

## Meanwhile, Back Home . . .

You may have noticed that in recent weeks the local Jewish community has been almost thoroughly preoccupied with thoughts and matters related to the survival of Israel. It will be that way for a while. In the meantime, a few public affairs of passing interest to the Jewish community have taken place and should not go completely unmarked.

\*\*\*



Raab

The church-state question is still with us. The San Mateo County Board of Education considered a Released Time program last week. In case you've forgotten, that's the system whereby children are released early in order to attend religious classes of their choice. It doesn't do much for religious education, but it does succeed in chopping up the schoolchildren into different religious categories, and it puts the public schools in the administration of a religious school program.

Every Jewish community has been opposed to such a program by instinct, one that is informed by much history. To put it bluntly, when a government begins to get into the religious business in any way, it can't be good for any religious group whose members add up to about 4 percent of that government's constituency. In that connection, the old "Prayer Amendment" proposal is back in Senate Committee.

by Abrahams, who vigilantly noticed the item on the agenda, represented the JCRC in making a presentation against the Released Time proposal. The San Mateo Board of Education shelved the idea.

\*\*\*

There had been a rumor that the San Francisco School system was applying racial exclusion (against whites) in its employment policy. This was disproved by an analysis of the employment pattern of the public school system during the past year. In regular teaching appointments, the breakdown was as follows: black, 10 percent; Asian, 15 percent; other non-white, four percent; Spanish origin, five percent; other white, 66 percent. In administrative appointments, the breakdown was: black, 16 percent; Asian, none; other non-white, five percent; Spanish origin, none; other-white, 79 percent. One hopes that some affirmative action program was operating. But there was certainly no exclusionary quota system.

\*\*\*

That recorded Nazi message on a San Francisco telephone number caused a lot of adrenalin to flow, understandably. There's no law against it, apparently, and efforts are being made again to see whether there is some legislative remedy. But such legislation has been studied, researched and debated for at least 25 years now. So far, no one has come up with a law which does less harm than good to the cause of Jewish security. For example, we would not want to see a law which would also permit an injunction against the Soviet Jewry Hot line, on grounds that the Russians are being defamed.

As a matter of perspective, it should be noted that such a recorded message has been playing on the Los Angeles telephone wires for six years straight now. After the first newspaper flurry six years ago, nobody

(See RAAB Page 21)

## Earl Raab . . .

(continued from Page Four)

has paid attention, and the Nazi Party has not grown.

\*\*\*

The Jewish community was prominently active in local Proposition A needed to save the public school system. And some, notably the National Council of Jewish Women, were active in opposing State Proposition 1, especially on grounds that it threatened educational funds, and college scholarship funds. In that connection, it is somehow interesting to note that the educational level of the American population is not only related directly to democratic commitment—it is related directly to support of Israel! The polls show that about 60 percent of American college graduates are sympathetic to the Israeli cause, as against 34 percent of those Americans who are grade school graduates only, and 44 percent of those who are high school graduates only. (In all cases, only a few percent were pro-Arab, and the rest were uncommitted.) The Jewish stake in supporting public education seems to have many hidden facets.