

EDITORIAL

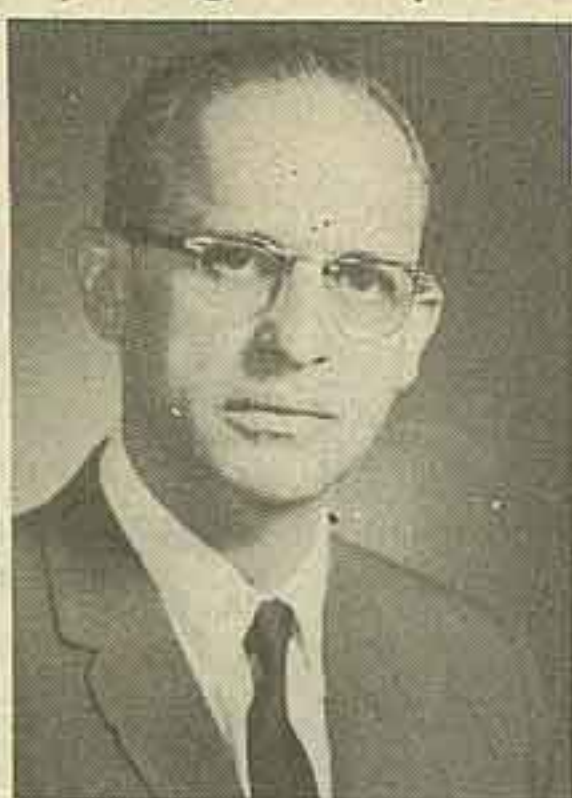
Saul F. Shapira

*And who shall stand in His Holy place?
He that hath clean hands and a pure heart...*

Psalm 24

Saul F. Shapira who died Saturday at age 67 was like unto him of whom the Psalmist sings: "He that hath clean hands and a pure heart."

Integrity was his hallmark, deep down. Modest, he never wore virtue on his sleeve. Strong, his integrity and his modesty were imbedded in the man, the inner man. It is customary to announce at a leader's passing an array of his honors and accomplishments. Neither the tremblingly moving eulogy at Temple Sinai nor this editorial does that. We would both spare Saul Shapira, a vigorous, strong, and confident man all that unnecessary embarrassment at the end. For he was more than his long list of leader activities; they were only his reflection. His lovely and loving wife and mother and children and grandchildren, even unto the generations born and yet unborn, are tribute to his warmth and family inspiration to both the older generations and the new. Saul Shapira was a founding father of The Jewish Chronicle and one of its vice presidents in the early years, among his many communal posts: We mention it here only to underscore the fact of how he was able in that role to rise above the mundane requirements of the balance sheet of a new enterprise to envision its fundamental aim and purpose.



SAUL F. SHAPIRA

He saw the newspaper's role in the deep sense of Jewish concern for a flow of vital communal information and education on a mass scale—Everyman's University of Jewish life in the whole of the world's life. A tough assignment, but clear vision.

A student of the law by training, he grasped the inner sense of the idea of the First Amendment to the U.S. constitution and the bedrock of the "freedom of the press" in the service of community.

Good humored, good natured, and looking jaunty in a favorite bow-tie, he could switch in a trice from joke to serious incisive probe of problem or idea. Quick he was on the mental trigger.

He was a warm human being possessed in his own special way of the nobly taught Jewish virtue of respect for one's fellow—the reputation of another being honored as precious as one's own.

While many opinion leaders in America took refuge in mere theorizing about equal opportunity, Saul Shapira on the tough ground of daily business effort made himself a pathfinder in opening up jobs for the disadvantaged without regard for race, color, or creed.

"Merciful children of merciful fathers" are we—and he was truly one of the best of us.

Saul Shapira's love as an American for Israel reborn in our generations shone brightly in his unswerving support for that tiny democracy, navigating perilously in a feudal desert sea.

We shall never forget him during the sweeping visit to Kiryat Gat in Israel where we visited survivors of Holocaust and terror actually carving shining new lives out of the northern Negev desert dunes.

The children of Saul and Frieda Shapira had a period of life in Israel as part of their educational experience in heritage and responsibility.

Many-sided Saul Shapira was a man who walked quietly in conscience—a ray of that "soft, still voice" which we all mull and puzzle over during the approaching High Holy Days.

Saul was laid to rest on the first day of the month of Elul in the liturgical calendar. That is fitting. Elul itself is the month of the "call to conscience," and the sound of the Shofar is now already heard in the land from this day on to the "Days of Awe."

To his loving family in the tradition of that historic behest of compassion with strength, and against despair: "May the Lord console you among the other mourners for Zion and Jerusalem."

To his community: Emulate his like—"he that hath clean hands and pure heart."

Albert W. Bloom