

Stern analyzes Watergate at Beth Achim dedication



CARL STERN

By SHIRLEE IDEN
"Watergate can be viewed in terms of deceptions and falsehoods. Nixon's problems were those of simply not telling the truth."
So said Carl Stern, NBC's legal analyst who won widespread attention with his coverage of the Watergate trial.
Stern spoke to an audience of more than 400 at the formal dinner on Sunday, Feb. 16 celebrating the dedication of Southfield's Congregation Beth Achim.
"Richard Nixon could have survived Watergate if he had told the truth a year ago," Stern said.
"It is not a part of Jewish teaching, nor Quaker, that winning is everything."
STERN, IN AN analysis he titled "A Jewish Perspective of Watergate"

said the Talmud taught that no man is above the law five centuries before the birth of Christ.
"In 583 B.C. when the Babylonian exile of the Jews ended, they returned to Jerusalem," he said.
"First they built the walls and reconstructed the Temple. Then they gathered before the Watergate, and Ezra the Scribe read aloud the law for all to hear."
"Dedication to the law was rekindled before the Watergate of Jerusalem."
Stern said there was no executive privilege in the Talmud which teaches that judges are to be chosen before a king is anointed.
"I GOT MANY letters from Jews telling me to let up on Nixon before the revelation of the tapes because of his sympathy to Israel," he said.
"But Jews had the largest score of support for his impeachment. Before the tapes were released, about 50 percent of Jews polled were for replacing Nixon."
Stern said that some think justice was cheated since Nixon was pardoned, but Nixon was brought to an accounting.
"It was a trade-off common in legal practice, a pardon for Nixon to prosecute the rest," he said.
He pointed out that there was no Jew involved as a Watergate defendant.
"History will regard Watergate as a time of testing, and we passed the test," he said. "It also reveals a dedication to people power and the ancient notion where the selection of judges preceded the crowning of kings."
Stern's speech followed a benediction by Rabbi Milton Arm and remarks by president Harry Laker and chairman Frank Blas.

Harrison will host talk on relationships
FARMINGTON—Harrison High School will host a discussion on "Interpersonal Communication Between Parents and Students" at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, in the auditorium.
The program is scheduled to respond to the continuing concern of parents with drugs, alcohol and related problems.

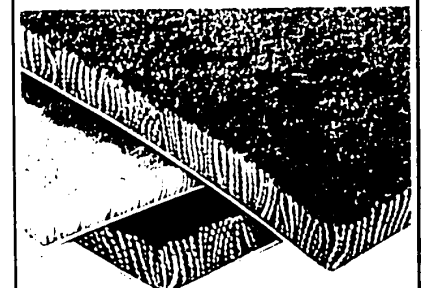
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