



# The Jewish VETERAN

"THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

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JUNE, 1968



National Commander Samuel Samuels paid a recent visit to the Department of State and was privileged to talk with its No. 2 man, Under Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach. The subject under discussion was the rising tide of anti-semitism that is rampant in Poland today. Commander Samuels expressed the views of his organization and told of the many ways it was expressing disapproval, including a recent protest demonstration in front of the Polish Embassy in Washington, D. C. Picture on Page 7.

## Programs for Nat'l Convention Readied By the Committee

The 73rd Annual National Convention of The Jewish War Veterans promises to be one of the most stimulating of any convention the organization has ever had.

Meeting at the luxurious Hotel Diplomat in Hollywood, Florida, the week of August 18th through the 25th, this JWV Convention meets in a year that has not only been epoch-making, but a year that is unparalleled in history-making headlines.

The Convention Committee being cognizant of this fact, has top-flight plans afoot to see that the agenda of the Convention—from the keynote speaker—to the agenda itself—will be in keeping with the fast-paced times of today.

Plans are under way right now for conducting two highly informative workshops.

(Continued on Page 3)

## The Second Bolt of Lightning

The shot that killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles may foretell America's last chance to recognize the danger that faces us.

Our choice is simple. Unless we take the path that will lead us to reason one with the other to respect our rights to differ, to recognize that an unordered society is chaos, then the only alternative road will lead to the law of the gun and a "wild west vigilanteism".

Our deep concern is for America itself. We express the fervent hope that this latest in a mounting number of desperate acts of violent extremism will at last cause Americans to face up to the grim fruits of hatred and violence.

Effective gun control legislation, long overdue, would greatly ameliorate the problem. But what is basically needed is a commitment by everyone to live by the golden rule: Do Unto Others As You Would Have Others Do Unto You. In attitude as well as action, respect should replace fear and hatred.

## JWV Action Is Set—Decision... "Attitudes Must Change"

The National Policy Committee of The Jewish War Veterans held its meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on May 18, 1968.

This was a momentous meeting with an agenda teeming with many important issues of the day but the Number One issue was the burning one called... URBAN CRISIS!

JWV has no need of instituting a new policy regarding this issue that is rocking the nation to its very foundations. JWV's views have been clearly stated over and over again in the months past. As an editorial in the May issue of The Jewish Veteran plainly put into focus, in the opinion of The Jewish War Veterans the URBAN CRISIS is a two-sided coin.

One side of the coin is stamped MINORITY RIGHTS. The other side of the coin is stamped LAW AND ORDER.

The National Policy Committee took a long look at both sides of the coin so it could set forth what The Jewish War Veterans could and

should do about the URBAN CRISIS.

It considered the side of the coin stamped MINORITY RIGHTS first of all. JWV, like other Jewish organizations, has consistently opposed enforced inferiority or any denial of equal opportunity to any minority group.

Long ago The Jewish War Veterans took a firm stand that legislation was long overdue in mandating equality in this country, particularly when it came to housing, as well as in other areas. JWV has never deviated from this stand.

On the side of the coin stamped LAW AND ORDER, JWV like other Jewish organizations stands firmly in support of law and order. It has always condemned the acts of looting, burning, and rioting in the streets as the justified ways of achieving the minority rights on the reverse side of the URBAN CRISIS coin.

JWV has repeatedly main- (Continued on Page 11)

## JWV Fights Attack Upon U.S. Military Chaplaincy

Demands have been made, by groups opposing the national commitment in Vietnam, that the military chaplaincy be terminated and all chaplains discharged from the service.

The JWV has issued a statement defending the chaplains. It voiced "serious misgivings" over the clamor to end the system of military chaplaincy.

It was stressed that "the Chaplain may not under any conditions bear arms nor command troops. He is concerned exclusively with morale. Thus he holds religious services, counsels individuals, visits and comforts inmates of hospitals and prisons, officiates at services for fallen soldiers and serves as a valuable contact for parents and families of servicemen. He wears a uniform which traditionally has es-

tablished his status and facilitated his movements in the course of performing his duties."

JWV asserted that the value of military chaplains "has always been great and will long survive the termination of the present war." The needs of America's far-flung troops were stressed.

Those who would deprive soldiers of chaplains "are not striking a blow for peace nor making a legitimate protest against the war. They are striking a blow against fellow Americans whose service makes a free society possible for all including the dissenters," said the JWV statement.

The organization found the suggestion that civilian chaplains be hired to be "highly impractical". It was pointed out that military commitments abroad

(Continued on Page 2)

BE A MATCHMAKER! HELP YOUR POST AND PROSPECTIVE JWV MEMBERS DISCOVER EACH OTHER!

# Editorially Speaking

## "A" IS FOR ATTITUDES

Foremost in the minds and hearts of every thinking American today is the critical Urban Crisis.

**There is not one person** who, in the light of the torches that set cities afire across the country, did not say to himself, "What can I do? How can I help? Where have I been to blame? What role can I play in this terrible situation?"

**The National Policy Committee at its recent meeting** went straight to the first letter of the alphabet to find a word that could very well have been the villain that fanned the flames of the Urban Crisis in the first place. Ironically, it could turn out to be the very word that could cool those same flames. The word is ATTITUDES.

**The Committee recognized, and recommended,** that old, worn-out ATTITUDES must change on both sides of the Urban Crisis coin. There must be a change of ATTITUDES of bigotry and prejudice. By the same token the ATTITUDES toward the forces of law and order, too, must change.

Yes, a simple word ATTITUDES could help every American play the most vital role of his life in a production that could turn our cities into places that echo to the applause of "fine" instead of to the screams of "fire."

**Changing ATTITUDES must become a reality in America.** After all there are many words that begin with "A" including a very ugly one—ANARCHY.

## "C" IS FOR CHAPLAINS

Attempts to destroy the sacred and patriotic status of the Military Chaplaincy, by pressures to eliminate the uniformed Chaplains from our armed services, are being made by the very people who counsel dissent.

**Those who are so shrill in defense of the "rights" of the "hell no, we won't go" crowd can't seem to understand that Rabbis, Priests, and Ministers have a right to serve . . . and our boys, facing death, are at least entitled to the comfort that religion offers.**

The absurd charge was made that the Military Chaplain is the "handmaiden of the government." We regret that one Jewish organization, in the name of church-state separation, has demanded termination of the Military Chaplaincy system. **Our reply is found in a statement in a front page story of this issue of The Veteran.**

**JWV stands solidly behind our men in uniform including our Rabbis in uniform.** We will fight with all our strength against the misguided and muddle-headed pressures by Jews or non-Jews to take the Chaplains out of the army. We have nothing but contempt for this sniping at the brave men of God . . . like the four martyred Chaplains who gave up their life jackets and went down on the torpedoed U.S.S. Dorchester.

**WHO WOULD DENY THEIR SON A CHAPLAIN'S SOLACE? WE WOULD NOT! WE WILL NOT!**

## "L" IS FOR THE BIG LIE

Anti-semitism in Poland goes back a long way. Its most recent manifestation has motivated massive protests in the United States, not only among Jewish groups but Polish as well. JWV is proud of its efforts in mobilizing Veterans, many of them of Polish ancestry, in giving the lie to Poland's Gomulka that "Jews are treated much better in Poland than Poles are treated in America."

We totally distrust anything that Polish leaders might say on this subject. They are now increasing their pressure on Jews in that unfortunate country. Our only hope is that they truly open their doors to those who wish to leave to go to Israel. **JWV will continue its activities in mustering public opinion against Poland on this and other issues.**



National Commander Samuel Samuels, at his own National Commander's Banquet, turned the tables on Louis Silvey, the oldest Post Commander of the oldest JWV Post in New England, Post 22 of Boston, Massachusetts. "Silvey" received an Award for his great years of devotion to JWV in all its phases and projects.

## JWV's Stand On Chaplaincy Issue

(Continued from Page 1)

were often in such areas as Vietnam and Korea where no civilians are available. Large training centers in the United States are frequently in sparsely-populated areas.

JWV said that "we cannot agree that the military chaplaincy infringes on the church-state relationship." The veterans insisted that the chaplain "is not the handmaiden of any governmental dogma," and insisted that he is no spokesman for government policies nor compelled to renounce personal religious convictions.

According to JWV "every profession and every segment of society has contributed to the armed forces over the years. We do not believe that the ministry should now become exempt. We urge the continuance of the military chaplaincy as a long and honored tradition with a continuing and useful function."

**ASK ANY MAN OR WOMAN WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES, "TELL IT TO THE CHAPLAIN!" MEANT MUCH MORE THAN G.I. HUMOR.**

## Save Merchant Fleet Urges NC Samuel Samuels

"Starvation of the U.S. Merchant Marine is false economy and corrosive of our security," said National Commander Samuel Samuels in a dramatic press release on May 29, 1968.

The Commander spoke out in commendation and support of a series of full-page ads put out by the National Maritime Union of America, and other members of the AFL-CIO Maritime Committee chaired by Joseph Curran. The full-page ads, one of which appeared in The New York Times, were headed, "The Soviets are Burying Us at Sea," and warned our country against the swift and dangerous decline of America's Merchant Marine fleet, once the world's greatest, now a sad sixth and still sinking!

National Commander Samuels joined NMU President Joseph Curran and other far-sighted maritime labor leaders in warning our country that the Soviet Union, building feverishly to supply its far-flung military and economic fronts, will soon be the menacing wielder of the world's most powerful merchant marine.

The JWV leader recalled the organization's strong public warning along these same lines 'way back in 1965. Unfortunately the warning was not heeded by the United States.

**"It is axiomatic that our merchant fleet during a na-**

(Continued on Page 4)

## Thinking Out Loud



By Albert Schlosser  
National Editor

## A Chinese Wall—American Style

"The new President, though later to become an internationalist, was at first almost indifferent to the rest of the world. It was not just that domestic worries were so many and so pressing that they left no time for other concerns. It was also that the President, like his compatriots, was steeped in the old isolationist traditions that the only proper business of the United States lay right at home. During this decade, isolationism reached what was probably an all-time peak. It was a time for being cynical about war and patriotism; it was commonly accepted that we had become involved in the . . . War only because we had been the naive dupes of shrewd propaganda. In the search for scapegoats for war guilt, the investigations of munitions makers by the . . . Committee in the Senate offered one of the most popular; it was believed that these 'merchants of death' deliberately fomented wars to increase the market for their wares. As soon as the sound of aggression from across the seas—in -----, in -----, in ----- began to be disturbing, we insulated ourselves with neutrality laws that forbade trade with either side in a conflict. It made no difference that our neutrality always seemed to harm the victim more than the aggressor. We were safe—so we thought—and that was what mattered."

There's no escaping it. At dinner, at cocktails, at the ball game, wherever we are, conversation usually gets around to the war in Vietnam. In these casual, friendly conversations the subject, without fail, usually includes the question, "What business of ours (the U.S.A.) is Vietnam?"

The lead-in to my column this month purposely is a quotation and the blanked out spots were for emphasis. I didn't mean to play twenty questions, but I wanted you to refresh your memory. I wanted to point out how the slogans of today, 1968, parallel the catch-words of the 1930's.

The President was Roosevelt—the time was the 1930's. But there the look-alikes part company. Today in the late 1960's the loud voices cry "We have no business in Vietnam"; "It's an international affair"; "The U. S. isn't in danger"; "No matter which side wins or loses, the North or the South, it won't change things for us." But the same people, in great numbers, are the ones who clamored for early involvement in the war in Spain, in Ethiopia,

in Europe and of course, in the Pacific.

The search for peace in Southeast Asia has begun. The conversations in Paris will be frustrating, disappointing and drawn out, but in the end we will reach an accord that will stop the bloodshed. We will all breathe a sigh of relief but then the real danger will begin. Will we be so weak of the struggle that we will turn our backs on aggression when it pops up again? Vietnam is not the only tinderbox in this world. Keep your eye on Czechoslovakia. Will Russia stand by and see her influence whittled down in Europe or will she react in a manner similar to the Hungarian episode? What of the Middle East? Will the U.A.R. puff up their courage with the hot air of their rebuilt arsenal of sophisticated weapons? When they think that they are ready, will they deter them from striking the flint to the steel and ignite the flame of hatred against Israel? Will we turn our backs and shrug our shoulders and proclaim "That's their problem, we've got enough headaches here at home?"

Instead of dissipating our energies in meaningless calumny we would hope that we could get out of the mire and muck of pro and anti-Vietnam conversations and devote our efforts to the core of the problem—how we involve ourselves in the affairs of the world so that Vietnams and Middle East wars not become wombs for worldwide conflagrations. Just because we support educational programs of fire prevention we don't band our fire departments; neither do we let our neighborhood house burn to the ground because it's two blocks away from our home. Isolationism is more appropriate in 1968 than it was in 1930. Let's not build an American Chinese wall.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Dramatic Editorials and Columns with Impact.
- Assistant Nat'l Executive Director Chasin "guests" Memo from National.
- JWV Insurance News for the 65 and Over Crowd.
- Convention Highlights, Tour and Package Plans.