

THE DIOGENES REPORT

The Wit, Wisdom & Wituperation of Emanuel L. Strunin

March 2001, Volume 1, Number 2

IMPORT 1,000 HINDUS

As measure for measure response to the WAFK, the Moslem religious council active on the Temple Mount that is responsible for the excavations that are destroying evidence of the Mount's Jewish history, I suggest that Israel import 1,000 Hindus from Ayodh and let them loose on the Har Ha'Bais for a week. The Israeli border guards should keep the Arabs away for the week to preclude the possibility of violence. I predict that all evidence of a Moslem relationship to the Mount including Al Aksa and the Dome of the Rock will have disappeared.

IN JAPAN, "IT'S NOT THE ECONOMY STUPID"

Our media is full of stories about problems with the Japanese economy. But in Japan, it isn't "the economy, stupid", it's "the sociology, stupid". The problems in Japan have been around for over a decade. The Japanese government knows it, their financial community knows and even the American government has an inkling of it. We keep giving the Japanese sound financial advice about how to start solving their problems, but they don't listen. They recognize that it is not a financial solution that is required. The real solution is too painful for them. It is sociological.

Imposing the needed financial restrictions would mean destroying their friends, college classmates, family members and government leaders, business leaders and community leaders who are not only respected but revered. It would involve turning their thousand year old society and social structure on its head--or worse, cutting off its head, The Japanese leadership is willing to go so far as firing factory workers and laying off salarymen who did not go to the right universities. To ask it to go further is to ask them to commit treason to their class, their society, their culture and their country. It is far, far less shameful to let the economy collapse and to hope that somehow in the future things will straighten themselves out.

GAMBLING TAXES OUTSTRIP CORPORATE TAXES IN CT

Perhaps it's time for the Connecticut legislature and Governor Rowland to push all of those pesky businesses out of the state now that gambling revenues have reached such an exalted level. As we can guess, New York City will drive out all of its businesses which cause so much traffic congestion and administrative costs, as soon as the revenues from parking violations increase just a little bit more. We are indeed fortunate to have public officials endowed with such foresight.

MA BELL'S DISFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

If you have recently received a letter signed "Mike Armstrong" you know that the head honcho at ATT wants to be your friend while he delivers some more bad news from Ma Bell. When the president of a major corporation drops his legal first name and adopts a more familiar version, its time for shareholders to cock their guns in self-defense.

Your friend "Mike" has good reason to be wary of his "fellow shareholders" since he bears a major responsibility for screwing them out of billions of dollars. He used Ma Bell's deep pockets to vastly overpay for cable systems whose ability to generate adequate revenues are still in the far distant future. But overpayment for acquisitions is an ATT tradition. His predecessor, Richard Allen also was an expert in that technique. The operating principle seems to be--we have the money, why not spend it.

What is worst than the money that ATT management throws at acquisitions is the questionable purpose of its acquisitions and management's inability to integrate the acquisitions into the Ma Bell family. NCR is just one of the examples that comes to mind. So instead of integration, our friend "Mike", aided and abetted by his fellow co-conspirators on the board has come up with a different approach--let's break up Ma Bell unruly bunch into four somewhat related members of this dysfunctional mishpocha. The gang at ATT believes that they can blow so much smoke at the shareholders that they wont know what's going on--except when they look at their dividend checks and the stock price.

Over the years, the situation at ATT has been a classic case of misgovernance, and a good case can be made for malfeasance by its Board of Directors. They allowed Richard "Dick" Allen to perpetrate a decade of continuing screwups, including acquisition disasters; an inability to stem the competitive onslaughts of Sprint, MCI and others; to have a vision for the future of the telecommunications industry; and the creation of a competitive culture among ATT management.

The Board has embarked on a similar trip with Mike Armstrong. After all, what is more important to the Board members--their responsibilities to the shareholders or the very substantial perks they receive? Since the widows and orphans do not have much clout, is there a Federal agency willing to clean up the mess?

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE DISCOVERED IN ISRAEL

The dreaded foot and mouth disease was discovered in Israel not in a four-legged dumb farm animal as in Europe but in a two-legged urban human animal. Although some experts believed he was cured of this recurring malady when the Israeli voters cleaned his slate in the last election, his deep-seated sickness again manifested itself. Despite the modification in his environment, Shimon Peres keeps putting his foot in his mouth as he tries to infect the somewhat new Israeli government. He insists that the Arab felons must be treated with kid gloves in this new Middle East or they will get nastier. In his vision they are not really so bad just because they continue to maim and kill Jews including children on school busses. Sadly, the foot and mouth disease has affected his brain.

RAMALLAH - - ARAB CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC CENTER

CNN reporters entered Ramallah to verify claims by Arab leaders that the Israeli blockade was designed merely to stifle the Arab economy, culture and science in their capitol city. At a Bir Zeit University's Osama bin Laden chemical laboratory, the reporters found dedicated, budding scientists happily mixing drums of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers. The students explained that their effort was part of a Holy Land roadside planting program aimed at having an impact on Jewish farmers and their families.

In a philosophy class, the eager students were seated on the floor cross-legged in the traditional Arab fashion in front of an imam who was leading them through the next-world philosophy of Timothy McVeigh.

On the economic front, our reporters peeked into a disassembly establishment, which in the Western World is sometimes called a "chop shop". Here, automobiles acquired from Israel, as part of the cooperative hide and seek venture, are rebuilt by creative native labor and sold throughout the Middle East to enable the natives to eke out a living and to support the Palestinian Authority.

It was obvious to the CNN team that the arrogant Israelis want to humiliate and stifle the studious, upwardly Arabs who dwell peacefully in Ramallah.

REPRINTED FROM THE JERUSALEM POST

Wednesday, March 14 2001 02:44 19 Adar 5761

"Painful Compromises"

Emanuel L. Strunin Stamford CT USA (9 Mar 2001)

I am sorry to say that Ariel Sharon is tripping over his own feet as he steps into the Prime Minister's office. In fact, you might say that he is toppling into the office. Among the first words out of his mouth are that the Israeli people should be prepared to make "painful compromises". I assumed that he was elected to prove to the Arabs that they had to make the "painful compromises". His new Minister of Defense follows up with the same suggestion. I thought that was why his government was swept out of power. Then there is the new Foreign Minister who is unashamedly still pushing the dangerous Oslo policies. If the voice of the people counts for anything in Israel, Mr. Sharon may topple out of the Prime Minister's office as quickly as he is toppling in.

GOING TO BAHGDAD

Rumors have it that Yassir Arafat is making plans to relocate to Baghdad if things get to hot for him around Israel. He supposedly has offered Saddam

Hussein \$20 million to make him welcome. I suggest that Yassir would be better off in Switzerland.

10 Top Reasons Why Yassir Should Settle In Switzerland

10. He always wanted to learn to ski.
9. He wouldn't sweat as much when he wears his towel.
8. He could see the Gaza Strip from the top of the Jungfrau.
7. The waiters at his hotel would all be Arabs.
6. The Western media would love him because he would be free to speak in English which is his "peaceful" language.
5. He could save the \$20 million that he promised Saddam.
4. There are a lot more arms dealers in Switzerland.
3. He would be the top Arab in the country.
2. He would be closer to his money.
1. The Swiss would love him because he wouldn't bother them for the money they stole during the Holocaust.

EU OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON THE ISRAELI-ARAB SITUATION

European Community Commissioner , Chris Patten said; "It is difficult to see the relationship between withholding revenue and legitimate security concerns". His insight can be reinforced with some other quotes which were thought but remained unspoken.

"Mon dieu! I did not realize that the sounds were Arabs were firing guns at the Israelis. I thought that they were only celebrating the Chinese New Year.'

French Ambassador to Israel

"It is difficult to see the relationship between the possibility of Jews getting murdered by the Germans, and His Majesty's Government preventing them from going to Palestine"

Blodgett Patten, 1940, British Foreign Office

QUOTES I LIKE

One should forgive one's enemies,
but not before they are hanged.

Heinrich Heine

If all the economists were laid end to end,
they would not reach a conclusion.

George Bernard Shaw

Get your facts first, then you can distort them
as much as you please.

Mark Twain

Show me a thoroughly satisfied man,
and I will show you a failure.

Thomas A. Edison

I always prefer to believe the worst of everybody,
it saves so much trouble.

Emanuel Strunin

Liberty doesn't work as well in practice,
as it does in speeches,

Will Rogers

I'm not OK, you're not OK, and that's OK.

William Sloane Coffin

Optimism is the madness of maintaining that everything
is right when it is wrong.

Voltaire

