

Polyglot Justice All Tongues Wag in Israel Police Courts

By Maurice F. X. Donohue
Inquirer Foreign Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Israel, Aug. 3.
EVEN though business is done in three or four languages a Philadelphia police reporter feels thoroughly at home in the magistrate's court of this new state of Israel.

The legal code is a curious jumble of French law as adopted by the Turks, taken over on black by the British 30 years ago and since then constantly modified.

But in the small, immediate, intimate quarters between neighbors or between poor people and the police here—as at the Paul and Ryan st. or 4th st. and Snyder ave. police stations in Philadelphia—eventually the hardest case becomes a matter of two desperately serious people arguing before a third man who must judge the issue.

Matters are more leisurely in the hotel converted into law courts here than they are at 33d st. and Woodland ave., but that is only because the Arabs have fled, I was told.

“WITH about half the people of Israel, the Arabs launch more than two-thirds of all legal cases because they love legal arguments, love the drama of court appearances and, strangely, don't even mind going to prison,” a lawyer told me.

Maybe that attitude stemmed from 400 years of Turkish misrule, but the Arabs had a saying, “Jails are built for men,” he continued. “I have seen them spend 20 pounds to fight a case involving a three-cent tax stamp.”

Both the rules and personnel of the British mandate system have been continued so that the 20 magistrates in Israel are national, not municipal, officers and they are competent to try any criminal charge involving a prison sentence of not more than a year.

There is no grand jury here and no system of trial by jury, because neither was provided in the Turkish adaptation of the Napoleonic Code. But an accused man can appeal from the magistrates court to the three-judge district court.

TEL AVIV has seven magistrates and about 350 lawyers, called advocates (again the French influence) to handle the affairs of 300,000 people besides all varieties of police: municipal police, special guards, Palestinian constabulary, M.P.'s and auxiliary police. So there is plenty of law and order.

The quality of the British-trained police is generally admired, but there's some skepticism about the mandate.

That is because of the British policy of treating Jews named to the bench as “natives” and paying them \$110 monthly instead of the \$240 paid to British non-Jews doing exactly the same work—even if the Jew had attended the same English university as the Britisher.

As a result, some magistrates under the mandate were believed to supplement their income by gifts from grateful litigants (also suspiciously familiar in Philadelphia lower courts and not unheard of among justices of the peace) but all were nonetheless confirmed in office when the Jewish state was set up. The case was a universal one. A man had a room in his apartment for a stranger. The stranger had married and brought his bride into the room. She began using the kitchen of the apartment, which was furnished with a refrigerator. So he wanted the right to evict his lodgers.

The lodger wasn't in the courtroom—only the plaintiff, the magistrate and two lawyers. They talked German because the case was brought by a recent arrival from Germany. The magistrate withheld judgment.

In a criminal case which I watched the language was Arabic because two looters arrested taking two rugs and a cupboard from a house abandoned by Arabs were Jews newly come to Palestine from Egypt and Syria.

The police inspectors were as bored with the defendants' protestations of innocence as any policeman anywhere would be.

But the scholarly magistrate, aged 32, again was tolerant and allowed the accused's wife to interject helpful hints from a back bench while her husband gesticulated and said he didn't know anything about anything and had simply been standing around with his teeth in his mouth when up came a cop and arrested him.

THE police had the goods. Literally, so the magistrate told the Egyptian defendant to pay \$30 or go to jail for seven days—30, the woman helper of the looter got free by signing a year's bond for good behavior.

Outside the courts three men sat on stools at tables in the sun. They were public letter writers, an anachronism in this modern state—a hangover from the days of illiteracy under the Turkish Empire when you had to find someone who could write letters to the judge explaining your defense.

But they are still pretty handy if you want a letter written in Arabic or Hungarian or practically any other known tongue.

The people are genuine polyglots, but a stranger is amazed how they are welded together by the common everyday use of Hebrew and how quickly newcomers discover that to be part of the Jewish State they must learn that once again living language.

Edgar Ansel Mowrer

Reds Count on Inflation To Wreck United States

Washington, Aug. 3.
PRESIDENT TRUMAN and the Congress of the United States are helping Joe Stalin and the march of Communism.

Not intentionally, of course, but just as surely, Stalin counts on inflation to wreck the United States. The President and the Congress are still promoting inflation.

If inflation comes and the economy of the United States cracks, the American foreign policy cracks with it.

The Truman Doctrine of “containing” Soviet expansion will wither. You cannot do much “containing” abroad if the boys are running around in circles at home. Who in America will worry about air bases in Turkey then?

The Marshall Plan for European recovery will dry up. If a new depression closes the factories in the United States and you have shortages, you can be pretty sure that the next Congress will stampede and stop any further appropriations for the relief of Europe.

The failure of the Truman Doctrine and drying up of the Marshall Plan will hand Western Europe to Stalin.

The Russians know this. They have been waiting for it with their mouths running since 1945. Now they think it is just around the corner.

If inflation knocks the United States woody, how many Americans will care whether we stay in Berlin or who gets Korea?

The Kremlin-men believe that a big depression will throw us back into the dumb isolationism of the Thirties. That was the thing that let Hitler get his big start.

This is just what everybody in Europe that is pro-Russian is waiting for. Two years ago, a French Communist told me that Russia was not a bit afraid of the atomic bomb. “Dying capitalism won't dare use the bomb and soon won't have any bombs to use,” he said.

Last year in London, a British pinkie Member of Parliament admitted to me that “theoretically” the United States could rock Russia back on its heels any time it chose. “But practically,” he argued, “that won't happen because you Americans will be too busy trying to look after your twenty millions of unemployed.”

Knowing all this, the President and the American Congress go on shadow-boxing with inflation.

They may be fooling the American voters. They are not fooling the Russians.

Everybody with a decent high school education knows that excessive spending power is the chief cause of inflation. The cure for it is higher taxes, less credit, less Government spending, less featherbedding and stable or lowered wages. Heavy exports under the Marshall Plan are also inflationary. The last cannot be curtailed without endangering the United States. But nothing is preventing the President and the Congress from stopping the present inflation except politics.

The President will not shorten credit, lessen Government spending, curb wages and stop featherbedding. The Congress will not increase taxes or cut down business profits. Each accuses the other of promoting an inflation for which both are responsible.

Neither does anything serious to meet the dreadful situation. Neither moves to remove the Governmental props from under the bloated farm industry. Neither suggests that this is no time to subsidize silver mining.

Warnings, like that of Marriner Eccles of the Federal Reserve Board and Senator Tobey of New Hampshire, two of the most high-minded Americans in public life, are barely heard and immediately forgotten.

The American democracy is rushing down hill into an unspooked catastrophe. The free people of the world are watching, panic-stricken and powerless, for a new American depression will involve them all.

They know, if we do not, that this is the test not of President Harry S. Truman and Senator Bob Taft, but of America and of democracy. Is a free society capable of the self-control and unselfishness necessary for its own survival?

The Russians think they know the answer. They say capitalist democracy is on the skids. Their soothsayers have told them that capitalism is doomed by its own inner contradictions and that democracy is a fraud.

We think we know better. We believe that capitalist democracy will be alive and doing nicely centuries after Soviet Communism has collapsed. But the Democratic President and the Republican Congress stop the present inflation the Russians will be right and we shall be wrong.

Westbrook Pegler

Housing Is More Important Than Displaced Persons Act

IN HIS opening speech of the 1948 campaign delivered to the joint session of Congress, President Truman said the special immigration law, called the Displaced Persons Act, discriminated unfairly against some displaced persons.

He said the law was “discriminatory” because it gave preference to certain groups of displaced persons over others. He said the law would admit 200,000 persons and charge them against future quotas.

He wanted to admit 400,000 “outside the normal immigration quotas.”

In the same speech, Mr. Truman said “We desperately need more housing at lower prices,” especially “rental-housing and low-rent housing.”

Most of the immigrants would settle in the cities of New York and Chicago where the housing situation already is so bad that many native Americans are either homeless or forced to double up. The plight of the veteran of the Second World War is emphasized for emotional, political effect, although he is presumed to have no more of a duty to the nation than the veteran of the First World War. This law has an equally valid claim to subsidies, if any are going. It only confuses the issue to give prominence to the veteran.

THE American citizen is the one who deserves first chance at the housing and no immigrant should be considered until the last American has been accommodated. Of course, he will not be considered first and whoever ventures to quote the Constitution to the effect that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin, will be regarded as a Fascist.

The subject of immigration is emotional but must not be shirked for convenience or cowardice. John C. Edgar, the senior federal judge and a man regarded as a great liberal, has written honestly from his own long, intimate experience in the naturalization courts. He has no illusions about the idealism of immigrants. The motives which he attributes to most of them are selfish and sordid.

In the Redbook of June of this year, John Edgar Hoover, a man with no illusions about anything, wrote that 4555 members of a group of 5396 Communists investigated by the FBI were either (a) of foreign birth themselves (b) married to immigrants or (c) born of immigrant parents. The larger proportion in any such group of Communists will be persons who were born abroad. Anti-American Communists in Henry Wallace's New York following are immigrants from territory now Russian. We get a very high proportion of traitors and seditionists among immigrants admitted to refuge with us.

L. DON JOSEPHSON, now doing a year in a Federal prison for contempt of Congress, is a Communist who enjoyed all the advantages and protection of American residence and citizenship. He abused that citizenship and betrayed this country to travel abroad as

Samuel Grafton

Parties Fail In Political Merit Test

Washington, Aug. 3.

SO FAR I have not picked a candidate, and this position, while thoroughly reprehensible, does have certain advantages. For one, it makes you realize that the parties now engaged in the election contest are perhaps somewhat better at criticism—each other than at solving the American or world problem.

Suddenly you feel that a complete demonstration on the part of the Republicans that Truman is inept by no means constitutes a proof that the Republicans are apt, so to say. If everyone who could find fault with Truman were, by the fact of finding fault, to run the country, we would be embarrassed by a wealth of statesmanship.

Now there is nothing the hot partisan believes more completely than that to score a point off the other side is to score a point for one's own side. The other fellow's faults are reflections, nay proofs, of one's own virtues. It is a belief which holds that if merit has disappeared from among the Democrats, why, then, it must have turned up among the Republicans, or among the Progressives, or at least, for goodness' sake, somewhere.

THIS belief might even be given a name; it could be called The Theory of the Indestructibility of Merit, from its resemblance to somewhat old-fashioned theories about the indestructibility of matter, and of energy.

A little later on, when and if I pick a candidate, I shall probably believe in this theory, too, and I promise then to be as unreasonable as anybody could expect. But in the meantime, I do not accept this idea at all; I do not believe that political merit is like a basketball, which, if it has slipped out of the possession of one side, must then be in the control of the other.

I find it impossible to believe that Truman is leading us to peace and prosperity, but no more can I believe that the Republicans would steer us any better, or that, on the other hand, a future of bliss and serenity would await us if Wallace won the election. Isn't that disgraceful?

CONVERSELY, it even seems to me, in this age of the polarization of politics, that each party has got hold of a shred of the truth. The Republicans are quite justified in fearing that the whole character of the world may suddenly change, that Truman is quite right in his morose feeling that Russia may do very unexpected things, and that the Democrats are quite right in something when it says that this type of sentiment might lead to war.

I know it is extremely cynical of me to suggest that there is some validity in all the parties. You can never really high to the sky and lofty mind would never believe any such thing. But I can only say, in my depraved way, that in this age of extreme positions, the idea that one must necessarily be a hot partisan during an election campaign is a very sane and reasonable sentiment, like any other. There is plenty of room for the independent who may try, without total commitment to any party, to pick out a short course that could be of the most use to the most people.

AND now I know why it has seemed to me that, in a curious way, each of the parties fails merely by proving that another is right. It is because each operates along only a limited arc of the circle of truth, and the passionate negative descriptions it makes of the others do not affirmatively extend its own dimensions.

The Republicans do not prove that you can stop all change when they show that Truman is not a genius. Truman does not prove that we can have a practical mixture of social progress plus reparation for war when he ticks off eventually the Wallace party does not justify its unorthodox approach to Russia by its often very sound criticism of the major parties.

Political merit is no longer a fixed quantity, which slips from the hands of one party into those of another. It has become scattered and diffuse. It is, like energy itself in our day, not indestructible; it can disappear and not turn up somewhere else. Truman can lose it without anybody else acquiring it. The age in which more things than the atom are splitting awaits the integrative miracle of understanding and conciliation which alone can make us adequate to the great round world we have inherited.

ON VACATION

WALTER WINCHELL and DANTON WALKER are on vacation. Their columns will be resumed upon their return.

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

NAH! SHE WON'T WORK THAT WAY. YOU GOTTA PUT A BIGGER PINION GEAR HERE, SEE? MOVE YOUR FUEL LINE OVER HERE, SEE? THEN PUT YOUR OIL PUMP OVER HERE. CATCH ON?

POOR EDDIE—FOUR DAYS HE'S BEEN FUSSIN' OVER THAT DRAWING—AND GREASY JOE FINISHES IT IN A MINUTE AND A HALF.

THE COPS WILL HAVE PLENTY OF FINGERPRINTS TO IDENTIFY THE VICTIM. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE LIVING AROUND HERE VERY SHORTLY.

THAT BLUE-PRINT IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE A BLACK-HAND LOVE NOTE WHEN JOE GETS THROUGH WITH IT.

ONE GOOD THING THEY'LL CLEAN HIM UP WHEN EDDIE SENDS HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.

WHO SAID MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK? ☆☆☆☆

Wrote and Art of the HATGUY to "THE KID" TERRY, MACHINE CO. CHARLOTTE, N.C.

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Gossip of the Nation :-

Ed Sullivan

BAGDAD-ON-THE-HUDSON—"The Iron Curtain," factual report of Russian spy tactics in Canada, picketed by the Comies when it played the Roxy, completely confirmed by Washington revelations . . . Nancy Carroll and RKO's John Springer dating . . . Add trends: Radio's superstars Bud Collyer, takes orders from a female director, Jessica Maxwell . . . Jesse Block recovering from an operation at Polyclinic . . . Mrs. Julie Podeli out of Mt. Sinai . . . Skitch Henderson and Gov. Earl Warren's daughter, Dorothy, an airmail romance . . . Gus Lenevich in from Europe; Jim Farley and Anita Colby and her pretty sis, Francine Cunningham, out to Europe . . . Ford advertising unit has changed "Arabian Green," newest paint shade, to "Meadow Green," first time international affairs ever affected a

car color.

DOROTHY WARREN

BOSTON BRAVES 6 to 5 favorites with Broadway bettors; Giants and Cards second choice at 4 to 1; Brooklyn receded to 5 to 1 . . . In the American, Broadway bookies quote Boston Red Sox 8 to 5 favorites; Yanks and Cleveland 2 to 1 to overhaul the Red Sox; A's, 5 to 1 . . . Saratoga gambling ban precipitated by row between Spa politicians with Albany keeping hands off . . . The ex-Mrs. Hubbell Robinson off to Europe to join the Charlie MacArthur (Helen Hayes) . . . Frank Sinatra cancelled his trip to Europe to continue with his summer radio show . . . Joe E. Lewis and Kay Thompson did a one-hour-and-45-minute show on their Piping Rock premiere . . . "Ballet Russe" star Tanya Tilotat to wed Sam Borgia . . . Buddy De Sylva, after a long stay, ready to make a return to the stage . . . Sports Editor McMahon, Doug Fairbanks to Europe on the 14th.

MRS. VIVIAN WOOLEY-HART, innocently involved in that Park ave. charity gambling hoax, lent her apartment when it was represented that the affair was a benefit bazaar to raise money for "surgical instruments and other medical supplies" for Europe's unfortunate . . . Just how low can human seem get? . . . Gamblers and front-men involved were smart enough not to represent the charity as the New York Heart Fund or the Runyon Cancer Fund, both of which have Broadway columnists as chairmen . . . Decorated Cmdr. Arthur J. Benline, wounded at Okinawa, back to St. Alban's Naval Hospital for further treatment. He is the Manhattan Superintendent of Housing and Building . . . Duke Ellington back from Europe . . . The Leonard (WHN) Fethers expecting Sir Stork

frame of mind as the colonists of 1775, but missed the boat. He then returned to his praise of Stalin, his sense of humor, but Gene brought out that Shaw cannot speak Russian and probably did not know quite what he was talking about.

BUT they parted friends, and Gene numbers the visit among the better memories of his eventful life.

Gene has gotten around while here for the Olympics. He and Eddie Egan lunched the other day with Felix Schiffely, Swiss-born Latin-American writer and traveler. Gene and Eddie asked for a glass of ice water and it developed (as it often does) that there was no ice in the restaurant.

Tchiffely surmounted this grave breach in Anglo-American relations by sending a waiter down the street to the home of Ernest Bevin, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Bevin has a "fridge," as all houses here are called. The waiter came back with the ice.

TCHIFFELY then took Gene and Eddie to a battered and evil little gym in the bombed-out Marylebone sector. It is run by Eddie Newton, old-time water-gate champion. Gene and Eddie Newton is now blind, but he still instructs and as the Americans arrived he was teaching two neighborhood boys how to hook.

The blind man recognized Tchiffely's voice and sensed the presence of others.

"Who've you there?" he asked, his sightless head cocked. "Gene Tunney," Tchiffely said.

THE sparks began flying when Shaw called Joe Stalin "the one great man of the century." Gene objected strenuously, but eventually he made the mistake of taking a breath and Shaw was in.

The 92-year-old playwright-novelist-critic-vegetarian told Tunney that in Britain's depression in 1931, which Tunney had suggested was the fault of the socialist government—was due, instead, to the fact that Britain is not "sufficiently revolutionary."

Shaw added that the American way of life, which Gene had mentioned as the basis of American prosperity, was begun with a revolution and that the British people of 1945 were politically in the same

dominated military federation. The Asiatics have their politically clean union and now they're using them to fight back.

Any Hollywood script writer friends of mine, let me fade out New Delhi and Chungking, and swing you back to a room in a New York hotel near Central Park. In that room this week the Asiatic fight against Communist domination of Oriental Asia is being entrusted to that man, Mr. Deven Sen, executive secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Committee.

HE'S also doubling as the secretary of the Preparations Committee of the New Asian Federation of Labor which will fight the heavily subsidized Communist Oriental unions. Mr. Sen speaks for 7,000,000 Oriental working people. Some 3,500,000 are in China. The rest have their headquarters in India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Burma, the Philippines and Turkey.

In the past few weeks, Mr. Sen and his colleagues have been seeking American labor support. Last week they were in Washington talking to AFL Secretary George Meany.

LAST week Mr. Sen talked with the chief of the AFL's International Committee, slim, wing-collared Matthew Wolf. And later Sen visited AFL proxy Bill Green—all the time asking for "an AFL ambassador" to the first Asian labor convention.

This parley is scheduled for some place in China, probably Chungking, next year.

This is politics for keeps. If the Asian Labor Federation loses and the Communists take control, a lot of Sen's colleagues won't survive. Lead poisoning, you know. Sen wants the AFL to dispatch one of its roving agents, such as Irving Brown in Europe and Serafino Romsauli in Latin America. These men have helped cripple Communist labor federations in their territories. If the same can be done in Asia, the Communists' carefully planned world labor apparatus will have been surrounded and smashed by free men.

Amen.

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Hollywood

Cary Grant Being Wooded For Paris Film

By Dorothy Manners

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 3.

LESTER COWAN is making it very attractive for Cary Grant to accept the star role in "Babylon Revisited," which he produces in Paris this fall.

Cary will be in Europe at that time making a picture for RKO and also honeymooning in Paris with Betty Drake, so they say. All he would have to do is to move on to Paris for the Cowan production, a sailing point.

During the flapper '20s, "Babylon Revisited" was one of the best selling F. Scott Fitzgerald novels. It's a tale of Bohemian life in the Paris artist colony at that time.

Cowan leaves for France now, he puts his okay on "Babylon" with the Marx Brothers and Dea Masey.

Most of the jewels stolen from Loretta Young were not insured, which makes that \$25,000 theft an unusually bad blow. The only real jewelry she has left are her wedding ring and a diamond cross she was wearing. The two far coats, however, are covered.

What breaks her heart about the jewelry is that most of it is irreplaceable. Two of the necklaces were heirlooms of unusual design and setting.

The theft rates as one of the nearest on record. Loretta and her husband did not know they had been robbed until a maid discovered a screen had been cut out of the window about noon the following day.

If you like little kiddies on the screen it will give you a glow to hear that England's Margaret O'Brien will appear with our Margaret O'Brien in "The Secret Garden" MGM. McGee signed the juvenile actress about a year ago. Her name is Kathryn Beaumont and they say she's a whiz at alternating tears and laughter—just like little Irish Maggie.

Once again the New York and Hollywood critics disagree on a picture. The Easterners lambasted "The Snake and the Arrow" as a "bustle" bustle—if you will pardon the pun. The West Coast reviewers have been enthusiastic.

Brickbats or not, the Ray Del Ruth production is doing good business in New York and opened to sensational houses in Baltimore.

Hollywood in Shorts: Madeline Carroll, who alternates dinner and dancing dates between George Sanders and Richard again at the Mocambo.

Greg Bauter worked three months arranging a taut contract between Mickey Rooney and MGM which would keep both sides happy.

Ran into John Farrow, who was just off the plane from New York, Ireland and London