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GALLUP POLL SHOWS SHARP DIVISION AMONG U.S. JEWS ON VIET NAM ISSUE

NEW YORK, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The views of American Jews on United States involvement in the Viet Nam war -- subject of a heated controversy in the Jewish community involving President Johnson -- are split pretty much like the attitudes of Americans generally, according to results of a Gallup Poll reported today.

The poll asked a typical sampling: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Johnson is handling the situation in Viet Nam?"

Forty-three percent approved, 40 percent disapproved and 17 percent had no opinion. A sampling of Jewish respondents showed that 41 percent approved, 41 percent disapproved and 18 percent had no opinion. The vote of a sampling of Protestant Americans was similar but a majority of Catholics -- 54 percent -- approved the President's role.

Three weeks ago, the Jewish War Veterans met with President Johnson and subsequently told the press that the President had expressed "surprise" at the lack of Jewish support for his Viet Nam policy and that the President had linked American Jewish backing of that policy with United States aid to Israel. As a result of growing concern over the President's purported views, 40 Jewish leaders held a meeting last week with Arthur J. Goldberg, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, who reportedly clarified the President's position and assured the Jewish leaders the President did not seek to link Jewish views with aid to Israel.

The position of the Jewish leaders that American Jews did not have any uniform view, as Jews, on the Viet Nam struggle was thus confirmed today by the Gallup Poll.

ESHKOL'S AUSTERITY PROGRAM ENDORSED BY LABOR; CURBS WAGE DEMANDS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The executive of the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, endorsed last night Premier Levi Eshkol's three-year austerity program for Israel's troubled economy which calls for curbing wage demands and a cut in cost-of-living allowances to wage-earners.

Premier Eshkol's Mapai Party and Achdut Avodah -- which together represent the dominant element both in the Cabinet and in the Histadrut -- cast 58 votes for endorsement. The Gahal alignment of Herut and Liberals, former Premier David Ben-Gurion's dissident Israel Workers Party (Rafi) and the Communists cast 28 votes against the restraint program. The leftist Mapam carried out its pledge to fight the program from within the Government by abstaining in the executive vote. The Mapam faction in the Histadrut executive has 18 members.

The agreement pledged the Histadrut to accept half of the regular cost-of-living payments for the next two years, to restrict pay rises of white collar workers in affiliated unions, and to accept radical revisions of work norms and incentive pay systems.

The executive acted after hearing warnings from Premier Eshkol, Labor Minister Yigal Allon and Trade and Industry Minister Haim Zadok that unemployment, already a serious problem, would continue to grow if there were no curbs on wage increases. They also said that the only realistic solution to the unemployment problem was diversion of surplus manpower to export industries but that those industries could not expand and provide more jobs unless they were competitive and profitable.

Nurses Postpone Scheduled Strike; Subsidy to Farmers Ends

Meanwhile, surgery nurses postponed a strike scheduled to begin today after a marathon ten-hour conference on their demands for more pay. Mr. Allon, Health Minister Israel Barzilai and Histadrut leaders took part in the talks. The Histadrut agreed to seek arbitration of the nurses' demands.

The Treasury announced today that the subsidies given farmers for poultry, eggs and milk are to be discontinued shortly. Those subsidies have amounted to 30,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$10,000,000) annually. It was also announced that electricity rates in Israel will be raised an average of 10 percent, beginning October 1. The cost of poultry, eggs and milk are also due for increases.

SENATE REJECTS AMENDMENT PERMITTING VOLUNTARY PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The Senate voted today to reject a Constitutional amendment proposed by Senate Republican leader Everett Dirksen that would have upset recent Supreme Court rulings barring religious prayers in public schools.

Forty-nine Senators voted for the amendment, and 37 against it, thus making it nine votes short of the two-thirds majority required. The measure would have authorized and provided for voluntary religious functions in public schools. All three Jewish members of the Senate voted against the Dirksen amendment. They are Senators Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican; Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat; and Ernest Gruening, Alaska Democrat.

Sen. Dirksen immediately vowed to keep fighting for his amendment, and said he would attempt to obtain passage in the future. He maintained in an emotional debate that the amendment was required to "clarify" the Supreme Court decisions. He criticized religious leaders who opposed the amendment, and held that the "grassroots" of the public supported it. Jewish spokesmen and religious leaders of other faiths had registered strong opposition in the course of Senate hearings on the measure conducted during the summer.

A Constitutional amendment requires a majority of two-thirds in both Senate and House, followed by ratification by three-fourths of all State legislatures. Before today's showdown vote, the Senate rejected an attempt to substitute a compromise "Sense of Congress" resolution offered by Sen. Birch Bayh, Indiana Democrat. The Bayh resolution would have declared it the sense of Congress that nothing in the Constitution or recent Supreme Court decisions prohibits local school authorities "from permitting individual students to engage in silent, voluntary prayer or meditation."

(In New York, Haskell Lazere, a representative of the American Jewish Congress, testifying today at a hearing of the City Board of Education, said that the Jewish organizations are opposed to sending public school teachers to church and synagogue schools because such assignments violated freedom of conscience, breached the church-state separation provisions of the U.S. Constitution and New York State Constitution, and flouted the Federal Education Act itself.)

MOROCCAN COMMUNITIES NAME CHIEF RABBI; GOVERNMENT APPROVAL CERTAIN

CASABLANCA, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The Council of Moroccan Jewish Communities, after considerable delay, presented today to the Moroccan Interior Ministry the name of Rabbi Mikhael Encaoua for the vacant post of Grand Rabbi of Morocco. The new Grand Rabbi is 61 and a son of the late revered Grand Rabbi Raphael Encaoua of Sale, a city near Rabat.

After the departure of Grand Rabbi Saul Danan as spiritual head of the Moroccan Jewish community, the Interior Ministry asked the Council to designate a successor. Rabbi Encaoua had been an assistant to Grand Rabbi Danan and acted as vice-president of the Moroccan Supreme Rabbinical Tribunal when that court was in existence. Approval of the nomination by the Interior Ministry is expected as a routine procedure.

Rabbi Simon Suisse, judge of the Jewish community of Mazagan, was named today attorney for the King in Mazagan by Justice Minister Abdelhadi Boutaleb. Rabbi Suisse will continue his functions as rabbi and judge. The Mazagan Jewish community which, prior to Morocco's independence, had 2,400 Jews, now has 500 Jews.

JOHNSON NAMES EUGENE ROSTOW TO POST OF UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- President Johnson announced today the appointment of Eugene V. Rostow, Dean of the Yale University Law School, as Undersecretary of State.

The Brooklyn-born educator and economist, who is listed in Who's Who in World Jewry, has held a number of posts in the Federal Government, including a post as State Department advisor from 1942 to 1944 and consultant to the Undersecretary of State in 1961. He also has served as assistant to the executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

EBAN GREETES AFGHAN LEADER ELECTED AS U.N. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban took the podium at the opening session of the General Assembly late yesterday and congratulated Abdul Rahman Pazhwak of Afghanistan upon the latter's election as president of the Assembly's 21st session.

"The delegation of Israel," said Mr. Eban, "wishes you well as you embark on the discharge of your high responsibilities. In the present international situation, your readiness to assume that office is both a testimony and a challenge to your sense of duty and courage."

PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA SAYS HIS REGIME IS FREE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Gen. Juan Carlos Ongania, President of Argentina, asserted vigorously today, in an interview with an Israeli journalist, that imputations of anti-Semitism against his military regime were without foundation. The President discussed the issue and Argentine-Israeli relations at length during a meeting with Moshe Ron, general secretary of the Israeli Press Association.

He told the Israeli that he found himself in a dilemma about answering such questions. He said about charges of anti-Semitism "please excuse me for speaking frankly, Such a question is a barbarity and to ask it is to hurt this Government." He had previously spoken with favor about proposals for establishment in Israel of an Argentine House. He told the Israeli that "it is not possible that we should speak of an Argentine House in Israel" and speak "at the same time about anti-Semitism in Argentina."

He indicated he regarded such questions as insulting, even if they posed specific points, such as what activities constituted anti-Semitism and if there was such a manifestation in his government, what was its degree. But, he said, questions on the issue often were, in his opinion, motivated by the "wish to hurt and damage" in an expression of attitudes "that we sometimes reject openly, even with a certain degree of pronounced displeasure."

Expresses Belief that Argentina Had Never Been Anti-Semitic

He challenged such questioners to produce evidence that his government practiced anti-Semitism and expressed the belief that Argentina had never been anti-Semitic because "if sometimes there were such activities, they were a completely isolated fact which was openly divorced from Argentine feelings." He said that even in moments of greatest "convulsion" in Argentine politics "there did not exist a real anti-Semitic pronouncement in this country but only some isolated manifestation, outside of any Argentine feeling."

Gen. Ongania expressed regret over the postponement by President Shazar of Israel of his scheduled trip to Argentina last summer during Mr. Shazar's tour of Latin America. Reiterating that he considered the matter a postponement and not a cancellation, President Ongania said he anticipated that the visit, when rescheduled, would be "an event which will reaffirm once more the good relations and good feelings between the Israeli and Argentine peoples."

Gen. Ongania hailed Israeli technical cooperation with Argentina in the fields of agriculture and irrigation and added he favored such cooperation not only in those two areas but also in industry. He noted that Israel was "actively engaged in intensive development plans with highly advanced technical methods" and said that such methods could well serve "plans for our own development."

He described the proposed Argentine House in Israel as "a synthesis of the fullest understanding of any kind now existing between the Israeli and Argentine peoples," not only from the standpoint of his Government but also in response "to the feelings of the entire Argentine people."

PREMIER OF QUEBEC ASSURES JEWS HE WILL NOT PERMIT DISCRIMINATION

MONTREAL, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Premier Daniel Johnson of Quebec had pledged that his government will seek to "protect and strengthen minority rights in Quebec in education, civil rights and anti-discrimination legislation." He made the pledge in an address at the official opening of the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Memorial Building of the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association and Neighborhood House Services of Montreal.

Declaring that discrimination would not be permitted to "rear its ugly head" in Quebec, the Premier said his government was eager to see the Jewish community continue to contribute to the development of the province. He asserted "there is no question whatsoever of reducing or infringing on minority rights."

KU KLUX KLAN REPORTED WINNING STRENGTH AS RESULT OF NEGRO RIOTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The "white backlash" is giving new impetus to the Ku Klux Klan, it was reported today by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Research findings on current Klan membership and activities were made public by Arnold Forster, general counsel of the League.

The findings show that the Klan, whose national membership had plummeted by last January, is on the upsurge again, holding rallies and recruitment drives throughout the South, its traditional home grounds, and making new inroads in the North and Midwest. The study estimates current Klan strength at approximately 29,500 throughout the South, marking an increase of nearly 10,000 since the beginning of the year, when Klansmen were told to "lie low" as the House Un-American Activities hearings were launched.

NEW YORK FEDERATION OPENS ANNUAL DRIVE; SEEKS \$24, 200, 000 FOR YEAR

NEW YORK, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York must raise a record \$24, 200, 000 if its 130 member hospitals, health, welfare and other agencies, committed to providing \$150, 000, 000 in services next year, are "not to be seriously affected or curtailed." The goal is \$3, 400, 000 more than was raised in 1965.

A warning that "failure to obtain sufficient funds would require reduction of services in many areas" was sounded tonight by Samuel J. Silberman, recently elected Federation president, and Allan D. Emil, maintenance campaign chairman, at a Hotel Plaza dinner attended by more than 300 community leaders.

The event marked the opening of Federation's 49th annual fund raising appeal in which 15, 000 volunteers will seek support from the Jewish community in the metropolitan area. Federation is the largest voluntarily supported network of philanthropic agencies in the country in terms of funds received and distributed.

CANADIAN NAZI PARTY REPORTED HAVING SMALL NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS

TORONTO, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- John Garrity, 37-year-old former sheriff's officer for York County, revealed in a feature article in the October 1 issue of Maclean's Magazine, a national Canadian publication, that for 16 months he infiltrated the neo-Nazi group of John Beattie and became his trusted confidante. Mr. Garrity, who functioned under his own name, writes that he was engaged for this purpose as a private investigator by the Canadian Jewish Congress in Toronto, to whom he turned over the membership lists, files, confidential documents and recorded conversations.

According to Mr. Garrity, the movement is small in numerical strength and quite weak financially. The movement has about 15 active members in the Toronto-Oshawa-Hamilton area and 50 supporters who would extend financial aid from time to time. However, despite its pettiness and poverty, Mr. Garrity regards it as potentially a serious threat. He has tape recordings of intimate conversations between Beattie and George Rockwell, leader of the American Nazi Party, and also of committee meetings.

Sydney Midanik, chairman of the Ontario Regional Community Relations Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith, issued the following statement: "This article was seen by us only after publication. We neither sought its publication or preparation, had no prior knowledge of it and were not consulted. Nevertheless, we can confirm the substantial accuracy of the account given insofar as it concerns the involvement of the Canadian Jewish Congress. We conveyed all information received to the law enforcement and investigative agencies."

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HONORED FOR FOSTERING U.S. - ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Speaker of the House of Representatives John W. McCormack, Massachusetts Democrat and former speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr., Massachusetts Republican were honored here for "consistent effort in fostering understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and the State of Israel" through a joint award of the 1966 America-Israel Friendship Award.

In a brief ceremony held in the Speaker's room of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Eli Resnikoff, national president of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America cited the two veteran legislative leaders as "friends of Israel before there was an Israel, and distinguished proponents always of the biblical ideals of social justice, brotherhood and peace."

EXHIBIT PORTRAYING EARLY JEWISH IMMIGRANT LIFE OPENED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The Jewish Museum opened an exhibit last night of photographs, paintings, documents, posters and voice tapes portraying "The Lower East Side: Portal in American Life (1870-1924)" of the immigrant Jews who settled in that part of Manhattan.

One of the highlights is a film of Zero Mostel reading, mostly in English, letters from the Bintel Brief, the complaints and queries sent in by readers of the Jewish Daily Forward. The photographs depict the streets, homes, schools, work and theater of the lower East Side.

The paintings include works by William Gropper, Jacob Epstein, Edward Hopper, Childe Hassam, Chaim Gross, John Sloan, Charles Ulrich, Max Weber and others depicting the lower East Side during its Jewish heyday. The exhibit will continue until November 6.