



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 76, No. 197

Thursday, November 5, 1998

81st Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Record number of Jews in Senate

The U.S. Senate will have a record number of Jews — 11 — after Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) defeated incumbent Sen. Alfonse D'Amato. Rep. Jon Fox (R-Pa.) was the only Jewish incumbent to lose on election night.

The 106th Congress will have 23 Jewish representatives, down from 25 in the 105th. The three Jewish freshmen are Reps. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.), Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) and Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.). Reps. Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) and Jane Harman (D-Calif.) retired. [Page 1]

Controversial governor loses

Alabama voters ousted Republican Gov. Fob James, whose backing from the religious right was not enough to win him re-election. James was widely criticized by Jews during his tenure for his stand in favor of teacher-led prayer in public schools and for threatening to call out the National Guard to protect a judge's right to post the Ten Commandments in his courtroom.

Democrat Don Siegelman received 58 percent of the vote to James' 42 percent. Siegelman, who is Catholic, is married to a Jewish woman, and their family belongs to a Conservative congregation in Montgomery.

Voucher measure defeated

Colorado voters rejected a ballot measure that would have authorized tax credits for private school tuition.

The proposed amendment to the state constitution, which would have allowed parents to claim tax credits of up to \$2,500 toward their children's tuition in the private school of their choice, was defeated by 59 percent to 41 percent. A similar school voucher measure was rejected six years ago by a 2-to-1 margin.

Beatification delay sought

Israel's ambassador to the Vatican called for a 50-year moratorium on plans to beatify Pope Pius XII. Critics accuse Pius XII of remaining silent in the face of the Holocaust.

Aharon Lopez called on the Vatican to open its classified archives to let historians find out the full truth about Pius' wartime actions. [Page 3]

ELECTIONS '98

Jewish candidates win big, swelling Senate ranks to 11

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jewish candidates rode the unprecedented Democratic surge to victory this week as tight election races across the nation broke in their favor, swelling their representation in the U.S. Senate to record levels.

In fact the only Jewish incumbent to lose a seat Tuesday in the nationwide races for Senate and House of Representatives was Rep. Jon Fox, a Pennsylvania Republican.

Democrat Charles Schumer's upset win Tuesday over Republican incumbent Alfonse D'Amato in the New York race for Senate means that for the first time ever, the upper chamber of Congress will include 11 Jewish members. But despite the election of three new members, the Jewish caucus in the House will again shrink, from 25 to 23, resulting in the smallest delegation of the decade.

Schumer's convincing victory, Fox's defeat in Pennsylvania and Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer's win over State Treasurer Matt Fong in California together struck a devastating blow to Jewish Republicans, who had launched a campaign of their own to convince GOP candidates to actively woo Jewish voters.

Fox had been groomed by pro-Israel activists as a leader in his party after receiving a coveted post on the International Relations Committee. His defeat means that Jewish Republicans will see their representation go from three to one in the House.

Only Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) remains from the last class, after cruising to re-election against a Jewish opponent, Paul Feiner. Rep. Steve Schiff (R-N.M.) died last year of cancer.

"Obviously we would like to see more Jewish Republicans, but let me tell you, Arlen Specter and Benjamin Gilman do the work of 20 Jewish Republicans," Matt Brooks, executive director of the pro-Republican National Jewish Coalition, said, referring to the Pennsylvania senator and New York congressman, respectively.

Nationally, Jews voted by a 78 percent to 21 percent margin for Democratic candidates for the House and Senate, helping to undermine several Republican candidates.

"There was a tidal wave that swept these guys out and took the Jewish vote with them," Brooks said.

Exuberant Jewish Democrats, some singing "Siman Tov and Mazel Tov," hailed the role that Jewish voters played in election.

"Jewish Democrats helped to relieve the six-year itch," said Stephen Silberfarb, deputy executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, referring to the historical trend that the president's party loses more than 40 House seats in midterm elections. This time around, Democrats gained a projected five seats in the House.

"The biannual claim by Jewish Republicans that Jews are voting more Republican has been shattered once and for all," said Silberfarb. "Jews vote Democratic."

In fact, the only Republican to break the 30 percent barrier of the Jewish vote in a statewide race was Peter Fitzgerald, who defeated incumbent Democratic Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun in Illinois, winning 34 percent of the Jewish vote against Moseley-Braun's 62 percent.

Jewish Republicans pointed to the race as proof that a "hard-core conservative who is strongly pro-life can still do well among Jewish voters," Brooks said.

But Democrats countered that Moseley-Braun was hurt by ethical violations and never stood a realistic chance of surviving election night.

Much attention was focused this week on Schumer's win over D'Amato in a

MIDEAST FOCUS

Netanyahu postpones again

For a second straight day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu postponed a Cabinet meeting at which his ministers were to discuss the Wye agreement.

He said he is still awaiting a Palestinian Authority commitment to arrest 30 wanted Islamic militants. His spokesman, David Bar-Illan, said the Palestinians made a verbal commitment at last month's summit to make the arrests. Meanwhile, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat maintained that 12 of the suspects have already been arrested.

Israel to indict Raviv

Israel plans to indict a former undercover agent for failing to prevent the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Although Avishai Raviv did not know the precise date or plan for the slaying, he knew of assassin Yigal Amir's intentions, Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein said. The indictment comes on the third anniversary of the assassination.

Britain criticizes settlements

Britain criticized renewed Israeli settlement activity, saying it jeopardized the Wye agreement.

The criticism came after a right-wing group received government permission to break ground for a Jewish endave in an Arab neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem and after Israel announced that more homes would be built in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba. A statement released by Britain's consulate general in Jerusalem said the moves "risk undermining the new spirit of cooperation forged at Wye."

Jets strike in Lebanon

Israel attacked suspected Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon in retaliation for a roadside bomb that killed three members of the Israel-allied South Lebanon Army. Wednesday's air strike was Israel's fourth in the last three days.

bitterly fought race where Jewish issues and unprecedented appeals to Jewish voters played out front and center.

D'Amato had called in all his chits from his battle on behalf of Holocaust survivors against Swiss banks and European insurance companies. The senator had aired the first known campaign commercial to include Holocaust footage, campaigned in front of New York City's Holocaust memorial and brought the family of the 1991 Crown Heights riots victim, Yankel Rosenbaum, to campaign by his side, all the while accusing his Jewish opponent of not supporting Jewish constituents in Congress.

But only weeks before the election, D'Amato called Schumer a "putzhead" at a meeting with Jewish supporters, giving his opponent another avenue for attack. In a sign that the comment hurt D'Amato with Jewish voters, many split their ticket, with 38 percent supporting the re-election of New York's Republican Gov. George Pataki, but only 23 percent voting for D'Amato.

Schumer took 77 percent of the Jewish vote, according to exit polls, defeating D'Amato by a margin of 55 to 45 percent of the total vote.

"Had D'Amato not had a self-inflicted wound in the Jewish community, he would have done better," Brooks said, citing polls before the "putzhead" episode that predicted the Republican incumbent would receive almost 40 percent of the Jewish vote.

But even if D'Amato had scored as well in the Jewish community as he had in 1992, Schumer still would have won re-election.

D'Amato's loss was not the only disappointment for Jewish Republicans who had hoped their party would make new inroads among Jewish voters. A study for the National Jewish Coalition by Republican pollster Frank Luntz had found that Jewish voters would support Republican candidates in spite of their domestic agenda if they strongly supported Israel against pressure from the Clinton administration.

In California, Fong adopted the strategy after a meeting with the Republican Jewish group, touting his role in the battle for Holocaust assets. But in the end, he took only 18 percent of California's Jewish vote. Boxer surpassed previous Jewish high marks, receiving 82 percent support, according to exit polls.

Fong was hurt by a late report that he contributed \$50,000 to the Traditional Values Coalition, a staunchly pro-life, anti-gay group. Boxer painted Fong as an extremist for his support of the group, which is headed by Rev. Lou Sheldon. Sheldon has said he was born Jewish and converted after "seeing the light of Christ" in his teen-age years.

Religion was not polled in Pennsylvania, where Arlen Specter, the only Jewish Republican in the Senate, scored an expected convincing victory, 62 to 30 percent, against Democrat Bill Lloyd.

But local and national activists believe that he received the lion's share of the Jewish vote.

The most endangered Jewish senator, Democrat Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, held on and defeated Rep. Mark Neumann, a Republican, by 51 to 49 percent. Feingold, the co-author of the primary campaign finance reform bill in the last Congress, limited his spending in the race and refused to accept outside help.

The only other Jewish senator up for re-election, Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), cruised to re-election as expected, winning 59 to 36 percent against Republican John Lim.

In Georgia, Jewish Democratic candidate Michael Coles had a surprisingly strong showing, winning 45 percent of the vote, but it was not enough to defeat Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-Ga.), who won 52 percent of the vote.

In the House, Democratic Jewish candidates swept into office, as all incumbents won re-election despite strong challenges.

Among the winners were two freshmen Jewish members, Reps. Steve Rothman (D-N.J.) and Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), who labored during the past two years to stake out positions favored by the Jewish community.

Illinois state Rep. Jan Schakowsky, a Jewish Democrat, won an election to succeed a veteran Chicago-area congressman, Sidney Yates, who decided to retire. Yates served as dean of the House Jewish caucus.

Schumer's seat was filled by Anthony Weiner, a Jewish Democrat from Brooklyn.

In Nevada, another Jewish Democrat, Shelley Berkley, defeated Don Chairez by a 49 percent to 46 percent margin. Veteran Jewish Rep. Martin Frost (D-Texas), who had faced early trouble, also won re-election. □



Daily News Bulletin

Caryn Rosen Adelman, *President*
 Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*
 Lisa Hostein, *Editor (on leave)*
 Kenneth Bandler, *Managing Editor*
 Lenore A. Silverstein, *Business Manager*

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at www.jta.org.

JEWISH WORLD

Sarcasm greets D'Amato loss

A representative of the Swiss government greeted with sarcasm the news that Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) lost his re-election bid.

Swiss government spokesman Achille Casanova said the government "has taken note of Mr. D'Amato's failure to win re-election — obviously with great regret," prompting reporters to laugh at the obvious irony. D'Amato has been widely criticized in Switzerland for leading a spirited campaign to pressure Swiss banks to compensate Holocaust survivors.

Court orders deportation

A U.S. immigration court ordered the deportation of an Illinois man accused of participating in a massacre of Jews at a Nazi slave labor camp in Poland, the Justice Department announced.

Branislav Hajda lost his U.S. citizenship earlier this year when a federal appeals court determined that he lied in his 1950 U.S. citizenship application about his activities from 1943 to 1945 at the SS Trawniki training camp and the Treblinka labor camp.

He is the 48th Nazi persecutor to be ordered deported from the United States since the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations began operations in 1979.

Publisher seeks proof

The German publisher of a Holocaust memoir whose authenticity has been called into doubt demanded written proof of the allegations against the book.

Critics allege that Benjamin Wilkomirski, author of "Fragments: Memories of a Wartime Childhood," is not a Latvian Jew who survived two concentration camps, but the son of a Swiss Protestant mother who was later adopted by a Swiss couple.

Groundbreaking claimant dies

An Auschwitz survivor who paved the way for slave laborers to receive compensation for their work during World War II died at 85.

Norbert Wolheim won \$25 a week in 1951 from the chemical firm I.G. Farben, which later agreed to establish a compensation fund for other slave laborers.

Israeli runs in stark fashion

The Israeli women's marathon champion placed 264th among the 31,456 runners in the New York City Marathon. She achieved her personal best by three minutes in Sunday's race, but Nili Abramski was nearly disqualified for being an unauthorized runner.

A bag containing her official race number and running clothes was stolen before the start, and Abramski was forced to run the 26.2 miles in her underwear.

Jews in the 106th Congress

U.S. SENATE

Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)*	Carl Levin (D-Mich.)
Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.)*	Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.)
Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)	Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)*
Herb Kohl (D-Wisc.)	Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)*
Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)	Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.)
	Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)*

*elected Tuesday

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.)	Tom Lantos (D-Calif.)
Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.)*	Sander Levin (D-Mich.)
Howard Berman (D-Calif.)	Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)
Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.)	Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.)
Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.)	Steve Rothman (D-N.J.)
Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)	Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.)
Bob Filner (D-Calif.)	Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)*
Barney Frank (D-Mass.)	Brad Sherman (D-Calif.)
Martin Frost (D-Texas)	Norman Sisisky (D-Va.)
Sam Gejdensen (D-Conn.)	Henry Waxman (D-Calif.)
Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.)	Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.)*
	Robert Wexler (D-Fla.)

*first time in Congress

Defeated

Jon Fox (R-Pa.)

Retiring

Jane Harman (D-Calif.)
Sidney Yates (D-Ill.)

Israel wants to delay plans to beatify controversial pope

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Israel's ambassador to the Vatican wants to delay plans to beatify Pope Pius XII.

Calling for a 50-year moratorium on plans to beatify the wartime pope, Aharon Lopez told reporters Tuesday that haste in setting Pius XII on the road to sainthood would constitute "a very destabilizing element" in relations between Israel and the Vatican.

Critics accuse Pius XII of remaining silent in the face of the Holocaust. The beatification process is the last step before someone is made a saint.

Lopez called on the Vatican to open its classified archives to let historians find out the full truth about Pius XII's wartime actions. Such archives, he noted, are usually kept secret for 70 years.

Lopez noted that "beatifications are the absolute prerogative of the church" and said he did not intend to pass judgement on Pius XII.

But, calling Pius a "controversial" figure, he added, "I think there should be a moratorium of about 50 years" on the beatification process in order to "dispel any doubts about Pius XII."

He also noted that "feelings are still high and wounds are still open from the tragedy of the Shoah."

In response to Lopez's remarks, a Vatican spokesman said that the beatification process "would take its due course" and the Israeli position would have no effect. □

NEWS ANALYSIS

Squabbling over security delays implementation of Wye agreement*By David Landau*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The hesitant start in implementing the Wye agreement has provided painful evidence that a new age of trustful Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking has not yet dawned.

The first indication that all would not proceed smoothly came Monday, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that Israel would not implement its latest agreement with the Palestinians until it was ratified by the Cabinet and the Knesset.

The announcement came despite an explicit provision in the text of the Wye River Memorandum that it begins 10 days after it was signed Oct. 23 in Washington — in other words, on Monday.

Knee-jerk grumbling by Palestinian officials was quickly squelched by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. With unexpected mildness, Arafat told Netanyahu on Monday that a few days' delay would be no problem.

The next hurdle came into view on Tuesday, when Netanyahu postponed a Cabinet meeting to discuss the accord. The premier maintained that a Palestinian plan to fight terrorism, delivered to the Americans on Monday, was insufficient.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai explained that Israel wants the Palestinians to arrest 30 Islamic militants. "Their names are known, also to the Palestinian Authority, and we are demanding that they be arrested," he said. Again, Palestinian officials complained. Netanyahu was "playing sorry political games," said Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour.

Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief in the Gaza Strip, said the United States was satisfied with the security plan — a position reportedly confirmed by increasingly impatient American officials in Washington.

The squabbling over security was a direct extension of the nine days and nights of bitter wrangling last month in Maryland that produced the Wye River Memorandum.

Netanyahu knows that the prospects of successful implementation stand or fall on security issues.

The message has not been lost on Arafat and his top aides, who keep stating that under the Wye accord, Israelis' security — including the security of settlers — "will be our security."

But both sides fear that the respective opponents of the process — hard-line settlers on the Israeli side and militant Islamic fundamentalists on the Palestinian side — will redouble their efforts to strike.

Monday's arrest of Gur Hammel, an Israeli settler suspected of killing an elderly Palestinian farmer last week, provided a disturbing reminder of what Jewish extremists are capable of doing.

But the chief concern about Israeli opponents of the Oslo process is not that they will commit acts of terror. The fear is that they will engage in provocations designed to fan the flames of hatred between settlers and Palestinians, and between Palestinians and the Israeli army.

Nothing would better suit the anti-Wye campaign of Israeli hard-liners than a large-scale outbreak of violence in the West Bank. It would be trumpeted as a vindication of their conviction that Wye failed to provide for real security.

The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security service, is said to have

beefed up efforts to penetrate Jewish dissident groups.

But the government is not prepared to place potential troublemakers under preventative detention, a draconian emergency regulation from the British mandatory period that allows for arrest without trial. These regulations were employed against Israelis briefly in the 1980s, after the discovery of a terrorist underground among the West Bank settlers.

Israel does expect, though, that the Palestinians will act against its own potential firebrands with less deference for due process.

Indeed, the Palestinian Authority weighed in bloodily in Ramallah last week, when its police opened fire on anti-Wye demonstrators, killing a 16-year-old Palestinian.

Arafat went to Ramallah over the weekend to extend his condolences to the victim's family and to indicate that there had been an excess of zeal that would not be repeated.

But a wave of arrests of militants in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, culminating in the house arrest of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, has broadcast a clear message from the Palestinian leadership to the Islamic fundamentalists.

That message is also intended for Washington and Jerusalem, as part of the ongoing effort by both Arafat and President Clinton to help Netanyahu get the Wye accord approved.

The premier has no problem with public opinion: The polls show a consistent 70 percent level of support for the accord and the continuation of the Oslo process. But Netanyahu would like to have the accord approved while keeping his coalition — including its hard-line components — intact.

Arafat's help was dramatically delivered in the Knesset on Monday, when the governing coalition narrowly escaped an embarrassing — and possibly fatal — defeat in a Knesset budget debate because of the help of the Arab Democratic Party's four Knesset members.

By abstaining from what was seen as a confidence vote in the government, Israeli Arab legislators enabled the bill to pass by a razor-thin majority of one. Observers said the four Arab legislators had stayed away from the vote on Arafat's direct urging.

Clinton's high-profile help came in a rare interview Sunday with Israel Television in which he extolled the advantages of the new accord and carefully played down his own reported arguments with Netanyahu during last month's Wye summit.

Support also came in the form of a signing ceremony in Jerusalem for a new U.S.-Israeli defense memorandum that pledges high-level cooperation in the face of strategic threats facing Israel from Iran's and Iraq's missile-development programs.

Some Israeli analysts maintain that the memorandum largely repeats language that has appeared in similar U.S.-Israel documents for many years. But clearly there was a gesture here on Clinton's part to help Netanyahu get the Wye accord through his Cabinet with as respectable a majority as possible.

Washington followed up with four letters containing guarantees to Israel, including one in which the Americans reiterated their opposition to a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood.

In a delicate balancing act, the U.S. administration also dispatched letters to the Palestinians.

There is said to be little love lost between Clinton and Netanyahu — and the Wye negotiations hardly helped the relationship. But the summit ended successfully in an important agreement that, if implemented, will push forward regional peacemaking and work to Clinton's credit as a world leader. □