



The Jewish VETERAN

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NOVEMBER, 1968

Neaman Given Highest Award At Gold Medal Award Dinner

In one of the most brilliant Testimonial Dinners in the history of JWV, Samuel Neaman, head of the great retailing empire, McCrory Corporation, was presented The Jewish War Veterans' highest Award . . . its Gold Medal of Merit.

At the climax of the gala occasion the Award was presented to Mr. Neaman by JWV's National Commander Charles Feureisen on behalf of the 100,000 members of his organization.

This outstanding event was attended by more than eight hundred guests and was held at the Americana Hotel in New York City on October 20, 1968.

Chester Roth, President of Kayser-Roth Corporation, was Chairman for the Dinner, and it was Mr. Roth who expressed so well why Mr. Neaman was being so honored by JWV when he said, "The Jewish War Veterans recognizes in Samuel Neaman one of modern society's true leaders, a man of high principles

and accomplishments in a variety of fields, ranging from business through humanitarian endeavors."

The principal speaker of the evening was General (Ret.) Alfred M. Gruenther, former NATO Supreme Commander, former President of American Red Cross, who chose as his subject "The Role of the Citizen Soldier." In developing his subject the General brought forth the fact that both the honored guest, Mr. Neaman, and indeed The Jewish War Veterans fell into this category."

The affair sparkled with the names of the famous who had come to do honor to Mr. Neaman. One of the dramatic moments of the evening was the appearance of former Sergeant Major Asher Braker, who came from Israel to salute his former Comrade-in-Arms whom he hadn't seen for over two decades. The former Sergeant wore his

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The gala dinner that honored Samuel Neaman when he was presented with JWV's highest Award, the Gold Medal of Merit, was something to smile about—it was beautiful! Here we present L to R: Charles Roth, Chairman of the very successful event; General Alfred M. Gruenther who was the main speaker; the award winner himself, Samuel Neaman and National Commander Charles Feureisen. Mr. Neaman is President of McCrory Corporation and Chairman of S. Klein Department Stores.

JWV Joins in "Million Signatures" Petitions to the UN

The Jewish War Veterans is proud to join with the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and the National Community Relations Advisory Council in helping to secure one million signatures on petitions labelled "Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Behalf of Soviet Jewry."

These petitions are to call attention to the serious plight of Jews in the Soviet Union and will be presented to the United Nations in a formal presentation ceremony when representatives of The Jewish War Veterans, along with other groups from the Jewish community, meet with the Secretary General of that Assembly—U Thant.

National Program Director William W. Carver of JWV has already sent out blank petitions to all Post Commanders and Program Chairmen in the organization so that every Post across the

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JWV Commends President Johnson On North Vietnam Bombing Halt

The JWV's National Commander, Charles Feureisen, speaking on behalf of his organization, highly commended the action of the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, in ordering a bombing halt in North Vietnam.

The JWV has always supported our Government's twin determination both to resist Communist aggression in South Vietnam, and, at the same time, to do everything possible to bring about a just and lasting peace.

We feel that the President's announcement, for which the world has long been waiting and praying, proves the sincerity of the United States government's will towards peace.

The Jewish War Veterans fully understand the many factors that prevented such action being taken until now.

The JWV hopes that a just and lasting peace will emerge from this bombing halt . . . and firmly believes that this courageous and statesmanlike action on the part of the President will add much to the historic image of Lyndon B. Johnson.

JWV Patriotic Addresses Win Applause from Coast-to-Coast

Once again the nationwide series of Patriotic Addresses and Sermons, prepared by The Jewish Veterans for pulpit and platform, commemorating Veterans Day in this country, were applauded from coast-to-coast by those who heard them in the Friday evening Sabbath series that marked the historic date of November 11th, when we honor those of our countrymen who gave so much to this — their country.

The addresses were given by JWV leaders and Rabbis and the subject of the addresses was not only timely but of interest to every person in this day of great national and international concern.

The prepared addresses warned of the increasing menace of international communism . . . of the aggression and subversion that threatens the security of the free world today . . . that in fact threatens the very existence

of Jews everywhere.

Beginning dramatically with the words, "In commemoration of Veterans Day, thousands of Jews will gather in Synagogues and add to the regular prayers of the liturgy, pleas for the vindication of the sacrifices made on battlefields throughout the world and throughout history . . . battlefields where the cause of decency, dignity and democracy have been valorously upheld," the addresses also highlighted the fact that on the international front, the Communist bloc nations clearly pose a grim threat to the peace and to free men everywhere, and to the State of Israel in particular.

The addresses brought home to one and all even as belief in the unity of the Lord is averred, so we now are becoming increasingly aware of the forces which oppose humanity in its effort towards ethical elevation.

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Editorially Speaking

Does It Help?

It has become grimly and transparently clear, not only to the Jews of the world but to all others, that the aim of Soviet policy toward its Jewish citizens is to pulverize and ultimately eliminate Jewish consciousness among Soviet Jews and to isolate the Jews of Soviet Russia from their fellow Jews in other parts of the world.

We also know that Soviet Jewry clings to the hope and the realization that in the West, among Jews and non-Jews, there are those who are deeply concerned with their fate and want to help. Russian Jews believe, and rightly so, that their own government is sensitive to this concern when expressed in public demonstrations abroad. It is a matter of record that the Soviet Union at times has softened its measure to crush Jewish culture after strong protests in the West.

Because of public protests, the obtaining of Matzohs by Jews in the U.S.S.R. has become easier in the last few years. Because of public interest, before the 1967 Six Day War, Soviet Russia had begun to allow reunification of families, though on a very small scale, to the outside world, including Israel. Since that war, the trickle of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union has continued.

After demonstrations and protests, the Soviets react defensively, showing sensitivity and concern with world reaction.

Protests and mass demonstrations, involving all segments of the community *MUST CONTINUE*, utilizing new as well as old methods and techniques, designed to arouse the concern and cooperation of ever greater masses of people and to inspire their interest and participation. JWV's patriotic image has been prominent in every rally and demonstration as a leading participant in the Jewish American Conference on Soviet Jewry.

When the call for action comes again, respond again, in ever greater measure!

JWV Family

Remember that a Jew is typically a family man just as Judaism is a family religion. In the JWV family, too, our goal should be to work closely and happily with all the members of our organizational family.

That means not only all of the echelons of JWV itself but also our Auxiliary and the distinguished National Shrine to the Jewish War Dead.

Russia In The Mid-East

On dealing with the Soviets, one experienced expert described their attitude as "what's mine is mine and what's yours is negotiable."

This is grimly evident from the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia allegedly in defense of "the vital interests of socialism," on one hand, and the increasing determination of the Communists to penetrate and then dominate the Middle East.

In the past, Soviet Russia yearned to break into the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Some time ago, the Russians described the Near East as "a region in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet Union's southern borders."

Recently, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, at the U.N., after defending the Russian rape of Czechoslovakia, significantly referred to the Near East as "the region directly bordering on our southern frontiers and where the situation directly effects the security of the Soviet Union."

This is an ominous forewarning, for Israel and particularly for the United States and the nations of the free world. It appears to be the first determined move in putting together alleged legal justification for possible further and wider interference in the Near East.

Isn't it time for the United States to make its policy and its determination as to Israel clear and unequivocal, by public declarations, by armament support, and by treaty or alliance?

Neaman Receives Gold Medal Award

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"Desert Rat" khakis when he was reunited with the man he has served under twenty-five years ago when both had been with the British Army, assigned to the 650th General Transport Company that was in the thick of both the North African and Italian campaigns under the American Fifth Army, of which General Gruenther was then Chief of Staff. Mr. Neaman became Commanding Officer of the Company.

Also at the dinner were two other veterans who had seen service in the British Army with Mr. Neaman. They were Daniel Gelmond of Tel Aviv, who is head of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and Meshulam Riklis, famed industrialist of New York City.

The gathering was especially honored to have Philip Mishon, Immediate Past National Chairman of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, who is presently a Vice President of AJEX, address the assembled guests.

Mr. Neaman was a member of AJEX when he was engaged in business in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Mishon's speech was one of the highlights of the great occasion and excerpts from it are printed on Page 4 of this issue along with pictures taken at the Testimonial Dinner.

Mr. Neaman, in accepting JWV's highest award, joins an illustrious company of men who have been thus honored by the organization. The list includes—the late President John F. Kennedy, Senator Herbert H. Lehman and General (Ret.) Omar N. Bradley, General (Ret.) James Doolittle, Dean Acheson, and PNC Abraham Krador.

All who attended this Testimonial Dinner and listened to the speakers tell of Mr. Neaman's great humanitarian work so quietly and modestly done, echoed what all JWV members feel about him receiving the Gold Medal of Merit . . . SO WELL DESERVED!

To President-Elect
Richard M. Nixon

On Behalf of the More Than
1,000,000 Veterans of the Jewish
Faith We of The Jewish
War Veterans of the U.S.A. Express
Our Congratulations on Your
Election and Pledge Our
Loyalty and Our Support in the
Interests of your Efforts on behalf
of America and the Free
World.

Charles Feureisen
National Commander

Thinking Out Loud



By Albert Schlossberg
National Editor

The Many Faces of Violence A Look at Campaign '68

"Chicago, Chicago, that's my kind of town. . . ." used to be just a line from a Sinatra hit song, but since the Democratic Convention of 1968 "Chicago" connotes many things to many people. To the extremists on the right it became a launching pad for a sharp turn towards a police-state government. Only "tight control," (a euphemism for extreme repression), so they said, could control the excesses of the hippies, yippies and mixed up protestors. "Show em whose boss and they'll respect law and order." became the battle hymn of their proposed new republic.

To the over-zealous liberals Chicago became the womb of their efforts to remake the Democratic party in their own image. If you couldn't win, drop out and we'll build from the ashes of ruin, they said.

To the vast majority of Americans in between these two extremes Chicago symbolized the start of a trend that caused concern to all who believe that fair-play was not an 18th century anachronism to be thrown out with the garbage wrapped in yesterday's newspaper.

One of the most frightening aspects of the recently concluded political campaign, whatever your party affiliation, was the INABILITY OF THE CANDIDATES TO TRAVEL FREELY IN THE COUNTRY, MIX WITH THE ELECTORATE, PRESENT THEIR CASE, AND STAND OR FALL ON THE ISSUES AND POSITIONS THEY SUPPORTED. No matter where they went, in Boston, in Utah, in Laredo, in California, in Florida, in New York, the legions of anarchy pressed their relentless pursuit. Hecklers could have been handled. Debators could have been debated. Insults could have been ignored. BUT NO CANDIDATE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD, SUCH A DENIAL WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE PERPETRATORS OF VOCAL VIOLENCE. Candidates were forced to cancel personal appearances and in their effort to get their message across they had no alternative but to rely on the misleading and impersonal T.V. screen and radio broadcast. Though the major issues cried out for discussion, non-issues became the headline grabbers. In any contest, sports or political, the stretch run is the crucial period, but in campaign '68 because of the rabble rousers and

vocal violence the candidates were denied in-person access to the electorate.

Who is to blame for this vocal violence? All of us are, some more, some less. In the Jewish community relations field when JWV stood alone and challenged the concept of "quarantine" as it applied to the American fuhrer, Rockwell, JWV was told, "Don't make a martyr out of him, like it or not we have to protect the right of free speech." As well disciplined members of the organized community JWV bowed to the will of the majority and played by the rules of the game. But where were these same spokesmen for free speech when the candidates were being denied their right to free speech?

The pre-convention candidates were found wanting also. Involvement in the electoral process should not have ended in Miami Beach and in Chicago. Where were the McCarthys, the McGoverns, the Rockefellers, the Romneys and so many of their followers? Why did not they chastise their former followers. Would it not have been easy to jointly call for a moratorium on the abuse and villifications? Could they not have said, "STOP—LET THE CANDIDATES BE HEARD." Some leaders quietly voiced their dismay but too few were willing to climb the mountain and sound the alarm.

The universities and colleges were equally at fault. If a teacher doesn't teach, who then is to lead the way? In too many instances instead of pointing out the error of the harrassment, professors and instructors joined in the melee. There were some who could see beyond the ivory tower and took strong positions but others chose the course of least resistance, perhaps due to the fact that they had less intellectual intestinal fortitude, were swept along with the tide and bowed to the wreckers while they passed by the buildlers.

The news media was not guiltless. Too many editorials lacked strength. Too many non-issues were blown up out of proportion. Too often the T.V. networks vied with one another to ferret out and build up insignificant minutia to monumental importance.

How many clergymen, of all faiths, were willing to lay their pulpits on the line and build their sermons around the need for respect for the right of the candidates to be heard. If reli-

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