

## Kosygin & Lil' Red Riding Hood

When a demonstration was held in front of the Soviet consulate in San Francisco last week, two questions were asked which should be answered: "Is that sort of thing still effective?" and "Hadn't the Soviet Union already changed its policy on special visa fees for educated Jews?"

Supervisor Quentin Kopp, on the scene as usual, addressed the first question. He pointed out that it is this kind of public spotlight which *has* patently succeeded in keeping the door open for some Soviet Jews, preventing some others from being executed, and so forth. Who can argue with even that much success?



Raab

Of course, there is some new reason for the question. The American people have been giving signals that they're tiring of special group causes. Analyses of the last national election suggest that the American public, preoccupied with its own general problems—such as rising costs and diminishing national prestige—will, at best, pay less attention to the kind of strident "special pleaders" so plentiful in the late 1960s. That's the national temper, like it or not.

**But that doesn't mean that everyone must fold up their placards and go into deep freeze. It may mean, as Ephraim Margolin put it recently, that "we must cry out more and whine less." It becomes necessary not to quit, but to pick our spots a bit more carefully, and project our messages a bit more credibly than we have in the past. Militancy, by itself, is no longer enough, as it once briefly seemed to be. Militancy and communal judgment are required for effectiveness. As Francis Bacon once said: "When a man runs the wrong way, the more active and swift he is the further he will go astray."**

The orderly demonstration in front of the Soviet Consulate last week was on the mark. It was invented and spearheaded by the Soviet Jewry Action Group, with the co-sponsorship of the JCRC and the active cooperation of such groups as the seminal Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry and the American Jewish Congress. A communal venture, it did a timely job: reminded the public to add a pinch of salt to the stories that the Soviet Union had suspended the educational head tax.

Oh, there is no question but that the Soviet head tax was suspended. For the moment. For that everyone is genuinely grateful. But why should that interfere with the effort, led by Senator Henry Jackson, to provide some assurances for the future? Why shouldn't we make Most-Favored-Nation Status conditional on a continuing assessment of whether the Soviet Union treats those desiring to emigrate, in at least a minimally civilized manner? Many Californians are writing their Congressmen and Senators this week, asking this pointed question, with a note of encouragement to Senator Jackson.

**Otherwise, it's a little like the wolf saying to Little Red Riding Hood: "Look, I'll 'suspend' my appetite if you'll just open the door." By this time, even Little Red Riding Hood should be sophisticated enough to want a neighbor to drop in every now and then to check up on things. Indeed, if the suspension of the head tax is genuine—and if the suspension includes other equally effective methods of nailing people in place—then there should be no objection to provisions for continuing assessment.**

The nation's policy-makers, and those from the San Francisco Area are being kept carefully appraised of these sentiments, and of relevant background information. It is mainly in this manner that the trade issue has been made an effective instrument in this cause—with the support of communications which are being sent to the policy-makers by members of the public, such as yourselves. But public demonstrations can still be a useful piece of the action, when they are used selectively to publicly clarify issues, and provide a backdrop of urgency—and when they are shaped to the realities of the contemporary nerve-jangled American public.

SAN FRANCISCO JEWIS

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