

JEWISH LEADERS SAY COURT NOMINEE'S RECORD, NOT RELIGION, IS AT ISSUE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- President Reagan's latest Supreme Court nominee cannot necessarily count on the support of the Jewish community, despite the fact that Judge Douglas Ginsburg would become, if confirmed by the Senate, the first Jew to serve on the high court since 1969.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater conceded last week that Ginsburg's Jewishness was one of the factors Reagan considered in selecting him last Thursday to join the court as an associate justice.

There has been much speculation since the appointment that because he is a Jew, opponents would not be able to attack Ginsburg as strongly as they did his colleague on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Judge Robert Bork.

Bork, Reagan's first choice to succeed Justice Lewis Powell, who retired from the court this summer, was rejected by the Senate by a 58-42 vote Oct. 23.

But Jewish leaders interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency stressed that Ginsburg's so far unknown opinions on such issues as the separation of church and state, privacy and civil rights would ultimately be more important considerations for Jewish advocacy groups than the fact that Ginsburg would be the sixth Jew to serve on the Supreme Court.

"Jews, like other Americans, are chiefly concerned about the quality of a nominee's understanding of constitutional justice," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "The fact that Judge Douglas Ginsburg is Jewish is irrelevant to the question of his competency."

These views were echoed by Hyman Bookbinder, former Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee. "Anytime a Jew is appointed to a high position" there is a feeling of "satisfaction" within the Jewish community, he said. This, he said, is the same satisfaction Jews have in knowing that there are seven Jews in the U.S. Senate, who were elected not because they were Jews, but for their views, and that being Jews did not keep them from achieving high office.

Must Be Qualified

But Bookbinder said he "deeply resented" the idea of some in the administration that as a Jew, Ginsburg would be immune from criticism. "If he is not qualified for the court, then his Jewishness will not play a role at all" in deciding how the Jewish community reacts to the appointment, he said.

Both Bookbinder and David Brody, ADL's Washington representative, rejected suggestions that Ginsburg would fill the Jewish seat on the court. "We can't support the notion of a Jewish seat because that implies a quota," Brody said.

This view was also stressed at the biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) in Chicago this week.

Addressing the convention, Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the Reform organization, said, "We do not believe that there is a single Jewish seat on the Supreme Court, nor should the bench be the province of any ethnic or religious group. The only standards by which to judge a nominee are his qualifications and convictions."

Reagan, in announcing Ginsburg's nomination, stressed that Ginsburg is a "believer in judicial restraint," who "is highly respected by his peers across the political spectrum."

Although he is a conservative who has been a strong advocate of the free market approach to regulation and anti-trust, Ginsburg's views on most constitutional issues are unknown.

As these views become known during his Senate confirmation hearing, Bookbinder predicted that, as in the case of Bork, some Jews will support him and others oppose him, but the majority will not take a public stand.

A 'Searching Examination' From Jews

The UAHC and the American Jewish Congress were among the leading Jewish opponents of the Bork nomination. Vorspan stressed at the Chicago convention that Ginsburg's Jewishness will "in no way exempt him from a searching examination of his views and records by all Americans, including American Jews."

He warned that if the UAHC's "scrutiny of Judge Ginsburg's beliefs and judicial record" finds that Reagan "kept his promise to name a new candidate more objectionable than Judge Bork, we will publicly oppose his confirmation and testify against him. For the moment we have no opinion."

David Saperstein, co-director and counsel of the UAHC's Religious Action Center, added, in an interview with JTA that "if anyone at the Justice Department believes that the Jewish community would sacrifice its responsibility to oppose any individual who proves to be a threat to our fundamental rights, it is an insult and a gravely wrong assessment."

Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, also stressed that Ginsburg's Jewishness would not save him from opposition if he holds the same views as Bork. He said the AJCongress also is waiting to learn more about Ginsburg.

Not Active In Jewish Life

Meanwhile, in checking with Jews inside and outside the Reagan administration, the JTA was unable to find any participation by Ginsburg in the organized Jewish community.

Some Jewish leaders pointed out, however, that the last Jew to serve on the court, Abe Fortas, also was not identified with the Jewish community.

Ginsburg's first wife, Claudia de Secundy, told the New York Times that they were married in a synagogue "primarily because of his mother," but did not join a congregation after their marriage.

Their 17-year-old daughter is named Jessica de Secundy, because Ginsburg wanted to preserve his wife's family name, according to his former wife. "He said there were lots of Ginsburgs

around," de Secundy told the Times. "No one else in my family was having kids."

Ginsburg and his current wife, Dr. Hallee Morgan, an obstetrician, have a 2-year-old daughter, also named Hallee Morgan, which is also the name of the elder Morgan's mother.

Ginsburg, who was born in Chicago on May 25, 1946, graduated from Cornell University and the University of Chicago Law School. He was a law clerk for Justice Thurgood Marshall.

An assistant professor and then professor at the Harvard Law School from 1975 to 1983, Ginsburg served the Reagan administration first as an official in the Justice Department's Antitrust Division and then in the Office of Management and Budget. He returned to the Justice Department in 1985 as an assistant attorney general in charge of the Antitrust Division.

The first Jew named to the Supreme Court was Louis Brandeis, who served from 1916 to 1939. He was followed by Benjamin Cardozo, 1932-38; Felix Frankfurter, 1939-62; Arthur Goldberg, 1962-65; and Fortas, 1965-69.

U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITIES PLAN BIG TURNOUT FOR WASHINGTON RALLY By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Dozens of representatives from Midwest and East Coast Jewish communities met here Tuesday to plan for a "mass mobilization" on behalf of Soviet Jewry to greet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Dec. 6 when he arrives in Washington for a summit meeting with President Reagan.

The representatives were invited here to Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith headquarters by the Summit III Task Force, which as coordinator of the Washington demonstration represents 50 national Jewish organizations and 300 local Jewish community organizations.

Local Jewish federations, Jewish community relations councils and chapters of national organizations have taken on responsibility for mobilization and coordination for the march and demonstration and have made it their "highest priority," according to Jerry Strober, spokesperson for the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

"We feel a very strong interest developing within the American Jewish community," said Strober. "We've had very positive signs from a number of organizations throughout the United States that they are enthusiastic, that they are excited, and that they see this as a historic opportunity."

Tuesday meeting participants included representatives from the Jewish communities of Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, the Delaware Valley, Detroit, southern New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, Va., Washington, D.C., and Worcester, Mass.

'As Many People As Possible'

According to Strober, they were urged "to make every effort to bring as many people as possible." The representatives were told that Jewish organizations nationwide are urging their members to attend the demonstration.

For instance, all 1,600 chapters of Hadassah will be asked to bring as many of their members as possible. In addition, students are being urged to participate through campus B'nai B'rith Hillel programs, according to a Hillel representative attending the meeting.

The three-hour march and demonstration will include music as well as addresses by former refuseniks -- including Natan Sharansky, Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak and Yuli Edelstein, all now living in Israel. Members of Congress, an administration representative, entertainment figures, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel and representatives of labor, civil rights, Christian and other ethnic groups also will be invited.

David Harris, coordinator of the event "on loan" from the American Jewish Committee, pointed out that Gorbachev could arrive two or three days before the official beginning of the summit and therefore could be in Washington at the time of the rally.

However, all was not peaceful in the Soviet Jewry activist camp. Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, said he was upset that Yosef Mendelevich, chairman of the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center located in Jerusalem, has not been invited to speak. Neither did he receive an invitation to speak at the rally on Solidarity Sunday last May, but then he grabbed the microphone and spoke anyway.

"It's not just Mendelevich but what Mendelevich represents," said Richter. "The program cannot be only thanks to the (Reagan) administration for speaking out for human rights in the Soviet Union, but also a challenge to the administration to do much more."

Richter said he didn't feel the enthusiasm that Strober did, but rather quiet interest.

FRENCH PREMIER SAYS PLO IS NOT PALESTINIANS' SOLE REPRESENTATIVE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Premier Jacques Chirac of France said Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organization should participate in any Middle East peace negotiations, but not as the only representative of the Palestinians. He spoke at a news conference at the end of his three-day visit to Israel.

Chirac was reported to have told Premier Yitzhak Shamir when they met Monday that he has steadfastly refused to meet PLO chief Yasir Arafat "despite various pressures" brought to bear on him.

He said the PLO has lost ground in recent years but may still be one of the organizations representing the Palestinian people, though not their sole representative, a designation it has long claimed.

Chirac is also reported to have told Shamir that he has been working ceaselessly "for 10 or 12 years" to persuade the Syrian government to allow Syrian Jews to emigrate, but with no success.

"As long as no solution is found, I will not visit Damascus," Chirac is reported to have said.

The French and Israeli leaders discussed measures to rectify the trade imbalance between their countries. Israel will have a \$130 million trade deficit with France this year.

They also spoke of scientific cooperation. Chirac urged that the teaching of French be expanded in Israeli schools. He said Hebrew language courses in French schools have increased recently.

Chirac also met with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Monday and reportedly found him to be still receptive to the idea of an international conference for Middle East peace.

JEWISH STUDENTS ATTACKED BY SUPPORTERS OF LE PEN

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Jewish students demonstrating against Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front were attacked by student supporters of Le Pen at Assas University here Monday. A police spokesman said two students were slightly injured and hospitalized.

The clash occurred in the university's entrance hall, where Jewish students were distributing leaflets condemning Le Pen and his party as "fascists and Nazis."

According to Jewish students, the Le Pen supporters assaulted the group handing out leaflets with chains, iron bars and lead pipes. University guards intervened to protect the Jewish students.

Le Pen angered Jews and non-Jews all over Europe last month when during a Radio Luxembourg interview he referred to the Holocaust as a "mere detail" of World War II.

Since the remark, Le Pen's popularity has plummeted. According to the results of a public opinion poll published in the daily *Le Monde* Tuesday, 66 percent of those questioned said Le Pen and his National Front represent a danger to French democracy. Prior to the Radio Luxembourg interview, 10 percent fewer people held that opinion.

In addition, 78 percent of the respondents in the latest poll disagreed with Le Pen's theories and only 8 percent said they would vote for him in next year's presidential elections. Last May, 9 percent of those polled said they were prepared to vote for Le Pen; a year ago, the number was 10 percent.

With respect to Le Pen's remark that he never saw a gas chamber during the Holocaust, 89 percent of the respondents in this week's poll said they were "certain" the gas chambers had existed, 8 percent thought it "probable" and only 1 percent "doubted" their existence.

The survey was conducted between Oct. 7-21 among 1,000 adults by Sofres, one of France's most prominent poll-taking organizations.

RADIO-TV STRIKE MAY BANKRUPT ISRAEL BROADCAST AUTHORITY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- The Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) has been brought to the verge of bankruptcy by the strike of radio and television journalists that began 28 days ago and appears to have no end in sight.

The IBA management was reported Tuesday to be considering severe austerity measures that would shut down virtually all of its services and facilities for the duration of the walk-out.

Since the strike began, the IBA's revenues, largely from sponsorships and public service announcements, have dropped to zero from a monthly average of between \$1 million and \$1.3 million. The total loss to date is over \$6 million.

The striking journalists say it would have cost the IBA far less to agree to their demand for equality of pay with print journalists, which is the main issue at stake in the strike.

While the IBA management may have been willing to comply with this demand, the Finance Ministry has ruled out any pay hikes for broadcast journalists on grounds that they are public employees.

The journalists themselves have suffered severe losses. Their salaries have not been paid since the strike began. The IBA continues to pay the salaries of managerial, secretarial and technical staff who have been locked out by the strike.

The austerity measures reportedly under consideration include an order to Bezek, the government corporation that handles postal and communications engineering services, to cut off its transmitters.

"Second Channel" May Be Blacked Out

The IBA has been using Bezek's facilities to air the experimental "second channel," which is slated eventually to be Israel's first commercial television outlet. If the transmitters are shut down, the "second channel" would be blacked out with the rest of television.

In addition, the IBA management may disconnect all but the most essential telephone lines, garage most of its vehicles, cancel newspaper and magazine subscriptions, discontinue foreign news wire services and reduce its support for the Jerusalem-IBA symphony orchestra.

The public has complained bitterly that it is forced to pay radio and television license fees when it is getting no service. The government replies that "technically, at least" the license fees are paid for the privilege of owning radio and television sets, not for the broadcasts normally provided by the IBA.

But the prolonged strike may have indirectly saved lives. The Highway Safety Council is checking out reports that there has been a significant drop in traffic accident fatalities and injuries since the strike started.

According to some sources, drivers are more relaxed because of the lack of hourly news bulletins and the television evening newscasts, which invariably carry stories of unrest, terrorist attacks, natural disasters and, more recently, stock exchange crashes.

ISRAELI ENVOY ENDS EUROPEAN TOUR OF DUTY

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Yossef Hadass, Israel's ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Economic Community, ended a four-year tour of duty Sunday and returned to Jerusalem.

Hadass, 59, will take over the post of deputy director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry for Africa, Asia and the Pacific region. He will replace Avi Primor, who, in turn, succeeds him as ambassador to Belgium.

Hadass, a career diplomat, had the honor of raising the Israeli flag for the first time over the newly opened Israel Embassy in Cairo in February 1980.

At a farewell meeting with Belgian journalists here Sunday, he spoke of the excellent relations between Israel and Belgium, which has become Israel's most important trading partner in the EEC. This is largely because of Israel's exports of cut diamonds to Belgium, where they are further processed.

Hadass also spoke of the improved political dialogue between Israel and the European Community, especially during Belgium's tenure as president of the EEC Council of Ministers earlier this year. The presidency is rotated regularly among the 12 EEC member states.

U.N. ENVOY MAY MOVE TO OVERTURN 1975 RESOLUTION ON ZIONISM

CHICAGO, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Vernon Walters, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, may take direct action to expunge the 1975 U.N. General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

"I am considering the idea of introducing a resolution that will repeal the 'Zionism is racism' resolution," he told 200 American Jewish community leaders attending the National Executive Committee meeting here of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

American policy at the United Nations is "never to leave a lie unchallenged, whether it is directed against Israel, the United States or other countries," Walters said.

The 12th anniversary of the adoption of the infamous resolution falls on Nov. 10.

The American envoy also predicted that by 1990, Israel's foes in the world organization will give up trying to oust Israel from the United Nations. He said the perennial attempts by the Arab states to deny Israel's credentials to sit in the General Assembly have been losing steam year by year. This year, it was rejected by a vote of 80-39, the largest margin ever.

Nevertheless, Walters noted that the United States has made it clear that if Israel were ousted from the General Assembly or the Security Council, this country "would cease to participate in those bodies."

In addition to Walters, speakers at the ADL meeting included Nobel peace laureate Elie Wiesel, who discussed "Jewish Priorities in These Changing Times," and Sen. William Cohen (R-Maine), who reported the results of the hearings of the Select Congressional Committee on the Iran-contra affair, of which he was a member.

PURSUING ALL PEACE AVENUES, UAHC ADVISES ISRAEL

CHICAGO, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations urged Israel's government Monday to "pursue all possible avenues" to peace "whether through direct talks or with appropriate international participation."

In a resolution adopted at the closing session of its national biennial convention here, the Reform Jewish congregational organization warned that the status quo in Judea, Samaria and Gaza was "damaging to Israel's essential character and moral security."

The UAHC resolution said that: "We know that all Jews share in the destiny of the Jewish state and in the responsibility of maintaining her survival and security. As family, we do not serve Israel's cause when we censor, sanitize or stifle our views, or submit to the attempts of others to censor them ... Any opportunity for advancing the peace process, whether through direct talks or with appropriate international participation, should be enthusiastically embraced.

In September, the American Jewish Congress called for an international conference for Middle East peace and a compromise solution for Israel's administered territories.

That was quickly followed by a letter to Israeli leaders from Morris Abram, chairman of the conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, saying the conference had a "tradition" of "restraint in giving public advice to Israel on matters of security," although con-

stituent organizations may take their own positions. UAHC is a constituent organization.

On Saturday, UAHC President Rabbi Alexander Schindler told the convention that U.S. Jews have "the right and responsibility to participate in Israel's peace debate."

In other resolutions, the more than 4,000 UAHC delegates:

- * Voiced "gratification at Israel's announcement that it will not enter into new military or civilian contracts with South Africa," commended Israel's government "for undertaking an expanded program of training black labor leaders from South Africa" and called for termination of the "twinning of Israeli and South African cities, such as Haifa and Cape Town, so that these arrangements do not provide a means of circumventing sanctions against South Africa."

- * Called on the prime minister of Israel "to instruct his Interior Ministry to register immediately as citizens all Reform and Conservative converts who have immigrated to Israel, as required by the Law of Return (which grants Israeli citizenship to all Jewish immigrants who request it) and by recent decisions of the Israeli Supreme Court."

- * Declared it was "deeply troubled ... about the increasing fanaticism of Israel's Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox political parties ... and about the willingness of some leading secular politicians to accommodate this trend for political gain." The resolution also protested "continuing efforts to amend the Law of Return, including the commitments given earlier this year by Likud to the ultra-Orthodox Shas party."

- * Urged the congregations to "encourage lesbian and gay Jews to share and participate in worship, leadership, and general synagogue life" and to "continue to develop educational programs that promote understanding and respect" for them.

- * Urged that AIDS victims "be protected from all forms of discrimination" including housing bias, and that Reform synagogues "reach out to individuals infected with the AIDS virus, their families and their friends, by providing food, clothing, legal assistance, transportation and empathetic listening."

- * Called on the member synagogues to "ban smoking entirely" at all of their "meetings, functions, and work places." The resolution called on the United States and Canada "to phase out subsidies to the tobacco industry ... and establish educational activities in religious schools and youth programs that discourage the use of smoking and nonsmoking tobacco products."

On Monday, nearly 1,000 members of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods unanimously condemned the "growing use of negative stereotyping and prejudice that demeans Jewish women."

In a resolution adopted at its national biennial convention here, the 100,000-member Reform Jewish women's group said that "what began as an object of sexist humor has now become a tool of the anti-Semite."

The resolution called on member sisterhoods to discontinue the sale of JAP items in their Judaica shops and be sensitive to the image and quality of their entire stock; to educate their congregations and communities about the "JAP stereotype"; and to "work to raise the consciousness of their congregations and communities to the subtleties of discrimination in our everyday lives."