

Mr. Les Payne
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2/8/85

Dear Les,

I recall very well your spontaneous, eloquent, informative and correct dissertation on racism while we were driving to the Memphis airport in April 1976 and after all the time that has passed can't fault it and do not think of it that way at all.

In sending you the enclosed, which I've just received from an old friend who did not indicate where it was published, I am instead suggesting that Jesse Jackson et al also were not precisely accurate.

I am aware of the many political considerations mixed up in all of this, or I should say aware of enough of them, but if it is reduced to simple terms, human beings, it is not the whites/Jews but Jesse's friends who are responsible for a form of ~~genocide~~ genocide.

This also says of the Ethiopian government other than I read in the Post or saw on TV, that it was cooperative in the rescues until the matter was publicly public as distinguished from unreported public. This describes an operation that was hardly clandestine or secret in any way. I think it speaks well of the Ethiopian government which, obviously, put human considerations above all others.

Reminds me, your religion desk or perhaps a feature writer, with such a peg, might be interested in a number of reports over the years of missing books of the bible (Old Testament) being found in Ethiopia. The stories themselves may be Apochrapha. The old friend (high school and college) who sent me this is an authentic scholar and a rabbi, ecumenical and liberal. (He performs mixed marriages.)

No editor (outside law journals, which do not have general circulation) seems at all interested in the Reaganite nuts and bolts (pun) in the courts, particularly the DC federal appeals court, although two letters I wrote with copies of what I sent you appear to have triggered generalized and rather neutral accounts. And an en banc appeal of months ago, where Jim and I have no conflict of interest and he filed it, the old King case you will recall, appears to be getting some attention from an order of this week, directing briefing limited to my getting paid for the consultancy into which I was dragooned. Yup, the judge had me serve as the consultant to the DJ, the defendant in the case, incredible as this may seem, at their demand and on their promise to pay me "generously," naturally enough promptly reneged. The district court judge ordered them to pay and then she reneged. But the major issues in that en banc appeal relate to payment of lawyers who "substantially prevail" in representation of clients who cannot pay them, of wide applicability, as are the precedents in the case in which I now represent myself. Jim thinks the long delay comes from relationship with the Laffey case lawyers' fees, a (successful) sex discrimination case also of widest applicability. In turn all of this is related to the DJ's embarrassment over the fees sought by Meese.

Best to you all,

"An Open Letter to The 'Good' People at The United Nations"



A few weeks ago with the help of volunteers and some financial assistance from the Jewish communities in the United States and Israel, we built a white tent city 200 miles north of Addis Ababa in order to give shelter to about 10,000 refugees - victims of the starvation in Ethiopia.

The tents were marked "from Jerusalem with love" and stamped with the shield of David, symbol of the Jewish people and the people of Ethiopia. We provided tents for shelter; blankets to keep the victims warm at night; beds and mattresses for the sick who are housed in hospital tents; and electricity, water and kitchen equipment. This camp is being operated by a dedicated group of Irish volunteers from a organization called Concern. And we hope to build five more tent cities by raising \$1.5 million. The refugee relief and rehabilitation commission of Ethiopia gave us unlimited support, providing us with trucks, labor, permits and all the facilities we requested. They care for their people and have expressed their gratitude. All seems well, apparently. However, one day last week 30 children died of such infectious diseases as malaria, typhoid, epidemic typhus, and tuberculosis. The lack of doctors and nurses and medical supplies can only add to the tragedy faced by the Ethiopian people. Why? Here is part of the answer.

For the past two weeks 60 tons of drugs and medical supplies, tents, blankets, beds, mattresses, generators, communication equipment, water pipes, pumps, etc. - all much needed materials - have been lying at an airport in Israel, ready to be flown to Ethiopia. The problem: they have no "wings" to fly them to their destination.

The Ethiopian airline cannot fly them because Sudan will not give it permission to fly from Israel via Sudan.

The Egyptian charter company will not fly them because it might anger some of the other Arab nations.

Most European companies either refuse because of the threat of an Arab boycott or the expense, making it impossible for us to pay with justification.

Israel, while willing, cannot fly them because no diplomatic relations exist between Israel and Ethiopia.

While I try to understand all these reasons for putting money and politics before the saving of human life, I now begin to realize why some people have to die before their time. To die for no fault of their own!

The point is when will you realize - you, the wise men who meet so often at the United Nations Assembly and at your cocktail parties?

When will you understand that the most precious thing that inhabits our planet is human life?

When will you give priority to humanism before all the "isms" that you represent?

What kind of legislation is needed to secure freedom of movement for any people or country which wishes to stretch out a helping hand to save the lives of the innocent, the hungry, and the sick? There is no reason for any child to die either from hunger or sickness in the world we live in. It is, after all, a world of abundance, know-how and goodwill. And yet they die!

Patience, we are told, is the mother of virtue. Well, we have patience. We will sit and wait together with our supplies, our volunteers, our doctors, and our nurses. You, on the other hand, will continue to watch on your television screens the sight of children who will stay hungry and the sick who will lie still and wait for death.

You will watch and, of course feel sorry, while we wait for someone to provide us with the "wings" to deliver our 60 tons of love, concern, and goodwill.

Just plain frustrated,
Abie Nathan, Director
Fund For the Children of Ethiopia
P.O.B. 4399 Tel Aviv, Israel
Tel: Tel Aviv 245560

THIS AD WAS PAID FOR BY ABIE NATHAN, DIRECTOR OF THE VOICE OF PEACE, RADIO STATION BROADCASTING OF THE MIDDLE EAST.