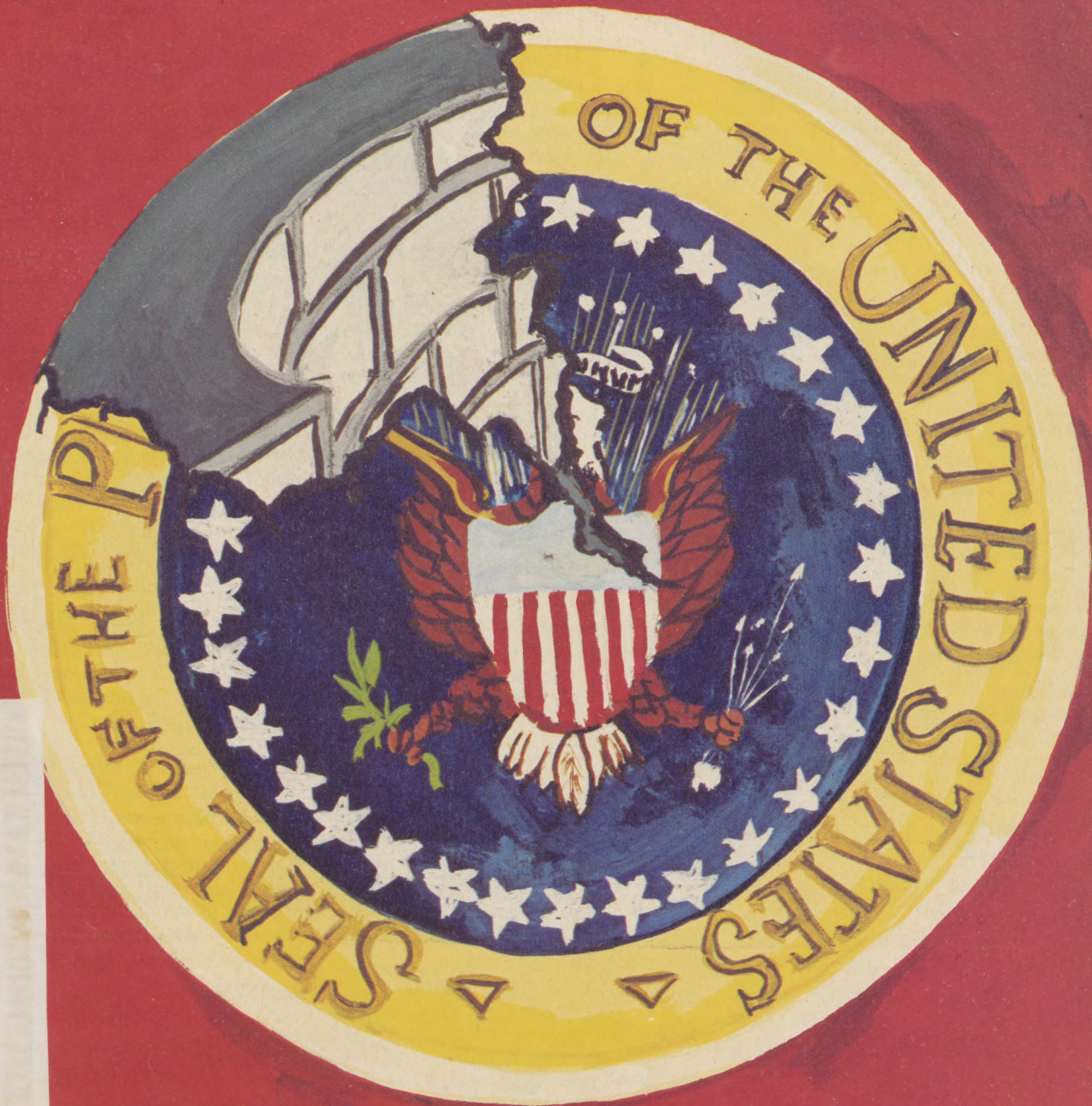


THE JEWISH

Veteran



318-000000877
JACOB BURKE
559 RIVER AVE
S BEND, IN 46618



The shocking Watergate revelations that have fostered in all of us troublesome doubts concerning the integrity and fidelity of our government prompted artist Penrod Scofield to symbolize the fallibility of this nation's highest and most revered office by depicting the Great Seal of the President of the United States cracked by the curvilinear chasm of the Watergate building.

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NORMAN TILLES

National Commander

NATHAN REIF

National Editor

FELIX M. PUTTERMAN

National Executive Director

1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D. C. 20009

Phone: 202-265-6280

JEROME D. COHEN

Executive Editor

WARREN ADLER

Managing Editor

ROLLY GIBBS

Administrative Editor

JIMMY MIDGETT

Art Director

JEROME N. NISMAN

Advertising Director and Associate Editor

EDITORIAL OFFICES

5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.,

Washington, D. C. 20015

Phone: 202-362-2257

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commander-at-large

By Norman D. Tilles, *National Commander*

If ever there was a tribute to the brilliance of the American concept of freedom so miraculously imbedded in our Constitution, it is shown in the public's reaction to two crises facing our country—Watergate and the separation of powers. One can only marvel at the insight of the drafters of the Constitution who wisely understood the frailty of man and provided us with a system that can withstand the pressures and passions of the human thirst for power.

It is refreshing to find that the American people, once they come to understand that their freedoms are threatened, have no qualms about ripping apart the exterior facade to get at the termites.

When the first news of the Watergate incident was made known, many predicted that the public would ignore it. Cynical statements such as "Well, politics is always dirty" were heard. Some predicted that the news media would cover-up tracks that led to those of high influence and power.

For a time last fall, it was only partisan politicians who reminded the public of Watergate. It seemed as if the cynics were right.

However, when investigative reporters and those involved began producing concrete proof of the charges, the public began getting interested. Now, the polls show the majority of Americans want the case investigated and those guilty prosecuted no mat-

ter how far it reaches. This is an excellent example of the unique American system at best.

In the matter of separation of powers, we are observing a process whereby the ball has bounced back to the legislative court after monopolization by the Executive Branch for a number of years. We see, for example, that the war-making powers given to Congress by the drafters of the Constitution and later relinquished by the fault of the Congress are now being reeled in once again by Congress.

Cambodia was the final straw that prompted Congress to stand up and reaffirm the Constitutional principle that only Congress has the power to make war on another nation. Our country has already suffered one Vietnam too many. We have our P.O.W.'s back. The President says we have found "peace with honor." There is no rational reason we should continue to waste our vital national resources attempting to prop up another military dictatorship.

It comes as no surprise to us that Congress should, in effect, order the bombing adventure in Cambodia to cease. Regardless what comes of it due to the actual wording of a bill that withholds the dollars for Cambodian bombing, it is apparent that the Legislative Branch has once again taken on to itself the power to make war. No President will, in my opinion, be able to again exercise this



questionable power as easily as it has been done in the past.

We are also witnessing a skepticism over the term "national security interests" which is evoked at every turn when the Executive Branch does not wish to explain to the American people something which is particularly embarrassing to it. This does not mean that the American people do not have an abiding interest in national security. Of course they do! They simply are unwilling to permit "national security" to be used for any other purpose.

Wherever the chips may fall, there is no question in my mind that the Watergate affair will, in the end, be one of the best things that has happened to this country in the last fifty years. Regardless of the results, it seems to me that our commitment to freedom will once again be rededicated; that Congress is, as the framers of our Constitution established, once again a true Congress; that the Executive Branch is once again the Executive Branch; the delicate balance between the three branches will persist; and that the basic way in which we view our own freedoms has been redeemed.

When I was a child, we used to evoke the "it's a free country" disclaimer over every minor issue that affected our lives. It seems to me the significant aspect of the country's reaction to these two crises shows that it is true today as it was then.

□

STUMBLING BLOCKS TO GERMAN-JEWISH CO-EX IS

by Arthur Settel

"Djid,"* widely known Yiddish correspondent for Jewish newspapers around the world, sat facing United States High Commissioner John J. McCloy, supreme representative of the U.S. in Occupied Germany, in the latter's spacious office in the I. G. Farben Building, on a hot July day in 1950 in Frankfort-am-Main.

He had sought and obtained the interview on my recommendation in my role as Chief Press Officer for the U.S. State Department in the infant Federal Republic.

The central thrust of the interview was how the "new" Germany was relating to its remnant of a Jewish population that had once exceeded 650,000 and now totaled perhaps 12,000 souls—all who remained after the Holocaust in a tortured and tormented land.

"Djid" used this *nom de plume* with deliberate intent: to remind readers of the term used by Polish anti-Semites in referring to Jews.

McCloy's position was simple, direct and to the point: German-Jew-

ish co-existence was possible, and in time could be nurtured and perhaps ripen into mutual understanding and eventual friendship between the two great peoples.

He did not condone the atrocities; he did not counsel forgiveness; he did not believe in miracles; one could not expect an instantaneous conversion to democracy. But democratic elements in Germany were receiving encouragement and support, and would in the end triumph over the vestiges of Nazism.

Djid opened his attache case and withdrew a sheaf of photographs.

"Mr. High Commissioner," he said, "I would like to bring to your attention a situation in present-day Germany which is unbelievable.

"In Koblenz, in the French Zone of Occupation, there is a suburb called Leutzel, and in Leutzel there is a street called Metternichstrasse. On a hillock on that street, there stands a shabby little building used as a kindergarten."

"Djid" laid out his photos on Mr. McCloy's desk.

"These pictures I took myself less than a week ago," he said. The steps leading up to the kindergarten

were of stone. German youngsters were shown at play on the steps.

"Mr. McCloy," said Djid, "all of these steps were taken from the ancient Jewish cemetery in Leutzel. Every one of them was a tombstone. Here," he continued slowly in broken but clearly comprehensible English, "you can see the Hebrew lettering."

The self-controlled, generally unemotional U.S. High Commissioner looked aghast at the display before him.

A transcript of the interview as published in New York's German-language newspaper "AUFBAU" quoted McCloy as saying: "Das ist allerdings ungläublich." (This is absolutely incredible.)

"When was this stairway built?" he demanded.

"The school was erected before the War but had been bombed out, and a temporary wooden structure put in its place. The stairway, however, remained," Djid replied. McCloy picked up the photos one by one, turned them around and fixed his gaze on the enlargements. The names of the deceased in Hebraic script, with the dates of their birth and death, were easily legible.

* the English equivalent of "Kike."