

Lives of the Jewish Gangsters Chronicled

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE JEWISH GANGSTER IN AMERICA. By Albert Fried. Holt Rinehart Winston 343 pages. \$14.95.



ARNOLD AGES

Joseph Stacher, Bugsy Siegel, Harry Teitelbaum, Lepke Buchalter, Greenie Greenberg, Louis Kravitz, Gurrah Shapiro, Philip Kavolick, Hymie Holtz, Meyer Lansky — these are not the winners of B'nai B'rith's "Man of the Year" award nor were they ever feted with Bond dinners or UJA convocations.

According to researcher Albert Fried, the people mentioned above were the leading criminal elements who were spawned largely by the jungle-like atmosphere of the New York's lower east side in the early years of this century. Fried's book, a meticulously chronicled documentary, tends to refute the long held thesis according to which Jews refrained from participating in the gangsterism which pervaded America from the ten years to the mid-point of this century.

In point of fact Jewish gangsters were as flamboyant, brutal, and murderous as their gentile counterparts. This is not a subject which members of local Hadassah organizations would be wont to discussing. Nevertheless the evidence suggests that both in

New York and Chicago, and for reasons that are not entirely clear, in Minneapolis as well, cadres of Jewish gangsters allied with Italian and other hyphenated Americans, terrorized the garment industry, attempted to take over the movies, and invaded the baking business as well.

When prohibition occurred Jewish gangsters dominated the bootlegging market. Acting with rare ecumenical zeal Jewish hoodlums worked in concert, and without apparent friction, with Mafia toughs to control gambling, prostitution, and every other vice.

The conventional wisdom has it that Jewish criminals specialized in "intellectual" crimes — forgery, embezzlement, stock swindles — and that they

eschewed the more violent vocations such as murder. Not so, if we are to accept Fried's argument. In fact the most extravagantly cruel crime to appear on the American scene — murder by contract — was the brainchild of a notorious Jewish criminal, Lepke Buchalter.

In the 1930s and '40s his organization, known as "Murder Incorporated," arranged for the assassination of countless victims on a strictly cash payment basis. The fact that the "hit men" were professionals without any connection to the deceased made the crimes all the more difficult to solve.

It is in regard to this murder for hire syndicate that the name of Thomas Dewey enters the story. Dewey, a crusading Republican district attorney, and three-time candidate for the presidency, acquired much of his fame for his relentless pursuit of the people associated with "Murder Incorporated." The author introduces the debatable idea in this book that Dewey's lack of adroitness in handling the prosecution of Lepke Buchalter and his associates, while undoubtedly serving his own political ambitions, did little to eradicate the problem he was ostensibly trying to solve. In fact, says Fried, it was Dewey's pressure on the criminals which produced wholesale slaughter of innocents as the mob tried to protect its interests.



JACK 'LEGS' DIAMOND

One of the great ironies in this entertaining but embarrassing book is the section on Meyer Lansky and Bugsy Siegel. These two gentlemen were involved in the thick of illegal gambling and other illicit activities. It was Lansky, for example, who persuaded Batista to open Cuba to gambling. Yet in their own way Lansky and Siegel anticipated the post-war affluence of the 1940s and '50s as they ploughed their assets and energies into developing Las Vegas. They came through Fried's book as genuine "pioneers."



The death of Bugsy Siegel — in a Beverly Hills living room.

Vegetarianism Comes to Israel

By DVORA WAYSMAN
Once the only question an Israeli might be expected to ask a potential dinner guest was: "Do you keep kosher?" Today, just as common, is the question: "Are you a vegetarian?" Many Israelis, for a variety of reasons, are turning both to vegetarianism and its more extreme form, natural foods, whose adherents restrict themselves to a diet of raw fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables. Why?

Some do it for health reasons; some out of a humane desire that no animal or fish should be killed to satisfy their appetite; some because they distrust the "kashrut" of the meat offered for sale; and others because they are concerned by frequent reports of the poor handling, transportation, and lack of supervision of the meat that is offered for sale. But whatever the reason, this new "life-style" of vegetarianism is emerging in Israel and proprietors of the increasing number of health food shops, restaurants, and vegetarian holiday resorts couldn't be happier.

Dolly Hirsch is the proprietor of one such store in Jerusalem's Jaffa Road. It was interesting to learn that at least 25 per cent of her customers are Chassidim. "They don't come in like most of our customers, asking what the different products are for. They know exactly what they want and what to do with it, and buy such items as wheat germ, brewer's yeast, molasses, and whole wheat flour by the kilo."

Naomi, who works at the store, also commented that a big proportion of the customers are young people — "back-packers" she

describes them. This is surprising as one usually associates this age group with the junk food so much loved by North American teenagers. A recent report from the United States cites a new "junk food disease" appearing in adolescents there — a kind of marginal malnutrition, almost akin to beri-beri. Doctors ascribe it to thiamin deficiencies linked to the youngsters' diets of high calorie, nutritionally deficient, sugar-laden drinks, pastries, and candies, and snack foods such as potato chips and pretzels. Israel isn't gone that far as yet.

Many of Israel's youngsters who are turning to natural foods come by way of the cosmetician. Perhaps because of skin blemishes, they are advised to try such products as avocado or papaya cream — also stocked by health food stores — and when they get results from such creams externally, become convinced that an internal natural food or vegetarian diet must also be beneficial. Others start off because of allergies, and have diets worked out for them by naturopaths who believe that most conditions can be cured without resorting to drugs.

Many people are drawn to vegetarian diets as a way of slimming. Beit Frumer in Ashkelon was started by a doctor — a former South African — who was one of the earliest adherents to the belief that this was the key to a healthy, slim body. Beit Frumer combines holidays with a slimming program that consists of a strict vegetarian diet and enjoyable health-promoting activities such as yoga, swimming, gymnastics, cycling, and creative dancing. Each diet is in-

dividualized according to the amount of weight a person needs to lose, and all are under medical supervision. Conversely, there is a vegetarian program for those rare clients who need to gain weight.

Amirim is a village near Safed in Galilee, dedicated entirely to the vegetarian way of life. Regular holiday accommodation



An everyday scene in a health food store on the busy Jaffa Road in Jerusalem. The proliferation of such stores has led some observers to believe that vegetarianism is spreading in Israel.

is provided there, and a few select families open their dining-rooms to visitors. Many of the inhabitants are so strict that they do not eat any animal by-products at all — milk, eggs and cheese are taboo. They drink either water from the village well or a mint tea beverage, and grow much of their own fruit and vegetables.

It is a mistaken belief that a natural food adherent eats cheaply. Health foods are quite expensive, but become less so when you learn how to prepare them yourself — and most vegetarians know how to make their own version of muesli, granola, whole wheat bread, and confectionary from chopped dried fruits, flavored with powdered carob and rolled in desiccated coconut.

German Minister Fails to Rally to Israel's Defence

Bonn — Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher's failure to respond to a vicious attack upon Israel by Chelli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, surprised and angered friends of Israel here.

Klibi described the Arab-Israel conflict as a confrontation between a colonial and racist aggressor on one hand, and a refugee people suffering inhuman conditions but determined to resist foreign rule on the other.

Klibi also denounced Zionism, claiming that it manifested itself by religious and racial discrimination and the forcible annexation of land.

According to friends of Israel here, Mr. Genscher's failure to defend her revealed his pro-Arab position and the leading role played by Bonn in shifting the policies of the EEC countries to favor the Arabs.

Ryerson President

Toronto (JCNS) — Brian Segal, a 37-year-old associate professor of social work at Ottawa's Carleton University, has been named president of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, an institution of higher learning here. He was selected for this post from 97 candidates.

A native of Montreal's St. Urban Street (made famous by Mordechai Richler's novels) and the son of a taxi driver, he is married with three children. A younger brother, Hugh Segal, 30, is a policy and priorities advisor to Premier Davis of Ontario.

Copy Deadline

Because the offices of the 'Jewish Post' will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 1, all publicity chairmen and correspondents are asked to make sure that any copy intended for the issue of September 4 be in our hands no later than noon, Friday, August 29.

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Israel Hot over UN Resolution, Cool Toward Saudis' Jihad Call

(compiled from dispatches) Jerusalem (JCNS) — There was a bitter heated reaction from Israel to the United Nations Security Council resolution on Jerusalem. Announcing formally that Israel "categorically rejected" the resolution, a foreign ministry statement declared that it would merely "encourage extremism,



EDMUND MUSKIE ...vote angers Israel

blackmail, and incitement to war."

The latter assertion, officials stressed, was a reference to the recent Saudi call for a jihad (holy war) to "liberate" the city from Israeli control, a call to which Israel's reaction was decidedly cool.

Declaring firmly that the Security Council resolution would in no way undermine the status of Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital, the statement called the resolution "unjust and unilateral," adding that it "furnishes proof that the United Nations has been converted into an instrument in the hands of Israel's enemies in their war against her existence and independence."

Particular dismay was voiced at the American abstention, authorized personally by President Carter, and British and French support for the resolution. The statement declared: "We are especially disappointed that very important, free countries lent their hand to decisions which they themselves know have nothing in common with the true situation prevailing in Jerusalem. This resolution will encourage extremism, blackmail, and incitement to war in international relations."

Though the U.S. stand was not singled out for discussion in his meeting with Samuel Lewis, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Itzhak Shamir, the Israeli foreign minister, said that Israel was intensely disappointed that, in the light of Edmund Muskie's critical speech to the Council, the U.S. had not followed this to its natural conclusion and vetoed the

resolution. The call by the Security Council on nations to remove their embassies from Jerusalem was not binding and constituted interference in their internal affairs, Mr. Shamir argued.

The extraordinary decision to have Mr. Muskie replace America's United Nations representative, Donald McHenry, at the session was seen as part of an intensive Administration effort to reassure Israel and her American supporters, who were sharply disappointed by the United States' attitude. But Mr. Muskie failed in his effort.

Twelve U.S. Senators, led by Frank Church of Idaho, the chairman of the foreign relations committee, quickly denounced the administration's failure to veto the resolution.

This clearly constitutes a departure from existing U.S. policy," the senators said.

Privately, U.S. officials insisted that Israel had only herself to blame for this latest chain of events.

The Knesset's action in passing the Jerusalem Law was the source of the tension, officials said. Washington had specifically warned Israel against going ahead with the Law.

As for the jihad call, a foreign ministry spokesman said that Israel was neither shocked nor surprised by it.

He said that Saudi policy had never been moderate, although it was regarded as such by some Western capitals, and in dismissing the Saudi threat he added: "Israel has good reason to believe that Riyadh finances a considerable proportion of the terrorist action taken against her."

Crown Prince Fahd issued the call following talks with President

Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The theme of the Prince's comments was that the Arabs had gained nothing by moderation. He did not make a direct call for war but asked "Is not the Arab and Muslim call for a long, relentless holy war the only possible response to this Zionist religious and racist arrogance. Can the world blame us after today if we take matters into our own hands and respond to defend our most holy of holies against this Zionist religious and military attack" — an obvious reference to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, writes the JCNS Arab affairs correspondent, the 14-nation Islamic summit which met last week in Casablanca, Morocco, reached some rather curious decisions.

The conference agreed to initiate a worldwide information campaign and to apply economic and political sanctions against any State formally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

However, as adjuncts to the key resolutions, the conference called upon Lebanon to induce Vatican pressure on Israel and called for the mobilization of American Arabs, particularly those of Lebanese Christian origin, to counter the American "Jewish lobby."

The resolutions imply that the Lebanese Christians, who have suffered anguish during the past five years of Islamic extremism, are now expected to dance to the Arabs' tune to win favor.

Proposals by the Palestine Liberation Organization that the PLO be recognized as the basis of the holy army for the Jerusalem jihad and that Jerusalem be immediately recognized as the undisputed Palestinian capital, were gently spurned.

(see editorial, page 4.)

Sakharov's Supporters

Characterizing him as a "brilliant and extraordinary man," nine of the 1970 Leningrad Trial defendants now living in Israel, including Sylvia Zalmanson and her husband Edward Kuznetsov, have issued a public appeal on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof. Andrei Sakharov, forcibly exiled from Moscow to Gorky, according to the SSSR.

"We should not be comforted by the fact that Sakharov has not actually been imprisoned," the nine declared. "The U.S.S.R. is testing Western public opinion and response. The Soviets know how important he is to the national and human rights movements in Russia."

"Unless there is an outcry from around the world, Sakharov will be in danger and so will all his friends and supporters. If we in the West are silent now, we share the responsibility for the fate of these people."

"We, former Prisoners of Zion, believe that a campaign for justice for Sakharov is an act of political farsightedness. His fate affects us all."

"We appeal for your support because the Soviets violate even their own harsh laws in their persecution of this man, because we owe a personal debt of gratitude to Sakharov, who was in the front ranks of those who defended the Jewish right to emigrate to Israel and had the courage to demand the freedom of the Prisoners of Zion. Demand that he be allowed to return to his home in Moscow immediately or, if he wishes, to be given permission to leave the U.S.S.R."

Other signatories of the appeal include Mark Dymshitz, Hillel Butman, Boris Penson, Anatoly Altman, Leib Khanokh, and Israel and Wolf Zalmanson.

Journalistic Jibes Stifled

Jerusalem (JCNS) — President Sadat of Egypt is reported to have issued instructions to the Cairo press to avoid any antisemitic references when criticizing Israeli policy.

He told leading Egyptian editors that while they were free to comment in any way they deemed fit, he would "advise" that such criticism be expressed "in a more down to earth manner."

The Egyptian leader's intervention followed protests by Itzhak Shamir, the Israeli foreign minister, against the publication in a leading Cairo newspaper of material linking Menachem Begin with Hitler.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shamir made a

strong attack on Egypt for delaying the development of normal relations between the two countries and for the breakdown of the talks on autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He described Egyptian insistence to postpone the negotiations until after November's American presidential elections as "unwise," suggesting that the time lapse would not change anything.

The Egyptian Prime Minister's office announced that the correspondence between President Sadat and Mr. Begin, begun by the Egyptian leader a month ago, had now been "terminated."

Local Jewish Schools Face \$150,000 Deficit

By ALAN KLUNER
Reports from the administration and the finance committees, the introduction of a fall workshop, and enrollment in the Jewish schools were some of the main points of discussion at the Jewish Board of education meeting last Tuesday at Ramah Hebrew school.

The report from administration was delivered by the new superintendent, Baruch Rand. Mr. Rand stated that a new principal for Ramah evening school was needed since the old one had resigned. He announced that a permanent secretary has not yet been hired for the central office but a temporary secretary is working there right now.

The central board has established itself, a constitution, and has hired a staff. "Now it has to function," said Mr. Rand. He also announced that the Board has a major deficit and thus needed to

cut back. Mr. Rand also felt that there wasn't an understanding of the relationship between the schools and the board.

A workshop will be held this fall, in which the roles of different boards will be redefined. The Board will welcome suggestions from the constituents.

The Board of Jewish education hopes to have as much participation in the workshop from board members of the Jewish schools as possible. The Ramah board has already unanimously endorsed the idea of the fall workshop. The tentative date for the workshop is October 19.

The finance committee announced that the following funds had been allocated by the Jewish Community Council up to August 31, 1981: Teacher's pension amounted to \$35,000; operation of the central office \$75,000; and the operating budget was \$85,000. Total funds allocated were

\$875,000. Income anticipated for the year ending August 31, is \$2,367,250, from the following sources: tuition \$1,052,250; other income \$450,000; and Jewish Community Council \$865,000.

Expenditures for the coming academic year will be \$2,451,233. Thus the operating deficit this year will be \$83,983.

The total budget for the central office is \$188,660. There is expected to be a \$73,890 deficit in the central office for a total deficit of \$157,873.

The finance committee made various recommendations based on those statistics. It proposed a line-by-line budget review by the administration, hoping to save \$50,000 in expenses. It felt that the BJE fund-raising campaign should be pursued as soon as possible, utilizing such projects as casinos and an expansion of the base of support for the annual lot-

tery.

It also suggested the possibility of asking all parents of school children — sometime this fall — for a voluntary tuition increase of five per cent. The committee also felt that this year's deficit should be eliminated by increased revenue, decreased expenses, but not through bank borrowing.

Enrollment at the BJE schools was announced at the meeting. For the elementary schools — Peretz, Ramah, and Talmud Torah — the enrollment remained stable, the exceptions being nursery, kindergarten, and the early grades, which saw a decline in the number of students.

Enrollment at Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate has decreased by 15 per cent in 1980. There are 238 students enrolled for the coming year as opposed to 281 in 1979. The biggest decrease in enrollment has come in the earlier grades, seven and eight.