

# THE JEWISH NEWS

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## Sabbath Scriptural Selections

This Sabbath, the sixth of Av, 5727, the following scriptural selections will be read in our synagogues:

Pentateuchal portion, Deut. 1:1-3:22. Prophetic portion, Isaiah 1:1-27.

Candle lighting, Friday, August 11, 8:20 p.m.

VOL. LI. No. 21

Page Four

August 11, 1967

## Worst Prospect: Fear of Fear Itself

Franklin D. Roosevelt's warning to this nation that the most serious threat to our people's state of mind is fear of fear itself is applicable to the present crisis.

There is no doubt about its being a crisis. We are experiencing what is tantamount to a civil war. The nation needs unity of purpose more than ever before, yet at no other time since the Civil War have we been confronted with as much evidence that we are divided very sharply.

We are divided on the question of the race issue which has assumed such tragic trends that the word fear has become part of our national vocabulary in the largest cities.

There is division in the matter of our role in the Far East, and the embittered elements have linked Vietnam with race issues, and out of it has emerged a threat—uttered by an extremist in Havana—that the non-whites in Vietnam are not fighting a battle for the United States but are training for war to be conducted against the whites in this country.

Such utterances spell danger to America and to our institutions, and if we do not study the conditions and probe methods of averting a crisis all of us may suffer the consequences, and we will not be passing on a very wholesome heritage to our children and grandchildren.

Many are the methods proposed to deal with a situation that often appears as if it has run out of control. Community committees are being organized to try to institute good will, to encourage inter-racial cooperation, to remove injustices. This is all well and good, and the plan should be pursued without hesitation or delay. But much more is needed. What is required is forceful presentation of facts to the conflicting elements, to indicate to all concerned that anything leading to divisiveness in our midst is harmful to all. Perhaps legislation will help, but we doubt whether new laws, like force itself, will do the trick.

What is needed is genuine convincing and effective self-assurance that working together for the common national good demands the elimination of violence and adherence to law-observance. To attain this it is necessary that all factions should work together, that all citizens should assume responsibility for their actions and should feel completely obligated to honor the duties of citizenship.

## Menacing Situations Confronting Israel

While Israel was negotiating for a return of refugees to the West Bank of the Jordan, for cooperative efforts through the International Red Cross to solve the problems created by the brief June war and to assure complete religious freedom for all faiths, underground activities have been in progress to undermine the Israeli regime, and there are churchmen who still fail to recognize how an impartial Jewish administration is able to enforce free access to all religious sites, contravening previous practices by the Jordanians.

The peace aspired to by Israel is much harder to attain than was the victory on the battlefronts. The latter was a matter of life or death. It was not a quest for imitation of Maccabaeism. A people's army does not operate that way. It was a family's determination to prevent annihilation.

Meanwhile, the difficulties on many fronts remain and the international complications are far from resolved. Yugoslavia's Tito is not friendly. The Russians, in face-saving schemes after having suffered defeats at the United Nations, are menacing their own Jew-

How is this to be attained?

All approaches must be with an aim at unified efforts to attain a common understanding. They must be tackled without rancor. We know that those who resorted to violence represented a minority of the Negro population. Therefore the majority—and we are assured that the extremists who continue to advocate violence remain in the minority ranks—must act firmly and realistically. We look to Negro leadership for rational aims, for realism based on peaceful designs, for adherence to the basic American principle of fair play to be applicable to all. We must exercise fair play in our dealings with the Negroes, and we insist on similar fair play from their ranks. Such mutuality compels the elimination of the influences of the extremists who insist on advocating destructive programing.

In the coming months and years there must be a lessening of tensions, an abandonment of fears, a more tempered adherence to community functions. That can be attained if there is a determination to face issues in the truest American fashions—on the basis of action towards good will instead of lip service. Let us strive to attain the goal that will end fears and restore sanity to the American way of life.

The chief concern is for the children. We must make certain that future generations of our youth live together in harmony, and the major aim must be to eliminate fears from the hearts of the youth among whites and blacks.

We feel deeply with the overwhelming Negro majority that feels a sense of shame for what extremists have done, and we are equally outraged by racial violence instigated by white hoodlums.

There is evidence now of Negroes who have come to the aid of merchants whose business establishments have been ruined. Their sense of responsibility in assisting in restoring order, as has been evidenced in numerous cases of Negroes volunteering in cleaning up debris and in restoring order, vindicates the majority.

It is the basic sense of fair play that emerges in the long run as an ideal for members of all racial groups comprising the American society. This must remain the guiding principle in American life.

ish citizens as well as continually providing ammunition to Arabs aimed at what both Russians and Arabs hope will be Israel's eventual destruction.

The available scapegoat, Zionism, still is the most suitable target for Russian hatred, as was evidenced last week in the combined attack on the Zionist movement by the Russian press. The notorious Protocols of the Elders of Zion which originated in the infamous Nilus papers in Russia are again the basis for venom and hatred and Zionism is accused of being an international plot. While the Protocols have been exposed as the most atrocious and at the same time most ridiculous accusations against Jewry, first the Russians, then Hitler, with cohorts in many lands, and now Russia again are utilizing a fabrication to attack Israel and through Israel the entire Jewish people.

Jews in Communist countries have been pressured to join in anti-Israel propaganda campaigns. It worked in some countries. Israel faces many menacing situations, and to overcome them a great deal of caution as well as vigilance will be required.



## 'France and Dreyfus Affair' Throws Light on Famous Case

Interest in the Dreyfus Affair is never-ending. Recurring French government and military experiences bring back memories of conflicts that occurred at the end of the last century, and the personalities who played historic roles again emerge to revive interest in a famous case.

That is why "France and the Dreyfus Affair" by Douglas Johnson, published by Walker & Co. (720 5th, NY19), assumes significance even now and retains the fascination in the debates that dominated over world embassies and in the newspapers in all lands over the army and Catholic attitudes and the anti-Semitic waves that arose when Alfred Dreyfus, the Jewish captain, was charged with treason.

The manner in which the truth finally emerged, the inner struggles within army circles, the difficulties that were encountered by those who realized that Dreyfus was wrongly condemned, the great figures of the time who were split among Dreyfussards and anti-Dreyfussards—many are the aspects of a case that is handled in new fashion by the author of this volume who is professor of modern history at the University of Birmingham and a visiting professor in French universities.

In his thorough research, Prof. Johnson points out that there were at times indications that Dreyfus might have been guilty. Many fair-minded people were misled or were skeptical.

There were suspicions of many of the activists, at times in their own ranks, and the Dreyfus supporters were not thoroughly united at all times. Often Dreyfus' brother Mathieu was suspected. Emile Zola was not always on safe ground.

Many were the evidences of anti-Semitism. Even in the case of Col. Georges Picquart, who made great sacrifices to save an innocent man when he became convinced of Dreyfus' guiltlessness, there was a mark of anti-Semitism. Prof. Johnson comments about him: "Picquart . . . was an Alsatian Catholic. He spoke German, and several other languages; he was cultivated, intelligent and ambitious. . . . He had attended Dreyfus' court-martial and it is not known that he had anything particular to say about it. He had also attended the degradation parade, and the only thing that is known about that arises from the remark of a colleague, who commented that Dreyfus watched his buttons and braid being torn off with particularly close attention. Picquart replied that Dreyfus was probably calculating the weight and the price. This unthinking type of anti-Semitism might well have been typical of many Alsations."

Such and other evidences of anti-Semitism are reviewed to indicate the sentiments of the time, the elements who played a part in building up a case against the Jewish captain, the manner in which France was split on the affair.

There is an interesting concluding paragraph to Johnson's book that serves as an impressive commentary on his work. It states: "The Dreyfus affair had been a great moment. The issues appeared clear, the causes seemed just, the excitements of great controversy were appealing in themselves. It was exhilarating to think that a great examination of the conscience of the country was under way. Like Lamartine in 1848, people had the feeling that they were living the most sublime poetry. When Paul Dupuy, the former secretary-general of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, died in 1948, he asked that on his tombstone should be inscribed the words, 'Here lies an old Dreyfussard.' One can see why he did this and one admires him for it."

Theodor Herzl's presence at the trial and his formation of the modern Zionist movement as a result of his experiences, the feelings of people who made up the warring camps, the establishment of Dreyfus' innocence but the refusal of anti-Semites to believe it—these and many other factors make Johnson's "France and the Dreyfus Affair" a most important book.

## Bermant's 'Diary of an Old Man'

Chaim Bermant, already highly acclaimed for a number of his novels, produced another interest-demanding work about an old-age pensioner who delights in taunting others and in spreading mischief.

The new book by the Polish-born writer who now lives in Scotland, "Diary of an Old Man," published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston (383 Madison, NY17), is entertaining and perhaps will even provide guidance for students of old age problems.

Chaim Bermant already is working on his fifth novel.