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Trends. Causal Attributions and the Subversion of Time: Would an Indictment of the Israeli Foreign

IBPP Editor
bloomr@erau.edu

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Minister Be for Fraud or Merely Fraudulent

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The Israeli Foreign Minister may be indicted by the Israeli State Attorney on charges of fraud, bribery, and witness tampering. This possibility stems from investigating the suspicion that the Minister may have bribed a businessman to give false testimony on his behalf in a libel trial.

Parameters of time seem to be significantly influencing the probability of indictment. First, the alleged bribe was a trip to Russia with the Minister before the libel trial. During the trip, the businessman allegedly engaged in negotiations for a natural gas deal. Second, the businessman allegedly made a statement years before the trial that supports the contentions of those whom the Minister claimed engaged in libel. These comments seem to have been both disavowed and reinterpreted by the businessman after the trip and during the trial. Third, the Minister's lawyer claims that the businessman was not identified to be a witness in the trial until the Minister and the businessman were already in Russia. And the lawyer stated that he (the lawyer) resisted bringing the businessman to trial--proof (says the lawyer) that the businessman was not bribed for otherwise he (the lawyer) would have pressed for his (the businessman's) testimony.

The subversion of time can be exemplified in several ways. Having the businessman already in Russia before being identified as a witness does not rule out that the businessman was an expected witness or being groomed as a witness. Resisting or seeming to resist bringing the business to court might be intentional and geared towards increasing the credibility of testimony that would support the Minister's position. And the longer the various elements of adjudicating the allegations go on, the greater political issues may come into play that can be better managed than "just the facts." The social construction and deconstruction of temporal parameters may not fly in the face of time but affords time multiple faces. Time becomes a Janus that sees inward and outward, forward and backward, everywhere and, alas, nowhere. (See Kail, R. (1997). Processing time, imagery, and spatial memory. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 64, 67-78; Sontag, D. (April 30, 1999). Israeli police said to urge fraud indictment of Sharon. *The New York Times*, p. A15; Traxler, M.J. (1997). Processing causal and diagnostic statements in discourse. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 23, 88-101; Varvin, S. (1997). Time, space, and causality. *Scandinavian Psychoanalytic Review*, 20, 89-96; Widell, G. (1998). Images in practice: Vistas, time, and causality in organizations. *Scandinavian Journal of Management*, 14, 331-349; Wilkinson, H. (1998). Phenomenological causality: And why we avoid examining the nature of causality in psychotherapy: A dialogue. *International Journal of Psychotherapy*, 3, 147-164.)
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