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REFORM JEWISH LEADER WARNS THERE IS A 'JEWISH COP-OUT' ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 4 (JTA)--The president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations expressed grave concern over the "growing retreat" of American Jews and their institutions from involvement in general social matters, other than specific Jewish causes. In an advanced text of his keynote message to the opening session tomorrow of the 51st Biennial Assembly, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath warned that "a Jewish cop-out on social justice and retreat from liberalism towards disillusionment stems from deep hurt felt by Jews at the relative silence of the non-Jewish world in the face of Jewish suffering in Russia and Jewish peril in the Middle East.

Rabbi Eisendrath stated that young Jews will increasingly be alienated from Jewish life if we "neglect their concern that the world is going up in flames" and if we withdraw from the joint struggle with blacks, the poor and the Christian community in efforts to resolve the burning questions of racial justice, ecology, the inner city, Vietnam, and the quality of life in America. He said "they (the young people) see Judaism as a living faith requiring social action in behalf of all mankind, not as a turning inward towards a self-righteous fortress behind which kinsmen hide in splendid isolation."

Jewish Priorities Excuse For Withdrawal

The Reform Jewish leader declared that, "to be a Jew means not only vigilantly helping our brethren in Israel and the Soviet Union, but it also means affirming the Jewish moral imperative not to abandon a world that is sinking easily and all too swiftly into the morass of hopeless moral and physical degradation." Rabbi Eisendrath is to tell the 3,000 delegates scheduled to attend the convention that some Jews tend to falsely divide the world into two categories, "them and us." He cited several examples of the "new conventional wisdom" which, he said, impels many Jews to withdraw from such community issues as civil rights, interfaith activity and urban projects in the name of "Jewish priorities."

The examples included: rejecting intensified relations with the Christian community on the grounds that "they did not help Jews at the time of the holocaust and, more recently, during Israel's Six-Day War"; denigrating those Jewish leaders who base their anti-Vietnam positions on Jewish tradition and Jewish values which make the pursuit of peace a high priority, suggesting by implication that there is no possible Jewish position on such an issue and that in any event, it may be unstrategic and possibly harmful to express one. Other examples were: exaggerating incidents of black anti-Semitism in order to justify withdrawal from the difficult problems of racial conflict and urban affairs; catering to every political figure; however reactionary or racist, provided he says a kind word for Israel; isolating Jewish young people from other faith groups on the grounds this would discourage the growing intermarriage rate.

Urges Lay-Rabbinical Coalition

Rabbi Eisendrath said that he personally does not favor "officiating at intermarriages, but I

believe the problem must be given a more objective look to ferret out the basic causes for the hemorrhaging that is occurring in our Jewish fold." He warned that spreading an aura of romantic sympathy around the violent tactics of the Jewish Defense League gives aid and comfort to vigilantism in Jewish life and spreading a dangerous "mystique of machismo" in American Jewry.

In other areas of his message, Rabbi Eisendrath called for a lay-rabbinical coalition to resolve conflicts between rabbis and laymen in their congregations, and end rifts within the movement, and to "take a new look" at the problems of intermarriage in the hope of arriving at adequate definitions and requirements for Reform Jews. The UAHF president urged that revolutionary programs to revitalize the synagogue and its institutions become the prime goal of the movement during the next two years as it prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1973 in New York City.

ECONOMIC PROGRAM CONTAINS MOST RADICAL AUSTERITY MEASURES SINCE '50S Economic Incentives For New Settlers May Be Eliminated

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Many economic incentives for new settlers that Israel has offered to attract immigrants, especially from Western countries, will be eliminated or curtailed if drastic economies recently submitted to the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs are adopted. The program which was worked out by the Treasury and disclosed in part today, contains some of the most radical austerity measures since the early 1950s. Its purpose is to enable the Treasury to meet soaring defense needs while keeping pace with the needs of an expanding population, particularly in the areas of health, education and housing.

Mortgages at a low 8-9 percent interest presently granted all immigrants will in the future apply only to those settling in what are designated "A" development areas such as Eilat, the town most distant from the center of the country and Belsan on the hazardous border with Jordan. Settlers in "B" development areas which include Jerusalem, will have to pay 10 percent on their mortgages and those in central parts of the country, 12 percent.

Freeze On Dividends

Tax exemptions for newcomers will be reexamined in light of complaints from some sections of the public that they are too lavish. A maximum tax rebate on cars and other durable goods will be fixed. An immigrant may have to make a choice between a new car or a refrigerator. A Jewish Agency spokesman said today that he was sure the Agency would be consulted before any of the new measures becomes law. There was no reaction to the substance of the proposals from the Jewish Agency inasmuch as they are still to be studied by members of the Executive.

The Treasury has also proposed a freeze on dividends at last year's level; continuation of price controls through 1972; a ban on replacing government vehicles, including ministers' cars, except for major mechanical reasons; no new furniture for government offices; and no meals for

officials at government expense. Economic observers said the proposed measures would probably not save large sums of money but were intended rather to create an atmosphere reflecting the nation's economic condition and to avoid displays of luxury.

ISRAEL SUBSIDIARY OF BRITISH TRUCK FIRM GOES INTO RECEIVERSHIP Arab Boycott Cited As Major Reason

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA)--The Israel subsidiary of the British Leyland Motors Corporation, which went into receivership yesterday, may have been abandoned because of pressure from Arab countries, some commentators said today. Since establishing its assembly plant in Israel, Leyland had been on the Arab boycott list. But sales in the Arab world had been small anyway, and Israel buys sophisticated automobiles in greater quantity than all the Arab countries combined.

Observers noted that since the British firm owned 20 percent of the shares of the Israeli plant and controlled 45, the additional 6 percent needed for majority control should have been easy to obtain, considering that the government and the creditors were willing to underwrite loans.

Political motives are thus being cited by commentators--and, privately, by government officials--as the explanation for yesterday's decision. Another explanation being offered is that British Leyland did not believe its cars could compete on the open market; the government is gradually reducing the tariff protection granted to locally assembled cars, which in the near future will have to be sold on their merits instead of on their inexpensiveness.

1,500 Workers Given Leave

Despite the development, the directors general of the Transportation and Commerce-and-Industry Ministries expressed the belief that the plants in question--in Haifa and Ashdod--can be reactivated. They said some of the debts could be paid off if more efficient methods were introduced and superfluous expenditures eliminated.

The three plants were closed this morning to allow for inventories by the three receivers--two accountants and a lawyer--appointed yesterday on behalf of the creditors by a district court. The more than 1,500 workers were given a week's leave following which decisions will be made on how many to reemploy. Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, demanded that there be no dismissals while the receivers try to reactivate the plants, as is their apparent intention.

British Leyland has a monopoly on truck-selling in Israel that will be in force for another year. That part of its operations is said to be profitable. But the car-assembly operation, which produces the Triumph 1300 and 1500, became almost idle two years ago when locally assembled Ford Escorts appeared on the market and became overwhelmingly preferred by Israeli consumers. Leyland's debts run to more than IL 40 million (\$9.8 million) on annual sales of IL 180 million (\$42.9 million).

A representative of British Leyland, Jack Plane, left Israel yesterday after informing the government and the creditors that Leyland could not provide IL 5 million (\$1.2 million) for working capital and buy a controlling interest, as the creditors--five banks--and the government have demanded. The subsidiary is controlled by Itzhak Shubinsky, its managing director. Shubinsky, a 57-year-old native of Poland, holds 55 percent of the shares, and is also active in food and shipping.

LIPSKY APPLIES FOR IMMIGRATION VISA

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA)--The French-Jewish financier, Claude Lipsky, wanted by France for al-

leged involvement in a major financial scandal, applied for an immigration visa today and put the Interior Ministry on the spot. Lipsky arrived here Sept. 29 after wanted bulletins were issued for him in France in connection with the collapse of his mutual fund investment firm. France has demanded his extradition but there is no extradition treaty in effect between France and Israel. Lipsky's demand for immigrant status was described by Ministry sources as a "surprise move."

Israel has been at pains lately to make it clear that the country is no haven for fugitives from justice even if they happen to be Jews. The Ministry has rejected a citizenship application by Meyer Lansky, the reputed racketeer czar from the US. But Lipsky has no criminal record and legal circles said it was doubtful that the Interior Minister could exercise his discretion as in the case of Lansky.

It was hinted today that the Ministry might use halacha--religious law--to deny citizenship to Lipsky. Ministry sources said it was not clear whether he was a Jew according to halachic standards. Lipsky's father was Jewish but his mother was said to have been a non-Jew. If his application is rejected on those grounds, the case would probably go before the Supreme Court which does not recognize halachic law as the exclusive basis on which a person's Jewishness in relation to his right to immigrate can be determined.

YAARI RESIGNS AS MAPAM HEAD

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Meir Yaari, 74-year-old general secretary of Mapam, stunned his colleagues in the leftist party last night by announcing his resignation from the post he has held since Mapam's founding in 1949. His colleagues tried to persuade him to stand for another term, but he refused. Yaari said that at his age he was unable to bridge the widening gap between the generations.

He was also bitter over the personal attacks against him by the younger members of Mapam and of its kibbutz movement, Hakibbutz Haartzi Hashomer Hatzair. The attacks were published in various Mapam publications. Yaari resented their reference to his service as "the historic leadership."

It was learned that Mapam's No. 2 man, Yaacov A. Hazan, who with Yaari headed the kibbutz movement of Hashomer Hatzair, may also step down, allowing for a "rotation of leadership" that would bring newcomers to the fore. The Russian-born Hazan, who is 72, has been a Mapam MK since 1949, as has Yaari.

DR. BERMAN APPOINTED BY NIXON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA)--A White House spokesman today confirmed the nomination of Dr. Ronald S. Berman, a member of the American Association for Jewish Education and a professor of English at the University of California, San Diego, as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the only Federal agency dispensing grants in the humanities. The spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the announcement of President Nixon's appointment would be made later today. Prof. Berman, a 41-year-old New Yorker, though not widely known, is highly regarded as a scholar. His published writings run the range of subject matter from Shakespeare to American intellectual thought during the 1960s. His reported nomination brought an endorsement from the American Council of Learned Societies.