

the security of the passengers "even if it concerns Arab women workers from the territories. . ." She noted, too, that there had been no change for the better in the work conditions of women workers in the moshav. "Nothing new under the sun, and hence comes my question: what is the role of the Ministry of Labor?"

. . .Zalman Chen, the spokesman of the Ministry of Labor, answered, "The phenomenon of the "Raises" is a nasty evil nowadays. According to law, it is prohibited to employ workers not through the employment bureau and there is an arrangement by which workers are employed within the bounds of the green line through the employment bureau in the territories. Inspectors of the employment bureau try to catch the lawbreakers and, in many cases, they succeed. But there are cases in which "Raises" in cooperation with employers in Israel, succeed in evading the inspectors and in breaking the law. Not in every case workers from the territories who are seen waiting for transportation are unorganized."

Mr. Hirsch, of the State police, finally wrote to us: "The traffic police in Hasharon area have visited and inspected the roads near Moshav Rishpon and are continuing to do so. Because of existing limitations, it is impossible to have continuous inspection."

Yaakov Haelyon ends his article with his comment: "It does not seem to us that the authorities concerned with this case were anxious to abolish it." 133

This comment, however, is not adequate. Some extra ones are necessary after listing the particular details of this article: the reluctance of the police to take strict action against the "Raises" is pretty obvious. What is more important, however, is the fact that the practice to be condemned turned into merely one of violating traffic laws, thus avoiding the real issue, the very smuggling of labor from under occupation into Israel. Furthermore, the Ministry of Labor's approach was that of rationalizing, not condemning, the existing practice of "Raises" and use of smuggled labor. Both attitudes are indicative of how law enforcement gets frozen and official labor policy relaxes when faced with economic justification and