

# The Jewish Veteran

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

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82

April, 1960

## MIAMI BEACH EXPECTS RECORD JWV TURNOUT

### NEC Replies Sharply To Fulbright Charge

The National Executive Committee meeting in Washington, D. C. on Saturday, April 30th, lashed out at Senator J. W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for remarks he made on the floor of the Senate during the debate on the so-called "Freedom of the Seas" Amendment to the Mutual Security Act.

In a strongly worded telegram, containing a statement to the press, which was also sent to Senator Fulbright, JWV denounced as "an outrageous insult to the democratic way of life" statements by the Senator, who is Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, which "impugned the loyalty of American organizations which seek to amend the course of American Foreign policy."

"The Arkansas Senator in remarks made on the floor of the Senate had charged that the so-called "Freedom of the Seas" Amendment to the Mutual Security Act passed that day was in-

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### JWV Mourns Ben Weitzer

JWV Posts throughout the country were saddened by the death of Bernard Weitzer, National Legislative Director of the Jewish War Veterans on Sunday, May 1st. He was 68 years of age.



Mr. Weitzer, known to all affectionately as "Ben" had been in his present post at national headquarters for the past thirteen years.

Mr. Weitzer brought to JWV Posts the skills and

knowledge of a lifetime of world travel and business experience. A graduate of Cornell University, he worked with the Alexander Hamilton Institute in New York until the outbreak of World War I, when he enlisted in the Army, where he served in the artillery.

After World War I, Mr. Weitzer was employed successively with a New York import-export firm: Vice President of Tradeways, a New York management consultant firm; Vice President of Sales for the New York Post Encyclopedia and Book Division and Vice President of the Bureau of International Affairs in New York.

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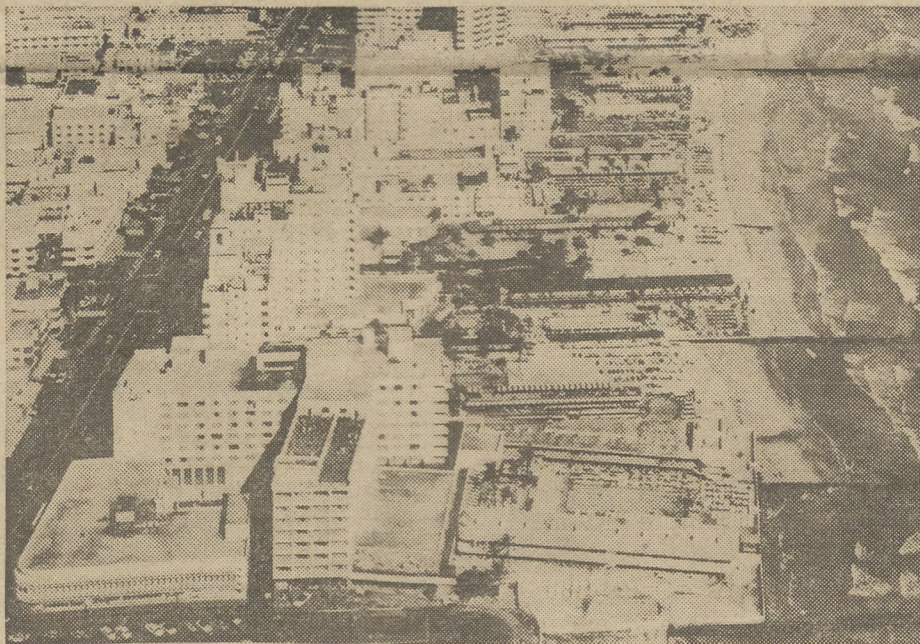
### Fabulous Convention Stirs Big Response

Convention reservations were coming into National Headquarters at a record pace last month as delegates rushed to sign up for the fabulous Miami Beach convention at the plush Deauville Hotel to be held August 7th through 14th.

JWV's 65th Annual National Convention is expected to attract the largest

turnout in JWV history. A special rate of \$8.00 per day per person, two in a room, has been arranged and includes a host of packaged extras available to delegates who stay at the Headquarters hotel. Among the extras are the following:

- Free chaise lounges at pool side (normally a charge of \$1.00 per day or \$5.00 per week is charged for each guest.)
- Early Bird Night, Sunday, August 7th, free cocktails, weiner roast, entertainment and dancing.
- Cavalcade of Stars, Monday



Here is beautiful Miami Beach beckoning all JWV and JWVA delegates to the 65th annual National Convention to be held August 7th to August 14th. Make your reservations today. Reservation form is on page 5.

## JWV Membership Takes Leap Forward

More than 2,000 new and 6,000 retained members were reported to National Headquarters during the Spring Membership Drive, concluded last month. Vigorous campaigning by Posts throughout the country,

coupled with a successful JWV Insurance plan, which brought many members into the fold, has resulted in a membership net gain of over 3700 members, as of May 1, compared to the same time last year.

Departments have also been active in re-activating old posts. Many charters have been reissued in such states as Indiana, Virginia, and Los Angeles, to provide posts for the ever-expanding

JWV membership.

One of the factors in JWV's membership rise, in addition to the drive, was the amazing success of the official insurance program which as of April 30th, signed up twenty-five percent of the entire membership.

The names of the winners of bonds, offered as incentive prizes during the

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### Reservation Form Page 5

evening, August 8th, top entertainment in the hotel's magnificent Napoleon Room.

• Quiz Show, Wednesday evening, August 10th, entertaining diversion for fun-seeking delegates.

• Boat rides, regularly conducted boat rides all week on the Hotel's fabulous yacht "The Jolly Roger."

• Bowling Competition, including free transportation.

• Services Friday night and Saturday morning.

• Also available for guests in the hotel: an ice skating rink; swimming pool; putting green, 21" TV in every room.

Rooms at the hotel will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. JWV's commitment with the hotel is for the use of "all" hotel rooms not just those set aside for the lower rates.

Because of the limited space available for the National Commander's Banquet and the National President's Luncheon, delegates are urged to send in their checks for tickets along with their minimum deposit.

For those who want to know exactly what it will cost them to stay at the hotel, here is a breakdown.

I. 7 nights (8 days) Aug. 7-14—European Plan (without meals) (two in a room) \$137.50 for 2.

2 Registrations

2 tickets—Early Bird night (Sunday,

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**THE JEWISH VETERAN**  
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## Editorial Comment

### Bernard Weitzer

The death of JWV's National Legislative Director was a sad blow to all who knew him, especially those who worked closely with him on the Washington scene. His keen guidance and fierce dedication to the free way of life made him one of America's most respected legislative representatives, lobbying for causes which are traditionally associated with freedom-loving organizations.

To the last, he was eagerly seeking ways to urge Congress to pass the Mutual Security Act and the "Freedom of the Seas" amendment.

He was never one to back away from a good fight. Even those who disagreed violently with the policies he espoused were his friends. He was a remarkable individual in every way and brought to his job as National Legislative Director a half century of rare experience.

Ben Weitzer will never be forgotten by JWV.

### Religion In Politics

JWV was the first national organization to speak out against any attempt to equate religion with politics. With this statement in mind, we were deeply disturbed by efforts to inject the religious issue into the Kennedy campaign in Wisconsin and then in West Virginia.

We knew that sooner or later Senator Kennedy would have to take the bull by the horns and denounce those who insist upon equating his qualifications with his religious affiliations.

While JWV does not take sides in any political campaign, we were heartened in a purely non-partisan way with the speech made by Senator Kennedy before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington on April 21st.

National Commander Bernard Abrams wrote the Senator pointing out that "our organization, many months ago, long before your decision to step into the Presidential race, had decried the issue of religion in politics. We urged then that the issue be taken out of politics by leaders of both parties.

"Frankly, it was naive of us to think that this could be done. The episode in the home stretch of the Wisconsin primary and the issue in West Virginia is compelling enough for you to speak out in so straightforward a manner.

"Bigotry, prejudice, intolerance, and disrespect for another man's faith, or color or creed are not the American way."

Senator Kennedy replied with thanks, writing that he appreciated Commander Abrams' "taking the time to write the views of your organization. May I say here also that your last paragraph is an outstanding statement in the American tradition."

### Picketing

There can be no denying that the United States State Department was responsible for bringing pressure to bear on AFL-CIO President George Meany to use his "good offices" to end the picketing of the "Cleopatra" in New York. The saddest footnote to this episode, was, however, the statement made by the Egyptian President, Nasser, who called the stoppage of picketing a victory for the Arabs. While we disagree vehemently with this ruthless dictator, we are obliged to agree heartily with his comment on this subject.



## The Commander Reports

by Bernard Abrams

National Commander

If ever there were a time for the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. to speak up, that time came on the eve of the National Executive Committee Meeting in Washington, April 30th-May 1st. A day or two earlier, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate had publicly castigated the Senate for yielding to so-called "minority pressure groups" on the question of the "Freedom of the Seas" Amendment to the Mutual Security Act.

Senator Fulbright had, by his statements on the floor of the Senate, impugned not only the loyalty of those groups who had urged upon the Senate the passage of the Amendment, but had also impugned the loyalty of the Senators themselves.

Senator Fulbright had implied that organizations, such as the Jewish War Veterans, have a dual loyalty. This is not the first time that we have been accused of this nor will it be the last. But we are not hereafter taking the defensive on this issue nor did we when we answered Senator Fulbright's callous and untrue remarks.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see the telegram sent by the National Executive Committee to the newspapers and to Senators Fulbright, Douglas and

Keating, the latter two Senators were the sponsors of the "Freedom of the Seas" Amendment.

It would be fruitless to repeat that the Amendment to the Mutual Security Act merely backed up what President Eisenhower had decreed when the United Nations had sent their official forces into the Gaza Strip.

It is American policy, never contradicted, to work unceasingly for the Suez Canal as an international waterway open to all nations and flags, to which our President has committed our nation. The telegram reflects the deep rooted opinions and the feelings of our membership.

It is strong and forthright because our stand is strong and forthright. If we are to be true to our role as the "Patriotic Voice of American Jewry," then we must step out with all the vigor and resourcefulness that we can command.

Incidentally, I have just returned from the Joint Orientation Conference sponsored by the Department of Defense. My travels took me to many military bases where I was afforded a view of our defense posture that was both stimulating and enlightening. In my next column, I hope to report on this tremendous experience.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

National Commander Bernard Abrams received the following letter recently from Rabbi Maurice Solomon, of the Kehilath Israel Synagogue in Kansas City, Missouri.

"Kehilath Israel Synagogue appreciates your warm expression of sympathy and concern over the serious catastrophe which has befallen us with the recent bombing of our edifice. Because of the phantom smearing of our building with the Nazi symbol of the double cross—and similar desecrations of three other Jewish buildings in Kansas City—eleven days prior to the bombing, it becomes apparent that this crime is part of a series of anti-Semitic activity throughout the nation. The law enforcement agencies are extending their best efforts to apprehend the perpetrators of the crime, but at this moment they are still stymied.

"My suggestion is the Jewish War Veterans turn to President Eisenhower—who is your former General in the European Theater of Operations and who saw the concentration camps after the war—and request that he ought to speak out forcefully at a press conference, saying that these neo-Nazi bullies should be squelched, and he ought to press for legislation to crush this incipient Nazism in America. Under our present system, it is possible for the F.B.I. to discover 13 youths who carry "Nordic Reich Youth" Cards, who confessed to smearing swastikas on synagogues, and because they are under 17 years of age they go scot-free. Something must be done to rectify that kind of immunity to hooliganism and viciousness.

"Again, we wish for you to know that we appreciate your fine attitude in our behalf."

Dear Editor:

The writer is of Jewish faith, a native of Chicago. I have engaged in a detailed study of the factors which make up the over-all subject of Brotherhood. Through your publication, I wish to ask your readers of their specific knowledge they

might have contained in the Old Testament. I need a variety of information on selected passages which I can condense and incorporate into a presentation or drama, serving to portray "God's version of Brotherhood."

It would be very helpful to me if your readers would submit certain quotations from the Old Testament where an expression or deed of brotherhood is shown. I plan to prepare a two-act drama with a cast to include the three faiths, to which I will synchronize spiritual music, to be interpreted by a mixed chorus or choir. I am a retired professional musician formerly active in New York, Chicago and on three national tours.

This project will take me many months to prepare but in the final analysis I will ask the National American Legion to personally sponsor its presentations, free to the public.

Very truly,  
Walter Spilkay,  
304 5th Ave.,  
Denton, Maryland.

Dear Editor:

It is conceivable that our industrial tycoons may well be over-emphasizing the employment of youth while ignoring the desperate problem of finding work that daily confronts men and women in the upper age brackets. We hear of men brusquely turned away solely because their ages disqualified them under the existing pension plans of the organization.

Lest there be here some misunderstanding at the outset, we are not discussing the unemployable, the incompetent, the feebleminded, the drifter, the migrant, the criminal, the perennial alcoholic, or the very aged and infirm. Briefly, we are primarily concerned with men and women who are altogether capable, intelligent and willing to do a job supporting or aiding in the support of their families. As a case in point, the need of a woman to dye her hair and mull over in her mind a safe reply regarding her age, preparatory to a job interview, is not, in our estimation, an altogether happy augury. It is almost a step away from the slave marts and auction blocks of a century or so ago when purchasers demanded to see for

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