

Mortgage Burning

"We thank Thee, O God, for the successful completion of our sacred task . . . Bestow Thy blessing upon all who have helped . . . May this edifice continue to serve as . . . testimony that Thou art with us. . . ."



On December 6, 1954, at the annual Hanukkah dinner, the mortgage for the Temple building was burned, only five years after the opening of the financial campaign. This picture shows on the stage in the Social Hall, the climax of a dramatic presentation, "This Is Your Temple." Here are, front, the Rabbi and Dr. D. L. Ekker, who was president of the Board during the time of construction; back row, left to right, A. Freyman, George Lurie, Jr., Mrs. Sam Gerson, Mrs. O. B. Rosenblum, Nathan Routman, Mrs. J. B. Goldberg, Mrs. L. C. Rosenblum, Samuel Epstein, and Herman Frank, all of whom were heads of committees in financing, building, and decorating the building. Symbolically, they represent the whole congregation, for in this work, from conception to fulfillment, no hand was idle, nor any mind inactive.

For the most part, the whole congregation was present, viewing the ceremony from the other side of the stage.