

JWV head hits Nazis, veterans administration

When the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) came to town last week he didn't waste many words.

In rapidfire order, Ainslee R. Ferdie alternately aimed volleys of praise and criticism at everything from the Veterans Administration to the American Nazis.

Ferdie, 43, of Coral Gables, Fla., was in Southfield on his way to a regional JWV conference in Troy. The JWV national home is in Southfield.

Ferdie said Donald Johnson, director of the Veterans Administration (V.A.), suffers from "the Nixon Syndrome."

"HE HAS surrounded himself

with a small group that became a fence," he said, and as a consequence "operates the V.A. on statistics rather than human values."

But removal of Johnson will not solve the problems within the V.A., Ferdie said.

He blamed Congress for not giving Vietnam veterans parity with World War II vets. He also blamed the President for impounding funds and not seeking new funds "especially for psychiatric care and nursing situations, where we believe there is an urgent need."

"But the worse villain is the Bureau of Budget and Management, who are completely incapable of valuing the needs of human beings," he said.

or retreat back from the line established in the 1967 War. People behind that line, he said, prefer Israeli to Syrian control.

"WE WOULD NOT be in America's national interest or security for our leaders to require Israel to return to lives pre-1967," Ferdie said.

"But it's a real possibility that the secretary of state could exert influence to retreat beyond those lines."

Still, Ferdie had nothing but praise for Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. "I think Mr. Kissinger can be congratulated for doing an excellent job of disengagement."

Ferdie also noted the seven areas of concern of the JWV.

- Obtaining full and adequate treatment for all Vietnam veterans.
- Obtaining full information on all military personnel still missing in Vietnam.
- Obtaining humane treatment for Israeli POWs in Syria.
- Maintenance of a positive military posture, in terms of manpower, equipment and activities, especially in regards to the NATO allies.
- Security and freedom for the state of Israel.
- Extremist groups, such as the American Nazi Party.
- Concern with the older veterans, including nursing care, housing and income.

Ferdie said amnesty for Vietnam era draft dodgers and deserters would not be among the primary areas of concern for the JWV.

It is the national policy of the JWV to oppose blanket amnesty. Each case, he said, should be judged on its merits.

Ferdie also noted that the JWV wanted to make sure that veterans received priority over the deserters.

"If we are going to put our values into perspective, we should be most concerned with the men who went," Ferdie said.

TURNING HIS attention to William Saxbe, Ferdie said the attorney general "has a propensity for ignorance and insensitivity."

In a recent press conference, Saxbe said Jewish intellectuals supported Communism during the McCarthy era, Ferdie said.

"It seems Mr. Saxbe is more concerned with making headlines than with enforcing the law in a fair and even handed manner — and our membership resents it," he said.

Ferdie also took a hard-handed swing at the American Nazi party. He said he was advocating passage of a law similar to one which is part of the New York State code that regulates the wearing of uniforms of political parties of foreign states.

PASSAGE OF such a bill, he said, would strip the Nazis of much of their attraction without denying them their freedom of speech.

"The publicity is there," Ferdie explained, "but take away the swastika, take away the storm troopers, and you take away the publicity."

As for Israel, Ferdie said he understands the necessity for Israel to surrender some territory on the Golan Heights.

But he said he would not like to see Israel surrender Mt. Hermon

Visitor to China sees a busy land

By JACKIE KLEIN
"The People's Republic of China is a gigantic Boy Scout movement where the motto is, 'Be prepared. Do your duty.'"

That's how Erwin Harvith of Southfield described the country where Mao is the God and the spirit and the "Red Book" is the doctrine by which the Chinese live and work.

Harvith and his wife were among the 200 passengers aboard the SS Veendam in March who were the first tourists to visit the People's Republic of China.

Clergymen, newspaper people and many others weren't issued visas, Harvith said. Each passenger was checked by the FBI and cleared or refused by the Chinese Government.

"Communist China isn't a grim country," Harvith said. "Everyone is employed; many live in communes, and they're educated. The people have no opportunity to advance, but they're content to work for the common good."

UNLIKE INDIA, which the Harviths visited on their 87-day cruise, the Chinese are not tied to cults or old-fashioned beliefs, he noted.

"There is no superstition, hatred, racism, class distinction or starvation in the People's Republic of China," he said. "When the young people attend school, the principal tells them what their jobs will be."

"A girl may be a laundress all her life. The manager of a silk factory also works on a farm. A doctor may work five hours in a hospital and then work in a field."

"Everyone gets \$7 a month whether he's a floor sweeper, a great craftsman or a professional. Nobody is rich or poor in the country," Harvith said. Their needs are few. The people get free health care, they're well fed, educated and happy.

"There is no middle-class, and the system works great for the people," he said. "I tried to tell our guide that in America, the middle-class takes care of the poor, but he wasn't impressed."

THE GROUP stayed in Kwangchow, a city of four million people where there are no cars, shopping centers, television, newspapers or street lights and only one cultural show and a few poorly stocked stores.

"After the revolution, many stores were converted into living quarters," Harvith said. "Nobody (See VISITOR, cols. 1 & 2)"

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