expected to pay a formal visit. It was also indicated that Yugoslavia would move her legation from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on the minister's return from Belgrade.

Arab States Protest in U. N.

Meanwhile, the six Arab states made their anticipated protest to the United Nations against the Israel move. In "the strongest protest" against the Israel action, lodged with U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, they denounced the move as a violation of U. N. resolutions on internationalization of Jerusalem, as an "irresponsible and unjustified" move and as a "fresh blow" to peace in the Middle East "already tottering under the impact of Israel aggression."

They asked that their protest be circulated to all member nations of the U. N. and to the Palestine Conciliation Commission.

The influential London Economist, in an editorial this week on the Israeli move, commented that "by tacit consent of the Powers, the idea of an international Jerusalem is therefore a dead letter." It suggested that "more third parties start bridging the gap" between the two sets of Jerusalemites separated by the barbed wire between Israeli and Jordanian Jerusalem.

Eisenhower's Appeal Fails to Secure Action on Bill for DP Entry

WASHINGTON, (JTA) — Two separate appeals from President Eisenhower failed this week to budge the Administration's special quota immigration bill out of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Eisenhower had requested that 240,000 Iron Curtain refugees and other Europeans be admitted to the United States in the next two years but Congressional committees have shown a reluctance to act on his proposals. The President repeated his request this week to his regular weekly conference of legislative leaders and to two key members of the stalemated Senate Judiciary Committee, Senators Arthur V. Watkins and Pat McCarran.

Congressional leaders predicted the legislation would be approved during this session, however, and efforts were being made to work out a compromise. Sen. McCarran and other Senators have maintained that admission of additional immigrants would open the nation's doors to "subversives."

WILL MR. EX BE ADMITTED?

Alfred Theodore Ex, according to a Department of Justice report, admitted in Berlin in 1946 that he had been a member of the German-American Bund from 1929 to 1937, that he had held office in that organization in 1937 and in 1941 had received a certificate of German citizenship. A summary military government court in Berlin, also convicted him of knowingly making false statements to the Allied forces.

Nevertheless the United States Senate has just passed a special bill permitting Mr. Ex, who gave up his American citizenship to serve Hitler, to return to the United States. This despite the fact that the Department of Justice has recommended that he be excluded because of his Nazi activities.

If the House, too, should pass this bill we shall have the spectacle of an avowed Nazi, of one who turned traitor to America during the last war, being re-admitted to the land he had spurned and

fought while thousands of victims of German Nazism whose sympathies during the war were with America in vain seek admission to this country. America will thus have rewarded an enemy while spurning its friends.

This shameful bill was introduced by Senate Judiciary Committee chairman William Langer, to whom German racial ties would appear to mean more than the principles of Americanism, and passed the Senate without any opposition from Sen. Pat McCarran, who claims to be the principal opponent of the admission of totalitarians but who when it comes to a showdown acts otherwise.

The House of Representatives can still refuse to pass this bill. We hope that the principles of justice and true Americanism will prevail in this matter and that Alfred Theodore Ex will be kept in the country he had chosen to serve during the last war, in Germany.

WORLD REFORM MOVEMENT HONORS RABBI BAECK AT LONDON DINNER

LONDON, (JTA) — Rabbi Leo Baeck, retiring president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, was honored here on the occasion of his 80th birthday and his retirement, at a dinner sponsored by the Union. Reform leaders from South Africa, France, the United States and a Liberal Rabbi from Jerusalem presented him with gifts expressing the appreciation of Reform Jewry for Dr. Baeck, Chief Rabbi of Berlin before and during the Nazi regime.