

Star Spangled Governor

by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Baltimore, Maryland boasts one of the finest Jewish communities in America.

Long ago Baltimore had Rabbi Benjamin Szold whose daughter created Hadassah. The Zionist Organization of America was founded by, among others, Baltimoreans. The late Rabbi Edward Israel was a noted resident of the city where the national anthem was born.

The present crop of Baltimore rabbis constitutes one of the most splendid group of clergymen anywhere. Indeed, Baltimore is famed for its Park Heights Boulevard, with a galaxy of synagogues so plentiful and beautiful that the street is known as "Rue de-La Payess."

So it is fitting that Maryland should have a Jewish governor, Marvin Mandel.

The man who was elevated to succeed Spiro Agnew is a stalwart Jew. A leader of the Jewish War Veterans, he proudly claims the Chizuk Amuno Congregation as his spiritual home and recently told the members who came to greet him of a Friday night that he rejoiced in his Yiddishkeit. Gov. Mandel is not only a Zionist, but a lecturer in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and Bonds for Israel.

Rabbi Israel, Goldman, the governor's spiritual leader, has a unique claim to fame in addition to his many other distinctions. Rabbi Goldman is the only rabbi in the United States who has ministered to two Jewish governors. One with Temple Emanu-El of Providence, R. I. (now led by Rabbi Eli Bohnen) Rabbi Goldman served Judge Frank Licht and his family. Judge Licht is now governor of Rhode Island.

In a fascinating statement to his people, Rabbi Goldman pointed out that Maryland has gone a long way since the days when its constitution barred Jews from holding office. The man who spearheaded the fight against this tabu was a Scotsman, Thomas Kennedy, who agitated for years on behalf of his "Jew Bill," finally getting it passed in the 1820's.

Governor Mandel, we salute you. And we also salute your rabbi.

BALTIMORE (WNS) -- The two Jewish Federations in Baltimore, the Associated Jewish Charities and the Jewish Welfare Fund, will merge in October into a unified Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund.

'INSTANT HEBREW,' A LANGUAGE SHORT CUT

"Instant Hebrew" -- the first effective short-cut to speaking the language of Israel -- has been published by the American Jewish Congress, just in time to simplify tourism in Israel during the coming season. The price: \$1 per copy.

With "Ivrit Kalah" -- Hebrew for "Instant Hebrew" -- in hand, the American visitor can now painlessly order refreshments at a Tel Aviv sidewalk cafe, ask the way to the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, greet a Sabra with "Boker Tov" (which means good morning in Israel) and generally carry on like a native.

A 16-page pocket-sized guide to a tourist's most needed words and phrases, the booklet has been prepared by AJ Congress jointly with the Jewish Agency for Israel. The author is Reuven Bar-Sever, Israel's foremost authority on teaching Hebrew to adults and head of Upanim (language classes) for the Agnew's Department of Education and Culture.

Thousands of American Jewish Congress members visit Israel each year and the pocket guide was prepared with them and other travelers in mind. Each word and phrase is given in English, in Hebrew and in its English transliteration. If you can read English you can pronounce Hebrew.

Paul H. Vishny of Chicago, chairman of the AJ Congress' Commission on Jewish Affairs, notes in the introduction that "Ivrit Kalah" is not intended as a substitute for a thorough study of Hebrew and its literature, but rather as a "taste of Hebrew" to help the American visitor in Israel and perhaps inspire him to study the language more seriously.

For such students, including members of Hebrew language study groups, AJ Congress is offering its highly regarded LP record album, "Hebrew Through Conversation," at a new low price of \$5.05. The album contains two long-playing records and a 55-page study manual.

Both "Instant Hebrew" and "Hebrew Through Conversation" are available from Julius Schatz, director of the Commission on Jewish Affairs at Stephen Wis-

Congress House, 17 East 84th Street, New York, N. Y. 10028.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Jewish National Fund HAS ASKED THE American Jewish community to contribute \$54 million needed to carry out a four-year plan to reclaim nearly 30,000 acres of soil in northern Israel, plant 25 million trees in new forests and open 100 miles of roads.

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