

**After The Republican Party Convention:
GOP STANDARD BEARERS HOPE TO GAIN
MORE SUPPORT IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**
By David Friedman

DALLAS, Aug. 26 (JTA) — President Reagan and Vice President George Bush left here to begin a campaign for their re-election in which they hope to turn the Republican Party into the majority party in the United States. This includes a strong effort to increase the Republican vote in the Jewish community which gave 40 percent of its vote to Reagan in 1980.

But while support for Israel will be stressed as part of this effort it may not be the main focus as both Reagan and his Democratic opponent, former Vice President Walter Mondale, will not be contesting whether the U.S. should support Israel, but which of the two is the greater friend of the Jewish State.

However, while Mondale did not mention Israel in his acceptance speech in San Francisco in July, leaving it to his running mate, Rep. Geraldine Ferraro of New York, both Reagan and Bush did, in brief mentions of the Mideast in their acceptance speeches to the Republican national convention last night.

Pledge Not To Sell Out Israel

"In the Middle East, it remains difficult to bring an end to historic conflicts — but we are not discouraged," Reagan said. "And we shall always maintain our pledge never to sell out one of our closest friends — the State of Israel."

Bush, outlining the Reagan Administration's accomplishments abroad, said, "We are reaching out to more countries in the Middle East, and our relations with Israel have never been stronger."

The Republicans are also pointing out that their platform supports a free trade area between Israel and the U.S. while the Democrats do not mention this in their platform. But the Democratic Party platform supports moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and rejects providing sophisticated arms to Arab countries, two issues which the GOP platform ignores.

Focus On Domestic Issues

However, it is in the domestic area that the Republicans apparently feel they can make gains in the Jewish community, particularly because of the anti-Semitic remarks that came out of the unsuccessful campaign of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, especially of Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan.

Republicans at the convention here made much of that. Their platform denounces anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry while the Democrats failed to do so.

Both Reagan and Bush alluded to this in their acceptance speeches. "We don't lump people by groups or special interests," Reagan asserted. "And, let me add, in the party of Lincoln, there is no room for intolerance, and, not even a small corner for anti-Semitism or bigotry or any kind. Many people are welcome in our house, but not the bigots."

Bush was even more blunt. "Let this be heard loud and clear: Ronald Reagan has protected and will continue to protect the rights of all Americans," he said. "Discrimination based on race, religion, sex or age will never be tolerated by this President

or this Vice President. And furthermore, we condemn the vicious anti-Semitism of Louis Farrakhan and the ugly bigotry of the Ku Klux Klan."

However, the Republicans may have their own problems in the Jewish community on platform planks that many feel threaten the Constitutional guarantee of the separation of church and state. The most important of these issues is the call for prayer in the public schools. But there are other points, such as tuition tax credits for parents of parochial school students, a Constitutional amendment opposing abortions, and the call for a Constitutional Convention if Congress does not adopt a Constitutional Amendment requiring a balanced federal budget. While there are differences of opinion on these issues among Jews, Jewish organizations have been in the lead in opposing them.

Frank Fahrenkopf, Jr., Republican national chairman, told a press conference during the convention that Presidential candidates from both parties have, historically, not felt bound by the platform nor have candidates for the House and Senate. Moderate Republicans running for election or re-election this year have already said they will not support the platform on these issues.

Issue Of Religious Intolerance

But Reagan has always been in favor of these issues. At an ecumenical prayer breakfast here Thursday morning, Reagan accused opponents of school prayer of being "intolerant" of religion. He attacked the Democrats on the school prayer issue in his acceptance speech.

"If our opponents were as vigorous in supporting our voluntary prayer amendment as they are in raising taxes, maybe we could get the Lord back in our schoolrooms and drugs and violence out," Reagan said. Bush also put in a plug for school prayer in his speech. "We believe kids in school should not be prohibited from prayer," he said. (Jewish organizations denounced Reagan's remarks. See Separate Story.)

Reagan also pressed the tuition tax saying: "There is no longer any good reason to hold back passage of tuition tax credits legislation. Millions of average parents pay their full share of taxes to support public schools while choosing to send their children to parochial or other independent schools. Doesn't fairness dictate that they should have some help in carrying this double burden?"

The Role Of The Religious Right

The social issues adopted in the Republican platform are part of the agenda of the religious right, and Christian Evangelists have had a major influence in the convention. Such television preachers as M. G. (Pat) Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network and the Rev. Jerry Falwell were active here in the week before and during the convention and Falwell gave the benediction Wednesday night.

While many Jews have expressed concern about this influence, the members of the National Jewish Coalition for Reagan-Bush have denied that this will affect the campaign. The Jewish Republican group was visibly active during the convention and expects to play a major role in the campaign, especially in seven key states with large Jewish populations — California, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Illinois. They believe Reagan will do better

in the Jewish community this year than in 1980. Jack Abramoff, a 25-year-old student at the Georgetown Law Center in Washington, D.C., who is chairman of the College Republican National Committee and a leader of the Jewish Youth for Reagan-Bush, believes that the strongest support for Reagan among Jews will be in those ages 18 to 27. Thirty percent of this group is registered as Republicans.

Abramoff, an Orthodox Jew, said while many young Jews started as Democrats "they find themselves leaving the Democratic Party because of its increasingly radical stands which threaten our economic security and international strength." He said that young Jews "know that a strong Israel needs a strong America, and it is the Republican Party which best promotes this ideal"

Abramoff, who addressed the opening session of the Republican convention, said this was a sign that the party wants to reach out to American Jews.

Issues Of Concern To Jews

Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, described the issues of particular concern to the Jewish community in a speech to the AJCommittee's Dallas chapter last Tuesday.

But he stressed, "Jews do not make their political judgements only on the basis of Jewish issues. The Jewish community is not monolithic on the broad economic, social and international issues. Surveys show they are no longer as liberal as they used to be, but not as conservative as the general American electorate."

Bookbinder warned that "candidates seeking support of Jewish voters, therefore, should address themselves to the broad range of public issues and not risk offending them by a narrow parochial single-issue agenda."

However, Jews do not want the issues of special concern to them ignored by the candidates. The first sign of how the fall campaign will be conducted in the Jewish community will come after Labor Day when both Reagan and Mondale address the biennial convention of B'nai B'rith International in Washington, D.C.

JEWISH GROUPS DENOUNCE REAGAN'S REMARKS THAT OPPONENTS OF SCHOOL PRAYER ARE INTOLERANT OF RELIGION

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) — Jewish organizations denounced in strong terms today the comments by President Reagan at a prayer breakfast in Dallas last Thursday in which the President charged that those who opposed such expressions of religion as voluntary prayer in public schools were "intolerant of religion."

Rabbi Mordecai Waxman of Great Neck, N.Y., the president of the Synagogue Council of America, which represents the rabbinic and congregational agencies of Reform Conservative and Orthodox Judaism, said "religion is and should be a private commitment of people to God and to their religious institutions."

Waxman also asserted that "the state should provide the atmosphere within which religion should flourish." But, he added, "it is contrary to American tradition and to the interest of American society that the state should take the obtrusive position which is proposed by deliberately advancing religious behavior."

Asserting that political figures "are called upon to represent the electorate as a whole," Waxman declared that "to make politicians representatives of specific religious bodies is to make religious

affiliation and discrimination issues once again in a society which has begun to overcome them." He said religion had been injected into the Presidential campaign by both the Republican and Democratic parties and that this had created a division within America.

Says Reagan Is 'Christianizing' America

Rabbi Alexander Shapiro of South Orange, N.J., president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, accused Reagan of "Christianizing" America and even reading out of the American democratic system those who do not believe in religion or God.

Shapiro declared that Reagan's views are "totally contrary to our country's traditional separation of church and state," adding that Reagan believed "that politics and religion are inseparable but only providing that the moral mandate expressed agrees with his views." He said for President Reagan, "if you disagree, you are immoral."

The rabbi said that this means that religions which agree with the President's views "are on the side of righteousness" and he called such an interpretation of religion "dangerous." He added that the idea "that the state would even arrogate to itself the right to make moral judgements that religious leaders struggle with is an essential infringement on religious liberty."

Warns Of Threat To The Constitution

Howard Friedman, president of the American Jewish Committee, said the "freedom and tolerance" created by adherence to the Constitutional mandate of state-church separation "would be severely threatened if the State became actively involved in religion in ways that Mr. Reagan and his supporters advocate."

Friedman said "they support not freedom to worship, but the organization of prayer in the public schools" which he said would put "powerful pressure on students to worship in prescribed ways and would deter the expression of other authentic freedoms. In the same way, publicly-owned displays of religious symbols put the government behind particular forms of religious expression and ignore others."

Friedman added: "It is indeed ironic that a conservative President would seek to alter Constitutional principles."

Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that the President's charges betray "a gross misunderstanding of our Constitution and of the importance it has in the lives of all Americans. Does he really mean that the dozens of Baptist, Episcopalian, Jewish, Lutheran, Unitarian, Methodist and Presbyterian groups who have fought against prayer in the public schools are seeking to undermine the importance of religion in our lives?" Mann called this "absurd on its face."

He declared that the President "owes an obligation to respect the religious sensibilities of those millions of Americans who take their religion seriously and, precisely for that reason, believe that the place for religious prayer and practice is in the home and church and not in the public schools."

TWO TERRORISTS KILLED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26 (JTA) — Israel Defense Force soldiers killed two terrorists in a clash in south Lebanon today, they army reported. There were no Israeli casualties. The clash occurred some six kilometers east of Tyre. The two terrorists had been carrying large quantities of explosive and sabotage equipment at the time they were killed.

In other incidents, a Katyusha rocket was fired at an IDF position near Lake Karoun on the eastern sector this morning. There were no casualties.

JEWISH WAR VETS HOLD SPECIAL SERVICE TO MARK 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF PARIS

PARIS, Aug. 26 (JTA) — The 40th anniversary of the liberation of Paris from the Nazis was celebrated Friday night with a thanksgiving service at the Great Synagogue. Jewish war veterans attended official ceremonies yesterday and laid wreaths on the sites of the main battles for the city's liberation.

The main official ceremony was at Notre Dame Cathedral where Paris Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, himself a converted Jew who spent the war years in hiding, pleaded for better Franco-German understanding. "It is not enough to forgive and forget," he said. "We must learn to love each other."

A convoy of World War II Sherman tanks reenacted the city's liberation by following the same route they took when they drove into Paris on August 24, 1944. Only a handful of people braved the summer showers to watch them, mainly foreign tourists. The crowds were scarce because many Parisians were on their traditional August summer vacations. Many others said, however, that "all this seems past history which is now best forgotten."

BUDAPEST HOSTS CONFERENCE ON HUNGARIAN JEWRY AND THE HOLOCAUST

BUDAPEST, Aug. 26 (JTA) — A two-day conference entitled "Hungarian Jewry in the Twentieth Century," which included the participation of historians from Israel, was held here last week, the World Jewish Congress reported today.

The main topics examined during the conference, which was held at the prestigious Hungarian Academy of Sciences, were anti-Semitism and the deportation of Hungarian Jewry in 1944.

A WJC spokesman pointed out that the presence of Israeli participants at the conference was significant in that Hungary, since the 1967 Six-Day War, has not had diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. "Of equal importance," he added, "was the fact that official Hungarian media sources reporting on the conference noted the presence of the Israeli participants in both domestic and foreign broadcasts."

Earlier this month, representatives of the Hungarian Jewish community arrived in Israel to participate in the opening of an exhibition on Hungarian Jewry in Tel Aviv's Beth Hatefuzoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora. In May, Jews from around the world took part in memorial observances in Budapest marking the anniversary of the Nazi deportation of Hungarian Jewry.

In his opening address, the noted Hungarian academician, Gyorgy Ranki, said that the conference was an attempt "to give a comprehensive account of the Hungarian Holocaust by surveying the economic, social, political and intellectual process of the period and the role of Jews in these processes."

Dispute Over Report From Nicaragua:
MEMBERS OF FACT-FINDING MISSION
CLAIM THERE IS NO OFFICIAL ANTI-SEMITISM; VIEW IS REJECTED BY ADL
AND NICARAGUAN JEWS IN EXILE
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA) — There is no official anti-Semitism in Nicaragua today but there are strong anti-Israel sentiments because of Israeli policies in Central America which appear to support

rightwing dictatorships, according to three members of a recent fact-finding mission to Nicaragua organized by the New Jewish Agenda.

The three members, part of a 10-member delegation, who briefed reporters here last week on their recently concluded mission, said they wanted to investigate whether there is a basis for allegations of anti-Semitism initially raised by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

While the three said they are not in conflict with charges raised by the ADL about anti-Semitism in Nicaragua two years ago, they asserted they differed with the policies of the Reagan Administration which, they claimed, used the charge of anti-Semitism in Nicaragua for its own political purposes.

The assertions made at the press conference were immediately challenged by Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the ADL's Latin American Affairs Department, and by the Miami-based Jewish Nicaraguan Congregation in Exile.

Rosenthal said he was "disappointed" with the remarks by the three persons who addressed the press conference. He said that "in no way does it reflect the experience of the Nicaraguan Jews ... I think they used the Jewish issue as a pretext for going down there and I question to what extent they were serious in doing something for Jews."

'Misleading' And 'Tragically Irrelevant'

The Jewish Nicaraguan Congregation in Exile said the statement that the Nicaraguan government has no anti-Semitic policy is "not only misleading, but tragically irrelevant." The exile group, in their statement signed by Kurt Preiss and Fred Luft, president and secretary, respectively, said there is no Jewish community in Nicaragua and that the delegation was hard pressed to find a single Jew with whom to speak.

"The delegation's experience is eloquent testimony to the fact that it is beside the point whether the Sandinistas have an official policy of anti-Semitism," the group's statement said. "The effects of the Sandinistas' anti-Semitic actions, which began even before they came to power, show that no 'policy' is needed to destroy a small Jewish community of less than 60 Jews."

The three mission members at the news conference were Rabbi Gerald Serotta, chaplain at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a founder of the New Jewish Agenda; David Cohen, president of the Professional's Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control, Washington, D.C.; and Dr. James Statman, psychologist and a member of the New Jewish Agenda's Central America Task Force, also of Washington, D.C.

Met With Leading Personalities

The three said that during their five-day mission, the delegation, which included Rabbi Marshall Meyer, the founding rector of the Central America Rabbinical Assembly in Buenos Aires and a member of President Raul Alfonsin's Commission on the Disappeared Persons in Argentina, met with leading members of the Sandinista government and opposition leaders.

Among those with whom they met, according to the three mission members, were Supreme Court President Dr. Roberto Arguella, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Nora Astorga, editors and clerics, and members of the Nicaraguan Commission for Human Rights. They also said they met with the 10 remaining Jews in Nicaragua; with American Jews living in that country; and before leaving the U.S. with three expatriate Nicaraguan Jews living in Miami.

Based on their discussions, the group concluded: "We believe that there is no policy of anti-Semitism or

bias on the part of any official body. Moreover, it was made abundantly clear to us and confirmed by leaders of the Sandinista government that Nicaragua welcomes Jewish participation as well as participation from any group in the reconstruction of a pluralistic society which seeks friendly relations, based on non-intervention with respect to its neighbors."

Serotta quoted Sergio Ramirez, a member of Nicaragua's three-member governing junta, as saying that his government is "open to mutual initiatives" toward re-establishing relations with Israel. Nicaragua broke diplomatic ties with Israel in 1982 over Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Controversy Over Charges Of Anti-Semitism

The controversy over charges of anti-Semitism in Nicaragua reached its climax last summer when President Reagan told a White House forum that "virtually the entire Jewish community of Nicaragua has been frightened into exile"

Many Jews fled, charging harassment and that their property had been confiscated. The synagogue in Managua was also confiscated and turned into a children's social club and its walls were plastered with anti-Zionist propaganda. The issue of the synagogue was raised by the ADL with the Nicaraguan government as long ago as 1981. At that time, a leading Nicaraguan official said the issue would be reviewed. Services were last held there in 1978. The Torahs are in safe keeping in Miami.

Serotta told the press conference that Nicaragua has pledged to return the synagogue. He said the remaining Jews there asked him to arrange services for Yom Kippur in October.

HERZOG GIVES PERES ANOTHER 21 DAYS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog today granted Labor Party leader Shimon Peres an additional 21 days to form a government, but there are grave doubts in the political community as to whether he will succeed in doing so.

Observers point out that Yehudai Party leader Ezer Weizman's agreement last week to form a parliamentary bloc with Labor has not resulted in the hoped-for domino process among other small parties. The National Religious Party, with four Knesset seats, and Agudat Israel, with two seats, are stubbornly sitting on the fence. At the same time, Aharon Abu Hatzeira, leader of Tami (one seat), also refuses to join with Labor.

Without Tami, Labor has lined up 60 seats, enough to prevent Likud from forming a government. With Tami, Labor would have -- at least on paper, with Hadash and the Progressive List for Peace providing passive support -- 61 seats, enough to form a government.

Unity Talks Remain Bugged Down

Meanwhile, unity talks between Labor and Likud are still bogged down over the issue of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and that of the Premiership. Peres and Premier Yitzhak Shamir are to meet tomorrow for a third time since Peres was given his original mandate by Herzog three weeks ago.

Likud ministers urged Shamir today to hold firm in the demand for "rotation" of the Premiership, and Labor negotiators urged Peres to hold firm in rejecting this idea. Labor, following Weizman's swing over -- as well as Yigael Hurvitz, leader of the

one-seat Courage To Cure the Economy -- is in no mood to entertain the idea of rotation, as they may have been prepared to do a week ago.

But on the Likud side, the argument is that Weizman's move has not tipped the scales fully in Labor's favor. Therefore, Likud leaders say, rotation is still a viable option. Significantly, though, well placed Likud sources were not prepared to predict tonight that Shamir himself would endorse this view at his talks with Peres tomorrow. Some indicated that Shamir might be likely to agree to a unity government under Peres so long as Likud and Labor have an equal number of ministers and Likud holds the defense portfolio.

KACH SUPPORTERS BEAT FOUR MKs By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Supporters of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement today prevented four Knesset members from approaching the Tel Mond prison, cursing them and pummeling them and accusing them of being PLO and terrorist supporters.

The MKs -- Mordechai Virshubski of Shinui, Yair Tzaban of the Labor Alignment, Mordechai Bar-On of the Citizens Rights Movement, and Bennie Shalita of Likud -- were seeking to ascertain that suspected members of the Jewish underground, not being tried for anti-Arab activities and attempts to damage Moslem sites on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, were not receiving preferential treatment in the prison.

Virshubski had told Interior Minister Yosef Burg last week that he intended to visit the Tel Mond prison, along with other MKs, to fulfill their legal right to inspect prison conditions. The underground members were given special facilities while being held in Jerusalem, and since their transfer to Tel Mond have been visited and encouraged by a number of rightwing Knesset members.

Kahane and his followers announced last week that they would prevent the MKs from entering the prison today. When the four parliamentarians arrived at the prison gates they were surrounded by between 20 and 30 Kahane supporters, many of them wearing yellow shirts with the Kach emblem on them. Among the demonstrators was the family of an Israel Defense Force soldier who was killed by terrorists in the West Bank two weeks ago. The PLO has claimed responsibility for the murder.

Israel Radio reporters played back tape recorded threats by the demonstrators who could be heard yelling "terrorists," "PLO lovers," "we will smash in your faces ... We will break your legs." Reporters also described how the four MKs were beaten.

But police denied that any physical violence had occurred and Burg said he had not been informed of any violence. If there had been, he added, the police should have intervened. However, according to reporters present, prison guards behind the gates stood by passively as the MKs were being pummelled and refused to allow the MKs into their office to communicate with Ministers and senior officers in Jerusalem.

After a half hour of tumult the Sharon district police deputy inspector, Kalman Bomstein, arrived. He later told Israel Radio that he had plainclothes policemen in the crowd and had come as soon as he thought police reinforcements were warranted.

Abba Eban, the temporary Knesset Speaker, said he was informed of the incident by Virshubski and would ask Burg, who is also Police Minister, for his official version of the affair.