

Who is legitimate?

THE LABOUR Party's entire premise for this campaign is that if they fail to come out the clear winner on November 1, they will at least be able to organize a blocking vote that will prevent a Likud government from being formed.

The Likud's entire premise is that if Labour is able to make a coalition, it will be with the help of parties elected by the Arab parties, and will be therefore - from the Likud point of view - illegitimate.

If the Likud wins, dependent on Transferees or Deportation-ists and their proxies in all their shapes and accents, it will be difficult - if not impossible - for many Peace Camp supporters to regard such a Likud government as legitimate.

The issue of political legitimacy in the Jewish state began with David Ben-Gurion's announcement that he would form a coalition with any elected political party "without Herut and without Maki (the original version of the Israel Communist Party)." In 1967, Levi Eshkol broke the ban, accepting Herut as a junior partner in the emergency government formed on the eve of the Six-Day War. And since then, of course, Herut's legitimization has been completed, to the extent that Labour served under a Likud prime minister.

This year, there is an opportunity for Labour to legitimize those politically independent Arab parties which are not merely broken tokens decorating one or another political list. But, for reasons of political expediency, the same Labour Party that justifiably seeks rapprochement with Moscow, is afraid to seek rapprochement with Hadash, which is headed by Meir Wilner, a signatory to the Declaration of Independence.

Tel Aviv Tel Aviv Robert Rosenberg

THE FIRST real test of Israeli democracy as it regards the legitimacy of its Arab citizens as full citizens will take place at the opening session of the next Knesset.

Barring some dramatic event, Tewfik Toubi will be the oldest member of Knesset and, therefore, will automatically be appointed Knesset speaker until the body elects one to serve until the next election.

The Likud regards the possibility of such a scene as a nightmare.

According to David Magen, he was asked by Yitzhak Shamir two months ago to seek Labour's agreement for legislation that would change the law so that Toubi won't be able to fulfill the ceremonial role of the eldest of Israel's parliamentarians.

According to Magen, Peres brushed off the Likud request for what Magen called "emergency legislation to prevent this ignominious scenario from occurring in Israel's glorious 40th year celebrations."

Magen's claims that "Peres's brushoff" of the Speaker Toubi issue, "is a sign of dangerous, treacherous thinking in the left-wing Labour, which is conspiring with Hadash and the PLP."

Labour Party sources, of course, deny Magen's charges of "conspiracy," but sources close to Peres say that Toubi's becoming the speaker is "a complicated matter."

Meanwhile, Ezer Weizman, the only Israeli politician who understands that in November 1977 there was an irrevocable revolution in the entire Middle East which requires a revolution in Israeli thinking, might be the only person in the Labour Party who would regard making Toubi the speaker as an opportunity for taking pride in Israel's democracy, for proving Jewish-Israeli readiness to try trust instead of hostility in communicating with Palestinian Israelis.

But Weizman is light-years ahead of the still-conservative Labour Party, which is absurdly being forced by Likud demagoguery to defend itself against charges of treason.

Such charges are not new in Israeli politics and have been heard with increasing frequency at least since 1981, generally countered with "fascists." As long as one of the two parties could dominate the Knesset, the terminology of delegitimization sounded like excessive rhetoric rather than a call to action against traitors.

But this election campaign, though not as violent as the campaigns of 1981 and 1984, is all about the very slim margin that exists between the Likud's self-description as "The Nationalist Camp" and the Labour Party's self-description as "The Sane Camp."

Whoever wins will have a powerful opposition, with Kahane and the intifada in the streets. As important as the next government's policies, is the next opposition's attitude to what happens in the streets.

קטעי עיתונות

לאישה
תל אביב
1988 אוק' 31

חולקו פרסי היצירה

כמו בכל שנה, חולקו בטקס חגיגי בכתב הסופר נתן אונת, פרסי היצירה לשנת תשמ"ט. מקור ע"ש ראש הממשלה, לוי אשכול.

לטקס הגיעו השיר יצחק נבון ואהרון ידלין שהוא יזר ועד הנאמנים של הקרן, הנחה יורו לנרון, את הפרסים קיבלה אורי אורלב, אהרון אמיר, ארי ביטון, רודו ברק, ישראל רז, אויל מנר, חיים נגרי, שמחה רושניק שרה.

הפרס, בנוב 1,500 לחדש, למשך שנה תמימה, נועד לאפשר למקבלי ההחלטות מכל מלאכה אחרת ולהתמסר אך ורק לכתיבה. על פי כללי הקרן על מקבלי הפרס להתמסר מכל משרה או תפקיד ואכן העיתונאי חיים נגרי עזב את עיתונו "מעריב" למשך שנה וכמוהו עשה רודו ברק, איש רשת ג' של קול-ישראל.

מלבד טל, שהופיעה בטקס, שרה בין השאר, את שירו של ברק, "ציפור קטנה מתפשטת ק", שהיה שלאגר גדול ב-1974. היא גם שרה שיר חדש שכתב לה במיוחד ברוך גלור, האיש שעד והפיק את הערב, ללחן של יחיי בת.

READERS' LETTERS

THE ISRAEL CORPORATION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - I refer to the interview with Shoul Eisenberg in your issue of September 30.

May I point out that the "millionaires' conference" as it was popularly known, or the First Economic Conference, 1968, as it was officially named, was initiated and organized by and under the direction of the Prime Minister, the late Levi Eshkol and not by the late Pinhas Sapir. The original and paramount purpose of the conference was not to raise funds, but to gather prominent Jewish business leaders from all over the world and involve them in Israel's economy, through know-how, marketing, technology, joint ventures, etc. Eight professional committees were established, a fundraising one being conspicuously and purposely missing.

It was only at the last stage of the preparatory work at a meeting of the joint session of the Ministers' Committee and the Preparatory Committee that Finance Minister Sapir urged that funds be raised, a proposal objected to by both Prime Minister Eshkol and Minister of Trade and Industry, the late Ze'ev Sharef.

As always, Eshkol found a com- plete: the bankers invited to at-

tend the conference would be organized in an additional committee called the bankers' committee, later known as the finance and investment committee, and where setting up a new investment company, as proposed by Sapir, could be discussed. Mr. Eisenberg was a member of this committee which proposed setting up the Israel Corporation. The members of the committee, financial and banking institutions in Israel and abroad were invited to subscribe each at least \$250,000. The response was not over-enthusiastic. Moreover, already at the first Founders' meeting a dispute arose about the appointment of general manager. Two candidates were presented, each one supported by a different Minister. After the second meeting which dealt with this matter, Sir Siegmund Warburg said to me that he did not intend to waste his time on these meetings and withdrew from active participation in the affairs of the Israel Corporation.

Let us hope that the Israel Corporation, which started off on the wrong foot, will in future enjoy the leadership and successes of Shoul Eisenberg and his group of companies.

SHALOM P. DORON

Jerusalem.

מעט לעט

ספרות מאחדת

ראש הממשלה נעדר מטקס חלוקת פרסי היצירה על שם לוי אשכול ז"ל. הוא נעדר - אך דברי ברכתו נקראו באוזני הנאמנים וגם נדפסו ככתובו (ו' ספרות סופרים ספ' רים, 21.10.88).

והנה, גם בדבריו הברכה הקצרים אי אפשר להמר שמיר בלא ציון האקטואליה שבתוכה שרויים אזרחי ישראל, אל, ובכללם הסופרים. למיכר הזכיר את ערב הבחירות לכנסת ה-12 ואת סוף כהונתה של ממשלת האחדות הלאומית, קרא שלא להתייחס מרעיון האחדות, והביע את תקוותו, כי "אנשי-הרוח יעודדו, בדרכם שלהם, את זהותנו הישראלית והיהודית ויבלטו ביצירותיהם את המאחד על-מני הממריד".

רצה לומר, ראש הממשלה היוצאת ביטא - אף כי במ' לים ספרות - "אני מאמין" רוחני-אסתטי. לדעתו, צריכה היצירה הספרותית להביע מנחות פוליטיות-חברתיות מ"מ" שיות. אמילו נדלו על הניסוח העמוס, שעינינו "עידוד הדת הוותיקה והיהודית" (מן הסתם בהתאם לעמדת הליכוד והדתיים בגדון). ניוותר עם המישאלה "להבליט את המאחד על-מני הממריד".

הכוונה "חויבת" זאת העלתה בדעתו של הח"ם, שהוא חשן מטבעו, מישטרים סמיומים, הנורסים שהספרות כמורה למדינות הרשמית. הכל יודעים מה עלה בגורל הספרות באותן מדינות כיוון שאנו מתייחסים כבובד-ראש לכל מה שיוצא מפי של מר שמיר, סבורים אנו שכדאי להתייחס כבובד-ראש דומה גם להגיגו התרבותיים. זאת אף זאת, אולי אין סופרים רבים ברחבי הימין, אך פוליטוד קים לעידוד אחדות והאחדה לא יחסרו לו.

מ.ד.

עורך: משה דור • עריכת: עמי אטינגר

Arens: Labour 'outside Zionism'

By DVORAH GETZLER
Post Knesset Reporter

The Labour Party has moved so far to the left that it is putting itself outside the Zionist consensus and it is high time it was moved off-stage altogether, Likud campaign manager Moshe Arens told a lukewarm final election rally of English-speaking Likud supporters last night in Jerusalem.

The gap between Labour and Likud had grown steadily over the last four years, and would widen further in the future, Arens said. For Labour was no longer the party of David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir.

For Arens, Ezer Weizman's "unprecedented, shocking statement" that he was "ready to form a coalition with the Communists, the Progressive List for Peace and Abdel

Wahab Daroushe" would prove the turning point, leading to what Arens forecast would be Labour's demise.

Would a Labour-led government still be Zionist, he asked.

Labour, he said, had abandoned the country's defence industries. Yitzhak Rabin had termed them "too big for us." I think Rabin is too small for them. The Lavi was the world's best fighter plane, and he scrapped it. It's like those who say that the whole of Eretz Yisrael is too big for us. Well, they're too small for Eretz Yisrael."

The audience, some 200-strong, mostly elderly and predominantly Orthodox to judge by the number of kippot, received Arens politely, but without any great enthusiasm. As one questioner put it, "You have told us why we should not vote Labour, but you haven't said why we should vote Likud."

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השיר "אשכול" שכתב אשכול כיוסף העברי, ראוי גם להאזנה.

השר דג יעקובי היה אורח הבורסה לניירות-ערך וכמקובל עם תום הסיוע, ביקשו ממנו המארחים לחתום כספר האורחים. התבדה יעקובי: לוי אשכול, שהיה ראש-הממשלה, אמר כי רק אלפאבתים שורדים בחיים הפוליטיים והם אינם משאירים אחריהם דוקומנטים.