



daily news bulletin

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Thursday, April 6, 1972

No. 87

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULES HEARINGS NEXT WEEK TO DETERMINE WHY POSTAL AUTHORITIES ORDERED MATZOS DESTROYED

WASHINGTON, April 5 (JTA)--The House Subcommittee on Postal Facilities and Mail has scheduled hearings for Wednesday, April 12 to find out why postal authorities ordered the destruction of several thousand pounds of matzo mailed to the Soviet Embassy here for delivery to Jews in the Soviet Union, but which the Embassy refused to accept. The hearing was ordered by Rep. Robert N. C. Nix (D. Pa.), the subcommittee chairman, at the request of Rep. Joshua Ellberg (D. Pa.).

In a separate development, Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. (D. N.J.) disclosed that he has asked the US Postal Service for an immediate explanation of why the matzos were destroyed. An aide to the eight-member subcommittee headed by Rep. Nix told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the chairman has asked Postmaster General Elmer Klassen to have Postal Service representatives ready to testify at next week's hearing.

Other witnesses are understood to include Robert C. Kohler, director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League regional office in Newark, N.J.; and Samuel L. Gaber of Philadelphia, director of the ADL's regional office for Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Delaware. The ADL conceived the idea of mass mailings of matzos to the Soviet Embassy in Washington as a means of dramatizing the lack of freedom of Soviet Jews on the eve of Passover.

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BLACK GROUP AGAIN CONDEMNS ISRAEL

NEWARK, N.J., April 5 (JTA)--The steering committee of the National Black Political Convention, meeting here last night, condemned Israel "for her expansionist policy and forceful occupation of the sovereign territory of another state." According to local news sources reporting on the meeting which was closed to the press, last night's resolution was a re-statement and "clarification" of an anti-Israel resolution adopted by voice vote in the closing minutes of the National Black Political Convention in Gary, Ind. March 12.

The reports stated that the steering committee suggested that action be taken to "alleviate the suffering and improve the position of the Palestinian people in Israel" and in support of "the struggle of the Palestinian people for self determination." The steering committee resolution also reportedly praised a resolution adopted yesterday by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights alleging grave breaches of the Geneva convention and "war crimes" by Israel in the administered territories.

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Diggs is one of the 13 members of the Congressional Black Caucus which issued a unanimous statement in defense of Israel on March 21, in effect a strong repudiation of the Gary resolution. Hatcher had been sharply critical of the Gary resolution. Neither Diggs nor Hatcher could be reached today for comment.

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U.S. CONDEMNS USSR FOR VIOLATING MOVEMENT OF ITS CITIZENS: CITES POLICY TOWARD JEWS AS 'OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE'

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He scored what he called the harsh treatment of Jewish activists and the sentencing of some of them to forced-labor terms. All Soviet citizens, he concluded, have "suffered from the Soviet government's refusal to consider emigration as a right rather than a privilege." Schaefeled said he regretted that the Commission has not given priority to this issue.

Soviet delegate Nikifor I. Yevdokeyev called Schaefeled's charge a "slandorous diversion" to draw attention from the "horrendous" American practices in Indochina. The US, he said, should not interfere with Soviet emigration policies inasmuch as it bars travel by Americans to China and Cuba. Schaefeled's "cold war" statement, Yevdokeyev said, failed to acknowledge that visas are granted to Soviet Jews who want to leave for religious or other "genuine" reasons, and these are mainly elderly and children, some of whom return to the USSR.

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The Arab countries severed relations with West Germany in 1965 when Bonn extended formal recognition to Israel. The recent diplomatic successes in Beirut and other Arab capitals has been attributed in large measure to the Social Democratic Party's Middle East expert, Hans Juergen Wischniewski, who visited Beirut March 27. Wischniewski told the Jewish Telegraphic

Agency that he believed Egypt was interested in resuming diplomatic relations with Germany but could not say when Cairo would make an announcement to that effect.

Well informed political circles here told the JTA that Egypt had intended to announce its renewal of diplomatic ties with Bonn last week but postponed the announcement because of the Lebanese decision. The circles said Cairo would make the announcement within two weeks.

Asked if Germany's diplomatic rapprochement with the Arabs would be detrimental to German-Israel relations, Wischniewski told the JTA: "The Israeli government has been informed about German Middle East policy. I know nothing about Israeli anxieties in regard to our relations with Arab countries. Our relations with the Arab states are not directed against any other country and I would like to underline the fact that under no circumstances will our relations with the Arab states affect our relations with Israel and our relations with Israel will not be at the expense of our relations with the Arab states."

EEC COMMISSION, ISRAEL TO DISCUSS ISRAEL'S POSITION IN COMMON MARKET

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'I Was A Completely Innocent Man' ABRAHAM ZAK RECOUNTS HIS FIVE YEARS IN A SOVIET FORCED-LABOR CAMP

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Zak related that "I was a completely innocent man, at odds with nobody, a poet writing poetry, and suddenly I was declared 'an anti-social element' and thrown into prison, and afterwards sent to a forced-labor camp where I spent five years in the most appalling conditions, where the temperature in winter was 60 degrees centigrade below zero." The commandant explained to him, he said: "This is not a capitalist camp for you. This is a Soviet Communist camp."

Zak, who has lived in Argentina since 1952, is the author of numerous volumes of Yiddish poetry, prose, memoirs and translations. His only son, Alexander, fell in the siege of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942.

JEWISH WOMAN NAMED TO TOP POSITION

OTTAWA, April 5 (JTA)--Dr. Sylvia Ostry, a

44-year-old Jewish mother of two, has been named Canada's top statistician. In announcing her appointment yesterday as Dominion Statistician, Premier Pierre Elliot Trudeau noted that Mrs. Ostry is the first Canadian woman named to head an agency on the deputy ministerial level. Mrs. Ostry, a native of Winnipeg, holds a doctorate in economics from Cambridge University and is one of Canada's leading researchers in the fields of labor and employment.

Prior to her appointment she served as a director of the Economic Council of Canada, the highest post ever held by a woman in any Canadian government body. Mrs. Ostry's husband, Bernard, is a historian and assistant deputy minister for citizenship in the Department of the Secretary of State. The Ostrys live in Ottawa with their two sons and are founders of the Modern Jewish School here, a secular institution.

JEWISH GROUP SAYS NORTH VIETNAMESE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO TREES PROJECT

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--The first delegation of American Jews who met last month in Paris with representatives of the North Vietnamese leadership to get their reaction to the "Trees for Vietnam" project, has returned to the US. The project is aimed at ending the war and collecting funds for "ecological reparations" to North Vietnam for damage resulting from American bombing raids on that country. According to spokesmen for the group, the tree was chosen as an appropriate symbol because of the Biblical injunction against the destruction of trees in time of war.

The delegation consisted of Rabbi Michael Robinson, national chairman of the Jewish Peace Fellowship and a member of the Social Action Commission of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Mitchell Smith, a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia; Mitchell Krucoff, president of the Middle Atlantic Federation of Temple Youth; Ruth Robinson, who is active with Temple Sisterhoods; and Mike Tabor, who is coordinator of the "Trees for Vietnam" project.

Jews Will Be Asked For Funds

They met in Paris with representatives of the Vietnamese Buddhist Peace Delegation; the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam; the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam; the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; the Overseas Buddhist Association; and the School of Youth for Social Services of South Vietnam.

According to the Jewish delegation, the Vietnamese reacted "very positively" to the trees project. The organizers of the project said the Vietnamese delegations they met agreed to select specific villages where trees are needed and American Jews will be asked to raise funds to re-forest those areas. They said other means of assistance such as medical aid to injured Vietnamese civilians were also discussed in Paris.

SCHUMANN'S STATEMENT DEPLORED

PARIS, April 5 (JTA)--Israeli diplomatic circles here have reacted bitterly to a statement by Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann on a recent radio interview that Israel seemed to be "possessed with a genuine passion for annexation" of neighboring Arab territory. There was no official comment from Jerusalem on Schumann's interview but circles said his statement showed that France has not altered its pro-Arab policy.

SPECIAL JTA INTERVIEW**THE BOREDOM OF THE LONG-DISTANCE WRITER**
By GEORGE FRIEDMAN, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--Ephraim Kishon is Israel's leading satirist who finds satire-writing "boring" and a screenwriter who finds screenwriting "boring," but he has written more than 30 books, hundreds of articles and four films. Why? Because "I am a writer." And how does he bear the boredom? "I do everything I can to break the routine. I wrote an opera..."

Kishon is here this week to launch the American run of "The Policeman," a comedy that is an Academy Award nominee for best foreign-language film of 1971. "If I make a picture there has to be a reason for it," he told a couple of Stateside journalists today. "I am mainly a writer, but because I am very bored with writing I am now directing pictures. It is such a full feeling of creation--something close to God's deed."

With "The Policeman," he said, he "wanted to make people laugh" while at the same time "touching" them with a very "human" story. The film is about a pallid middle-aged man (Shay K. Ophir) who is learned in Scripture but insists on trying to make good with the Israeli police force despite 20 years of bumbling. "It is a true situation"--in Israel, the United States and elsewhere--Kishon said; such men cannot accept failure, even in pursuits in which they fail all along the line.

Of Ophir's character, Avram Azulai, Kishon elaborated: "He doesn't want to take off the uniform and be a big nothing. On the other hand, it is a great human tragedy to dismiss these people." But Kishon's talk of "boredom" dominated the talk. He acknowledged that in making films, "I enjoy only one thing, and that is the cutting (editing) of the picture."

From Concentration Camps To Israel

Kishon's first film, "Sallah," was an Oscar nominee for 1964, but lost to Italian Vittorio De Sica's "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." This time around, "The Policeman" is almost certain to lose to the same De Sica's "Garden of the Finzi-Continis." In between, Kishon made "Ervinka" and "The Big Dig," neither of which is much known in America. His consolation is that he makes movies for himself and for Israelis, and doesn't much care about foreign opinions--except those of awards-givers.

The slim, bespectacled writer was born in Budapest 47 years ago. At 15 he was wearing a yellow star. At various times he was interned in--and escaped from--prison camps in Germany, Russia and Hungary. Once he spent six weeks hiding in a cellar "eating only tomato juice," which he still cannot stand today. A sculptor in metal as well as a scrivener, he calls himself "the only European writer in world history who learned Hebrew," remarking: "In that day I was crazy. If I told you I learned a whole Hebrew dictionary by heart..."

Kishon went to Israel in 1949 on papers stolen from a Hungarian. "He was taking a bath. I took all the papers he had. I do not feel any remorse. He remained the same guy he was. I saved my life." Of his 23 years in Israel he says: "I thank God for every minute."

**AIPAC URGES CONGRESS TO APPROVE
AID TO ISRAEL TO HELP ABSORB
JEWISH REFUGEES FROM THE SOVIET UNION**

WASHINGTON, April 5 (JTA)--The American Israel Public Affairs Committee disclosed today that it has appealed to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee to

approve a grant-in-aid to help Israel absorb Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union in an amount greater than the \$50 million recently proposed by the State Department.

The 2500-word AIPAC memorandum to the Congressional committees did not stipulate any amount but stressed the magnitude of the need and noted the amounts being allocated for the purpose by the Jewish Agency and the Israel government.

The memo said the Jewish Agency estimates that \$200 million will be needed to resettle 30,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive in Israel during 1972 and has ear-marked \$260 million more to absorb an additional 40,000 immigrants expected from other countries. The memo said the Israeli government will allocate some \$240 million for immigrant absorption. The memo was submitted by Irving Kane of Cleveland, AIPAC chairman, and I.L. Kenen, executive vice-chairman. AIPAC will hold its annual policy conference here April 19-20. Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban will fly to Washington to address the conference on April 20.

Huge Backlog Of Urgent Human Needs

In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee two weeks ago, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco said the administration proposed a grant of \$50 million to Israel for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1972 in view of Israel's extraordinarily heavy defense burdens and to help the integration of refugees arriving from the Soviet Union.

An identical sum for Israel was included in the Foreign Assistance Program for the current fiscal year which expires June 30. Meanwhile, several bills containing grants for Israel to help in the absorption of immigrants are before Congress.

AIPAC's memo noted that "past immigration presents Israel with a huge backlog of urgent human needs" and stated that a great majority of the 13,000 Jews who came to Israel last year from the Soviet Union "are still a long way from absorption." The memo furthermore noted that funds are necessary for establishing new communities with schools, hospitals, roads and cultural centers.

**\$100M CANADIAN LOAN WILL BE
USED TO IMPROVE RAIL SERVICE**

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA)--Part of the \$100 million Canadian loan to Israel will be used to improve rail service between Haifa and Tel Aviv, Transport Minister Shimon Peres disclosed here on his return from a visit to the US, Canada and Latin America. He said the money would be used to purchase self-propelled coaches to provide hourly service between Israel's two largest cities and would considerably shorten the travel time. He said he hoped the new service could be started in 1973.

Peres said that another portion of the Canadian loan would be used to build new passenger and cargo terminals at Lydda Airport. The passenger terminal will be built of pre-fabricated aluminum, concrete and glass sections imported from Canada. He said that if production schedules are met it should be in service next year when Israel starts the observance of its 25th anniversary.

The finals of the 13th annual Bible contest will be April 30 at the High School of Art and Design in New York City.

SPECIAL JTA ANALYSISIS POSTAL SERVICE DEMOLISHING
THE AMERICAN JEWISH PRESS?

By PHILIP SLOMOVITZ

Editor, Publisher of The Detroit Jewish News, JTA Vice-President

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency's cartoonist, Noah Bee, in a recent cartoon entitled "Is This Demolition Necessary?", depicted how the US Postal Service threatens the Jewish publications structure. It was a timely question and a well drawn cartoon, and it is no wonder that it is stimulating questions regarding the security of the Jewish press.

At the White House briefing conference for the American Jewish press on March 13, there was a cross-section of publications appearing in this country with direct appeals to Jews: Hebrew, Yiddish, English readers. Young and old were there--those with yarmulkes and most without; about 20 out of the 90 present asked for the kosher boxed lunches ordered by the White House staff, the rest ate the regular buffet luncheon. This may provide a conglomerate picture of Jewry as constituted in America. Does it provide a clue to the Postal Demolition Process?

The fact is, most of the publications wouldn't suffer an iota from increased postal rates. Many of them have such small circulations that the effect could be nil. Also--many of the publications are organizational organs, and public funds are easier to attain--and to spend. The only surviving major Yiddish newspaper, Forward, won't suffer; it sells mostly on newsstands. The new Yiddish weekly, the Allgemeine Journal, won't suffer that much either--it, too, must depend on New York newsstands.

Assure Existence of Jewish Newspapers

The English-Jewish weekly press, perhaps the most vital in the field because its combined circulation now approaches half a million, can be--already is!--in real trouble. Second Class mailing rights gave newspapers and magazines a real lift in years gone by, when rates were very low. Today, a newspaper must figure on substantial costs to enable it to circulate mail-wise. When a weekly newspaper's mailing costs rise--from let us say \$2000 a year to the present \$30,000, with warnings of new increases coming, the reader can expect to pay twice as much for a year's copies, and the already difficult-to-attain advertising will cost considerably more.

That's why some papers are beginning to set their own type for the photo-offset process; but that's applicable to a small paper. A 10- to 120-page weekly edition like the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent can't risk such self-labor whose aim is primarily to become non-union. An average 48- to 56-page Detroit Jewish News must have the hot type and well supervised plant to produce a good newspaper.

Postal rates, increased union costs, rising salaries, create difficulties for the Jewish press. Many non-Jewish periodicals already have collapsed; some are about to say finis to their existence, due in some measure to rising postal rates. The Yiddish press faces the same dangers. Communities should be readied to face the consequences because they must assure the existence of the Jewish press. Without them they'll bankrupt as speedily as the press.

REUBEN BARKATT, SPEAKER OF THE KNESSET
LABOR PARTY LEADER, DIES AT AGE 66

JERUSALEM, April 5 (JTA)--Reuben Barkatt, Speaker of the Knesset since 1969 and a prominent

figure in the Labor Party, died of a heart attack at his home here last night at the age of 66. Barkatt, who was born in Lithuania and settled in Palestine in 1926, served as Israel's Ambassador to Norway in 1960-61. He was first elected to the Knesset in 1965.

There was no official announcement of Barkatt's death this morning due to the Passover holiday. He will lie in state in the Knesset. Funeral services are scheduled for Friday.

Barkatt was educated at the Universities of Paris and Strassbourg and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He began a career in public service as general secretary of the Soldiers' Welfare Committee of Histadrut and headed its international, cultural and Arab affairs departments. From 1962-66 he was secretary general of Mapai, forerunner of the present Israel Labor Party.

As Speaker of the Knesset he was in line to succeed to the office of President of Israel in the event of the incumbent's death or disablement. Barkatt was a member of the Bureau of the Socialist International; the Asian Socialist Conference; and the Executive of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. He was an initiator of the Afro-Asian Institute for Labor and Cooperative Studies and chairman of the Berl Katznelson Institute for Study and Research.

JAVITS' OFFICE DENIES PRESSURE ON
PROSECUTOR TO DEPORT FORMER NAZI

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--The office of Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R,N.Y.) has denied to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it or Javits had pressured a federal prosecutor to succeed in deporting a convicted former Nazi guard who now lives here. A spokesman said only routine inquiries had been made to ascertain the nature of the case. Javits' office replied to a JTA inquiry stemming from a charge made here by John J. Barry, attorney for Mrs. Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, that the Senator and other, unnamed legislators had pressured Vincent Schiano of the Immigration and Naturalization Service with "a ton of correspondence" insisting that Mrs. Ryan be deported.

Barry made the charge to the JTA on March 21 at the deportation hearing here; the proceedings were postponed that day to allow the attorneys to gather witnesses' depositions, which they are still doing. Mrs. Ryan, who was convicted in Austria in 1945 of torturing prisoners at Ravensbrueck and Maidanek, lost her American citizenship last Sept. for having failed to note the conviction on her application.

Schiano told the JTA, that he has not seen Javits in 20 years and has had no contact with Javits' office on the case. But he acknowledged that some "Jewish circles" were "pressuring" the government--though not him personally, to have Mrs. Ryan deported.

GOV. SHAPP GIVEN AWARD FOR
SERVICE TO JEWISH CAUSES

HARRISBURG, Pa., April 5 (JTA)--Gov. Milton J. Shapp of Pennsylvania was presented with the Honorary Membership Award of the National Committee for Furtherance of Jewish Education here today. The award, the first ever given by the NCFJE, was presented to Gov. Shapp in recognition of "his exemplification of Jewish ideal and his lifelong espousal of the Jewish cause." The presentation was made by Rabbi Jacob J. Hecht, NCFJE executive vice-president and J. James Plesser, president of the Jewish educational service organization.



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Prior to her appointment she served as a director of the Economic Council of Canada, the highest post ever held by a woman in any Canadian government body. Mrs. Ostry's husband, Bernard, is a historian and assistant deputy minister for citizenship in the Department of the Secretary of State. The Ostrys live in Ottawa with their two sons and are founders of the Modern Jewish School here, a secular institution.

JEWISH GROUP SAYS NORTH VIETNAMESE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO TREES PROJECT

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--The first delegation of American Jews who met last month in Paris with representatives of the North Vietnamese leadership to get their reaction to the "Trees for Vietnam" project, has returned to the US. The project is aimed at ending the war and collecting funds for "ecological reparations" to North Vietnam for damage resulting from American bombing raids on that country. According to spokesmen for the group, the tree was chosen as an appropriate symbol because of the Biblical injunction against the destruction of trees in time of war.

The delegation consisted of Rabbi Michael Robinson, national chairman of the Jewish Peace Fellowship and a member of the Social Action Commission of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Mitchell Smith, a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia; Mitchell Krucoff, president of the Middle Atlantic Federation of Temple Youth; Ruth Robinson, who is active with Temple Sisterhoods; and Mike Tabor, who is coordinator of the "Trees for Vietnam" project.

Jews Will Be Asked For Funds

They met in Paris with representatives of the Vietnamese Buddhist Peace Delegation; the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam; the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam; the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; the Overseas Buddhist Association; and the School of Youth for Social Services of South Vietnam.

According to the Jewish delegation, the Vietnamese reacted "very positively" to the trees project. The organizers of the project said the Vietnamese delegations they met agreed to select specific villages where trees are needed and American Jews will be asked to raise funds to re-forest those areas. They said other means of assistance such as medical aid to injured Vietnamese civilians were also discussed in Paris.

SCHUMANN'S STATEMENT DEPLORED

PARIS, April 5 (JTA)--Israeli diplomatic circles here have reacted bitterly to a statement by Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann on a recent radio interview that Israel seemed to be "possessed with a genuine passion for annexation" of neighboring Arab territory. There was no official comment from Jerusalem on Schumann's interview but circles said his statement showed that France has not altered its pro-Arab policy.

SPECIAL JTA INTERVIEW**THE BOREDOM OF THE LONG-DISTANCE WRITER**
By GEORGE FRIEDMAN, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--Ephraim Kishon is Israel's leading satirist who finds satire-writing "boring" and a screenwriter who finds screenwriting "boring," but he has written more than 30 books, hundreds of articles and four films. Why? Because "I am a writer." And how does he bear the boredom? "I do everything I can to break the routine. I wrote an opera..."

Kishon is here this week to launch the American run of "The Policeman," a comedy that is an Academy Award nominee for best foreign-language film of 1971. "If I make a picture there has to be a reason for it," he told a couple of Stateside journalists today. "I am mainly a writer, but because I am very bored with writing I am now directing pictures. It is such a full feeling of creation--something close to God's deed."

With "The Policeman," he said, he "wanted to make people laugh" while at the same time "touching" them with a very "human" story. The film is about a pallid middle-aged man (Shay K. Ophir) who is learned in Scripture but insists on trying to make good with the Israeli police force despite 20 years of bumbling. "It is a true situation"--in Israel, the United States and elsewhere--Kishon said; such men cannot accept failure, even in pursuits in which they fail all along the line.

Of Ophir's character, Avram Azulai, Kishon elaborated: "He doesn't want to take off the uniform and be a big nothing. On the other hand, it is a great human tragedy to dismiss these people." But Kishon's talk of "boredom" dominated the talk. He acknowledged that in making films, "I enjoy only one thing, and that is the cutting (editing) of the picture."

From Concentration Camps To Israel

Kishon's first film, "Sallah," was an Oscar nominee for 1964, but lost to Italian Vittorio De Sica's "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." This time around, "The Policeman" is almost certain to lose to the same De Sica's "Garden of the Finzi-Continis." In between, Kishon made "Ervinka" and "The Big Dig," neither of which is much known in America. His consolation is that he makes movies for himself and for Israelis, and doesn't much care about foreign opinions--except those of awards-givers.

The slim, bespectacled writer was born in Budapest 47 years ago. At 15 he was wearing a yellow star. At various times he was interned in--and escaped from--prison camps in Germany, Russia and Hungary. Once he spent six weeks hiding in a cellar "eating only tomato juice," which he still cannot stand today. A sculptor in metal as well as a scrivener, he calls himself "the only European writer in world history who learned Hebrew," remarking: "In that day I was crazy. If I told you I learned a whole Hebrew dictionary by heart..."

Kishon went to Israel in 1949 on papers stolen from a Hungarian. "He was taking a bath. I took all the papers he had. I do not feel any remorse. He remained the same guy he was. I saved my life." Of his 23 years in Israel he says: "I thank God for every minute."

**AIPAC URGES CONGRESS TO APPROVE
AID TO ISRAEL TO HELP ABSORB
JEWISH REFUGEES FROM THE SOVIET UNION**

WASHINGTON, April 5 (JTA)--The American Israel Public Affairs Committee disclosed today that it has appealed to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee to

approve a grant-in-aid to help Israel absorb Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union in an amount greater than the \$50 million recently proposed by the State Department.

The 2500-word AIPAC memorandum to the Congressional committees did not stipulate any amount but stressed the magnitude of the need and noted the amounts being allocated for the purpose by the Jewish Agency and the Israel government.

The memo said the Jewish Agency estimates that \$200 million will be needed to resettle 30,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive in Israel during 1972 and has earmarked \$260 million more to absorb an additional 40,000 immigrants expected from other countries. The memo said the Israeli government will allocate some \$240 million for immigrant absorption. The memo was submitted by Irving Kane of Cleveland, AIPAC chairman, and I.L. Kenen, executive vice-chairman. AIPAC will hold its annual policy conference here April 19-20. Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban will fly to Washington to address the conference on April 20.

Huge Backlog Of Urgent Human Needs

In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee two weeks ago, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco said the administration proposed a grant of \$50 million to Israel for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1972 in view of Israel's extraordinarily heavy defense burdens and to help the integration of refugees arriving from the Soviet Union.

An identical sum for Israel was included in the Foreign Assistance Program for the current fiscal year which expires June 30. Meanwhile, several bills containing grants for Israel to help in the absorption of immigrants are before Congress.

AIPAC's memo noted that "past immigration presents Israel with a huge backlog of urgent human needs" and stated that a great majority of the 13,000 Jews who came to Israel last year from the Soviet Union "are still a long way from absorption." The memo furthermore noted that funds are necessary for establishing new communities with schools, hospitals, roads and cultural centers.

**\$100M CANADIAN LOAN WILL BE
USED TO IMPROVE RAIL SERVICE**

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA)--Part of the \$100 million Canadian loan to Israel will be used to improve rail service between Haifa and Tel Aviv, Transport Minister Shimon Peres disclosed here on his return from a visit to the US, Canada and Latin America. He said the money would be used to purchase self-propelled coaches to provide hourly service between Israel's two largest cities and would considerably shorten the travel time. He said he hoped the new service could be started in 1973.

Peres said that another portion of the Canadian loan would be used to build new passenger and cargo terminals at Lydda Airport. The passenger terminal will be built of pre-fabricated aluminum, concrete and glass sections imported from Canada. He said that if production schedules are met it should be in service next year when Israel starts the observance of its 25th anniversary.

The finals of the 13th annual Bible contest will be April 30 at the High School of Art and Design in New York City.

SPECIAL JTA ANALYSISIS POSTAL SERVICE DEMOLISHING
THE AMERICAN JEWISH PRESS?

By PHILIP SLOMOVITZ

Editor, Publisher of The Detroit
Jewish News, JTA Vice-President

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency's cartoonist, Noah Bee, in a recent cartoon entitled "Is This Demolition Necessary?", depicted how the US Postal Service threatens the Jewish publications structure. It was a timely question and a well drawn cartoon, and it is no wonder that it is stimulating questions regarding the security of the Jewish press.

At the White House briefing conference for the American Jewish press on March 13, there was a cross-section of publications appearing in this country with direct appeals to Jews: Hebrew, Yiddish, English readers. Young and old were there--those with yarmulkes and most without; about 20 out of the 90 present asked for the kosher boxed lunches ordered by the White House staff, the rest ate the regular buffet luncheon. This may provide a conglomerate picture of Jewry as constituted in America. Does it provide a clue to the Postal Demolition Process?

The fact is, most of the publications wouldn't suffer an iota from increased postal rates. Many of them have such small circulations that the effect could be nil. Also--many of the publications are organizational organs, and public funds are easier to attain--and to spend. The only surviving major Yiddish newspaper, Forward, won't suffer; it sells mostly on newsstands. The new Yiddish weekly, the Allgemeine Journal, won't suffer that much either--it, too, must depend on New York newsstands.

Assure Existence of Jewish Newspapers

The English-Jewish weekly press, perhaps the most vital in the field because its combined circulation now approaches half a million, can be--already is!--in real trouble. Second Class mailing rights gave newspapers and magazines a real lift in years gone by, when rates were very low. Today, a newspaper must figure on substantial costs to enable it to circulate mail-wise. When a weekly newspaper's mailing costs rise--from let us say \$2000 a year to the present \$30,000, with warnings of new increases coming, the reader can expect to pay twice as much for a year's copies, and the already difficult-to-attain advertising will cost considerably more.

That's why some papers are beginning to set their own type for the photo-offset process; but that's applicable to a small paper. A 10- to 120-page weekly edition like the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent can't risk such self-labor whose aim is primarily to become non-union. An average 48- to 56-page Detroit Jewish News must have the hot type and well supervised plant to produce a good newspaper.

Postal rates, increased union costs, rising salaries, create difficulties for the Jewish press. Many non-Jewish periodicals already have collapsed; some are about to say finis to their existence, due in some measure to rising postal rates. The Yiddish press faces the same dangers. Communities should be readied to face the consequences because they must assure the existence of the Jewish press. Without them they'll bankrupt as speedily as the press.

REUBEN BARKATT, SPEAKER OF THE KNESSET
LABOR PARTY LEADER, DIES AT AGE 66

JERUSALEM, April 5 (JTA)--Reuben Barkatt, Speaker of the Knesset since 1969 and a prominent

figure in the Labor Party, died of a heart attack at his home here last night at the age of 66. Barkatt, who was born in Lithuania and settled in Palestine in 1926, served as Israel's Ambassador to Norway in 1960-61. He was first elected to the Knesset in 1965.

There was no official announcement of Barkatt's death this morning due to the Passover holiday. He will lie in state in the Knesset. Funeral services are scheduled for Friday.

Barkatt was educated at the Universities of Paris and Strassbourg and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He began a career in public service as general secretary of the Soldiers' Welfare Committee of Histadrut and headed its international, cultural and Arab affairs departments. From 1962-66 he was secretary general of Mapai, forerunner of the present Israel Labor Party.

As Speaker of the Knesset he was in line to succeed to the office of President of Israel in the event of the incumbent's death or disablement. Barkatt was a member of the Bureau of the Socialist International; the Asian Socialist Conference; and the Executive of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. He was an initiator of the Afro-Asian Institute for Labor and Cooperative Studies and chairman of the Berl Katznelson Institute for Study and Research.

JAVITS' OFFICE DENIES PRESSURE ON
PROSECUTOR TO DEPORT FORMER NAZI

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--The office of Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R,N.Y.) has denied to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it or Javits had pressured a federal prosecutor to succeed in deporting a convicted former Nazi guard who now lives here. A spokesman said only routine inquiries had been made to ascertain the nature of the case. Javits' office replied to a JTA inquiry stemming from a charge made here by John J. Barry, attorney for Mrs. Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan, that the Senator and other, unnamed legislators had pressured Vincent Schiano of the Immigration and Naturalization Service with "a ton of correspondence" insisting that Mrs. Ryan be deported.

Barry made the charge to the JTA on March 21 at the deportation hearing here; the proceedings were postponed that day to allow the attorneys to gather witnesses' depositions, which they are still doing. Mrs. Ryan, who was convicted in Austria in 1945 of torturing prisoners at Ravensbrueck and Maidanek, lost her American citizenship last Sept. for having failed to note the conviction on her application.

Schiano told the JTA, that he has not seen Javits in 20 years and has had no contact with Javits' office on the case. But he acknowledged that some "Jewish circles" were "pressuring" the government--though not him personally, to have Mrs. Ryan deported.

GOV. SHAPP GIVEN AWARD FOR
SERVICE TO JEWISH CAUSES

HARRISBURG, Pa., April 5 (JTA)--Gov. Milton J. Shapp of Pennsylvania was presented with the Honorary Membership Award of the National Committee for Furtherance of Jewish Education here today. The award, the first ever given by the NCFJE, was presented to Gov. Shapp in recognition of "his exemplification of Jewish ideal and his lifelong espousal of the Jewish cause." The presentation was made by Rabbi Jacob J. Hecht, NCFJE executive vice-president and J. James Plesser, president of the Jewish educational service organization.