



The Jewish VETERAN

VOL. 26, NO. 2



Published By The Jewish War Veterans
Of The United States Of America

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FEBRUARY, 1970

Commander Sees President On Vietnam, Draft, Israel



Commander Direnfeld presents JWV medal to President Nixon at the White House. The Commander accompanied by National Executive Director Felix M. Putterman and National Consultant Dr. Seymour Weisman met with the President late last month.

Commander Bernard Direnfeld met late last month (Tuesday, January 27th) with the President of the United States.

The Commander presented the President with a JWV medal and citation which read: "To Richard M. Nixon, patriot, statesman, fellow veteran, with the profound respect and warm admiration of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., 75th year of service to our beloved country, January, 1970."

Commander Direnfeld was accompanied on his visit by National Executive Director Felix M. Putterman and National Consultant Dr. Seymour Weisman. He reported that the President was in excellent spirits, cordial, and received the delegates warmly.

Their talks covered wide-ranging subjects including Vietnam, the Mid-East, and the Draft. Commander Direnfeld reiterated the organization's position supporting his efforts to "de-Americanize" the war, reporting also that the American Jewish Community appeared as split over this issue as was the rest of the country. The Commander offered the hope that the timetable for bringing the boys home would be expanded as security

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Smith Road Deplored By JWV

National Commander Direnfeld deplored the release by the Federal Government of \$182,000 to build a road in Arkansas "as a misuse of taxpayers' money to subsidize indirectly the propaganda activities of Gerald L. K. Smith, the notorious hatemonger."

Commander Direnfeld said that the objections of the JWV were ignored by the Government. He disclosed that the Ozarks Regional Commission of the U.S. Department of Commerce concedes that "the need for repaving is occasioned by the fact that the road is heavily traveled by visitors desiring to see the statue and play operated by the Elna

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JWV Policy Group Meets in Washington

The National Policy Committee, meeting in Washington last month, voted to adopt the recommendations of the Foreign Affairs Committee on the issue of the present State Department's policy toward Israel, which most national Jewish opinion has termed "appeasement of the Arabs."

Presented to the policy group in behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee by its Chairman, Robert M. Zweiman, the adopted recommendations were as follows:

(1) Continue the letter writing campaign emphasizing opposition to the "administration policy."

(2) Promote informational public meetings in local Post

areas.

(3) Promote personal contact with elected officials not only in Washington, but when the Congressman visits in his local area.

(4) Rally public opinion through our contacts with the various veterans organizations.

(5) Seek, through the National Commanders of the various veterans organizations, a petition for a meeting with the President of the United States at which time the Commander of the J.W.V. would present the position of the American veteran community.

Another topic of prime interest was the question of what action to take in connection with

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JWV Delegates Participate In Emergency Conference

Bon Voyage To Members

The World Convocation of Jewish Veterans gets underway this month as hundreds of JWV members and their families depart for Israel. Among the many activities will be the National Executive Committee meeting of the Jewish War Veterans. According to PNC Sam Samuels the group will be addressed by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Special trips to Eilat and the Sinai Desert will also be arranged. Bon Voyage. Have a safe journey.

The National Commander and members of the Policy Committee led a large delegation of J.W.V. members from all over the country to participate with other major Jewish groups in a "National Emergency conference on peace in the Middle East," held at Washington's Statler-Hilton Hotel.

As part of the opening session, Commander Direnfeld introduced Eldon James, Past National Commander of the American Legion and Claude Calligary, Past National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans who had accompanied him to Israel. He cited the statement made by

the group of eight Past National Commanders upon their departure from Israel as affirmation of the mass American support for the valiant people of that beleaguered country.

The mass meeting, attended by more than 1,000 delegates was intended to publicly stress the American Jewish Community's dissatisfaction with the course of State Department action in trying to motivate a Middle East peace. Jewish opinion in this country had crystallized to a point where the community was almost unanimous in its feeling of anxiety over the State Department's policy as enunciated by

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Editorially Speaking

DOUBLE CROSS OF LORRAINE

As with De Gaulle, once again the soul of France has been betrayed by its leaders. It appears that President Pompidou has established the Cross of Lorraine as a new symbol of the "double cross."

The sacred memory of the American men who gave their lives in the liberation of North Africa in 1942 has been defiled by this latest underhanded action of the French chief of state.

All concern for liberty, justice and honor has been tossed aside by the French head of state in his hasty rush to court the radical Arab elements and to expedite the replacement of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean by the Russian navy.

President Pompidou's visit to the U.S.A. should trigger a massive display of U.S. revulsion over his chameleon-like stewardship of the affairs of France. After his record of duplicity in his relationship with U.S. Ambassador to France Shriver, we have serious reservations about the propriety of the invitation extended to him by our government to visit the U.S.A.

We note with satisfaction Mayor Lindsey's action in New York City to deny M. Pompidou an official welcome. We would be encouraged if Congressmen would boycott the special Congressional Joint Session summoned to honor the French President. Jewish Veterans will rally behind the banner: "Pompidou go home."

Continuing De Gaulle's cynical embargo, the French government's betrayal of Israel was escalated when they sold Mirage jets to Libya whose proclaimed policy is to join in the Arab assault against Israel. When our own government beseeched Paris not to heat-up the arms race by helping the Russians build up the Arabs, Pompidou answered with contempt.

We regret the irresponsible conduct of the leader of a nation for whom our members fought and died in two world wars. Some remain interred in French soil. We hope that the true spirit of France transcends the Pompidou era and we again see a France dedicated to liberty, equality and fraternity.

SUBSIDIZED HATE-MONGERING

We are appalled at the ill-advised action of the Federal Government in approving funds to finance the highway improvements benefiting Gerald L. K. Smith, the notorious anti-semitic.

Eureka Springs, Arkansas is the site of Smith's so-called "shrine." Exploiting the "Christ of the Ozarks," Smith created a foundation to take advantage of the faith of believers to support his hate rackets. Somehow the government determined that the "highway" to Smith's "shrine" needed improvement—to the tune of \$182,000.

We are distressed that a government that is having so much difficulty providing adequate funds for veterans hospitals and for education, can apparently provide such bounty to an anti-American, anti-semitic bigot.

A better public service would have been rendered if the government had closed the road as a public nuisance. Its main beneficiary is the Smith Crusade.

If it is not now too late to undo this flagrant misuse of public funds we urge the appropriate agencies to stop this project forthwith.

Nixon Meeting

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considerations permitted.

The Commander also brought up the organization's fears on the question of Israel while commending the President for the "assurances" outlined in his statement issued to the Emergency Conference on Peace in the Middle East in which he said in part that "the United States is prepared to supply military equipment necessary to support the efforts of friendly governments, like Israel's, to defend the safety of their people. We would prefer restraint in the shipment of arms to this area but we are maintaining a careful watch on the relative strength of the forces there, and we will not hesitate to provide arms to friendly states as the need arises."

Commander Drenfeld also reminded the President that he was the principal speaker at the Dedication of the National Shrine for Jewish War Dead when he was Vice President in 1954.

The President of the United States traditionally meets with the new Commanders of a number of veteran's groups each year. The meeting with Commander Drenfeld represents the first time since he has taken office that the President has met formally with representatives of a major national Jewish Organization.

(See Commander Drenfeld's column for further information about his meeting with President Nixon.)

Policy

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the visit of French Premier George Pompidou in connection with his visit to this country later this month. It was agreed that J.W.V. Posts would participate in organized public demonstrations, including picketing, to express dissatisfaction of France's Mid-East policy, particularly in the light of that country's sale of 150 jets to Libya.

Suggestions were made in connection with action to boycott French goods. The subject was referred to the Boycott Committee.

The Policy Committee also discussed the subject of an all-Volunteer Army that has been proposed by the Administration, a plan for which will soon be announced by the Pentagon.

At a previous meeting of the Policy Committee last November, the staff was ordered to prepare a paper discussing the concept of National Service as an alternative to the draft. The paper recommended that, pending the unveiling of the volunteer scheme by the Administration, J.W.V. take no position.

Thinking Out Loud



By Albert Schlossberg
National Editor

From all sides and from every strata attacks are chipping away at an old bastion of American democracy, our nation's public school system.

Sex education—yes or no—is it good or bad—is it evil or is it saintly? Prayers—in or out of the schools—open defiance of the courts or surreptitious prayer sessions? Segregation—outlawed by governmental edict and legal decisions remains a fact of life for school children in the North, the South, the East and the West.

Costs of public education spiral causing taxpayers to complain bitterly and to express their open revolt by refusing to support school-bond issues when they are put to the vote.

In every major city, as well as the small towns in between, the financial squeeze has made it difficult for the school boards to upgrade the quality of the educational product offered to the youth of America.

Singly, the foregoing are discouraging, but in any given combination they could spell the doom of the public school system as an effective instrument for the advancement of our society. But a new danger has presented itself for our consideration, far more insidious than the open sores that have plagued the schools in the past. It is an insidious virus that causes many well-meaning people to stand by while the false prophets call for support of their bold, new experiment in education. Their ploy is certainly bold, it is an experiment, but it is not in the best interest of our country. What is this new gambit? It's a call for massive PUBLIC SUPPORT, FINANCIAL THAT IS, OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Item. "By its mandate the Supreme Court has made 'quality education an impossibility' in much of the state," said Governor John Bell Williams of Mississippi in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that required 30 of the state's school districts to desegregate immediately.

For a clincher, the Governor of Mississippi then went on to call for "... establishment of a strong PRIVATE school system." (Emphasis is mine.)

Item. "A black education leader and his wife have withdrawn two of their children from Boston public schools and ASKED THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO PAY FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF EDUCATION." (Emphasis is mine.)

But here's the real bomb, "The major rationale is that it (public financial support of private schools) would break the MONOPOLY of public school systems. It would provide the economic resources to allow groups—blacks, Catholics, Jews—to avoid a public school system with which they were dissatisfied." (Again, emphasis is mine.)

In this day of selective conscientious dissent just who is going to be the grand vizier to make the decisions as to which school gets how much money?

As America has become affluent many of us have become fat and lazy with our success. Our short memories fail to remind us (Jews), that it was the public school system that gave us the intellectual strength to reach the state of success that most of us now enjoy. Our mirrors should remind us that forty or fifty years ago our people looked like the denizens of the ghettos of today. We too, then, were underprivileged.

Destruction of the public school concept will not solve the dilemma of our times. Let's rebuild the public schools of America, in a true democratic framework, where individuals will be recognized for their ability and their latent assets will be nurtured and cultured so that our country will reap the harvest of a most valuable asset, a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-religious populace.

Scout Program Advancing

Leonard Fuchs, National Boy Scout Chairman, has announced that the greatest number of Departments and Posts in the history of JWV are working on new Scouting programs.

A breakthrough in the Midwest with the Department of Ohio coming through with new Scouting units and with the Department of Illinois coming through in Chicago has helped this drive.

Posts from New York to California and from Massachusetts to Florida have suddenly awakened to the value of the Scouting program to their membership and to the Community.

The Chairman also announced the revival of the speakers bureau which is now again available. Any Post or Echelon that would like to have a speaker or program at any one of their

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