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FOUR DECADES OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN SAN FRANCISCO

About 60 public anti-semitic episodes have taken place in San Francisco in the last 40 years. The most recent occurring last week. They were all serious. But they were serious in different ways.

There are basically two kinds of anti-semites: those who wake up every morning hating Jews; and those who don't think much about Jews one way or another, but are willing to join in anti-semitic acts if that will otherwise serve their purpose. They are equally evil, but there are many more of the later- the Go-Along Anti-Semites, than of the former, the Primary Anti-Semites.

Both kinds of anti-semites have been variously involved in the public episodes which have taken place in San Francisco in the past 40 years. About half a dozen times some Nazi-clad group of 8 to 15 people went on public display. Several times some anti-block, anti-Jewish group advertised a telephone message, identifying itself.

Otherwise, most public episodes of anti-semitism in these 4 decades - mainly involving vandalism and harrassment - were anonymous. In no more than 20 per cent of the cases was anyone identified or apprehended. Several years ago this organized Jewish community pressed City Hall and the law enforcement agencies to upgrade their system for handling these cases.

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An experienced and caring police official was permanently put in central charge of such cases. Previously some of the incidents had not been connected from one precinct to another. And intelligence efforts were upgraded. Some possible episodes were halted before they began; and San Francisco's longest-term Nazi left town in disgust.

In all but one case, those apprehended for acts of anti-semitic vandalism or harassment were juvenile Go-Along Anti-Semites. That is, they set out to commit some shocking and perverse acts in general. Sometimes they vandalized Christian churches and other institutions as well, but the Jewish targets served their purpose best of all, and they had no qualms about it.

The Go-Alongs are the key to any serious anti-semitic movement. It takes some Primary anti-Semites to get such a movement going, but it will not become a mass movement or dangerous unless it attracts a large number of Go-Alongs - who "go along" for many reasons: excitement, the promise of food, lower taxes or whatever. Few Americans are active Primary Anti-Semites, but about a third of them have indicated that they are "indifferent" to anti-semitism and would go along if it served their purposes.

There will always be some Primary anti-semites, but will be foiled if -and only if- Go-Along Anti-Semitism is kept in check. That is a continuous year-round job. Go-Along anti-Semitism must

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be made to seem obnoxious and intolerable in the eyes of the society.

That is why every public incident of anti-semitism must be taken seriously. That is why the law enforcement agencies must vigorously pursue every incident. That is why this organized Jewish community helped to pass a state law increasing penalties for the vandalism of synagogues and such- and is now involved in getting a similar local law passed. That is why our Jewish community's Mass Media Project makes sure that many millions in the local TV and radio audience see and hear a series of anti-Nazi and anti-bigotry messages each year. That is why this organized Jewish community mounted an award-winning program about the Nazis and the Holocaust in the local public schools.

But those are jobs, among others, that need to be constantly renewed and refreshed. There is no one-shot remedy. And we have to watch out for new danger fronts.

The organized groups of Primary anti-semites in this area are as small as they were forty years ago. The episodes of Go-Along anti-semitism are cyclical, but there has been no long-term increase in frequency during those 40 years. But a dangerous new phenomenon *has* developed, as dramatized by last week's story about Malaysia trying to get the visiting New York Philharmonic to drop a work by Ernest Bloch because he was Jewish (and presumptively pro-Israel).

If the New York Philharmonic had acceded- which it almost did -

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that would have been dangerous Go-Along anti-semitism making anti-semitism seem more acceptable. There will be more of that: anti-semitism in the guise and context of anti-Israelism. The serious fight against anti-semitism will now consist not only of the continuous program described above as distinct from just popping off when an incident occurs) - but must also consist of a continuous year-round program of maintaining American public's support of Israel.