

The Jewish Veteran

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

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BROOKS ELECTED CMDR. SAVITZ NEW JUDGE ADVV.

JWV Endorses Kennedy Atomic Testing Policy

President Kennedy's policy on atomic testing was endorsed last month and the President was urged to state in person the United States position at the United Nations General Assembly, in a letter from National Commander Theodore Brooks of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

National Commander Brooks told Mr. Kennedy his reaction "to the Russian attempt to terrorize the world is consistent with the highest traditions of responsible leadership." The President's decision, in response to Soviet provocation and unilateral action involving nuclear testing, was described as meriting "the unqualified support of every American."

The White House decision to conduct underground tests was termed "a dramatic manifestation of the concern of the President . . . for the health of each living being as well as that of the generations to come."

The Jewish War Veterans pledged its support to Mr. Kennedy and urged him to go personally before the United Nations General Assembly to "symbolize the determination of Americans to promote the peaceful aspirations of all peoples."

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. is the oldest active war veterans organization in the United States.

The letter to the President is as follows:

Dear Mr. President:

We of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America commend you for your forbearance in face of the resumption of nuclear testing by the Soviet Union. The reaction to the Russian attempt to terrorize the world is consistent with the highest traditions of responsible leadership. It leaves little doubt throughout the world, even behind the Iron Curtain, of the intent of the Government of the United States to pursue the continuing search for peace while at the same time buttressing our national security as well as the physical integrity of the free world.

Your decision to begin underground testing merits the unqualified support of every American. In the face of the calculated Soviet action to pollute the earth's atmosphere, your determination to conduct underground tests is a dramatic manifestation of the concern of the President of the United States for the health of each living being as well as that of the generations to come.

The stirring words of your inaugural address are more profoundly pertinent today than January last. As colleagues

under arms in a conflict now a primitive war by thermonuclear standards, we offer our support in the exhaustive and frustrating travail of waging peace and preparing for any emergency at the same time.

The Jewish War Veterans respectfully urge you to take the United States position, in person, to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The momentum of world public opinion is running against Premier Khrushchev. Your personal appearance would symbolize the determination of Americans to promote the peaceful aspirations of all peoples.

With all good wishes,

Theodore Brooks
National Commander

MEMORANDUM TO ALL HOLDERS OF JWV LIFE INSURANCE

The Life Insurance benefits provided in your policy shall be increased ten percent (10%) in the event of your death during the calendar year beginning January 1, 1962 and ending at Midnight, December 31, 1962. No additional premium.

Theodore Brooks of Freeport, N. Y. was elected National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, and Joseph J. Savitz of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. was elected National Judge Advocate, climaxing the 66th Annual Convention, held last month in Baltimore, Md.



I. L. Feuer, immediate PNC, turns over gavel of authority to National Commander Brooks immediately following his election.

A fitting start to the national convention was the receipt of personal greetings from President Kennedy, who told the over 2000 delegates that "Today, those who protect freedom are besieged from many directions, are forced to face many demands. But when Americans sees their duty and respond to it, as the Jewish War Veterans have done for well over half a century, then freedom need no fear."

Among the resolutions adopted were several, calling upon Federal authorities to take action against the American Nazi Party, and, condemning the program and ideology of the John Birch Society.

A resolution dealing with American policy in the Middle East called for American guarantees of Israeli-Arab borders, stimulation of peace negotiations, and the resettlement of the Arab refugees in Arab countries. All of the resolutions can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Also addressing the many delegates were leading city, state and national government officials, including Mayor J.

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Feuer Talks To President

The importance of resettlement of Palestine Arab refugees in Arab countries, in addition to repatriation and compensation by Israel, was stressed by recently retired National Commander, I. L. Feuer during a talk last month with President Kennedy at the White House.

Commander Feuer, accompanied by Joseph F. Barr, JWV National Executive Director, urged the President to consider resettlement of the Arabs as a vital part of any just and practical

solution of the refugee problem.

White House spokesman Andrew Hatcher, commenting on the JWV meeting with the President, said that Mr. Kennedy concurred in the hopes for Middle East peace.

Only a few days ago before, Commander Feuer had wired the President, endorsing his address to the Nation, expressing support by JWV of the President's civil defense program. The telegram prompted President Kennedy to dispatch a note, expressing appreciation for JWV's pledge of support, to JWV's National Commander.

The telegram, sent to the President of the United States, read:

"The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America hails and endorses your address to the nation. Your proposals to rebuild the conventional arsenal of our defense and to actually put muscle into the civil defense program deserve and we hope will get the support of every American."

"We offer our firm support and our prayers that your efforts to keep peace will bear fruit. May God give you health that you may continue and may his wisdom guide you and our nation in these troubled times."

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Last official function of National Commander Feuer, right, was to talk to President Kennedy. Accompanying him was National Executive Director Joseph F. Barr, standing.

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Albert SchlossbergNational Editor
Henry ShieldsNational Co-Editor
Louis SchrierEditor-in-Chief

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Rumblings On The Horizon

At the most recent meeting of the JWV Policy Committee a proposal was presented which asked that JWV support a position of the President's Committee, an organization composed of President's and Leaders of major National Jewish organizations of which JWV is a member, to seek a meeting with Secretary of State Dean Rusk to discuss questions of interest to the American Jewish Community.

Among those questions which would be discussed at such a meeting would, inevitably, be the question of the United States position concerning the State of Israel. JWV approved the action and suggested that when the delegation to Rusk was finally named that the National Commander of JWV be included.

There was considerable discussion on the subject, not a heated debate, but rather an exchange of views symptomatic of what must be being voiced elsewhere in the American Jewish Community.

Foremost in the minds of many was whether or not the United States position toward Israel would be changing in the months ahead. There was speculation, for example, that the power struggle in the United Nations would have an unsavory effect on this relationship.

The United States, in order to achieve its purpose in the U.N., namely the defeat of the Soviet proposal to effect a three-man secretariat or "troika" as a substitute for the one-man Secretary-General, must within the context of the harshest realities of political life court with considerable ardor the Afro-Asian-Arab combination.

Will the United States have to make concessions to this group? Will the concessions have a dreaded effect on U.S. relations with Israel?

On the other hand, and this point was raised rather strongly in the Policy Committee, hadn't President Kennedy, while he was a Senator and during his campaign favor those policies which would create a just peace in the Middle East based upon resettlement of the Arab refugees as a prime consideration. To date, the President has made no concerted effort in this direction. This has troubled many including members of the Policy Committee who carefully raised this point.

One speculation was particularly frightening:

Would the President take a calculated risk that he would retain his Jewish support by explaining that the security of the United States made it mandatory for him to take a position that peace in the Middle East could only come about through repatriation and compensation without first coming to grips with the question of resettlement of the Arab refugees?

In other words, would he be forced, by the exigencies of world pressures and politics, to make a deal with the Arabs to seek a peaceful solution by adopting the Arab position?

Some members of the policy committee considered such a prospect as impossible and expressed their faith that the President would not yield to any form of blackmail if it meant compromising our honorable commitments, particularly to those nations who have displayed their friendship and their adherence to the democratic spirit time and time again.

Nevertheless, the nagging itch of doubt permeated the Policy Committee, just as it must have permeated the thoughts of other policy committees or their counterparts in other organizations.

The game of survival has become, ironically, a kind of Russian roulette, where one never knows whether a flick of the trigger will discharge the loaded barrel.

Compounded with this doubt is the ever present reality that a hard core of anti-Israel forces are continuously at work in the State Department. By and large these are men who have served in Arab lands and viewed with disgust the abject poverty of the masses of Arabs who have endured ugliness and disease at the hands of corrupt rulers for centuries.

They see the great numbers of Arabs as opposed to the handful of Israel's and they are unabashedly willing to sacrifice Israel and what it stands for for what they deem as the greater good, the uplifting of the Arab masses and, they believe, the ultimate alliance of the Arab world with the Western bloc.

They are blind. They are deluded. Their eyes are veiled. Their minds

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The Commander Reports

By
Ted Brooks
National Commander

The Times That Try Men's Souls

It was Thomas Paine who wrote the immortal words "These are the times that try men's Souls." He wrote them on the skin of a drum back in the days when America was fighting to be born.

But the echo comes back today, stronger than ever, as America fights to survive. Never before in history has the world been so tormented by terror. Never before in history has civilization been so desperately tried. Never before in history has man stepped so close to the brink of disaster.

The terror, like a giant octopus, comes into our homes, into our daily comings and goings, into our children's minds. It fills our hearts with foreboding, permeating us with doubt and uncertainty.

And, as Thomas Paine was speaking, too, for our own times as well. For the American revolution is still going on. It is going on all over the world as the poverty-stricken, the downtrodden, the oppressed, seek to attain even a minimum level of human dignity.

We must, therefore, view our organization and what we represent against the tapestry of a world in ferment. If we are to be effective we must speak out strongly with firmness, with strength. Our voice must be loud and clear . . . and militant in the tradition of our founding fathers.

For the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. as an organizational entity, this is also a time of crisis. The principles

which underlie our reason for being stand out in sharp relief against the background of the times.

Fighting the battle of the Jew "wherever unjustly assailed" is more important than ever, for history has shown that in times of upheaval and uncertainty that battle becomes more intense, more demanding. Hate groups are more prone to lift their faces out of the mud and cry for recognition, taking advantage of the times, offering as panacea the old bug-a-boo that the Jew is responsible for the evils of the world.

The hate groups are beating their drums again, with a greater intensity than in the past 25 years. The times, for example, make possible the rooster-strut of the Nazi-type psychology, taking the form of organizations such as the American Nazi Party and others.

Even more insidious are the hate groups that masquerade under apparent respectability, gaining adherents with a philosophy that has strong overtones of facism. Such a group is the John Birch Society wrapped in the flag and high-sounding verbosity and backed by staggering financial resources.

Standing up to these hate-groups takes all the resources, both in finances and manpower that we as an organization can command. This is a time for intensification of effort, to strengthen our voice both on the local and national level.

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Capitol Corridors

by Felix Putterman
National Legislative Director



Several weeks ago Life Magazine carried an extensive spread on the building of family fallout shelters. This information had been readily available at Civil Defense headquarters long before Life undertook this fine example of public service. Along with the article the magazine published an introductory letter from President Kennedy urging the reader to participate in the shelter building program.

Obviously this is part of a program to kick complacent and lethargic Americans in the psyche. For along with his effort in pressing the Congress to establish a disarmament agency and his repeating time after time the aim of our government to explore every avenue to peace, the President must make each and every American family aware of what we as individuals have at stake in terms of a nuclear war. Civil Defense provides the most direct channel to that most elemental of all motivations—self preservation.

Since the President's return from early in June, the Nation's Capital, perhaps with the exception of the House of Representatives, has been moving to the muffled tempo so characteristic of the extremely serious business of preparing for the worst. Khrushchev's posture at Berlin, the Soviet-engineered crisis in Berlin and K's decision to resume nuclear testing on the eve of the Belgrade Conference clearly mark the treacherous turn from sanity. Finally, to many here, Dag Hammarskjold's tragic demise has accelerated the downward plunge to disaster—the disaster that weighs so heavily on the mind and conscience of the President of the United States.

Washington observers are concerned that the rest of the country lags far behind in understanding the significance of the world situation as it effects the

personal security of each American. If the performance of many members of Congress reflects the thinking of voters back home then surely this is not an unfounded concern. Short of the shattering impact of full mobilization, the almost daily stream of military announcements should create a serious impression if only in terms of individual involvement. Unfortunately it would appear that foreign observers are much more impressed by our defense build up than we who are taxed to support it. Accordingly the Administration must use a full scale comprehensive Civil Defense program as the vehicle for bringing home the facts of real life to each community across the land.

Since Civil Defense is keyed to survival, the narrow national response to the need for sacrifice may inadvertently be broadened by the individual will to live. Moreover a truly enlightened Civil Defense program would overcome the existing abysmal ignorance of what is involved in fighting a nuclear war. For while there are today in our population more citizens familiar, from first hand experience, with the total disaster that is war, this reservoir of experience is unfortunately limited to the Model T conceptions of World War II rifles, naval guns, fighters and bombers. The hard facts of survival, the numbers

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