

THE JEWISH Veteran



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The Arabs and their oil have taken up a lot of the world's time these days. As Jews, it is particularly mortifying to discover that our co-religionists in Israel must once again be at the center of the world hurricane. There is, however, some comfort in knowing that the United States is not knuckling under to Arab oil pressure.

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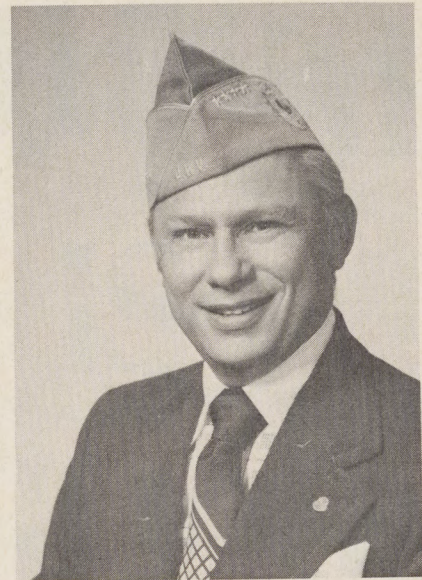
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commander-at-large

By Ainslee Ferdie, *National Commander*



The Commander of the oldest active Veterans Organization in the United States receives the opportunity to meet with distinguished leaders of not only our own country but of other countries as well. These include leaders of industry and labor, U.S. Senators and Ambassadors, high officials in the Executive Department, foreign dignitaries and Chiefs of State, leaders of other Veterans Organizations and Jewish Communal Leaders. These contacts are always informative, usually interesting and often beneficial to ironing out the objectives and goals of the Jewish War Veterans.

Of striking significance is the unfolding of the complexities of today's society. What appears on the surface to be a smooth and efficient operation designed to afford people a better way of life turns out to be a collection of Rube Goldberg systems. The fabric of the energy crisis has shown the complexity of producing and distributing fuel for light, heat and transportation. It is not sufficient to have the raw materials or the means of converting them but we find ourselves dependent on distribution systems that are fragile and vulnerable. These systems may be disrupted by not only physical character-

istics but by the human element as well. Last year it was the price of beef and the Soviet Grain Deal; this year oil, gas, trucking and toilet paper. By the later part of the year it will be shortages in some needed products, shortages in critically imported metals, the effects of unemployment and change of life style.

It will no longer be a question of how to handle the crisis but a question of what new crisis will arise. As we indicated two years ago such conditions provoke the worst in man. Scapegoats are sought and threats to personal liberty increase in tempo. The Black, the Jew and others labeled by ethnic, racial or religious background become targets. They become blamed for the fallibility of the economy, the crisis in employment, and the corruption in the political process. Veterans rights and benefits are ignored as cronyism replaces the merit system and quotas offer tokenism instead of basic human rights. The growing internal problems are distracted by foreign policy and finger pointing bias and bigotry.

Indeed as we are about to observe the two hundredth birthday of the United States, we are faced with all the forces external and internal that beset the Colonies in 1776. Then as

now most are indifferent in so far as taking a stance.

What America needs today is a reaffirmation of its Declaration of Independence and of a new peaceful revolution in which we recognize and fight for the abolition of bias and bigotry, discrimination and prejudice, whether by reasons of race, religion, national origin, ethnic backgrounds, sex or economic place in society. We must seek control of our own destinies and develop our own resources in the interest of self sufficiency and having made ourselves strong and self reliant, we may then share with allies and friends. In the world at large, by maintaining ourselves strong, we assure for ourselves and others a world less likely to be afflicted by war. In a year, the Nazi Swastikas on the Streets of Cleveland have swollen from a dozen to four dozen. JWV Leaders in Sarasota have been victims of hate literature. The virus is not isolated. Few weeks go by that the media does not report the Klansmen or other similar type seized with machine guns, mortars or bombs. Peace and prosperity are more than words. They are the apex of the good life. To reach the apex, the foundation and structure must be firm and

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