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**2 JEWISH WOMEN WIN SENATE PRIMARIES,
BUT RESULTS OF OTHER CONTESTS MIXED**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, June 3 (JTA) -- Tuesday's primary races in six states were a mixed bag for Jewish voters, but one thing is certain:

California will send at least one Jew, and quite likely two, to the U.S. Senate in January, with a strong possibility that the two victors will be Jewish women.

In Tuesday's elections, Rep. Barbara Boxer handily defeated two strong opponents to win the Democratic nod for a six-year Senate term, succeeding retiring Democratic Sen. Alan Cranston.

At the polls in November, Boxer will face another Jewish candidate, Republican Bruce Herschensohn, an ultra-conservative television commentator who made his hard-line pro-Israel stance a major campaign point against his more liberal primary opponent.

In an unusual second Senate contest, to fill the remaining two-year term of the seat previously held by Gov. Pete Wilson, former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Goldman Feinstein easily won the Democratic primary.

She will go up against Republican John Seymour, who was appointed to the Senate by Wilson 18 months ago. Preliminary opinion polls have shown Feinstein beating Seymour by a large margin.

Jewish activists have hailed the victories of Boxer and Feinstein, both of whom have been strongly pro-Israel, as are their Republican challengers, Herschensohn and Seymour.

But some mourned Boxer's defeat of Democratic Rep. Mel Levine, one of the staunchest advocates of the Jewish state in Congress, who was heavily financed by the organized Jewish community.

Levine's defeat, coupled with the loss of Democrat Gray Davis to Feinstein, is considered a major blow to the so-called Waxman-Berman machine, which had strongly backed the two losers.

Disappointment In Ohio

Headed by Reps. Henry Waxman and Howard Berman, the statewide network, which generally backs liberal Democrats, had previously enjoyed an almost unbroken string of successes.

But Waxman and Berman, relying strongly on Jewish support, easily retained their own congressional seats. California's two other Jewish congressmen, Democrats Anthony Beilenson and Tom Lantos, also won easy renomination.

Elsewhere in the nation, a big disappointment for pro-Israel forces was the survival of Rep. Mary Rose Oaker, who beat back a tough challenge in the Ohio Democratic primary from Cuyahoga County Commissioner Timothy Hagan.

Oaker, who is seen as strongly unsympathetic to the Jewish state, won despite being dogged by questions about her role in the House check-bouncing scandal, where she was listed as one of the 22 worst offenders.

She is considered likely to win a November race against Republican businessman Martin Hoke, who has never before sought public office.

But the fact that Oaker no longer has the clout with the House leadership that she once did is some comfort for pro-Israel groups, say insiders.

Also winning renomination was Democratic Rep. James Traficant, who has been active in the battle to clear convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk.

In another closely watched race, in Ohio's 19th congressional district, state Sen. Eric Fingerhut won a stunning upset to win the Democratic nomination for the seat being vacated by outgoing Democratic Rep. Edward Feighan, an ardent friend of Israel.

Fingerhut, who is Jewish, has been compared by insiders to Levine of California and fellow pro-Israel Rep. Larry Smith (D-Fla.), who is not seeking re-election.

Jews Leary Of Perot

Tuesday's primary races, which also took place in New Jersey, Alabama, Montana and New Mexico, clinched the Democratic nomination for Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and put President Bush in an even stronger position for the Republican nomination.

Exit polls taken during the primaries suggest that Jewish voters will not defect from the Democratic and Republican parties in the same numbers as other white Americans to cast ballots for Texas billionaire businessman H. Ross Perot, should he decide to make his undeclared candidacy for president official.

Analysts are interpreting that as further evidence of a decisive Jewish preference for Clinton, which could be pivotal in some of the key electoral states.

Between a third and a half of those surveyed in exit polls Tuesday reportedly said they would have voted for Perot if they had had the chance.

But preliminary data showed that was "much less true" for Jewish primary voters, according to Mark Mellman, a Democratic political consultant in Washington, who would not disclose the numbers.

"It is pretty clear Bush will not do as well in the Jewish community, and neither will Perot," said Mellman.

"That suggests the Jewish community is pretty solidly behind Bill Clinton."

Mellman said that could provide a "meaningful base" in key states, such as California, New York, Illinois and New Jersey, especially important in a three-way race, "where a small group means more to the outcome."

Both Democratic and Republican analysts agree that Bush will not come close to garnering the 30 percent share of the Jewish vote he enjoyed in 1988, due in large part to anger over his hard-line stance with Israel on the \$10 billion in loan guarantees it had sought for immigration absorption.

Analysts say Jews are uneasy not knowing where Perot stands on Israel and other issues of importance to them. They feel more comfortable with Clinton's more clearly articulated positions.

(Contributing to this report were Cynthia Mann of States News Service in Washington and Marcy Oster of the Cleveland Jewish News.)

KAHANE'S SON BARRED FROM RUNNING IN ISRAEL'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA) -- Israel's Central Elections Committee has barred the son of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane from running in the upcoming Knesset elections on grounds that his Kahane Chai-Koach party incites racial hatred.

And the High Court of Justice is due to review a similar ruling barring the other post-Meir Kahane faction, Kach, which was founded by the elder Kahane and now led by veteran activist Baruch Marzel.

Kahane, who served in the Knesset from 1984 to 1988, was banned from participating in the 1988 election under the same law, which was enacted during the previous Knesset with the specific purpose of ensuring that he could not run again.

The rabbi was killed in New York in November 1990.

Likud joined with Labor and left-wing parties in voting against Kahane Chai. The vote in the elections committee Wednesday to ban Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane from participating in the June 23 elections was 25-5, with two abstentions.

The Kach party announced in August 1991 that it intended to run a slate of candidates in the next Knesset election. At the time, a Kach spokesman said the ban on the Kach party under the late rabbi had been a one-time matter.

The elections committee on Wednesday also barred three other lists from running -- all of them on technical grounds.

One of the three is Medinat Yehuda, another ultra-rightist group whose leading candidate was to have been Robert Manning, currently in police custody in Jerusalem pending the outcome of extradition proceedings against him.

Manning and his wife, Rochelle, are wanted by the U.S. Justice Department in connection with the July 1980 mailbomb killing of an employee of a Los Angeles computer firm.

25 Parties Left In Running

Also ruled out on technical grounds was the Malkhut Yisrael party, led by Avraham Banjio of Acre, whose platform included rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem.

Upon hearing the ruling, Banjio burst into tears.

Judge Avraham Halima, chairman of the elections panel, held that he had not produced a sufficient number of signatories to qualify for the elections.

Banjio said his wife had stolen some of the signatures.

The third non-runner was a haredi group, Torah La'am.

This leaves -- pending the court's final word -- 25 Knesset lists approved to contest the election, of which 15 are pre-existent and 10 new, among them the immigrant party Da.

One member on Da's list, Michael Kalvo, has appealed to the High Court against his personal disqualification on grounds that he holds dual citizenship -- Israeli and French.

Kalvo argues that he formally applied to the French authorities to revoke his citizenship, which is all that Israeli law requires.

Meanwhile, the elections committee rejected a move by the National Religious Party against Labor's decision to change its official name from Labor to "Labor under the leadership of Yitzhak

Rabin," which is the name that will appear on the ballots.

The committee held that Labor has the right to add these words.

In light of this ruling, Yahadut HaTorah, the unified Agudat Yisrael-Degel HaTorah list, announced that its official name would henceforth be "Yahadut HaTorah -- Agudat Yisrael, Degel HaTorah and Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz."

Peretz, the absorption minister, is running in the second slot on that list.

ISRAEL IS BLITZED BY T.V. ADS AS CAMPAIGN CAREENS TO JUNE 23

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- With elections just three weeks away, Labor and Likud began a television campaign blitz Tuesday night aimed at winning votes on June 23.

But it remains to be seen whether the public, already jaded by election propaganda, will respond to more of the same on the tube, political pundits said.

The main themes of the two parties' commercials became evident in the first 40 minutes of prime time. Labor depicted Likud as a party grown fat and corrupt after too many years in office.

Likud attacked Labor for trying to hide its dovish feathers behind the hawkish image of Yitzhak Rabin, who was known as a tough defense minister.

Likud's opening spot showed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir promising in 1988 to launch a peace process and bring in waves of immigrants. A quick fade to the Madrid peace conference opening and Ethiopians arriving on Operation Solomon showed his promises fulfilled.

Shamir came on himself to assert the task was only half done and promised full employment and complete absorption under a Likud regime.

In a separate clip, the prime minister spoke a few words in Russian, and a Russian version of Likud's campaign jingle was sung.

Labor, as expected, devoted its first commercial exclusively to Rabin. It showed footage of him as a young military commander in 1948, as chief of staff in 1967, then as ambassador to the United States, as prime minister from 1974 to 1977 and as minister of defense in the 1980s.

Likud retaliated with clips of Labor figures like Abba Eban and Ezer Weizman saying in the past that Rabin was unfit to be prime minister.

Labor's next commercial showed Likud leaders Ariel Sharon and David Levy fiercely criticizing Shamir.

A Labor spot showing cigar-smoking men and expensively dressed women used voice-over and a montage of newspaper clippings to depict Likud as a party gone bad with corruption.

Labor and Likud can each be expected to respond to the other's jibes and jabs in the nights ahead.

But political observers wonder how many voters will bother watching.

Since the last election campaign four years ago, an alternative second television channel has begun broadcasting, with an estimated million viewers. Many households are hooked up to cable television, which offers a choice of 30-odd foreign channels to watch.

If the partisan dogfight fails to sustain its attention, the Israeli public will simply switch elsewhere.

ISRAELI MILITARY BLAMING IRAN FOR ONGOING HEZBOLLAH ATTACKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA) -- Iran is intent on torpedoing the Middle East peace process by encouraging ongoing Hezbollah attacks on southern Lebanon, say senior Israeli military sources.

The assessment was made after Hezbollah forces north of the so-called southern Lebanon security zone fired rocket-propelled grenades Tuesday night at an outpost of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army near Kantara village.

No casualties or damage were reported.

The latest action follows a string of public professions of support for Hezbollah's actions made this week in Lebanon by visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Velayati exhorted the Shi'ite group to continue its attacks until Israel withdraws entirely from southern Lebanon. On Wednesday, he visited the village of Shtura, in the Bekaa Valley. Earlier he held talks in Beirut with Syrian and Lebanese officials and Hezbollah leaders.

The Israeli military sources said, though, that the Iranian's position does not necessarily reflect that of Syria. Damascus, they said, seems intent on not allowing the current violence in southern Lebanon to escalate into outright military hostilities between Israel and Syria.

The sources said they hope and expect that Syria will indeed act to prevent an escalation of such hostilities. But Israel will continue to react forcefully to Hezbollah provocations against the SLA or border zone itself, the sources said.

E.C. PARLIAMENT WILL CONSIDER SENDING BLOCKED AID TO SYRIA

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, June 3 (JTA) -- The European Parliament, the legislative body of the European Community, is due to re-examine an E.C. financial aid package to Syria, which was blocked earlier this year when the parliament attacked the country's human rights record.

Sources at the European Parliament, which meets in Strasbourg, France, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the E.C. financial aid package for Syria, worth some \$200 million, will be presented at next week's plenary session.

In order to pass, the package needs the assent of 260 of the parliament's 518 members.

In January the package, known as a protocol, was rejected in the parliament after the legislative body accused Syria of widespread human rights violations. Among the charges leveled at the Damascus regime were torture of political prisoners, refusal to allow Syrian Jews to emigrate, and the alleged presence in Syria of German Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner.

The European commissioner in charge of Mediterranean affairs, Abel Matutes of Spain, then deplored the parliament's refusal to go ahead with the Syrian protocol, saying approval would put in the E.C. in a better position to influence Syria's human rights policy.

He also mentioned that Damascus has been a key player in the Middle East peace process.

The parliament's Commission on Development and Cooperation voted 15-8, with one abstention, to discuss the Syrian protocol next week.

Sources said the commission took into consideration the recent announcements that Syria has begun to let Jews leave the country.

R.A. DECISION ON GAY SYNAGOGUES GETS MIXED REACTION FROM OTHER MOVEMENTS

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Assembly's recent decision to allow Conservative rabbis to work at gay and lesbian congregations has prompted strong reaction from the other branches of American Judaism.

The response is, predictably, split along ideological lines between the movements to the right and the left of Conservative Jewry.

Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, executive vice president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, was unequivocal:

"The new Conservative position represents a capitulation to immorality," he said in a statement issued this week. "It institutionalizes and legitimizes repugnant moral standards.

"It is shocking that a religious movement which claims to speak on behalf of Jewish tradition is rushing down the slippery slope in the abandonment of Jewish law and in embracing that which is repugnant and ugly in the eyes of the Lord," he added.

Rabbi Ronald Price, executive vice president of the Union for Traditional Judaism, which began as a breakaway group of right-wing Conservative rabbis after the movement decided to ordain women, said that allowing rabbis to serve gay and lesbian congregations implies halachic acceptance of sexual behavior that is barred by traditional interpretations of Jewish law.

There is "a tension between the desire to serve the community and that which the Torah says very clearly is not permitted," he acknowledged.

But he complained that "secular egalitarianism has become a religious mandate" for the Conservative movement, "so it cannot be limited only to the relationship between men and women, but has to apply to all lifestyles that people choose to live."

He said the decision on gay and lesbian synagogues was therefore inevitable and in keeping with the direction in which Conservative Jewry is moving.

'Tiny Step In The Right Direction'

The largest liberal Jewish movements, the Reform and Reconstructionists, applauded the Rabbinical Assembly decision.

It's "a tiny step in the right direction, which is equal justice regardless of gender or sexual orientation," said Rabbi Albert Vorspan, national director of social action and senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Reform movement's congregational arm.

"Equal acceptance of all Jews, period, is coming inevitably in most of American Jewish life," he said.

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, executive director of the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot, congratulated Conservative rabbis on their decision.

"I hope that this is a precursor to full and complete acceptance of gay and lesbian Jews at all levels of Conservative Jewry," he said.

Rabbinical Assembly President Rabbi Gerald Zelizer was not surprised by any of the other movements' reactions, which he found predictable.

"This decision is a direct application of our classic position of tradition and change, a position not shared by any of our critics," he said.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
IN SIGN OF TIMES, SOVIET JEWRY GROUP
LOSING DIRECTOR TO MIGRATION AGENCY**
By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA) -- Having coordinated the organized Jewish community's advocacy on behalf of Soviet Jews for the last three years, Martin Wenick is about to turn his attention to overseeing the resettlement of those who come to the United States.

Wenick, who has served as executive director of the National Conference of Soviet Jewry since 1989, has been named executive vice president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, as of July 1.

Wenick's move parallels the emigration trends from the former Soviet Union. Last month, for the first time since 1989, more Jews from the former Soviet Union entered the United States as refugees than made aliyah to Israel.

One expected consequence of Wenick's departure from the National Conference will be discussion of the continued role for the 21-year-old advocacy group, now that the original goals of free emigration and the freedom of Jewish expression in Russia and the other former Soviet republics have been achieved.

"Obviously, it's an organization that should be able, at some point in time, to go out of business," said Wenick.

"But that time has not arrived yet. The situation (in the former Soviet Union) remains highly unstable; the economic situation is not getting better, only worse."

Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the National Conference, said that "the instability that exists now in the republics, the ethnic tensions in Georgia and Moldova, signal that there is greater work to do."

As its mission has been redefined in recent years, the National Conference has seen its major responsibilities as monitoring emigration and the situation of Jews in the former Soviet Union, lobbying the newly independent republics to codify emigration rights and prevent anti-Semitism, and maintaining a link between the Jewish communities of the two former Cold War enemies.

Restructuring Anticipated

But Cardin acknowledged that "we have to restructure our resources," pointing out that the tightly budgeted agency maintains two offices and staffs, in New York and Washington.

The possibility exists that the restructuring will be far-reaching.

"There has to be a thorough going-over of procedures," said Phil Baum, who, as associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress, sits on the National Conference board.

"Everything is open to discussion," he said. "I don't think there's been that kind of discussion since the Soviet Union went out of business."

Wenick, a former State Department official whose 27-year tenure included two postings in the Soviet Union, brings to HIAS fluency in Russian and contacts in Washington and Moscow. These same assets were valued at the National Conference, where he will continue as a consultant for a six-month transition period.

"In the first several weeks, we'll find out if it's 20 percent or 10 percent of his time," said Cardin, adding: "He cannot serve as executive director of both organizations," as had been rumored.

The new job will involve much of the same extended set of Jewish communal lay leaders. But Wenick said that "it's a different type of focus."

"HIAS is responsible for ensuring entry into the United States, seeing that resettlement goes as smoothly as possible and making the maximum amount of funds available for this process," he said.

While the National Conference is budgeted at under \$1 million, HIAS has a budget of \$12 million. About \$2.6 million of that comes from Jewish federations; a significant part of the remainder represents government grants for processing refugees.

Battle Over Refugee Funding

The first test of Wenick's government expertise is likely to be a legislative battle shaping up over refugee funding. One Bush administration proposal would cut the government's participation in refugee resettlement from \$410 million to \$227 million, with a proportionate effect on the 40,000 Jewish refugees expected from the former Soviet Union during the 1993 fiscal year.

The actual resettling of the refugees is handled in individual communities, generally by the local Jewish family service, with the aid of these federal funds. But HIAS works under contract of the State Department to monitor the local agencies.

Before the emigres arrive at their American destination, HIAS is responsible for both securing transportation and helping them with the refugee process.

One of the agency's major concerns is tracking the numbers of the emigrants and their destinations in America. While HIAS has long wanted an office in Moscow to help monitor the flow, such proposals were scuttled, in large part because of Israeli perceptions that HIAS would try to lure away potential immigrants from Israel.

In reality, say HIAS officials, those Russians and others coming to the United States do so for the purposes of family reunification.

"If you're a cousin or uncle or aunt, you have almost no chance of coming as refugee," said Ben Zion Leuchter, whose tenure as HIAS president ends on June 4.

"If you're willing to wait for 10 years, fine. If you think the Commonwealth of Independent States is a dangerous place for Jews to live, then go to Israel."

Leuchter said that, lacking a Moscow office, "it's very important to have somebody like Marty Wenick, who has a tremendous number of contacts in the Soviet Union."

HIAS is also getting a new president, former New Jersey state Assemblyman Martin Kesselhaut.

Wenick is filling a position that has been vacant since the departure of Karl Zukerman last October.

IDF OFFICERS PENALIZED AFTER DEATHS

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA) -- An Israeli army major and a lieutenant have been removed from their posts in connection with the deaths of two soldiers from heatstroke last week while they were taking part in a map-reading exercise in the southern Negev.

The two were faulted by a panel inquiring into the soldiers' deaths, which found that the officers had failed to take into consideration the intense adverse climatic conditions prevailing in the hills outside Eilat the day of the exercise.