

THE DIOGENES REPORT

The Wit, Wisdom & Wituperation of Emanuel L. Strunin

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A SMART NORWEGIAN?

Recent comments by Norwegian Secretary of State Raymond Johansen that the Arabs in the PA territory have a legitimate right to shoot at Israeli soldiers confirms the wisdom of that old Scandinavian adage that: "The only one dumber than a dumb Swede is a smart Norwegian".

SHARON THE HUMANITARIAN

Providing employment opportunities for the disabled speaks volumes about the humane character of Ariel Sharon. His lack of prejudice against those who suffer from mental incapacity even extends to his selection of members of his cabinet. Although he no longer is required to take Lithium regularly, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres still goes off the deep end occasionally . Just today he stated that: "Arafat is a partner for peace even though he makes mistakes". His friends point out that Mr. Peres's mental condition has improved greatly from the time he believed that he was Aaron, the biblical man of peace and provided Mr. Arafat with large quantities of weapons as a "peace offering".

BELIEF IN THE IMPOSSIBLE

As we are aware, many in the Israeli establishment from police officers to members of the Supreme Court lack belief in the Jewish religion. When some of these folks do choose to believe, the focus of their belief defies a rational explanation. A current case in point involves the dropping of charges against Avigdor Eskin who was convicted of performing a Pulsa D'Nura Kabbalistic ceremony against the late Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin. The ceremony supposedly placed a "curse" on Rabin about four weeks before he was assassinated.. The authorities obviously believed that the curse worked because Eskin was convicted of carrying out a terrorist act. The Israeli Supreme Court in all of its wisdom recently ruled that support for a terrorist organization applies only if a specific terrorist organization is mentioned. So Eskin's conviction was overturned.

Eskin, however, is still in jail on another charge that is probably as harmful to society as the Pulsa D'Nura ceremony. Perhaps another Kabbalistic ceremony aimed at the Supreme Court is in order.

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PARDON BY "TZEDAKAH"

by Emanuel L. Strunin

Leading members of the Israeli Government and establishment requested it. Some well-to-do American Jews supported it. A well-connected lawyer shepherded the pardon request through the right channels. At last, the long-hoped for pardon was finally awarded by an American President. Also, four additional pardons requested by a Grand Rabbi were granted by the President.

Surprise! Not one of these pardons was for a man who has been buried in solitary confinement for a period long beyond that which America has assigned for greater offenses. Of course, I'm describing the case of Jonathan Pollard. And because of the heavy Jewish involvement in these current pardons this is an appropriate time to compare the Jewish and Israeli actions in both of these scenarios.

The pardon for the unrepentant, billionaire tax cheat and trader with the enemy of the U. S. and Israel, Marc Rich, is the result of his skillful spreading of millions of dollars around institutions, programs and politicians in Israel. In return for his "tzedakah", Rich earned the unbounded admiration of Israeli officialdom, from the Prime Minister on down, who turned a blind eye to the sources of his largesse. And all of these leaders of Israel let Mr. Clinton know what a wonderful guy Mr. Rich is and that he deserves a pardon. Even to the President of the United States and his wife, the junior Senator from New York, the source of funds flowing to them and their party from Mr. Rich's ex-wife was of no consequence.

The pardons for the four Chasidic gentlemen who stole some \$40 million in Federal funds apparently were not greased with "tzedakah" but with votes. Their grand rabbi was able to deliver a victory percentage for Hillary Clinton in their community that you only find in Arab countries or banana republics. The President may have pardoned them for their thievery, but he could not pardon them for chilul hashem-- desecration of God's name.

Those same Israeli officials had an obligation to flood President Clinton with requests -- and even demands -- for the freedom of Jonathan Pollard, who put his life on the line for the State of Israel. Pollard, who was a U; S, Navy intelligence clerk supplied Israel with information about Arab military buildups the U. S. was obligated by treaty to supply but kept secret. We should not be surprised that Israeli officials always dragged their feet about pushing for Pollard's release. It took years before Israel even admitted that he was an Israeli spy.

In my opinion the unusually harsh treatment meted out to Pollard compared to other spies during this same period is a black eye to the competence, honesty and so-called patriotism of a number of American public officials. Their continuing outcry to keep

Pollard imprisoned does not have to do with harm to America but to the unmasking of their lack of professionalism and adherence to our country's obligations to share information with an ally.

The director of the CIA threatened to resign if the President freed Pollard. This same gentlemen did not voice such threats if the Chinese-American nuclear scientist was not indicted for giving atomic secrets to China, a current adversary and potential enemy of the United States. A former ambassador to China and high official of the CIA publicly stated that we should not get upset at China's trying to steal atomic secrets. A Marine guard at the American embassy in Moscow, when Russia was still "the evil empire" was sentenced to less than 10 years for giving secrets to the enemy.

The official who led the fight to bury Pollard, was President Nixon's Secretary of Defense, Casper Weinberger, a man long-known for virulent anti-Israel, pro-Arab policies. Through the years, political analysts attributed his animus to a desire to prove that he was not influenced by his Jewish heritage. It should be noted that Weinberger himself was granted a presidential pardon for breaking the law in the Iran-Contra affair. The 'unusual' treatment accorded to Pollard includes the Government reneging on pre-trial agreements and blaming Pollard for every U. S. intelligence misstep including those perpetrated by Aldrich Ames, the mole in the CIA.

If it smells like anti-Semitism, sounds like anti-Semitism and looks like anti-Semitism in the guise of an anti-Israel policy, then it is anti-Semitism. Why is it then that more influential American Jews petitioned for Marc Rich's pardon than for Jonathan Pollard's? Improbable as it may seem, that old slander of "dual loyalty" still generates fear in some Jewish minds. As a matter of record, there have been craven Jewish judges and politicians who have declined to stand up for justice for Jonathan Pollard. No one accuses the Irish-Americans who raise funds for the IRA of dual-loyalty'; or the Greek-Americans who support Greek control of Cyprus; or the Armenian-Americans who oppose close ties to Turkey.

It is about time that influential American and Israeli Jews put the Marc Rich experience behind them and launch an all-out campaign for a presidential commutation of Jonathan Pollard's sentence. Perhaps, if enough Jews make an effort toward obtaining a pardon for Pollard, the Grand Rabbi may be convinced to get out the vote for like-minded politicians.

I FEEL FAINT; FEEL MY MUSCLES

I am flabbergasted by the comments of Israeli police officials and top IDF officers about the strengths and weaknesses of their services. When it comes to containing Arab violence they protest that the problems are too great for any immediate solution.. They sound so weak that I expect them to fall down in a dead faint while they are speaking. But listen to them, like the chief of the Israeli police force, for example, when it comes to handling Jewish retaliation for Arab attacks, and they become very

muscular and aggressive. They will employ all the necessary force to handle the Jews and bring them to trial. With such incompetent, "justice-loving" defenders, Israelis might be excused if they embrace Arafat.

ARF, ARF

The Stamford Advocate carried a notice from the Humane Society offering a half-pit bull, half-German shepherd for adoption. I wonder if the dog will warn its new owners with an ACHTUNG!! before he sinks his teeth into them?

THE REPLACEMENT

Whenever the idea is broached that the Israelis should "eliminate" Arafat, the conventional wisdom chimes in with "his successor is likely to be even more radical". I don't buy that argument because I do not believe that there is only one successor in the wings, but many would-be successors. This means a likely civil war among the various factions in the PA. By the time the carnage is over it won't make much difference if Yasser's successor is more radical or less radical. The diminished Arab camp will be busy licking its wounds and not in a position to put very much pressure on Israel. If only we can get the Israeli politicians to stop worrying about the welfare of the Arabs.

NEW DRINKING HABITS

Interviewer: We understand that you have changed your drinking habits, Mr. President

Pres. GWB: I sure have. You can't expect me to keep drinkin' tap water after the docs who work for my friends at the coal companies convinced Christie Whitman that it's OK to put more arsenic in the drinkin' water. And she's not even a nurse.

Interviewer: So, Mr. President, how have you been getting along without tap water?

Pres. GWB: Just fine. I'm having bottled water shipped up from Mexico--from a place called Montezuma Springs. It's where the best hotels in Mexico get the water that they serve to tourists.

Interviewer: Can we tell the American people that the change has been working smoothly?

Pres. GWB: You bet. I'm not as dumb as those Democrats say I am. Excuse me, but I've got to run to the toilet again.

QUOTES I LIKE

I respond to second rate literature by saying, "that's the way I always felt", but first rate literature makes one say, "until now, I never knew how I felt--thanks to this experience, I shall never feel the same way again.'

W. H. Auden

For a well-balanced perspective, the person who has a dog to worship him should also have a cat to ignore him.

Anonymous

Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious.

Peter Ustinov

Mark Twain and a friend attended a German lecture. After a half-hour, his friend got up to leave, Twain said to him "aren't you going to wait for the verb?"

Heaven is where the police are British, the cooks French, the mechanics German, the lovers Italian and it's all organized by the Swiss. Hell is where cooks are British, the mechanics French, the lovers Swiss, the police German, and its all organized by the Italians.

Anonymous.

Why does a slight tax increase cost you \$200 and a substantial tax cut save you 30 cents?

Peg Bracken

The majority is never right...the strongest man is he who stands alone.

Henrik Ibsen

Against stupidity the very gods themselves contend in vain.

Johann C. F. von Schiller

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HAVE A SWEET PESACH EVERYONE