

PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO ALLOW 'VOLUNTARY PRAYER'

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 21 (JTA) -- Jewish groups are gearing up to fight the year's second major congressional school prayer initiative, the latest a proposed constitutional amendment that would bar public schools from preventing "voluntary prayer."

The amendment, introduced last Friday by Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.), is not specific on what constitutes voluntary prayer. But it would allow "vocal voluntary prayer" in classrooms at a time set aside by the teacher, though such prayer could not be led by the teacher, explained Paul Mero, Dannemeyer's press secretary.

Dennis Rapps, executive director of COLPA, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, which represents Orthodox Jewish groups on church-state matters, said voluntary prayer is no problem, unless it has "a coercive aspect to it," such as a set time.

Rapps said school prayer is "not an issue on COLPA's agenda." But he added that any regulation on school prayer "creates an oppressive atmosphere for certain students."

Mero responded by saying a set time is needed so that students do not "disturb the order of the classroom" by offering prayers in the middle of classes.

The Supreme Court first banned organized school prayer in 1962. In its rulings, the court has struck down a "moment of silence" but not specifically a "set time for prayer."

But "it would be hard for me to see how (a set time) could be sustained" by the Supreme Court, said Richard Fulton, associate legal director of the American Jewish Committee.

Teaching Of Creationism

The amendment had 32 co-sponsors as of Tuesday, including conservative Reps. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.) and Henry Hyde (R-Ill.). To gain approval, it would need support from a two-thirds majority in each chamber of Congress, plus ratification by 38 states.

Section 1 of Dannemeyer's amendment states: "The right of the people to allow voluntary school prayer and the teaching of the Judeo-Christian ethic in public schools shall not be denied or abridged by the United States."

It states later that the amendment does not permit "any governmental or administrative authority to prescribe the form or content of any voluntary prayer."

In addition, "nothing in this amendment shall constitute an establishment of religion," it states.

Section 2 clarifies that the phrase "teaching of the Judeo-Christian ethic" shall include "the Ten Commandments and the creation of the earth, as accepted in the Judeo-Christian tradition."

Mark Pelavin, associate Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, criticized that definition. "Is Rep. Dannemeyer the arbiter of what the Judeo-Christian heritage is?" He termed the attempt to define it the "kind of government behavior that is troublesome."

On the House floor, Dannemeyer complained

last week that "the humanist philosophy has kicked the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all rivals other than man himself, out of our nation's public school system."

In a related move, the House approved, by a 269-135 vote on May 9, a Dannemeyer amendment to an education bill denying federal funds for training programs to any school district that has "a policy of denying or which effectively prevents participation in prayer in public schools by individuals on a voluntary basis."

Mero called that amendment "innocuous" in that it "only takes effect when some (school district) actually opposes voluntary prayer." Schools may be on record against organized prayer, but apparently few, if any, have outlawed voluntary prayer, he said.

On May 31, 25 Jewish and non-Jewish groups, including the Jewish War Veterans of America, the Synagogue Council of America, Americans for Democratic Action and People for the American Way, wrote House members, promising "an intense campaign in the Senate" to defeat the Dannemeyer amendment to the education bill.

The groups called the amendment "unnecessary, unwise and unconstitutional."

RABIN SEEKING AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE HARSH MEASURES TO CONTROL UPRISING
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA) -- Harsh new measures to crush the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising are under study by the Defense and Justice ministries.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor informed the Knesset on Tuesday of the methods for which Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin is seeking legal authorization.

He admitted that some of them may not be compatible with a democratic society, but he insisted they were necessary under the circumstances.

Dovish elements in the Knesset already have demanded that the proposed measures be rejected.

The defense minister is seeking authority to expel, within 72 hours, "central figures taking part in incitement, organization and participation in violence."

He would also like the authority to demolish or seal off Palestinian houses, without appeal, and to extend the period of administrative detention to 12 months.

Under existing emergency regulations, a holdover from the British Mandate, military authorities can detain anyone for up to six months without charges, trial or appeal.

The proposals were contained in a letter Rabin sent to Meridor two weeks ago, in which he asked the justice minister and Attorney General Yosef Harish to devise the legal authority for new punitive measure.

Rabin's letter said they were required to help the Israel Defense Force and the security services deal more effectively with Palestinian unrest.

They are the outgrowth of frustration over the continuing intifada and fear that the Jewish vigilantism it has triggered in the West Bank and

Gaza Strip could eventually pit Jews against Jews.

Meridor said in his Knesset speech, that these are measures "we would rather not use, because they do not normally befit a democratic society.

"But a democratic society that is fighting for its right to exist is entitled to use such measures," he maintained. "Unfortunately, all these measures are part of a reality that this war has imposed on us."

David Libai of the Labor Party and Amnon Rubinstein of the Center-Shinui Movement urged the justice minister to reject them.

"Rabin's demands amount to a severe violation of Israeli law and universal human values," they said in a statement. "Accepting them will exclude Israel from the community of democratic nations and will blacken our legal system."

SHAMIR CONCERNED ABOUT JEWISH UNITY AFTER RUCKUS AT SETTLER'S FUNERAL By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday that he had not feared for his safety, but for the future of the country, when he was cursed, taunted and physically threatened at the funeral Tuesday of a West Bank settler murdered by Arabs.

While he attributed the hostile demonstration to a "handful of extremists" not supported by the majority of West Bank residents, Shamir admitted he is concerned for national unity.

Everything possible must be done to prevent a war among the Jews, he told an Israel Radio interviewer.

"Our only hope is to preserve national unity at all costs," Shamir said. He urged citizens to maintain order and to prevent irresponsible acts by individuals.

The fracas occurred at the funeral of Fredrick Rosenfeld, a recent emigrant from the United States who settled in the West Bank town of Ariel.

He was stabbed to death while hiking in the area Saturday. The Israel Defense Force announced Tuesday that it had arrested three Arabs from a neighboring village who had confessed to the crime.

But that did not placate the thousands of settlers at the funeral, who accused the government of inadequate protection and demanded harsher measures to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

Surrounded By Angry Settlers

Shamir's attempt to deliver a eulogy for Rosenfeld was drowned out by catcalls and cries of "traitor."

Soldiers and police had to form a security wedge around the prime minister as he left the scene. His car was surrounded by settlers, who pummeled it with their fists.

Shamir said such demonstrations only encourage Palestinian activists to believe that the Jews are disunited.

He said the shooting of two Arabs near Petach Tikva shortly after the funeral was another act bound to strengthen Arab extremists. A Jewish settler from the West Bank was arrested for the shooting.

Shamir said the government is doing everything necessary to maintain order. But many settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are convinced that the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising

could be swiftly crushed if tougher measures were taken.

Shamir did say that defense officials are considering plans to integrate Jewish settlers into local security arrangements.

Leftist elements are opposed, saying it would be like allowing thieves to guard thieves.

RABIN SAYS NON-PLO PEACE PLAN BEING PROMOTED BY PALESTINIANS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- A Palestinian "peace plan" that Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin considers to have merit is being circulated here and in the United States.

It apparently originated with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, independent of the Palestine Liberation Organization, a point Rabin finds in its favor.

The defense minister told the Labor Party's Knesset faction Wednesday that an Arab resident of Gaza left the day before for the United States to present to the Americans a plan acceptable to leading Palestinian figures in the territories.

He said the document had already been conveyed to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

"Even if it is not exactly the Israeli government's initiative," Rabin said, it contains certain principles of the Israeli plan.

These are a two-stage process and Palestinian negotiators "without mentioning the PLO," Rabin said.

According to Yediot Achronot, the Gaza resident to whom Rabin referred is Assad Saftawi, a PLO veteran who helped found Al Fatah, the fighting arm of the PLO controlled by Yasir Arafat.

The newspaper said Saftawi met secretly with Rabin several weeks ago and the two formulated a Palestinian peace plan. It said the defense minister has been trying to reach an agreement with the PLO through Saftawi.

Saftawi evidently left for Egypt to present the plan to PLO officials for their approval, Yediot Achronot said.

Shamir Plan Facing Hurdle

Rabin, meanwhile, is continuing to promote the peace plan he devised with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It calls for, among other things, Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, leading to an interim period of self-rule in the territories and negotiations on their final status.

Rabin told the Knesset on Wednesday that there are grounds to believe that if the Palestinians accept the election proposal, violence in the administered territories will decline.

He said, however, that there will always be Arab extremists who will terrorize other Arabs and Jews to try to sabotage the peace plan.

The plan faces a major hurdle on July 5, when the Likud Central Committee convenes in Tel Aviv. Likud hard-liner Ariel Sharon, who opposes the plan, is seeking a referendum on it. Shamir hopes to avoid a vote.

Sharon and other opponents in Likud want amendments ruling out participation in the elections by the Arabs of East Jerusalem and rejecting international supervision of the elections.

Shamir insists that no changes can be introduced by the Central Committee, since the plan has been approved by the Cabinet and by the Knesset as it stands.

**OSI MOVES TO DENATURALIZE
ALLEGED NAZI IN NEW JERSEY**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA) -- The Justice Department began denaturalization proceedings Tuesday against an elderly New Jersey inhabitant charged with having served as a Nazi propagandist during World War II.

A complaint was filed in U.S. District Court in Newark against Ferenc Koreh, a resident of Englewood, N.J., who during the war edited and wrote virulently anti-Semitic and anti-American articles for Hungarian publications.

The complaint, filed by the Office of Special Investigations and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the district of New Jersey, charges that Koreh concealed his wartime background both in 1950, when he applied for a U.S. visa in Salzburg, Austria, and in 1955, when he applied for American citizenship in Brooklyn.

Koreh was found guilty by the People's Court of Budapest in 1947 of war crimes committed as an editor of a Hungarian magazine that espoused the Nazi cause.

Koreh was admitted to the United States as a displaced person on Dec. 11, 1950. In the United States, Koreh did Hungarian-language broadcasts for Radio Free Europe.

Some of the information about Koreh was provided by Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal in June 1978, in response to a request by American Nazi-hunter and journalist Charles Allen.

But the information on him that may have gotten the most widespread public exposure was provided by United Nations correspondent David Horowitz, whom Koreh later sued for libel.

Sued For \$3 Million

Koreh sued Horowitz for \$3 million because of articles published in Horowitz's United Israel Bulletin and syndicated in Anglo-Jewish newspapers. The articles charged that Koreh, through his writings, had paved the way for the Hitler to take over Hungary.

Horowitz and his lawyer, Paul O'Dwyer, found in Hungarian records that Koreh had been a member of the Nazi Arrow Cross.

The civil action suit was settled without trial in 1978, after a year's proceedings in U.S. District Court in New York. At the hearing, Judge Joseph Griesa read out a statement, saying Koreh was responsible for the mass murder of Jews, Horowitz recalled Wednesday.

Between 1941-44, Koreh was chief editor of Szekely Nep, a Transylvanian newspaper.

The Justice Department complaint charges that as editor of Szekely Nep, Koreh wrote and published anti-Semitic articles with such titles as "The Role of Jewish Capital in the Present World War," "Disloyal, Unscrupulous, Cheating Jews in the Pages of Hungarian History," "The Need to De-Jewify the Legal Profession" and "How Did World Jewry Drive the People of the United States into War?"

The government's complaint also alleges that from mid-1944 to May 1945, Koreh was press officer in the Hungarian Ministry of Propaganda and that in the summer of 1944, he was editor in chief of Tolnai Világplaja, an eminent Hungarian magazine that supported the Axis war effort.

He was found guilty of war crimes for this work.

Koreh, reached by phone at his home in Englewood, declined to respond to the complaint.

"I will, I will, but not now, thank you," he said as he hung up.

This is not the first time the Justice Department has prosecuted an alleged Nazi propagandist. It succeeded in its case against Vladimir Samarin-Sokolov, a former Yale University teacher who edited a Nazi newspaper in the Soviet Union during the war.

Sokolov was ordered deported. His request for asylum in Canada is pending.

**LIKUD BEATS LABOR FOR CONTROL
OF THE UNION OF TOWN COUNCILS**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- The Labor Party suffered another political setback Tuesday, when it lost the chairmanship of the union of town councils to the Likud bloc.

Labor had controlled it for decades.

The Likud candidate, Maxim Levy, who is mayor of Lod, overcame his Labor rival, Meir Nitzan, who is mayor of Rishon le-Zion, by a vote of 92-75.

Eli Landau, the Likud mayor of Herzliya, beat Labor's Eli de Castro for the position of chairman of the union.

But he announced magnanimously that he would step aside in favor of Labor, in order to ensure a truly national council to run local government affairs.

Labor had counted on Druse and Arab townships, but was deeply disappointed.

Its latest defeat, following loss of the municipal elections earlier this year and last year's Knesset elections, has placed the party's future in doubt.

It is expected to have a tough fight to retain control of Histadrut, the massive trade union federation and the most powerful national institution outside the government.

The Histadrut elections will be held at the end of the year. At stake is control of not only the country's labor unions but also the Kupat Holim health care agency and the industrial and cooperative enterprises owned by Histadrut.

The Labor Party and its predecessors have dominated Histadrut since long before the state was founded, and at this juncture, Labor is still considered likely to win.

But Likud is expected to wage a tough campaign. Should Labor lose control of that bastion of power, its future would be bleak.

ISRAEL STRIKES TARGETS SOUTH OF BEIRUT
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- Israeli air force jets attacked terrorist targets in Lebanon on Wednesday, for the third time in eight days.

All aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said.

The targets were described as installations of the Abu Nidal group and the Druse militia near Na'ame, in the vicinity of Damour, south of Beirut.

Reports from Beirut said the Israeli planes made three sorties over the target area. They gave no information about casualties or damage.

The air force conducted two raids on terrorist targets in Lebanon last week, one on June 14 and the other on June 16. In the June 14 raid, the commander of a military unit of the pro-Syrian Palestine Liberation Front and two of his aides were killed.

ELECTORAL SUCCESS OF EXTREMIST PARTY HAS WEST GERMAN POLITICIANS WORRIED
By David Kantor

BONN, June 21 (JTA) -- The unexpected success of the extreme right-wing Republican Party in Sunday's elections to the Parliament of Europe has sent shockwaves through the political community here.

West Germany's Jewish community has expressed grave concern.

The Republicans, headed by former Waffen SS official Franz Schoenhuber, won 7.1 percent of the popular vote to emerge as the fourth largest political party representing the Federal Republic.

Many here see the outcome of the European Parliament elections as a preview of how the parties will fare in Germany's national elections next year.

The nightmare scenario, which pollsters and political analysts affirm as a possibility, is the Republicans' penetration of the Bundestag, West Germany's parliament, in the general elections, which are scheduled for the end of 1990.

To do so, they need only repeat or improve on Sunday's performance.

West German Jewish leaders who met here Monday with visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens expressed dismay over the Republicans' success.

They told Arens that if the extremist party is not stopped soon, it could become a major force in shaping Germany's foreign and domestic policies.

More than 2 million Germans cast their ballots Sunday for the Republicans, who campaigned on a platform of extreme nationalism and xenophobia.

That was more than voted for the Free Democratic Party, the junior partner in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing coalition.

Drifting Toward Weimar Situation?

Kohl vowed Monday he would never form a coalition with the Republicans and announced a series of measures to counter the apparent neo-Nazi upsurge in West Germany.

But Schoenhuber claimed Tuesday that several members of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, have offered to cooperate with him.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, seemed to bear him out. He charged that the chancellor's rejection of a coalition with Schoenhuber was unconvincing, because other CDU officials were publicly expressing support for the right-wing extremists.

Several newspapers, commenting on the elections, warned that the country could be drifting toward a Weimar situation.

The moderate Weimar government, formed after World War I, was eventually undermined by the Nazis and by conservatives and militarists who cooperated with Hitler.

Sunday's election results made the Republicans eligible for some \$8 million in state funds.

Another extreme right-wing group, the German People's Union (DVU), won 1.6 percent of the popular vote.

The DVU is headed by Gerhard Frey, publisher of a Munich newspaper that contends that the Holocaust never occurred. While it fell far short of the 5 percent needed to enter the European Parliament, it is eligible for a \$1.85 million state grant.

POLAND TO REMEMBER FIRST SHUL BURNED AFTER 1939 NAZI INVASION
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA) -- The first synagogue in Poland burned by the Nazis after they invaded that country in September 1939 will be remembered there next Tuesday.

A plaque will be placed on that day at the former site of the main synagogue of Katowice. The idea came from a group of Israelis originally from Katowice who visited the city.

Visitors are expected from all over the world, and the city's government heads will attend the ceremony as well.

There are about 100 Jewish families now living in Katowice, according to Rabbi Chaskell Besser, who is in charge of Polish Jewish affairs for the Ronald Lauder Foundation here. Besser, who visits Poland monthly, said about 80 people come to a Jewish club there every day.

Katowice was once a major Jewish city, the place where Agudath Israel was founded.

There is a shtiebel in Katowice that was built after the war, said Besser. It exists in an apartment that has a moveable roof in one room to provide for a sukkah.

But there is no longer a rabbi in Katowice. The newly appointed rabbi of Warsaw, Menachem Joskowitz, will attend the ceremony and also perform a bar mitzvah there that is to take place later this summer.

JOBLESSNESS RISING IN ISRAEL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- Unemployment in Israel rose to 8.3 percent of the work force during the first quarter of this year, a 46 percent increase over the same period in 1988, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported Monday.

The bureau said an average of 124,000 people were looking for work in the three-month period ending March 31.

More have joined the ranks of the unemployed in recent weeks, because large employers are dismissing workers with the onset of an economic recession.

But another reason for growing joblessness is the relatively large increase in the size of the work force. It increased by 3.7 percent over the last year, while the total population grew by only 1.9 percent. And the number of persons holding jobs rose by only 1.8 percent in the last year.

100,000 TREES DESTROYED BY FIRE
By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA) -- Arson accounted for nearly half of the 405 forest fires that have broken out in Israel since March, the Jewish National Fund's forestry department reported Wednesday.

Up to the middle of June, the blazes destroyed almost 100,000 trees, JNF said.

But while the number of fires was about the same as in the corresponding period last year, the damage was less. The JNF credited the preparedness of its professional and volunteer firefighters.

The land reclamation agency recently purchased 11 fire trucks capable of negotiating difficult terrain. Along with more volunteers, other equipment and special patrols, the trucks have significantly decreased the damage done by the fires.