

## THE PROBLEMS WITH KOSHER CERTIFICATION OF THE ORTHODOX UNION [OU]

We are referring here to the OU in particular but be advised that what occurs with them applies also to a great number of other organizations that supervise the Kashrut of foods.

Before writing these lines we tried with all our strength to correct the shortcomings of the OU silently without exposing them to the public, but we had no success in this endeavor. Therefore we hope that the pressure of the many will help correct this situation.

We talked personally with many people who worked for the OU in the administration area, we talked to the executives there in the OU, we showed them and warned them regarding the deficiencies in their supervision functions but we realized that those people were not strong enough to influence the decisions of the OU.

In the journal MADRICH LA KASHRUT # 6, we published an open letter to the leaders of the OU regarding corrective measures that are needed in the field of Kashrut supervision, and in the summer of 5741 [1981] we again sent the management team of the OU a letter, this time we also sent copies to Great Rabbis and Geonim.

All our work then didn't effect a real change in the management of the OU or in their supervision procedures.

Lately we tried to influence the leaders of the OU via the *Rabbinical council of America* which is ultimately responsible for the conduction of the OU. The Rabbi Shraga Shonfeld who was then the head of the *Rabbinical council of America*, remarked to us that he was very interested in this matter as it was very important to him the supervision the OU performed on the Kashrut of foods.

But it seem that also the Rabbinical board has no control over this giant organization, therefore all the pitfalls remain to this day.

We again tried calling for a meeting with the head of the Kashrut division, Nathan Gross and with the head of Young Israel Harold Jacobs but they didn't show up for the meeting.

The people who work here in Vaad ha Kashrut tried to delay coming out against the OU in public, but for the more than two and a half years that we were silent we saw no change in the ways things are done at the OU.

As our readers can see, we tried hard to fix things through the OU directly in a quiet manner behind the curtain, through people inside and outside, people that can have an influence in the OU but nothing of benefit came out of these efforts.

Therefore we come out in public to expose the shortcomings. Let it be known that according to Jewish law we are responsible for fixing the situation therefore we can't just sit and do nothing about it.

In this essay we are not bringing the names of the companies nor the names of the witnesses that testified to us, for the damage that they could suffer from this, especially those witnesses that work for the OU or at the companies being supervised.

### **THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PROBLEMS**

The 3 managers of the Kashrut department in the OU are the ones who really know what goes on in there, and they are in general not under the orders of the *Rabbinical council of America*. These people are generally more involved with the financial aspect of the Kashrut supervision than with the actual problems of Kashrut. Not a single word is spoken there as regards actual problems with the supervision of foods.

Because of political reasons, and strong self interests between the OU and the *Rabbinical council of America*, no one really knows and is let inside to check what actually goes on in the department of Kashrut of the OU.

When we presented the Rabbonim of the *Rabbinical council* with some actual problems that we had witnessed, then they realized that the situation in the OU was tragic, and that they really knew nothing of what went on in the Supervision. The Rabbonim said at a meeting that they had no power to fix the problems because they had tried before to persuade the OU that things were not good, but even after communicating the problems to the OU and even when the ones involved in the problem acknowledged that things were not done in the right way, even then the problems were not fixed.

One of the reasons for this not fixing of problems is that the administration of the OU is so strong and the organization is so big that no one really has the means of checking the workers who work in the supervision tasks. Not only outsiders are not able to reach workers but even the Rabbonim from the *Rabbinical council* can't check and clarify the Kashrut of some product and this is only done by the workers who work for the OU.

A group of the Rabbonim tried to go and check what is done in the field of supervision, in the factories and in particular in the slaughterhouses, but whenever they wished to set an appointment to visit a particular facility they were pushed around with a myriad excuses and they never got to check that facility.

Also when mistakes and pitfalls in their work is presented to them the managers of the OU are expert at diverting the accusations and since it's extremely difficult to prove these kinds of things while sitting in an office, they normally come up ahead. And when requested to take the case to the place where it's pertinent, meaning the factories and facilities where the pitfalls occur, the managers of the OU come up with excuses and don't let others gain access to those places. And in this manner the OU is always right.

**THOSE WHO DECIDE AND DETERMINE**  
**THE HALACHOT AT THE OU**

As we already mentioned the *Rabbinical council of America* is the one who supervises the Kashrut department of the OU.

At a certain point the Rabbonim of the council started leaning towards Modernization, and today some of the Rabbis in the council are also members of the BOARD OF RABBIS that as it's well known their heads belong to the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements.

It's also known that The BOARD OF RABBIS was prohibited by the heads of Yeshivot in the United States, like Rabbi Aaron Kotler z'l and others.

Therefore the halachic support for the decisions of the OU were looked upon in a bad way in the orthodox world of Yeshivot. This caused that the OU had to look for new support in the halachic field that would be reliable in front of the Orthodox community.

Since the heads of the OU are well known people in the world of the Yeshivot, and since they are well acquainted with the heads of these Yeshivot and many orthodox Rabbonim, they started running after Rabbonim who were trusted in the world of Yeshivot, Rabbonim who would nevertheless act in accordance to the wishes of the heads of the OU, who would rely on the OU's actions without checking their actions too much and without being meticulous enough as regards to supervision.

Then the heads of the OU shopped around for the Rabbonim who would grant them the most lenient rulings, so the Rabbi who would give the most lenient view of the law, he would be the Rabbi that the OU would hire and would pay the big salary to do their wishes. Through those lenient rulings the unknowing public is stuffed with lies, and those who ask questions are told that this and that Rabbi permitted this and that thing.

Since the companies under the supervision of the OU keep growing in number, The OU must search for ways to make it permissible for people to eat those products coming from the new companies. The Rabbonim already working for the OU are not able to issue new HETERIM (Permission) to eat these new products especially because it will not fly in front of other Rabbis who are more knowledgeable than them. But since the OU must continue with its task of giving Hechsherim, they devised a new way of permitting the forbidden. They resorted to outright lies in the following fashion: They began to tell how this or that Rabbi that is already dead, gave the OU permission to allow this or that food to be eaten. And even the living Rabbis are quoted as approving things for the OU. Living Rabbis who never said a word about permitting something for the OU are quoted.

But the OU is smart. Not many people, basically no one is going to go and ask a particular Rabbi if he gave the OU permission to slaughter 1200 chicken an hour, etc.

And in this fashion the OU swindles the simple Jew that can't know the reality of the situation, a simple Jew who's not able to find out for himself if what he's being told by the OU is true or not. A simple Jew who doesn't even conceive in his mind that he's being lied by the OU regarding something so vital as Kashrut. But then again, America is America and money talks...

### SOME EXAMPLES

1- When we questioned Rabbi Shraga Shonfeld [who was then the head of the *Rabbinical council of America* and then became the head of the Kashrut department of the OU] on what base and with what support they permit and give Hechsher on bread with milk, which according to the Shulchan Aruch is forbidden to bake such a bread (See YORE DEAH, SIMAN 97), he replied that Rabbi Aaron Kotler ZTK'L permitted this.

In another occasion when he had forgotten about his first reply, he claimed that it was Rav Moshe Feinstein ZTK'L who had granted permission to them to give a Hechsher on this bread.

According to the information we were able to compile, it was Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik from Boston who permitted this bread, but even he put as condition that the full word DAIRY would be written on the packaging of the product. Well, not even this the people of the OU do as required for the bread is marked OU D and the full word dairy does not appear, and this is done with no HETER whatsoever. And the worst part here is that the OU claims that they did all these things with the consent of Great Rabbonim from the world of the Yeshivot that in reality never permitted this.

2 - When we spoke to Rabbi Shonfeld about the problems of the slaughterhouse in Nebraska (Sno...Fl.), he told us how Rabbi ..... who is the head of a very important Yeshiva, went to visit the place and was very pleased with what he saw in the slaughterhouse, and he said that this Rabbi even sent him a letter explaining how happy he was to see the Shechita run so well. We found out short time after, that this Rabbi never visited the slaughterhouse and of course never wrote any letter of approval.

Thus and thus are the tales of the heads of the OU, that since they have no reliable Rabbis who can be trusted and who can't rule properly on matters of Halacha, must fabricate and buy Rabbis that will give their approval on the myriad of products they supervise, and when this is not possible either, then they go as far as mentioning names of great Rabbonim who were never involved in the affairs of the OU.

**THE HIDDEN AND CONCEALED WORKINGS OF THE OU**

The problem with the OU is hidden from the public. The problem would not be so troublesome if they had someone on which to rely, or even if they would follow their own rulings wouldn't be so bad as long as they would let all the people know on what they are basing their rulings on, as long as they would tell people the facts and then based on the true facts let everyone decide for himself. But truth is that not only does the OU hide the facts from everyone but they also give false and misleading information to the public.

**OTHER EXAMPLES**

1- There are various opinions regarding the fruits that come from Israel inside fruit containers, as concerns the separation of Terumot and tithes, there are those who hold that since those fruits are inside concentrates and pulp don't need to be tithed, and since not all the Yeshivah community accepts this reasoning, when one asks the people at OU whether they allow their client companies to use those fruits without separating Terumot and tithes, their clear answer is that they do separate the Terumot and Maaserot.

The facts are that the catering companies do use these fruits without the separation of Terumot and Maaserot because the Rav who supervises there has been told that it's permissible to use these fruits. The OU deceives and hides the fact that they base themselves on HETERIM for their use of these fruits from those interested in learning the truth.

2- There are many people who rely on the OU but not on their Hechsher of Glatt Kosher meat. So many people ask the OU about different Restaurants and Catering companies, and according to logic they should tell people which meat is consumed in those places, but sadly due to our many sins the public never gets to hear the truth. When we asked the OU from where does Wilton foods from Spring Valley receive their meat, they said from SATMER. The workers there told us that they receive their meat from KROSS BROTHERS and from Sn..FL.....

3- When we asked the OU administrator whether they had a permanent supervisor on the premises of the BRAMNER cake factory, we were told that indeed there was a permanent supervisor there. After some time we received a letter from the factory stating that the Supervisor from the OU would visit there once a week.

4- A well know oil company deals in Kosher and Taref oil. In the same factory there are giant containers of kosher and taref oil and it's very difficult to discern to examine the oils so that the kosher and the Taref don't get mixed. The previous manager of the OU Rav Rosenberg, Z'L visited the factory and told us that it's impossible to distinguish between the Kosher and non Kosher oil, therefore he warned anyone not to use that oil even if it has the sign of Kosher from the OU.

The managers who also work for the OU argue that the OU doesn't deal with that oil, but the reality is that the factory sends the oil to many factories that receive the OU certification, but the OU claims that they don't use that oil.

5- The hotels under the OU supervision serve on the first night of Passover, for the seder, enriched Matzah [Egg or Chocolate Matzah] and most of the people who attend the Seder are not sick or old that they would be then permitted to eat enriched Matzah, but nobody tells them that they can't eat according to law this type of Matzah.

6- When we asked Rabbi Shonfeld who is the Rabbi who supervises the Sn Fl slaughterhouse, he told us that it's RAV.....and that he visits the Shechita at least once every two weeks. But after talking to the Rav .... We learnt that things were not so, that this Rav in fact didn't visit there once every two weeks, and that he didn't visit there at all. He had been there only once when the OU received the contract to supervise this Shechita, and that he didn't even know if the owners fixed the problems that he saw the time he had been there.

7- When we asked the OU if a particular restaurant under their supervision was careful to avoid BISHUL GOYIM (cooking done by a Gentile which according to the Ashkenazic law can be avoided by the Jew lighting the fire, the oven. For Sefaradim the solution is more complicated) we were told that the Mashgiach (Supervisor) goes there every morning to turn on the oven, but the Mashgiach told us that he never arrived there in the mornings.

8- When we visited the Factory Beech Nut, then we summoned the supervisor to a meeting at the house of the ADMOR MINOVOMINSK ZTK"l and we told them the problem we saw there at the factory: how they use ingredients that come from a factory that sells Taref and that there is no Hechsher on that factory to check if what they sell to Beech Nut is Kosher or not. The supervisor from the OU said then that our claims were false. When he was proven that we were correct he claimed that the problem had already been corrected, but from then on we were not allowed to enter the factory anymore and the OU claimed

that the reason was because we wanted to take business away from them. They didn't realize that we are not in the business of giving Hechsherim [Supervision].

9- Some time ago we told the OU that a large Potato Chips company under their supervision uses the oil from that factory that dealt with the oil that was Taref. But the manager of the OU claimed that the information wasn't right, that he warned the supervisor to be careful of the Taref oil. Right at that time we visited the Chips factory and we saw how they were still using the oil from the factory that sells Taref oil also. We have a letter from the factory where they testify that they use this oil.

### **EVERYTHING IS SILENCED AND CONCEALED**

Everyone even the most observant ones must rely at some point on the Hechsher of someone else given that nowadays it's almost impossible to prepare everything in one's own house. The minimum that a supervisor must comply with is to inform the public that he still works to supervise a particular food product and that he in an honest manner worries about every detail so that the products under his supervision will really be Kosher according to the standards demanded by the law and the people. The duty has to be from the buyer to the Supervisor and from the Supervisor to the buyer/consumer.

If it became known to the supervisor that he committed an error and that a product under his supervision has a problem regarding its Kashrut, he must immediately inform the public not to eat that product

If the supervisor is permitting a product as Kosher but only because there would be a great loss involved were the product declared Taref, he should advise the consumer of this situation, and therefore he who would wish to be strict would avoid this product, since it's Kosher Bediavad and not Lechatchila. Even the people who would eat this product once bediavad would probably would not like to eat that product always.

The OU organization always remains quiet when these sort of problems come up

### **EXAMPLES**

1 – H...z vegetarian beans. They carried in the label the sign of the OU even though in the list of ingredients there was the name of fish that is Taref. They quieted the matter and never told the public about anything.

2- Some cakes with the word PARVE written in the package and with the OU sign, are many times dairy but seldom does the OU publish this in the newspapers and in this way the public is made to stumble.

3- Cakes with Gelatin as an ingredient in them, are not communicated to the public in order to warn them.

4- Many products contain Grape Juice and the OU permits this through various HETERIM, without them letting the public who may wish to avoid these HETERIM of the problem.

5- When we gave Rabbi Shonfeld a full report of all our findings he told us that he would present them in the next meeting of the Kashrut department and the Rabbinical Council of America, to clarify the situation.

We asked our friends in the Kashrut department of the OU what had transpired at the meeting and they told us that not even one word was mentioned regarding our documented report.

In a second meeting we had with Rabbi Shonfeld, he told us that he himself had gone over our complaints together with the heads of the OU. It seems that not only do they not say a word to the public about the many pitfalls but they also hide the facts from the Kashrut board and conceal from them the Truth.

6- A company that carries the sign of the OU on its products came up with a new line of products with the stamp of the OU. The problem in this case was that they came up with two sizes for the product that looked just the same only the size was different. The larger size carried the OU stamp and the smaller size which contained a non Kosher ingredient didn't carry the OU sign. But to the unknowing consumer both packages looked exactly the same so they made many mistakes.

Even though we advised the OU of the problem, they didn't see the need to publish this situation in the newspapers.

7- There are many products that contain dairy ingredients but they are not mentioned in the label. Even if the consumer looks at the ingredients, he will not find them because they are not easily recognized by name. And in some cases even if the product doesn't contain a dairy ingredient they were cooked in dairy pots. The OU doesn't warn the public in all these cases of the existing problems.

8- There are foods that were cooked in containers that are used for meat products and most times the consumer doesn't know about them.

9- We raised another issue for the consideration of the OU concerning the way the supervision of food products is done. And they don't inform the public at all of the different levels of Kashrut that can be issued by them.

According to the OU everything is just Kosher without any difference. As it is known to us there are different levels in the OU supervision, there are many products that according to the majority of opinions are just forbidden, there are foods that are only permitted after the fact [BEDIAVAD] and there are products that are good for other supervisors. The consumer doesn't receive from the OU any information as to which product belongs to which category so that he may decide what to eat and what not.

### THE OU SAYS: WE WILL FIX THAT

With these words we can summarize everything. They assure us and everyone that the problems will become fixed in the future, but due to our many sins, everything remains the same only words devoid of any consequence.

Even when the managers of the OU know of the problems they still fix nothing.

When the OU starts supervising a particular product, the supervisors are not given the power to correct any pitfalls that are present at a particular facility, they can't fully perform their functions for they are not given the full power to be able to correct anything. Also when the supervisors request the heads of the OU to correct something, nothing gets done and when they ask for more supervisors they are denied their request.

### EXAMPLES

1- In a factory where they manufacture not only Kosher but also non Kosher cheese (Besides the problem of Chalav Israel there's also the doubt of Cheese of gentiles and Terefot) they manufacture cheese for a factory that's under the supervision of the OU. The workers in that factory told us that no one from the OU has come to check there for the last 15 years.

When we gave this information at the same meeting at the house of the NOVOMINSKER REBBE, the manager of the OU assured us that he would correct this situation and would find out exactly why no one from the OU has been there to check that factory. More than a

year had already passed since that meeting but no one from the OU had been there yet to check anything.

2- The OU follows the practice of making it mandatory for the products to carry a printed sign of the OU as part of the label and not a separate label that may be affixed afterwards. This makes people think that any product of this company is kosher causing people many mistakes. Also it happens many times that products that are not kosher at all come out with OU sign as part of the label. This happens for one of two reasons: Either the factory made an honest mistake or in other cases that occur too often the factory owner takes advantage of the public and wanting to sell more, he prints the OU sign on the label of the non Kosher product in order to increase sales of that product.

We spoke to the OU about this and they promised to fix this situation and as expected nothing was done about it.

People should be aware to learn to look at the ingredients very carefully for in this way at least part of the pitfalls can be avoided.

3- In a slaughterhouse under the supervision of the OU, where they manufacture sausages and hamburgers, they handle Kosher and Taref meat. The supervisor there complained to the OU that he needed to make a few changes in the procedures in order to avoid the mixing of Kosher and Taref meat, and that to this end he would need an additional supervisor to work along with him. The OU bluntly rejected his request.

The Supervisor informed us that he is almost 100 % sure that the owner of the slaughterhouse when not in the presence of the supervisor mixes Taref meat with Kosher meat.

4- The slaughterhouse of B...i Foods handles Kosher and Taref foods in the same place and in the same pots and vessels.

The Mashgiach related to us many of the pitfalls there:

- a- The Kosher labels were at the reach of anyone. The owners of the place could get a hold of them whenever they wished to.
- b- There is no way for a single Mashgiach to control all that is done there because of the size and volume processed there.
- c- It's impossible to abandon the place where they cook the foods for even one second, not even for personal needs like personal hygiene.
- d- The Mashgiach requested an additional supervisor and as usual he was denied his request.

- e- The Mashgiach revealed to us that some meat sauces made by B...i carried the OU sign. Seems that this happened while there were no supervisors there for there are not enough of them to control all the output that this factory produces.

### MASHGICHIM – SUPERVISORS

The worst problem and maybe the root of the problem lies in the Mashgichim or supervisors appointed by the heads of the OU.

In former years, at the beginning of the OU's supervision of Kashrut, there were only a few companies that were being supervised by the OU and the companies operated in nearby localities that were easy to control and check, and therefore the OU could easily choose good men to do the job of supervision.

According to the formal procedures, the supervisors were supposed to send detailed reports of their visits to the heads of the OU. Then the heads of the OU had the time to go over the reports and check them for accuracy and even they had time to visit the factories from time to time.

When the exponential growth came along, there was not enough time to follow the procedures required to ensure the proper supervision of the foods under their Hashgacha.

- a- It's almost impossible to pick good supervisors who will wish to do the job. They have to work with whomever is willing to do the job.
- b- If there was a Rabbi in a particular place before the OU started its supervision, this Rabbi remained there even if he was not a reliable person.
- c- The OU is forced to choose supervisors who live near the places where the factories are. Many times these places are far from centers of Torah so that the people that live there are not observant and fearful of the word of Hashem and there's a great doubt as to the possibility of relying on such a person's supervision.
- d- The heads of the OU can't even check if the supervisors are performing their required visits to the factories, they can not even control if the supervisors are sending their reports as required.
- e- They must accept the reports of the supervisors at face value because they don't even have the possibility of traveling to the factory to check if what the supervisor says is the truth or not.

- f- In general the OU managers visit a factory before a Hechsher is granted, and thereafter they rely on the reports of the supervisor, therefore the control of these factories is not in the hands of the heads of the OU.
- g- The heads of the OU are always looking for new companies to supervise so that they concentrate on new business as if everything they were doing was perfectly under control and according to law.
- h- Since the heads of the OU have no control over what transpires in the factories, the supervisor does as he sees fit and all this responsibility falls on the OU (The supervisor doesn't need to worry for who sees whatever he does)

### EXAMPLES

1- Many times the managers of the OU declare that the supervisor works at a particular factory permanently, and after some research it's discovered that he only visits there once a week.

2- When the supervisor goes on vacation, he doesn't communicate this to the OU nor does he appoint a substitute, and even when he appoints a substitute, he doesn't communicate this to the OU, and how can one be sure that the substitute is fit for the job of supervision and who can be sure that the substitute is someone reliable that can be trusted?

3- In some Restaurants they use both margarine and butter which was already forbidden by the OU. But anyway the supervisors permit this.

*Some of the supervisors are not qualified [NOT BECHEZKAT KASHER] at all to be supervisors.*

- a- There are some supervisors that are Rabbonim in synagogues that don't have proper Mechitzot or no mechitzot at all. Even according to the rules of the OU these people can not function as supervisors.
- b- One Rabbi that he is a supervisor at a plant where they make cakes both with Kosher oil and oil that is Taref, if he was never there when they made the Taref cakes he can't be relied, but anyway the OU relies on mashgichim like this.
- c- Rabbis who violate the Shabbat, who should not be trusted, are relied upon by the OU give Hechsher to Jews.
- d- A Rabbi who works and supervises a factory that requires permanent supervision, goes away on vacation and leaves the factory unsupervised causing the possibility of Jews eating Terefot, G-d forbid.

## **SHECHITA [SLAUGHTERHOUSES] UNDER THE OU SUPERVISION**

In this essay we will not mention all the problems that occur through all the process of Shechita, we only mention here the problems that deal with the supervision of the OU

There are substantial differences between a regular supervision and the supervision required in a slaughterhouse.

- a- In a factory the Rabbi giving the Hechsher can organize things in a certain way so as to make it automatic that the product will come out Kosher, and the supervisor only needs to worry that everything will go according to what the Rabbi organized the first time he came to make the products kosher and then there will be no need to check each and every container. But in the Shechita it's not enough to organize everything so that it will be kosher. Each and every animal has to be slaughtered according to the Shulchan Aruch, each lung of each animal has to be checked separately, each part of the animal has to be labeled Kosher or Taref independently, in short each animal is like a factory of itself.
- b- The supervision in the slaughterhouse is very difficult and dangerous. There are complicated and entangled problems that are hard to control much more than with other products.
- c- In the slaughterhouses we have many Shochatim, Bodkim, Mashgichim, and more workers and all of them need great experience in performing their tasks, meanwhile in a regular factory the supervisor must only follow the few details that were organized by the Rabbi who established the Kashrut in the first place. For this task you don't need someone with great experience.
- d- The slaughtering process is filled with potential Torah prohibitions that are in front of the person, while in a factory many times the main concern is mixtures which prohibition is much lighter than those dealing with Nevelot and Terefot.

Therefore great care must be given to the Shechita more so than any other products, the eyes of the Rabbis and the supervisors must always be there with great alertness and a full heart.

### **A SHORT LOOK AT THE SHECHITA**

Before the Hechsher of the OU was established a few years ago, there were in the US two types of Shechita:

- 1- Kosher meat: As it is known this type of Shechita should not even carry this name.
- 2- Glatt Kosher meat: These were established by the Jews arriving from Europe to America after the second world war.

The OU which started giving Hashgachot to the Hotels in large numbers came out against those Slaughterhouses of Glatt Kosher meat, because then the hotels didn't want to pay the high prices of the Glatt Kosher meat, therefore the heads of the OU established their own Glatt Kosher Shechita in the United States

We shouldn't forget that the people who have an use for the Glatt Kosher meat are those Jews observant of Torah and Mitzvot who follow the word of Hashem, those who like to see a Shochet who is G-d fearing, who grows a beard and who conducts his house in accordance to the Shulchan Aruch.

Everything revolves around the Shochet, nobody can know if the Shochet cut the animal above the proper place and thus the animal is Neveilah, we rely on his trustworthiness and that he knows when an animal is Kosher or Taref.

We are aware that the reader may wish to deceive himself into thinking that at the end it doesn't matter if the Shochet is G-d fearing or if he transgresses the commandments anyway the meat is kosher and that's what he cares about, but we wish to show the readers that this is not so.

- a- The laws of the Shulchan Aruch are very exacting concerning the qualifications of the Shochet, and he is only good if there is someone next to him checking the knife that it be without blemish, for a transgressor who is a Shochet is not reliable to check his own knife.
- b- In the best possible situation, the Shechita of a sinner is only Kosher and can never be Glatt Kosher, and whoever is looking for Glatt Kosher can not use the meat killed by a Shochet who is a transgressor. Those who search for Glatt Kosher meat don't only have to look for the proper check of the lungs, that they don't take out the adhesions of the lungs (But only up to 3 R I R S – very small adhesions that have no connection to the lungs), they also have to be careful that the Shochet be G-d fearing, what orthodox Jew can eat from a Shochet that will not be Shomer Shabat?
- c- The Jews accepted upon themselves since many generations ago the ruling of the Tevuot Shor in Simla Chadasha, that a Shochet has to be G-d fearing more than the rest of the people. And the Jews should not accept a Shochet that is not certified according to the way it's supposed to be.

We copy here a Teshuvah from the Divre Malchiel (Chelek 6, 3 rd Edition)

And as to the question if it's permitted for a Shochet and Bodek to go to theaters and plays, isn't it forbidden for all Jews as it's brought in the Talmud (Avodah Zara 18b) that this is considered the place where mockers and lazy ones sit? And every book of Mussar is full with warnings against attending those places, but due to our many sins, attending theaters

has been made almost like something permitted in the groups of women and unlearned people. More so concerning a Shochet who is supposed to be a Torah person and G-d fearing, G-d forbid that he goes to these places, and if he does he must be withdrawn from being a Shochet for this is proof enough that he doesn't fear Hashem in his heart.

But sadly, in the Shechitot checked by the OU, if the people had any idea that the Shochatim there are very light headed, and very far from being G-d fearing, and if the people knew the way they looked in person, surely no one would eat any meat coming from those Shochatim.

Some of those Shochatim:

- a- Are suspected of violating the Shabbat
- b- Attend mixed pools and beaches, G-d save us.
- c- Visit night clubs
- d- They cut and shave in the days of the counting of the Omer.
- e- They burn their life away watching the Television.
- f- They even watch television on Shabbat.

### EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO WORK IN THE SHECHITA OF THE OU

Kr-ss Brothers, since this was the first slaughterhouse that the OU supervised, there they did worry to correct a few problems.

According to very reliable sources there are still Shochatim who are not qualified working there. When we asked about the Shochet who people rumored that he was violating the Shabbat, the managers of the OU told us that this Shochet no longer works for the OU but as we were able to find out he was still working there.

We wish to bring for you here a story so that you can learn in practice what happens in the Shechita:

We were told by an expert man in the field of slaughterhouses, that he once visited Kr-ss brothers slaughterhouse checked by the OU after they had already made a reorganization of the place, and still they were doing things that according to one of the Great Rabbis of the generation could not be done that way, mainly to cut the parts of the animal before they check the lungs for then the parts can get mixed and pitfalls will occur and Kosher will be mistaken for Taref.

At the Sn FI Shechita in Nebraska the OU found no need to correct any of the procedures there, therefore the situation there is extremely grave.

- a- Some of the Shochatim there are suspected of violating the Shabbat, some of them watch television even during Shabbat and some frequent night clubs, G-d save us.
- b- The Shechita works at great speeds, nearly 80 to 100 animals are slaughtered per hour.
- c- The meat that arrives in New York from Nebraska sometimes takes longer than 3 days, therefore since no salting has been done during these 3 days since the slaughter the meat is considered to be with blood and it's not Kosher anymore.
- d- It's not even worth it to bring here all the problems with this Shechita for they are too many, may it suffice us to say that one of the managers of the Kashrut board of the Rabbinical council of America when he visited there recommended around 22 changes for that slaughter house but they were not carried out.

**F--Is Chicken:** In the beginning the OU claimed that they couldn't call Kosher anything that came out of that factory.

At the end, The OU finally accepted the supervision of the F--Is Chicken, they only changed two things in the processes in the factory:

- a- That they would not throw the chicken into warm water before the salting (So that the meat will not be cooked before being salted)
- b- That the Shochatim not slaughter the chicken while they are hanging in the chain (For they move too much and it's hard to properly slaughter them)

But the Shochatim who were previously slaughtering the chicken on the chain kept their jobs through the pressure of the union of Shochatim. Therefore those same shochatim now work under the supervision of the OU.

### **THE OU DOESN'T ALLOW VISITORS**

The managers of the OU hardened their ways and decided not to let anyone visit the places of Shechita nor the factories that they supervise. According to their view and according to what they say, their supervision is the best, better than any other and they denigrate the other supervisors for any number of reasons.

It's prohibited for anyone to complain or make observations about the task that their employees perform and they deem it beneath their dignity to answer to anyone concerning these matters.

From experience we know that nothing has been done in the OU to improve the situation, and they don't listen to great Rabbonim and important people who suggest to them the proper way of action.

Also when they answer a letter it's only to follow protocol but there's no order and logic in what they respond in the letters,

These are a few of the reasons that cause the supervision of the OU to be in such deplorable state as it is today.

The American press has been full of reports of pitfalls and scandals in the field of Kashrut.

### THE TIME HAS COME

The question that is always on our mind is: How is it possible? How can the organization supposed to fix and correct things creates so many pitfalls?

It is clear that when one exceeds his possibilities then one ends up not controlling anything, and nobody can understand how there can be supervision just under the direction of 3 managers, how can they supervise hundreds even thousands of different companies, each with many products and with many factories to check?

And they don't shy away from accepting new products to supervise when they know they still have many problems handling the supervision of the ones they already supervise. But they receive a lot of money for the supervision jobs especially for the supervision of meat or for those supervisions with few things to check but with a great deal of money to be made. All this they do with the excuse that it's a not for profit organization, just as other organizations that also supervise the Kashrut, and they all claim that they do everything LE SHEM SHAMAIM.

But because they need to pay for the costs and expenses of the office and all the administrative expenses and all the employees, therefore they must charge a lot for their services.

And hidden in these expenses are the fat salaries and earnings of the managers and the heads of the OU. And the running after money and honor has no limits even when dealing with matters of Kashrut which is the work of heaven

Our purpose in writing these lines is not to harm the OU, we do acknowledge the good works and the good things that they do,.

We only raise our voice in the name of the needing public, the public in wait for corrections to be made at the OU.

We decided to come out in public only after trying to fix thing quietly and not in order to harm anyone.

As to the reliability of our words we can show the proofs and the documents to anyone who desires to see them.

[This work was printed in the publication MADRICH LA KASHRUT numbers 14-17]