

**JEWISH VOTE IN 'SUPER TUESDAY' RACES WAS SPLIT BETWEEN CLINTON AND TSONGAS**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 11 (JTA) -- While Bill Clinton swept the Democratic presidential primaries in five southern states Tuesday, Jews split their votes almost evenly between the Arkansas governor and former Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts.

Jewish Democrats accounted for 5 percent of those who voted in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas, according to an exit poll published in The Washington Post.

The Jewish voters in those "Super Tuesday" states combined split 48 percent for Clinton and 41 for Tsongas, with another 9 percent voting for former California Gov. Jerry Brown.

By comparison, Clinton won over 60 percent of the overall vote in those five states and Tsongas received 22 percent.

Clinton also won the primary in Oklahoma and the caucus in Missouri. Tsongas won the primaries in his home state of Massachusetts and in neighboring Rhode Island. He also won the Delaware caucus. There was no immediate information on the Jewish vote in these states.

The Washington Post poll also gave no breakdown of the Jewish vote in the five southern Republican primaries. Jews in these states made up only 1 percent of the Republican vote.

President Bush easily won all five states and three others where he was entered. However, about 30 percent of Republican voters continued to register a protest vote against Bush, most of which went to columnist Patrick Buchanan.

Buchanan's entry into the race seemed to all but eliminate the vote for Louisiana state Rep. David Duke. The former Ku Klux Klanman and neo-Nazi received only 2 or 3 percent of the vote in most states, though he won 11 percent in Mississippi and 9 percent in his home state.

**Competition For Vote In Florida**

However, most Jews took little comfort from this because they see Buchanan, who many consider anti-Semitic, as a more respectable way to vote for the same ideas held by Duke.

Buchanan was sharply attacked this week by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson of California. Speaking Monday at a job fair for senior citizens in Stockton, Calif., Wilson snapped: "I think some of his comments have been downright racist and anti-Semitic. There is no place in our Republican Party for that."

The main battleground for Jewish votes was in Florida, the first primary state so far where Jewish voters could make a real difference. Both Clinton and Tsongas made strong appeals to the Jewish community, with Clinton attacking his rival's stance on Israel.

Florida was also the state where Tsongas had the best chance of winning. But Clinton won about half of the overall vote and Tsongas only a third of the vote, while the Jewish vote was almost evenly divided. According to a New York Times exit poll, the Jewish vote in Florida went 46 percent for Clinton, 44 percent for Tsongas and 11 percent for Brown.

This is where the Jewish vote appears to be

as the primary battle moves into two Midwestern states where Jews make up an important part of the Democratic vote: Illinois and Michigan. The March 17 primary in those states will be followed by primaries in Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania, which all have large Jewish populations.

In Illinois, the National Jewish Democratic Council is urging voters to vote against incumbent Rep. Gus Savage, a Democrat whom it has denounced for another outburst of anti-Semitism.

The Chicago Sun-Times quoted Savage at a March 7 candidates forum as saying that there was a "danger of genocide" against blacks and that "the Jewish population is contributing to this pending disaster."

Savage also was quoted as declaring that the primary contest, in which he is being challenged by Mel Reynolds, will be decided on "how you feel about Jews rather than how you feel about blacks." Both Savage and Reynolds are black.

Savage, who frequently attacks Jews and Israel, defeated Reynolds two years ago, charging that his challenger was supported by funds from Jews. But Reynolds, who lost by a small margin in 1990, is given a better chance this year, since the district lines have been redrawn.

"African-Americans, American Jews and other minorities should be joining hands to fight bigotry of any kind, not attacking each other," said Steve Gutow, executive director of the Jewish Democratic group.

"It's our hope that on March 17 those hands will close the book on Savage's political career and begin a fresh chapter in Chicago politics," he said.

**CANDIDATES TAKE ISSUE WITH BUSH ON GUARANTEEING LOANS FOR ISRAEL**  
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, March 11 (JTA) -- Paul Tsongas favors immediately and unconditionally granting Israel guarantees for \$10 billion in loans, while his chief rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bill Clinton, criticizes President Bush for using pressure tactics against Israel.

Their stated positions are in answer to a 14-point questionnaire sent to all candidates by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and are published in a special edition of its Response magazine.

The views of all candidates are represented, including those of Sens. Tom Harkin and Bob Kerrey, who have since dropped out of the race. The exception is Republican Patrick Buchanan, a frequent critic of the Jewish community, who did not respond.

On the question of support for the loan guarantees, President Bush makes the point that under his administration, Israel has received more than \$10 billion in U.S. aid and loan guarantees and that he is asking Congress to authorize an additional \$3 billion in aid for the coming year.

But on the specific question of the new loan guarantees request, Bush hedges his bets. He states that "I am committed to trying to reach agreement with the government of Israel on terms and conditions that would allow us both to provide new loan guarantees" and to "promote peace between Israel and its neighbors."

In a somewhat similar tone, former Califor-

nia Gov. Jerry Brown, also a Democratic candidate, says he does "support the loan guarantees, but anyone who doesn't acknowledge the fact that the furious settlement pace is going to undermine the peace process and make any kind of lasting solution impossible is just not facing the facts as they are."

On the question, "Do you support the establishment of a Palestinian state?" ex-candidate Kerrey is the most explicit, with the one-word reply: "No."

**'Wrong To Use Public Pressure'**

Tsongas says he believes a Palestinian state "would have a destabilizing effect in the region and would not be economically viable." But he adds that the issue must be settled among the parties involved.

The answers by Bush, Clinton and Brown are less clearcut, with the latter responding with a somewhat cryptic, "I support the peace process."

Bush's statement reads, in part: "We do not support the establishment of a Palestinian state, but we do support the Palestinian people realizing their legitimate political rights in a context that assures Israel's security."

To another question on "What changes would you make in the strategic relationship between the U.S. and Israel?" the answers tended to be general but all candidates affirmed their strong backing for a secure Israel as a major U.S. ally.

Clinton, while praising the Bush administration for bringing Israel and the Arabs to the peace table, states his belief that "the president is wrong to use public pressure tactics against Israel," because "he has raised Arab expectations that he'll deliver Israeli concessions and fed Israeli fears that its interests will be sacrificed to an American-imposed solution."

All candidates also pledged their support for continuing funding of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which brings Nazi war criminals to justice.

Buchanan has called for OSI's dismantling in the past.

Other questions dealt with hate crimes, civil rights, immigration policy, possible action against Iraq's Saddam Hussein, military cuts, technology transfer, human rights and aid to the states that formerly constituted the Soviet Union.

**LEVY, STILL ANGRY AT SHAMIR, CONSIDERING BREAK WITH LIKUD**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister David Levy is seriously considering breaking away from Likud and forming his own party to run in the June 23 Knesset elections, according to media reports here.

Some of Levy's supporters have called openly for him to make the break and strike out on his own in the aftermath of the political disaster he suffered at the hands of the Likud Central Committee in Tel Aviv last week.

Levy candidates were virtually shut out of the voting March 1 and 2, when the 3,500-member committee decided who would be on its 1992 Knesset slate and where in the hierarchal order.

The foreign minister, No. 2 man in the outgoing government, slipped to No. 4, below Yitzhak Shamir, Moshe Arens and Ariel Sharon.

His rift with the Likud leadership appeared to widen Sunday when Levy demonstratively declined Shamir's invitation for a private meeting.

Although Levy has not committed himself yet to any political course, his supporters are smarting from a defeat they blame on a conspiracy between Shamir, Arens and Sharon.

Their alleged deal kept all but a handful of Levy loyalists out of the "safe" spots on the election list.

Several Levy supporters sensed an ethnic--meaning anti-Sephardi -- factor in the Shamir-Sharon deal, although a good many members of the Shamir-Arens camp are themselves Sephardim, while some leading Levy-backers are Ashkenazic Jews.

Levy himself, addressing his supporters last week, dwelt on a policy factor, which he said separated him from the mainstream leadership.

He accused the Shamir-Arens-Sharon axis of pulling the party to the extremist right, while he, Levy, remained faithful to the policy positions embodied in the 1978 Camp David accords, which led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Another "loser" in the Likud voting, Trade Minister Moshe Nissim, did meet privately with Shamir over the weekend and reportedly was promised a senior position on the party's election campaign staff.

But political sources said Nissim still felt wounded and betrayed by the prime minister and Arens.

Nissim, who controlled several hundred members of Likud's former Liberal faction in the Central Committee, made common cause with Levy.

**AFTER YEARS OF DROUGHT, THE KINNERET OVERFLOWS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 11 (JTA) -- Lake Kinneret overflowed its banks Wednesday as gale-force winds sent 3-foot waves breaking across the shoreline promenade and the adjacent highway.

The waves battered cafes and restaurants along the lakeshore and flooded the road leading to Migdal in the north and Kibbutz Ginnosar in the south.

The storm, driven by the Sharkiya, a hot, dry easterly wind, appeared to be the final signature of a long, brutal winter that ravaged much of Israel this year.

It raised the level of Kinneret, Israel's largest freshwater reservoir, from a record low to a near-record high. That was welcome news for drought-stricken farmers. But it threatened lake-side communities, including the resort town of Tiberias, with dangerous floods.

The water is kept at a safe level by periodically opening the sluice gates at Degania, at the southern end of the lake, where it empties into the Jordan River.

As a further precaution against floods, artificial embankments were prepared consisting of 330-foot sections of water-filled plastic containers placed where the shoreline is most prone to flooding.

They failed their first real test Wednesday, when several of the containers burst under the pounding of the waves.

The Sharkiya subsided around noon Wednesday, but meteorologists forecast a fresh assault at night with a renewed danger of flooding.

Lake Kinneret occupies the same deep-rift valley as the Dead Sea. Its surface, nearly 700 feet below the mean level of the Mediterranean Sea, makes it the second-lowest point on earth.

**EGYPT HAS STILL NOT CHARGED OR FREED 4 ISRAELIS ARRESTED**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- Israel has become increasingly impatient with Egypt's failure to release or charge four Israeli nationals it has been holding since early February on suspicion of espionage.

The Foreign Ministry requested another meeting between the Israeli ambassador to Cairo, Ephraim Dubek, and Egyptian Interior Minister Abdul Halim Mussa, who last met on Feb. 11 to discuss the issue, which is poisoning Israeli-Egyptian relations.

In fact, relations between the two countries have deteriorated to "an unprecedented low," officials here said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister David Levy sent a message of concern to his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Moussa, last week. He is expected to summon the Egyptian ambassador, Mohammed Basyouni, to Jerusalem for a further discussion.

The Egyptian press, much of it with official connections, has been especially hostile toward Israel since the affair surfaced last month.

The weekly Al-Mussawar, edited by an associate of President Hosni Mubarak, accused Israel this week of attempting to murder the U.N. secretary-general, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Egypt's former minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Egyptian press reported in the first week of February that three Israeli Arabs were arrested in Egypt for spying. Israel was not officially informed until two weeks later.

The suspects were identified as Farres Mussarti, 41, of Ramla; his son Majed, 21; and daughter Faya, 17. The family had been traveling in Egypt.

**Promise Of Release Unfulfilled**

Israel was subsequently informed that David Ovitz, a Jewish furniture importer from Givatayim, was also being questioned. Ovitz reportedly employed Farres Mussarti as an interpreter on his furniture-buying trips to Egypt.

Formal charges have not been pressed against any of the Israelis. The Israeli consul general in Cairo, Ronni Porat, was allowed to meet separately with them, but only after repeated requests.

Last Saturday he was invited to sit in on the continued questioning of Faya Mussarti. He said the teen-age girl admitted passing certain information about Egypt, but did not say to whom.

"She's a girl of 17. I don't think she knows what she is talking about," Porat said. The other three detainees firmly denied spying, he added.

The Egyptian media continued to publish bizarre reports about Faya, saying she was infected with the virus that causes AIDS and was part of a network of AIDS-stricken Israeli girls sent to Egypt to infect the population.

The story, which originated last month with the Arab-owned Radio Monte Carlo, was finally denied by official Egyptian sources.

Meanwhile, Yael Ovitz, the wife of David Ovitz, is demanding that Foreign Minister Levy "do his utmost to return my husband home."

Although the Egyptians indicated as long ago as Feb. 20 that he was about to be freed, the Israeli was remanded in custody for another 15 days by a Cairo judge Saturday.

**ISRAEL TRYING TO REDUCE NUMBER OF ARAB PRISONERS FROM GAZA STRIP**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 11 (JTA) -- Israel's early release of 300 security prisoners from the Ketziot detention center is part of a broader policy of reducing the prison population in the Gaza Strip, where most of the inmates come from, Israeli officials say.

Impending releases and the freeing of 30 prisoners last weekend represent a goodwill gesture by the Israeli authorities in honor of Ramadan, the Moslem holy month beginning this week.

Overall, the number of prisoners at Ketziot, located in the Negev, has dropped from 7,000 to 5,000 recently, in keeping with the policies of the Israel Defense Force commander in the southern region, Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai.

"The objective is to reduce by as much as possible the number of prisoners who have two months left to complete their sentences," Lt. Col. Ze'ev Shaltiel, the warden of Ketziot, explained at a news conference in Beersheba.

He said that apart from the Ramadan amnesty, the policy now is to release youthful prisoners and the chronically ill who have no more than two months left to serve.

Shaltiel said the early releases parallel an improvement of the criminal justice system in the Gaza Strip, which has shortened the time consumed by legal proceedings.

"Today, there are only about 600 prisoners in Ketziot awaiting trial, compared to about 1,500 just recently," Shaltiel said.

He also said the authorities are limiting the use of administrative detention, a relic of the British Mandate in Palestine retained by Israel.

"The number of administrative detainees in the prison has dropped from 3,000 in the not too distant past to 250 today," the warden said.

Administrative detention is in effect a suspension of habeas corpus. Detainees may be imprisoned for up to six months by order of the military authorities without charge or trial.

Shaltiel stressed that although Ketziot is in Israel proper, its inmates are an extension of the Gaza Strip and its feuding political factions.

He said that since Ketziot was established in March 1988, 28 prisoners have been murdered, most of them by strangulation. The latest such murder occurred on July 19, 1991.

Although murder is endemic to prison life the world over, the warden implied that those in Ketziot were all politically motivated.

None of the victims had collaborated with the authorities despite the suspicions of their prison mates, he said.

**IDF WITNESS MENACES ARABS IN COURT**

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force reservist drew a pistol and menaced two Arabs charged with murdering a soldier, at their trial in a Jenin military court Wednesday.

The man, identified as Binyamin Yishai, was a prosecution witness in the case against Yasser Abu-Rub and Mohammed Najj, members of a Black Panthers terrorist cell in the West Bank.

They are accused of firing from ambush at a military truck in the Jenin region six months ago, killing Sgt. Yoram Cohen. Yishai was driving.

He was overcome and disarmed in the courthouse by two soldiers and a border policeman, and is being held in detention.

## LAWYER SAYS HE HAS NEW EVIDENCE DEMJEANJUK WAS NOT TREBLINKA 'IVAN'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- The testimony of a Treblinka gas chamber operator executed by the Soviet Union 40 years ago is the basis of the latest appeal by Israeli lawyer Yoram Sheftel to reverse the conviction of his client John Demjanjuk for crimes against the Jewish people.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, extradited to Israel from the United States in 1986, was sentenced to death by a Jerusalem court in 1988 after a year-long trial.

Based on the eyewitness testimony of Holocaust survivors and on documents supplied by the former Soviet Union, Demjanjuk was identified as the Treblinka guard inmates dubbed "Ivan the Terrible" because of his brutality.

The man known as Ivan worked the gas chambers.

But Demjanjuk, who became a U.S. citizen after World War II, insists he is a victim of mistaken identity.

Sheftel has now asked the High Court of Justice to release Demjanjuk immediately without bail on the strength of new evidence.

It consists of statements by Nikolai Shelayev, who testified in the Soviet Union in 1950 that a camp guard named Ivan Marchenko was responsible for the crimes attributed to Demjanjuk.

Sheftel says Shelayev's deposition was discovered by the defense only after Demjanjuk was tried and convicted. He was one of the witnesses to Nazi atrocities who appeared in Soviet courts after the war and was executed in 1952 for his complicity.

According to Shelayev, "Ivan the Terrible" was born in 1911 in Dniepropetrovsk, whereas Demjanjuk was born in 1920 in the Vinnitsa region of the Ukraine, Sheftel pointed out.

Marchenko was married and a father when he worked at Treblinka. Demjanjuk did not marry until 1947.

### WJC Has Contrary Evidence

Shelayev described Marchenko as "tall, dark-haired, brown eyes, a straight lean face and a long straight nose," a description that does not fit the burly Demjanjuk, Sheftel argued.

Shelayev testified that Marchenko had a diagonal scar on his face. Demjanjuk has no scar.

In New York, the World Jewish Congress produced a copy of a photo identity card for an Ivan Marchenko (spelled Iwan Martschenko), who trained at the Trawniki camp where the SS prepared for duty in concentration camps.

This Marchenko was a farmer, married with three children, who had done military duty in the infantry, with no special work qualification, and trained from May 27 to July 10, 1941.

His height was 184 centimeters -- a bit over 6 feet, 1 inch.

This man's face was oval; he had black hair, gray eyes and scars on the back of his neck.

"The Marchenko that Shelayev describes is not the Marchenko on this ID form," said Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director.

According to Sheftel, Shelayev's testimony was supported by that of the Treblinka camp guards.

Therefore, the lawyer argued, the continued confinement of his client "caused irreparable

damage to the image of Israel as a state of law and justice and played into the hands of Israel's worst enemies."

The Israeli High Court is scheduled to hear summations in April from the prosecution and defense before ruling on Demjanjuk's appeal.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

## GERMAN POLITICIAN WHO KILLED JEWS IN WARTIME RESIGNS POST, AS ASKED By David Kantor

BONN, March 11 (JTA) -- A German politician who admitted killing six Jews in the Ukraine during World War II resigned Tuesday under fire from the Brandenburg state Parliament in Potsdam.

Gustav Just, a 71-year-old member of the Social Democratic Party, bowed to demands to quit, which came from his own party, the news media and the head of Germany's Jewish community, Heinz Galinski.

He took the first step Monday by resigning from the Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Affairs, which he chaired.

Just was forced to concede the truth of media reports that he participated in the reprisal shooting of civilians on July 15, 1941 in an unnamed Ukrainian village, while serving as a soldier in the Wehrmacht, or German army. He was 20 at the time.

In Washington, the U.S. Justice Department said Monday that it is investigating the case to decide whether Just should be barred from entering the United States.

The investigation was initiated at the request of the World Jewish Congress, which asked that Just be placed on its "watch list" of aliens inadmissible to the United States.

The request was made by WJC Executive Director Elan Steinberg in a letter to Neal Sher, director of the Office of Special Investigations, the Justice Department's unit that investigates war crimes and suspected war criminals.

Steinberg referred in his letter to media reports of a flippant comment made by Just after admitting his role in killing six Jews.

It was "not a glorious page in my resume, but it is old hat," the former East German national was quoted as saying.

Galinski, whose German Jewish community is a WJC affiliate, called the remark "scandalous."

Just's 50-year-old crime was exposed Sunday by the German weekly newspaper Welt am Sonntag.

The information came from the files of former East Germany's Ministry of State Security, known as the Stasi, which were opened in 1990. The files held up to 1.5 million names of war criminals and victims of the Nazi era, including East German war crimes suspects.

Just admitted the incident, which occurred in the early weeks of the German invasion of the Soviet Union, but denied he volunteered for the mission.

"I still don't know to this day whether they were Jews," he told reporters.

It is not clear whether Just can be brought to trial in Germany for complicity in murder, a charge not covered by the statute of limitations on war crimes.

Most leading German newspapers said it was improper for him to remain in the Brandenburg Parliament.