

Orthodox Leader Raps Pro Abortion Position Of Dr. Alexander Schindler

Rabbi Abraham B. Hecht, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America issued a rebuttal of the remarks made by Rabbi Schindler at the Washington, D.C. meeting of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

"We reject the false premise projected by Dr. Alexander Schindler, that he speaks for 'the preponderant majority of America's Jews.' We contend that his narrow bigoted views on abortion are not shared by most of the Jews in America who cherish the sanctity of human life.

Silverman Hosts Speak Up & Speak Out

City Councilman Ted Silverman, Flatlands—Canarsie, recently hosted a community forum on city issues in which the community was invited to speak up and speak out.

The City forum was held at the Glenwood Jewish Center, 888 East 56th Street, and over 150 community residents participated by asking questions of various agency heads. Captain Slattery of the 63rd Precinct and Community Relations officers Chriss Koch and Bob Hill represented the 69th Precinct. A good part of the evening was devoted to crime and security problems and Captain Slattery announced that additional personnel would be assigned to this particular area. Officers Koch and Hill spoke about

Dr. Schindler audaciously misrepresents Rabbinic Judaism when he states "Rabbinic law assigns the fetus no juridical personality; it does not regard it as a living soul until it leaves the womb. Therefore, Jewish Law sanctions and even requires abortion when the life and well being of the mother commend such a step."

Dr. Schindler is totally wrong in his misinterpretation of Rabbinic Law, which is in fact most explicit in its prohibition of abortion. From the very source of his argument, which allows abortion only when the life of the mother is threatened, it is obvious to all but the illiterate that abortion is otherwise forbidden. He is obviously unaware of the many Talmudic statements

at South Shore High School and how in so doing they have removed numerous possible trouble makers from the local streets. Councilman Silverman informed the community that over \$5 million has been allocated for the hiring of 400 police officers and that 1000 more would be hired in this year's budget.

Toldos Hakohanim Hagedolim

"Toldos Hakohanim Hagedolim" is a historical sketch of all the High Priests, by R. Yekusiel Greenwald. (1899—1955), who spent most of his

later included in the Code of Jewish Law and the vast Responsa which clearly forbids abortion on demand.

He again misrepresents the truth when he arrogantly states, "We too affirm life. Judaism commands us to choose life and live it fully. It is because we affirm life that we insist all women be free to choose just when and under what conditions they bring life into this world".

Here we have Schindler assigning to women the role of G-d, determining who lives and who dies, based on the whims and fancies of the mother. Who ever gave her the right to murder her unborn? How can Schindler hide behind the guise of Judaism which does indeed command us to choose life, and then come up with a directly opposite conclusion which justifies death at the hand of the doctor.

He again refers "to the bloated bellies of their starving infants" and wishes to satisfy the "silent crying of parents who see this". How misleading can one become when he wishes to distort the truth? Have we ever seen or heard of "starving infants with bloated bellies" in these blessed United States?

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description, as an excuse for abortion?

We are ashamed that a Jew claiming to be a Rabbi should so distort and misrepresent the Jewish view. To our Jewish compatriots and more so to our gentile neighbors throughout America we say, "Jews in America are opposed to abortion. Don't be fooled by the false self made leaders who seek to misrepresent the truth. Judaism is opposed to abortion and will continue to fight any effort to legalize abortion on demand.

As to Schindler's concern about the "extremists who have begun a struggle for the character and soul of America that will endure for many years" we say that once again he speaks out of ignorance of the true character and soul of America. Our founding fathers and the majority of Americans today, are committed to life and decency, morality and faith. Those who will have us believe that America is anything but G-d fearing and decent, is guilty of fraud and misrepresentation. His remarks should not be taken seriously by anyone.

The Merchant Of Venice

Dear Editor,

There is an unusual irony in the excellent letter in your issue of February 27, reproving the Board of Directors of channel 13 for their decision to show "The Merchant of Venice". The actual story, which Shakespeare copied as he did so many others, involved a Christian's cruelty to a Jew.

More than a decade before Shakespeare represented Shylock as seeking a pound of flesh from Antonio, the story was written by Gregorio Leti in 1587 in a biography of the then reigning pontiff, Sixtus V. A Roman Christian merchant, Secci, wagered a thousand scudi against a Jewish merchant's pound of flesh, on the truth or falacy of a report of a raid on San Domingo by Drake. Secci won his bet and insisted on his pound of flesh, refusing monetary compensation. The problem was resolved by the Pope, who used the same out that Shakespeare writes about: the winner must not cut more or less than a pound of flesh under penalty of his own death.

Pope Sixtus, perhaps the sternest of all in the long line that wore the papal crown, then imprisoned both these betting gentlemen and sentenced them to death.

After letting them suffer while for their conduct, they were freed on the payment of two thousand scudi each, small price for an excellent lesson.

Shakespeare, who knew few if any Jews, who were not formally readmitted to England for another half century, reversed the characters. Vile as this was, to misrepresent the advocate of "thou shalt not kill," is hardly worse than the formula he puts in the mouths of the three witches of act IV of Macbeth. Terrible and unspeakable/evil may be worked by the use of certain horrid ingredients. To the "finger of birth-strange babe Ditch delivered by drab he adds "liver of blaspheming Jew."

Freedom of expression is shield against evil, not sword to work more evil against a people neither Shakespeare nor his English contemporaries knew. Were it otherwise, we would have to defend Julius Streicher, the unspeakable editor of the anti-semitic "Volkische Beobachter," the lowest of all anti-semitic publications of the Nazis. Like his predecessor Haman, Streicher was hanged. He, at least, saw the analogy, and his last words were the very relevant "Purim, 1946!"

Emanuel Fink



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