

The Ivory Tower

Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.

- Childhood rhyme

As any taunted child who ever tried to sing that through his tears knows, the rhyme is wrong. Words do hurt. They matter enormously, and not just in the lives of children.

Americans think they matter enough to give words the protection of the Constitution. Words' potential for misuse is also taken seriously enough for citizens to be protected by the laws of libel and slander.

Words matter in the lives of nations, too. They can be tools of inspiration: Winston Churchill sent the English language, as well as the English forces, to war against the Germans.

And they can be weapons of destruction, which is why radical forces are so interested in winning United Nations resolutions denouncing Israel. The point of that war of words is not only to insult Israel, but to undermine her legitimacy. Israel's enemies are trying to do with words what they have never been able to do with arms.

That is why it matters what the United States says and does in response. It was important that U.S. Secretary of State Ed Muskie appear personally at the Security Council to object in the strongest terms to a resolution censuring



MUSKIE

Israel to declaring Jerusalem its undivided, permanent capital.

The resolution was fundamentally flawed. It censured Israel, but failed to condemn "violence against Israel or ... efforts that undermine Israel's legitimate security needs."

Muskie rightly went on to score the U.N. for "recourse to debates and resolutions that are not germane to the peace process and (are) even harmful to it."

Unfortunately, he stopped there. The United States abstained, instead of vetoing the resolution. That's because the Carter administration feels Israel's loud assertion of its claim to all of Jerusalem is an awkward impediment to the peace negotiations. As Muskie put it, "We have encouraged all parties to refrain from unilateral actions which seek to change the character or status of Jerusalem."

He's right, we think, that some of Israel's current rhetoric is like sand in the gears of the Middle East peace effort. But so is the anti-Israeli rhetoric pouring from the U.N. So was the Egyptian parliament's earlier declaration that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine. And so is the continuing refusal of the Arab countries, save Egypt, to enter the peace negotiations.

And if Israel is hampering the peace process with its proclamation of a united Jerusalem as its capital, what are we to make of President Carter's Democratic Party, whose 1980 platform says: "As stated in the 1976 platform, the Democratic Party recognizes and supports the established status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, with access to all

holy places provided to all faiths. As a symbol of this stand, the U.S. Embassy should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

Israel is not right in all things, nor wise in all policies. But Israel has proved a willingness to yield in negotiations (give up the Sinai and its oil, for example), if the other parties will but come to the negotiating table. Unlike the Jordanians, who held East Jerusalem for almost two decades, Israel in her 13 years of custody has proved willing to grant all faiths control of and access to their holy places.

Israel is not right in all things, nor wise in all policies. But Israel has proved a willingness to yield in negotiations (giving up the Sinai and its oil, for example), if the other parties will but come to the negotiating table. Unlike the Jordanians, who held East Jerusalem for almost two decades, Israel in her 13 years of custody has proved willing to grant all faiths control of and access to their holy places.

Jerusalem is a sensitive difficult issue. But the real problem is not Israeli rhetoric; it is Arab intransigence and the Soviet-backed, U.N.-abetted campaign by the PLO to eradicate Israel.



BEGIN

by the PLO to eradicate Israel.

TOM BRADBURY
The Charlotte News
Aug. 22, 1980

Books in Review

The Resort by Sol Stein, Morrow Publishing Company, 300 pp. \$10.95.

This novel begins innocently enough. A man and his wife decide to drive down the California coast. On the way they stop at a resort called Cliffhaven, near Big Sur. They check in and are shown to their rooms — and then terror begins. They find their room locked when they try to get out, and when the guard appears they learn that they are in a concentration camp for Jews.

The inmates react in different ways. Some become docile, partly because of the tranquilizers put into their food, and partly because they soon learn, the hard way, the futility of resistance. Some fight, until the spirit is crushed out of them by cruel and brutal treatment. And one holds out and fights on, determined somehow to escape, or at least go down fighting with dignity.

The staff and the people who live around the camp respond in different ways too. Some are zealots who believe that what they are doing is a sacred cause. Some are spectators who have doubts but who are afraid to get involved. And a few are greedy people whose consciences have been bought.

The novel keeps the reader's attention through many twists and turns. But it is more than just a story. Beneath the fiction are some serious questions such as: Is this the way it happened over there? Or, could something like this ever happen here? Or, most important, what would I do if I ever found myself in a situation like this?

-Jack Riemer

from *The National Jewish*

Monthly, May '80

(ed. note: Rabbi Jack Riemer is Scholar in Residence at Congregation B'nai Amoona in St. Louis and editor of "Jewish Reflections in Death", published by Schocken.)

For the Record

By Norman Olshansky
Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League

The bottom line, whether you are a Zionist or not, the weakening of the status and position of Israel in the world community, results in the weakening of Jews where ever they may be. Local anti-Semites have joined the likes of the PLO in equating Zionism with everything that is evil in the world.

Those who have followed world events realize that Israel and the world Jewish community (as it relates to Israel) has fewer and fewer friends. The bottom line is that oil blackmail has been successful. Reason, morality, justice, are terms and concepts which are secondary in matters of international affairs today.

The current status of peace in the Middle East is clouded by several illusions.

1. That the issue of the Arab Palestinians is the core of the Arab/Israeli conflict and of the whole Middle East problem.

2. That the PLO has changed or is changing toward "moderation" by abandoning its commitment to the elimination of Israel through "armed struggle" and terrorism.

3. That an Arab Palestinian State, "homeland", or "entity" comprising the West Bank in Gaza, presumably controlled by the PLO, will bring about peace between the Arabs in Israel, or

by Marcia Cohn Spiegel

Two studies of recovered Jewish alcoholics have focused new attention on the problem of alcoholism in the Jewish community. "The Jewish Alcoholic: A Descriptive Study" by Shelia

in the entire Middle East.

4. That an Arab Palestinian State "entity, or "homeland" in the West Bank of Gaza, presumably controlled by the PLO, will assure a steady flow of Arab oil to the U.S. and to the West, perhaps even at lower prices.

5. That the Soviet Union must somehow be brought into the Middle East Peace process to assure its success and to "guarantee" an overall settlement of the Arab/Israeli conflict and continuing "stability" in the area.

What will be Sadat's position once Egypt has received the final portion of the Sinai? Arms sales to Arab extremist, turmoil in Lebanon, Jerusalem, triple digit inflation, all are problem areas facing Israel today.

For more information on how you can respond to propaganda, half-truths, and outright distortions of fact regarding the Middle East, contact your local Jewish community leadership and/or the Anti-Defamation League Regional Office at 3311 W. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230, 804-355-2884. Ask for a copy of our most recent International Report titled "Illusions About The Middle East".

SHAMROCK REALTY

4935 Albemarle Road

Leasing Agents For:
Granville Town House
Apts.

Albrecht Manor
Sharon Arms Apts.
Starmount
Shopping Center

Phone 537-6231

Jewish Alcoholism

Blume, M.D., Dee Dropkin, P.D., and Lloyd Sokolow, J.D., Ph.D. recently appeared in *Alcohol Health and Research World*. My book *The Heritage of Noah: Alcoholism in the Jewish Community Today* is currently available from University Microfilm in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

One hundred recovered alcoholics were interviewed by Blume and Dropkin for their study at Central Islip Psychiatric Center, Long Island. Ms. Spiegel conducted sixteen in-depth interviews at Hebrew Union College School of Jewish Communal Service in Los Angeles. Although conducted separately, both studies had the same results. There were no problems in locating recovered alcoholics who were willing to share their stories.

Previous research suggested that Jews who drank excessively were not a part of the mainstream of Jewish religious life, nor did they have a strong Jewish identification. This observation was not supported by the new information. Many of the participants were actively involved in Jewish communal life at the time of their addictive drinking. Among those interviewed in Los Angeles were a Temple president, a president of a major Jewish philanthropy, presidents of several large membership organizations, founder of a large synagogue, and a youth group advisor. The east coast study included two Orthodox rabbis.

Although alcoholism is considered a new phenomenon in the Jewish community, a significant number of those interviewed related a history of alcoholism in their family for several generations. Another striking similarity in the studies was the repeated description of an incident where help was sought from a rabbi or other Jewish professional, and the subject was assured that they couldn't be alcoholic because "There are no Jewish alcoholics. Alcoholism is not a Jewish disease."

Alcoholism is apparently more widespread within the Jewish community than has been recognized. Because of the belief that this is not a Jewish problem, those who suffer from the disease are not identified

and thus are kept from getting help. Their families are confused about the source of the problem and do not seek assistance, although it has been shown that frequently an alcoholic is helped to recovery after a family member gets treatment.

The low incidence of public drunkenness among Jews is confused with the amount of problem drinking. The earliest recorded religious writings stress the importance of a sober demeanor, and call attention to the bad effects of too much alcohol, including loss of judgment and possible addiction. Religious codes separated the behavior of Jews from that of the pagans among whom they lived and where orgies of drinking and sexual excess were frequently part of religious ritual.

Biblical history establishes the economic importance of growing grapes as a crop, and the manufacture and sale of wine and other fermented drinks. This economic involvement continued throughout Jewish history. In the fourteenth century the Jews of Eastern Europe were given a virtual monopoly on manufacture, sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages. This was a major source of income for Jews in the rural villages of the Pale of Settlement. Revocation of these licenses in the late nineteenth century threw hundreds of thousands out of work and led to increased urban unrest as well as to emigration to the U.S. and other countries. Many families continued their involvement in the business in their new homes.

Because of the precarious social position that Jews have held in diaspora, they did not want to call undue attention to themselves in public, and thus suppressed outward signs of drunkenness. When alcoholism did occur, individuals and their families made every attempt to conceal it. This concealment probably led to the current denial of the Jewish community to recognize this growing problem.

New York City and Los Angeles are both beginning to respond to the need. A Task Force on Alcoholism was es-

(Continued on Page 7)

Greenspon
& Associates Inc.
725 PROVIDENCE ROAD, SUITE 221
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
704/376-7434

Life Insurance Planning
Group Insurance

Pension Plans
Business Insurance

STAN GREENSPON
DAN COBLENZ

SCOTT SWIMMER
DAVID SWIMMER