

The Jewish Veteran

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

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JWV ALERTS KENNEDY, IKE ON NEW TENSIONS

ACTION SOUGHT ON HATE MAIL

JWV last month became heavily involved in the question of what legal steps could be taken to stop the flow of hate-mail going through the mails.

Prompted by a large number of hate-mail pieces flowing through the mail in connection with the election, particularly pieces with a vicious anti-Catholic bias, National Executive Director Joseph F. Barr took the opportunity to once again urge upon the Post Office Department a "deeper look" into the problem.

Quick Action Taken On Hollywood Nazis

The appearance of pickets wearing Nazi armbands in front of the Huntington Hartford Theater in Hollywood, Calif., protesting a Sammy Davis, Jr., show prompted Commander Feuer last month to dispatch the following telegram to Attorney General William P. Rogers:

"Neo-Nazi activities such as picketing in Los Angeles by uniformed Nazis calls for investigation by Federal agencies. What is the relationship between such actions and picketing by Nazis of a political headquarters in Washington recently? Possibility of a conspiracy should not be overlooked."

Mr. Barr's offensive took the form of calling for an investigation by the Treasury Department to determine whether or not tax-deductible funds were being used to finance the mailings. He also urged upon the Post Office Department a determination as to the steps which could be taken to set up legal machinery to deal with the problem.

In taking the action Mr. Barr called attention to the several requests by JWV "without success" to have Congress investigate the financing of hate groups and literature.

"If such an investigation had been made," Mr. Barr pointed out to Treasury and Post Office officials, "it would have had a deterring effect on both the volume and intensity of hate literature. We are convinced there will be an attempt to flood the mails before Election Day and this has to be stopped."

JWV was the first National organization to decry injection of the religious issue into the campaign. The organization had pleaded that candidates must be judged on their merits.

"No one can know how despicable hate literature is better than we do," Mr. Barr said. "As an organization, we

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Cautions on Arabs Exploiting Transition

Washington, D. C.—The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. has warned that Arab governments are attempting to exploit the transition period of change-over from the Republican to Democratic Administration by intensifying anti-American measures linked with the Israel issue.

In letters to President Eisenhower and President-Elect Kennedy, Na-

tional Commander I. L. Feuer called attention to the announcement by the Arab League of an intensified campaign against American and other shipping, being denied transit through the Suez Canal, solely on the basis of such vessels having stopped at Israeli ports. Commander Feuer reminded the President of his television statement of February 20th, 1957, when in urging Israel's victorious world forces to withdraw from conquered areas (Israel's actions had been taken because of unprovoked assaults by the U.A.R. Fedayeen), the President, in the name of the U.S.A., had promised stern action should the U.A.R. not abandon its denial of transit through the Suez.

Commander Feuer called attention to the announcement by the Arab League Boycott in Cairo that three additional American freighters will be barred from Arab seaports because the ships traded with Israel. The Arabs made clear the blockade is being tightened and warned that despite expressions by the United States Government, American vessels will be punished for entering Israeli seaports.

Mr. Feuer expressed confidence that "the incoming Administration will not countenance such cynical Arab action." He expressed his hope that the Kennedy Administration would not announce a promise of stern action, to be followed by appeasement.

He called for implementation of the stated policies of the Administration against the Arab bloc and simultaneously alerted the President-elect.

The newest additions to the Arab blacklist were the American ships "Ike" (7,309 Tons); "Marine Voyager" (7,667 Tons); and "Exanthia" (6,533 Tons).

Mr. Feuer said that "if the Arabs are permitted to flout the Centuries old policy of freedom of the seas and insult the American flag, we have retreated from the days when we insisted on our just rights, as exemplified by the words 'to the shores of Tripoli' in the Marine Corps hymn, so sacred to Americans."

Mr. Feuer recalled that C. Douglas Dillon, then Acting Secretary of State, on May 6, 1960, notified the Seafarers International Union that Arab harassment would be met by "efforts to assure freedom of the seas and to protect

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No Longer Alone

Elsewhere in this issue is a thoughtful exchange of correspondence between the General Counsel of the Post Office Department and the National Executive Director of the Jewish War Veterans on the subject of hate mail.

The correspondence was motivated by the terrible flood of hate-mail that ran through the mails during the election campaign. With national attention focused on the problem, Mr. Barr felt that it was a good time to press for some action on every phase of the issue.

But while we were in the vanguard of what might be loosely interpreted as a massive expression of revulsion against religious bigotry and prejudice, we are gratified by the knowledge that we had allies in this cause. Too often in the past we had found ourselves a lone voice in previous expressions of similar revulsion.

Too often our requests fell upon deaf ears. Too often we trod the corridors of Congress and the administration alone . . . determined, true to our mandate to fight the battle against bigotry . . . but irrevocably, frighteningly alone.

How many times have we been to the Department of Defense urging that the hateful discriminatory practice of screening out American servicemen of the Jewish faith from service in the American base at Dhaharan? How many times have our representatives met with failure?

How many times have we visited the office of the Attorney General in an effort to have action taken against Rockwell's American Nazi Party? How many times have we failed?

How many times have we been to Congress urging a deeper look into the entire problem of bigotry? How often have we been rebuffed?

And although we look upon these un-

successful efforts as our failures . . . they were, in reality, failures on the part of the American people, a basic blindspot in the American psyche.

Interpret the election results as you will, one thing is certain. The old shibboleth that a representative of a minority group could not become President is gone with the wind. Just as the earth turned out to be round not flat and Catholic Dublin could elect a Jewish Lord Mayor (now it's London that's done the same), it can now be said, with truth, that every American born today has a chance to aspire to the Presidency.

Indeed, history will record that the American people in 1960 in effect, ratified the Constitution of the United States; for our forefathers wisely did not include a religious qualification as one of the requirements for eligibility to the highest office in the land.

It would be naive to assume that many who went to the polls did not consider the religious question. Undoubtedly many did. JWV, being non-partisan, was not as much concerned with who would win, but on the candidates being judged on their merits—not on their religion.

JWV was the first national organization in the country to decry the injection of religion into the political arena. Back in June, 1959, long before the political grist mills began to grind, we publicly urged all Americans not to consider the question of religion in judging qualifications for political office.

Instead, the results speak for themselves. Whatever may be said about this election, whatever conclusions are drawn by pundits of both parties, the fact is inescapable that in the 1960 Presidential elections voters of both parties, Republican and Democrat, gave bigotry a thorough trouncing.

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An Editorial

JWV Looks Ahead

Last month marked a stepped up effort on the part of JWV National Headquarters to participate with more vigor in the arena of national and world affairs.

We made this move, after careful study, and for reasons that are basic to our very survival as an organization.

At the heart of our consideration was the fact that we believe that JWV has been given the mandate of history to assume an ever increasing role in events which dominate American Jewish life.

Ours is a mass membership, dipping into every important American community and directed by a national mechanism. Our members, by reason of their service, have a role that implies less of a purely sectarian interest than other affiliations within the framework of what we know as the organized American Jewish community.

The process of evolution has also, in addition to refining methods and motivations, a tendency to distort the central theme which set in motion the process in the first place.

We want to get back to where our forefathers placed us when they originally formed our organization 65 years ago.

They wanted us to be spokesmen for our American and Jewish faith.

They wanted us to be vigorous, responsible, outspoken and progressive.

They wanted us to translate into action the thinking and desires of our people.

They wanted us to speak out with candor about the things in which we believe. They wanted a powerful voice in the American community.

The attainment of this powerful voice in American affairs is the one unalterable primary goal of our organization. We believe that history has placed us in a position to realize this goal.

We have come to the realization that our membership demands the kind of aggressive leadership that seeks and can deliver such an objective.

They seek, too, a national image for JWV that commands respect, that attracts the finer elements of the community, that offers the kind of dynamism that augurs fulfillment.

The decade of the sixties will surely be one which will decide the fate of freedom. If we have learned one thing from history it is that Jewish identity does not survive without an atmosphere of freedom.

Each of us, as individuals, or as individuals involved in an organizational identity, must contribute the best part of ourselves to winning the world for freedom in this decade. To contribute its share calls for a revitalization of JWV down the line.

President-elect Kennedy has said:

"I think that we must prove to a watching world that we are the wave of the future and that the Communist system is as old as the Pharaohs."

If JWV as an organization is to be a part of this "wave of the future" our demands upon the present must be the strongest that is in our power.

In short, JWV is now on the way to the attainment of the summit of prestige and influence.

The Commander Reports

By

I. L. Feuer

National Commander

Expectations

Now that the election smoke has cleared and the hindsight Harry's have had their field day, it is time to soberly look at what we can expect from the Kennedy Administration in terms of JWV's programs and efforts.

We have every right to expect a more liberal approach from Kennedy to such subjects as housing, immigration, federal aid to education, mutual aid, defense appropriations and the Middle East. Kennedy has been in the forefront of programs to increase expenditures in the field of mutual security, housing, education and defense, largely along the lines suggested by our resolutions.

He has expressed himself on the subject of immigration in opposition to the National Origins quota system. In terms of the Middle East, Kennedy has stated many times and in many ways that Arab appeasement was never a solution to the problems of that area of the world. He has been vocal on the question of Nasser's violation of UN mandates especially on the question of keeping the Suez Canal open to all nations.

He has also expressed his opposition to the Arab boycott and in a personal interview with me on September 8th led me to believe that he will work diligently for peace in the Middle East and most assuredly would use every means at his command to see that the Suez canal would be open to all flags.

JWV Friend

In short, John Kennedy has always been a friend to the Jewish War Veterans and the policies for which it stands. He has fought with us on many issues, and we have every reason to believe that he will stand up for those principles which have been so basic to his political life.

But while we have high hopes for the Kennedy administration in terms of the adherence to that road which we feel is

furtherance of our own program, and best for America, we also understand the realities of political life. A President can provide strong leadership, guidance and direction, but he cannot lead in a vacuum. He must have allies.

Unfortunately many of those in Congress who have consistently opposed the legislative suggestions embodied in our resolutions are still in Congress, still in important and influential positions.

This means that our legislative activities must be stepped up sharply to give our point of view maximum strength and effect.

Foreign Affairs

Our interest in foreign affairs prompts us to carefully assess the new Secretary of State. This is the second most powerful position in the country. Kennedy will have to choose with particular care here and we shall watch this appointment closely.

We await with anticipation, the Kennedy Administration's proposals to fulfill the idea expressed during the campaign of a "new frontier," new ideas, a new dynamism to assure America of being a part of the "wave of the future."

But slogans are slogans, and actions are actions. In short, Kennedy has the ball. But we at JWV sit on the fifty-yard line ready to cheer the runner if he runs our way and ready to supply invective and criticism if he runs in another direction.

We look upon ourselves as in the forefront of the actions of the American Jewish Community. In Washington, our influence on the political scene is, I believe, second to none in the American Jewish Community. We want to spend the next few years increasing that influence.

This will take cooperation and work on the part of JWV members throughout the country. We know we can count on it.

JWV Seeks Action On Ex-Nazi General

JWV asked the Defense Department last month to identify publicly and to dismiss a former German general, employed by the U. S. Army at Dachau, West Germany, who made statements which caused an investigation by Bonn authorities.

Bulletin

As this edition went to press National Headquarters received word from the Department of the Army revealing the identity of the German general, employed by the Army in Dachau. The identity of the man is being kept secret pending a decision by JWV to release it.

In a telegram to Secretary of Defense Thomas A. Gates, Jr., National Commander I. L. Feuer of the Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. demanded the Defense Department to take immediate action.

The issue emerged when Lord Russell of Liverpool, who was British War Crimes Prosecutor at Nurnberg, quoted recent remarks by an unnamed German officer that Dachau's Gas Chamber was really only a shower bath; that crematories were built for propaganda purposes after the war, and that no Jews were murdered. It adds to the defamation that the remarks were made at the site of "the notorious Dachau Death Camp where thousands of innocent vic-

tims of the Hitler regime were brutally murdered," said Commander Feuer.

Commander Feuer pointed out that the West German Government has opened an inquiry and is said to be considering pressing charges of slander and defamation of the dead. Doctor Carstens, Secretary of State of the German Foreign Ministry, has emphasized, however, that the former General is not employed by the Bonn Government, but by the United States military establishment at Dachau. Dr. Carstens said that West Germany was not responsible for the employment of such civilian personnel by the United States Government.

Commander Feuer said he thought it "an affront to the memory of the thousands of American servicemen of all faiths who died while combatting Nazi ideology, to employ such an obvious Nazi."

Commander Feuer also questioned whether a German militarist who still espouses the Nazi line was not "a security risk of confirmed totalitarian leanings."

The Defense Department was asked to make a full report on the matter to the Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. A. Below is a copy of the telegram to Secretary Gates.

"Urge immediate public identification and dismissal of former German officer now allegedly employed by the U. S.

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