

# Should he hang?

## EICHMANN SENTENCE

In a leading article on Monday the Melbourne Herald emphasised the historical importance of the Eichmann trial but concluded by stating that he should not be put to death.

The paper asked: "Now that the terrible story is on record, can anything be gained by executing its centre figure." It then added: "Israel might fulfill its objective more effectively in the eyes of the civilised world if it now refrained from demanding Eichmann's death."

This week the following comments were made to the Jewish Herald on this point:

### RABBI CHAIM GUTNICK:

"Eichmann was tried under the 'Nazis and their Collaborators Law' of 1950. If after hearing the evidence, he was found guilty and there were no extenuating circumstances, the judges had no other course, but to pronounce sentence as laid down by the above law—which is the death penalty.

As to 'what can be gained,' from what I can understand from the summing-up of the trial according to the press reports, it was based on the precedents set by the International Court at Nuremberg.

There, too, the question could have been asked: "What purpose was served in putting to

death Goering and his accomplices?"

### Horrible fate

#### RABBI DR. H. M. SANGER:

"It was inevitable that some of the voices which were silent when Eichmann's victims suffered their horrible fate, should now be raised in a plea for clemency for the man who planned their death.

I wholeheartedly agree on one point: that the death of one man is not commensurate with the monstrous crime of six million murders. It cannot atone for their deaths, nor even expiate the guilt of the man who was responsible for them.

One would wish for some great flash of the imagination to devise a treatment for Eichmann that would place the mark of Cain upon his head, and at the same time would not sully Jewish hands with his blood.

But in the name of reason:

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What alternative is there?**

**MR. M. BALBERYSZSKI:**

It seems that knowledge of the atrocious murder of millions of people by the Germans during the Hitler regime still has not penetrated the consciousness of some humane intellectuals. The evidence given by witnesses of this terrible era is still too inadequate to give a proper concept of the horror of those days.

Were the Australians to capture a Japanese and charge him with war crimes for which the punishment is the supreme penalty, the Melbourne "Herald" would not ask: "What purpose does it serve?" There is no comparison in what the Japanese did to the Australians, to the wholesale slaughter wrought on the Jewish people by the Germans.

But when Jews are involved, it is always a coat of a different colour.

How can these people who The sum of evidence collected plead for clemency regard themselves as humanitarians? from the camps, the ghettos and the survivors who lived to

tell the tale, must surely bear witness to the fact that there are limits even to humane ideals.

All that has been written and said about what the Third Reich did to the world and to the Jewish people in particular has now been committed everlastingly to the annals of history. The whole story is there; and yet there are still the naive ones who are blind to this great blot of shame which has marked a tragedy in our times.

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