

Random Thoughts

by Muriel Levitt

My husband says that when it comes to prices, I am still living in the 1940's. He is probably right. I simply cannot adjust to or accept the monies being charged for things today. A stroll through any supermarket makes me nervous and jumpy. It is no longer a pleasant experience to plan menus and shop for the necessary ingredients. In fact, I avoid it like the plague!

Like, for instance, when I was first married skirt steak was the cheapest cut of meat. Although chewy and not too tender, I used it for pan fried steak or London broil because it was so reasonable, I even had it ground on occasion. Forget it! Today it hovers around \$4.00 per pound and it is far from economical, but still stringy.

I also used to be an eggplant freak and when it went to 12¢ a pound I thought that was disgraceful. Little did I know I would be paying 59¢ for the same quantity 30 years later. Somehow those purple beauties have lost their basic appeal. I wonder why.

I remember clearly when milk used to cost 10¢ a quart and it was a good buy for the money. Now, mind you, I am not against dairy farmers getting their fair shake, but don't you think that 75¢ is a bit much for a small container of milk? Families with lots of kiddos must surely find it difficult to provide them with their essential Vitamin D.

It seems to me that the nickel and dime have become obsolete. I can't think of anything that can be bought for those amounts. A five cent candy bar is now 25¢ and it is half the size it used to be. A 10¢ loaf of bread is now 60¢ and tastes like cardboard. Everything costs more, looks shrunken, and tastes yucky.

Let's not stop at food. Clothing is another area for us to inspect closely. It used to be that a pair of classy ladies' shoes cost around \$10. There were plenty of chain stores offering snazzy styles for much less, but when you forked over ten bucks you got quality and design. Today a mediocre pair is fifty or sixty dollars, and it's not at all unusual to see ads for well over \$100. Where is all this money going to and who is reaping the profit?

As for dresses, coats and suits, one has only to browse through any retail store to

get the screaming meemies. You used to pay a month's rent for what one blouse costs nowadays. Simple fashions are sky high while designer labels are astronomical. It's not practical to wear a bathing suit all year round, so we are prisoners of the garment industry.

Although I long for the days when a dollar contained 100 cents and your money was worth something, I must confess that I really adore the life style of 1981. Scratch baking has been replaced by nifty cake mixes and without them I'd be a dead duck. Fresh plucked chickens with a million pinfeathers left the scene when immaculate, frozen poultry appeared. Washing, cleaning, and peeling veggies fell by the wayside when Clarence Birdseye came on the scene. It may all cost a lot more, but it took the woman out of the kitchen and released her for more fulfilling endeavors. I'm all for that.

And although clothing is almost too expensive to contemplate, it has gone a long, long way. Styles are trendy and attractive, better fitting and finely tailored. True, they cost more, but they last longer and you can't knock that.

What it all boils down to is that while money is freer today, we are also spending it more quickly and in larger amounts. I'm not exactly thrilled by the whole picture until I rationalize about

quick, expensive plane trips versus long, cheap train rides. I also recall dull, inexpensive dinners as opposed to costly gourmet dining. Low cost, inadequate housing cannot be compared to modern, well equipped living quarters.

I could go on and on. Washtubs vs. washing machines. Iceboxes vs. refrigerators. Carpet sweepers vs. vacuums. Linoleum vs. asphalt tiles. Wire whisks vs. blenders. The list is endless and only goes to prove that while everything costs more, our lives are easier and more pleasant because of progress.

Progress, dear readers, always means that someone, somewhere has to pay and I guess we're elected. I won't con you and say that I like high prices, but I surely enjoy the benefits they bring. So, while my heart is in the 40's, I guess my checkbook will remain in the 80's. Although I prefer lower prices, I can't think of one single luxury I'd willingly give up.

I enjoy the creature comforts, and I'll bet you do too. Inflation will probably be with us for quite a while and since it would seem we cannot conquer it, we might as well accept our lot graciously. Like the wise man said "If you cannot beat them, join them. And once you join them, make sure you enjoy, enjoy!"

For The Record

By Norman Olshansky
Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League

Top on the list of publications distributed by anti-Semitic hate groups is the infamous "Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion." The Protocols are a forged document that the Czarist Secret Police in Russia concocted around the turn of the century. Sixty years ago in 1921, it was conclusively exposed as a fake.

It consists of 24 sections and professes to be the confidential minutes of a Jewish conclave convened in the last years of the 19th century. The thrust of the arguments are that a Jewish conspiracy was put together to secretly undermine the morals of the Christian world.

Neo-Nazi, neo-fascist and anti-Semitic organizations here and around the world reprint and distribute the Protocols and thousands of other anti-Jewish items based on themes and ideas contained in the long discredited Czarist forgery. In recent years they have appeared in the Arab world and in the Soviet Union. The Protocols have also been for sale recently in Chile, Mexico, Panama and other Latin American countries as well as in Britain, Italy and other parts of Europe.

The themes expressed in the Protocols have been used for many years as a basis for other expressions of anti-Semitism. There are five basic ideas expressed.

1. That international Jewry, utilizing the chosen people concept, seeks world domination.
2. That this goal is to be achieved by subterfuge, guile and conspiracy that will deceive Christians.
3. That the Jews seek, and have gained, control over the international banking system and exact financial tribute from the Gentile World.
4. That the Jews seek to control, and in fact do control, the press and the media of information and thus influence the non-Jewish world in a subtle and hidden way while remaining in the background.
5. That Jews have infiltrated and manipulated Freemasonry and Masonic lodges and thus deceive the Christian world as part of the overall plot for world control and domination.

As you can see from the above, these lies and variations to them have been the basis for anti-Semitic propaganda campaigns carried out for decades by hate mongers around the world.

Several noted historians and authorities who have investigated the Protocols have concluded that the documents are a fake. Philip Graves, correspondent for the London Times in the 1920's and half brother of the poet Robert Graves, Father Pierre Charles, Jesuit professor at the University of Louvain in the 1930's, John Curtiss, professor of history in the 1940's at Columbia University and Norman Cohn, professor of social history at the University of Sussex, England are among the names most closely associated with the repudiation of the Protocols. Even the editor of the Protocols, Serge Nilus, privately admitted that he could not prove its authenticity. He received the document from an unidentified woman who gave no evidence as to who really wrote the copy which he received. He took the information from an unknown woman and accepted it as fact.

British Historian Christopher Sykes, hits the nail on the head in his analysis of the Protocols: "One can see why the Protocols go on being read. It is painful to have to admit the truth of anything that Hitler said, but there can be no doubt that when he declared in Mein Kampf that the masses find vast untruths more credible than small ones, and that in consequence those who use a lie in propaganda work should always tell a big lie, he showed an uncanny degree of shrewdness. This is one of the biggest lies ever devised by a liar, and for that reason there will for long be fools to believe it."

For more information about the Protocols, the Anti-Defamation League now has available a new publication titled "The Protocols: Myth and History." The document is available for \$1.50 per copy and can be obtained by contacting your regional office of the Anti-Defamation League at 3311 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230.

First Call
See page 16



Imperial PRINTING PRODUCTS

Specialists In Raised Printing

Stationery — Business Cards
Wedding — Bar Mitzvah Invitations
Business & Social Announcements

4731 Sweden Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28210
(704) 554-1188

Stuart Cojac
President

WEDDINGS • BAR MITZVAHS • BAT MITZVAHS

Superb Catering in Elegant Surroundings

R

Out of town guests? Let the Registry Inn offer you our special weekend rate... Any Friday, Saturday or Sunday night, \$39.00 for up to 4 people per room.

THE REGISTRY INN

321 W. Woodlawn Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28210
704/525-4441 800/438-1376

ELEGANCE

Only the finest
in 14 and 18 karat
gold jewelry and watches,
classic crystal and figurines,
sparkling diamonds,
the ultimate in
exclusive giftware.
That's elegance!
That's David's Ltd.

DAVID'S
FINE JEWELRY & GIFTS
2 NCNB Plaza / 375-6543

Greenspon
& Associates, Inc.
125 Cottage Place
376-7434

Now offering Individual Retirement Accounts for individuals and for companies who provide payroll deduction plans.

STAN GREENSPON
HARRY SWIMMER

SCOTT SWIMMER
DAVID SWIMMER