

# Once-Funny Question Isn't, Today

By MEL TAYLOR, Chronicle Staff Writer

Milton J. Himmelfarb was introduced as the second Identicom II speaker at 3:15 p.m. Sunday, April 16, by Leonard Weitzman, senior vice chairman for the AJC and executive director of the Vocational Rehabilitation Bureau, who remarked, "When we learn of something good, we like to repeat," referring to Mr. Himmelfarb's successful appearance at Identicom I last year.

Mr. Himmelfarb is a contributing editor to "Commentary" magazine, editor of the American Jewish Yearbook and director of the AJC Information Research Service. He was warmly received, perhaps so much so that he removed his jacket in the warm room, establishing an atmosphere of informality as the men in the audience followed his example.

"...But Is It Good For The Jews?" was his topic.

"In the days of our parents," he said, "that rhetorical question brought laughter and fun, but today it is not comical. It is serious. And in our current social context, it has broad implications, indeed."

"When we ask, 'Is it good for the Jews,' we should, in effect, be asking 'Is it good for America, and is it good for the world?' We may, in fact, arrive at a better answer for ourselves in asking this more encompassing question."

Mr. Himmelfarb chose three illustrations to point up the serious implications of the once-funny question. They were the theory of 1) the new populism; 2) quotas; and 3) zero population growth.

"In word and concept, the term 'populist' has been used by politicians, pundits, and diversified types such as Jack Newfield, left-wing writer for the 'Village Voice', McGovern and Wallace. But because we are Jews, we should be suspicious of populism. The notion, in itself, means 'majoritarianism,' which means most people should be bosses of their own affairs."

"The danger here is the same the founding fathers saw and made provision for in the Constitution, the idea of blocking majority rule in certain areas. We Jews are 'the' historical minority in the Western World."

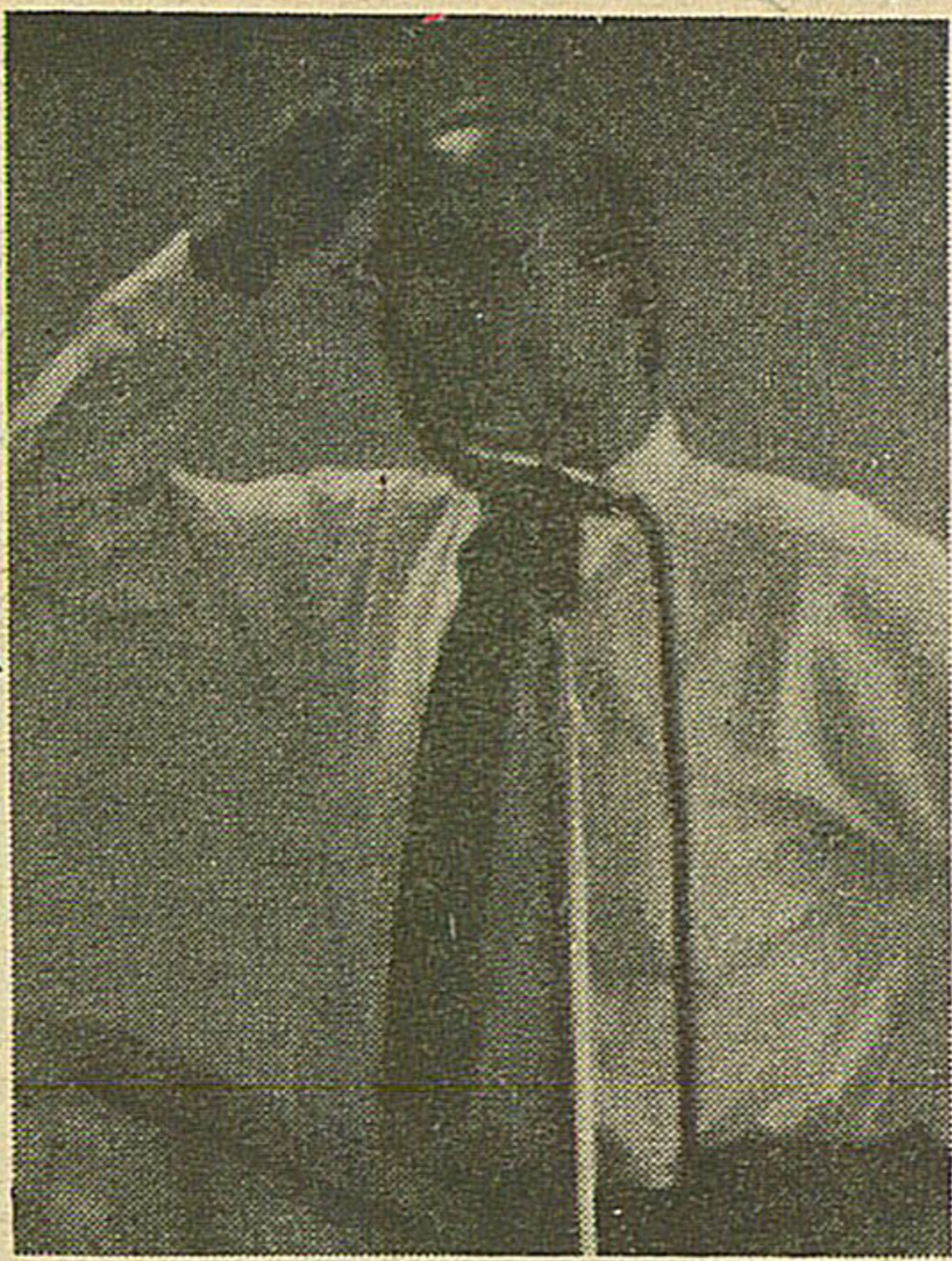
"Majorities don't like minorities. Now, minorities are not only defined by descent, but also by opinion and style. The young people are surprised today to learn as far back as 1890 and Thorsten Veblen the Bill of Rights was being questioned as an elitist statement. From his day to the latest poll, most people wouldn't vote for it."

In Russia, Mr. Himmelfarb said, where they "persecute free spirits such as Solzhenitsyn, the appeal is to the populists." The Soviets ask the question of the people, "Is he any better than any of us, up there writing, proselytizing. Down with him."

The speaker drew out the analogy. The anti-intellectual appeal was an anti-Semitic appeal, thus the populist movement in Russia. He added the official nazi newspaper was called "The People's Observer," emphasizing 'people.'

"In American history, William Jennings Bryant was the great populist. He began in Kansas working for the farmers and ended up as prosecutor in the Scopes trial in Tennessee. And his 'You shall not crucify man on a cross of gold' speech carries the interpretation that the Jews are the people who crucify and the gold refers to the Rothschilds. So I ask, 'were the populists anti-Semitic?' I say 'Yes.'"

Mr. Himmelfarb then brought up Eugene V. Debs sending condolences to the widow of Tom Watson, great populist and "great racist from Georgia who holds the infamous distinction of being responsible for the only lynching of a Jew in America, Leo Frank in



MILTON J. HIMMELFARB

Explores 'majoritarianism.'

1914"; the populist Huey Long, and the Spanish Inquisition, which he said the middle class and lower clergy wanted.

"What is the answer," he asked. "Elitism? People have suspicion for the elite. This is not the necessary alternative. The alternative in the Constitution was preceded by a few years with Aristotle, who proposed a 'mixed constitution,' not majoritarianism. This seems the most palatable. What I fear with this new impulse toward populism is the movement to majoritarianism and the concept of 'fair share.'"

Fair shares brought Mr. Himmelfarb to the idea of quotas, alluding to the fact that the idea of fair shares shows that quotas start the other way, "not what we Jews know as ceiling but floor quotas. Add up all the floor quotas (so many blacks, so many Italians, so many Welshmen) and it reaches the Jewish ceiling."

Jews represent 9 to 10 per cent of the professoriate, but in the best schools, the young Jewish professors number 20 to 25 per cent, Mr. Himmelfarb added, pointing up the idea of what he called "ethnic lumpiness." He also mentioned that from 1969 to 1971, 62.5 percent of American Nobel Prize winners were Jewish.

"It is like making a cake with raisins. In some cakes it is better that they are distributed evenly, in others being together is not so bad."

This led into the logic inherent in busing, he said. The idea is that everybody who is a good guy backs busing. "But in San Francisco, who opposed it? The Chinese. And why? The kids couldn't get home in time to go to Chinese school to learn Chinesekeit. But the principal of busing came up because there was a Chinatown in the first place. All ethnic lumpiness becomes an obstacle, and people say it must be done away with for the overall good society—the idea of group fair share."

To lead into his last segment, Zero Population Growth, Mr. Himmelfarb began with an anecdote. When at the marriage ceremony, an old uncle spoke up when the "Does anyone have any reason why these two..." rang out. Everything was silent. He then said, "In that case, let me tell you about my California real estate."

"ZPG is my California real estate," the writer said. The general philosophy is that the earth is shuddering under the weight of population. The only thing that can save it is rigorous zero population growth. Zero is a flim flam. Growth has the connotation of being good, sound. Zero means what it says. It is the old Alvin Hansen theory of economics. The ills of the depression were nothing more than the stagnation theory of economics. And who is in favor of stagnation?"

He said Jews have been practicing ZPG for two generations. The question is not whether Jews are increasing but are Jews even replacing themselves. "And then there was someone called Hitler." Mr. Himmelfarb said he talks ZPG as often as possible and sees mostly blank faces in the audience. He said he does not know how to get through, try as he might.

Part of the problem he believes is the "self-sterilization" of educated Jews. "There are three times as many Catholics in the US as Jews in the world; twice as many blacks. So even if every Jew would perish what would three missing out of 1,000 do to alleviate the world problems. What it would do would effectively kill us. It's like a doctor saying to my mother, who

weighs 97 pounds under the shower, that because obesity is an American problem, she should diet."

He then got to his real fear about ZPG.

"One scientist quoting another eminent scientist is very 'in.' I read one quoting another: 'There has to be a new legal definition of humanity, so no longer is an infant ipso facto a human being when it emerges from the mother's womb. Only when that infant is determined free from genetic defects can it be considered a human being, and to dispose of it if it is not, is no more punishable than the action of a veterinarian who disposes of a pedigreed puppy who has a weak hip joint.' This concept lies in the mind of the ZPG advocates, even if unconsciously."

"I shudder at thinking there will be some super-scientist someday deciding who is for life and who is for death. Can you imagine the race warfare. If we think we have problems now, imagine then. What I would recommend is maximum population growth for the Jews."

"You see, that by asking the simple question, 'Is it good for the Jews,' we can ask ourselves profound questions, such as is it good for all humanity. We must take the question at a higher value than today's modish universalists."

## Danish Company Admits Sending Radar to Israel

COPENHAGEN, (JTA)—The manager of Terma, a Danish electronics firm, admitted that his company is exporting radar units to Israel in violation of government restrictions. He said the orders for the units came from the Israel Embassy in London.

The admission was made after the left-wing newspaper, *Novy Politic*, accused Terma of smuggling strategic equipment to Israel despite a government ban.

The paper said the equipment was shipped to London and transhipped to vessels of Israel's Zim Lines. According to *Novy Politic*, the shipments were consigned to "a certain Mr. Godin in Tel Aviv" whose address is POB 7022, Tel Aviv. The Terma plant is located in the industrial town of Arhus and supplies NATO members with electronic components used in the construction of radar equipment.

Circles here could not say how *Novy Politic* got wind of the shipments to Israel. Some sources said the paper could have been informed by Communist sources. Last week the Danish government accused Anatoly Lubanov, First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, of industrial spying. Terma was one of the three Danish firms mentioned in that connection.

### Congregation Poale Zedeck

Dr. Joseph Shapiro Rabbi Rev. P. Hillel Brummer Cantor Rev. Abraham Gorodinsky Sexton

#### Spring Session

#### Minyan Breakfast Institute

sponsored by the Men's Club of Congregation Poale Zedeck

The dynamic Spring Session of the Minyan Breakfast Institute at Poale Zedeck Congregation will feature talks by nine members of the Congregation. Community Leaders, specialists in their fields, they have one common association --- they are all members of Congregation Poale Zedeck.

### Jewish Education In Our Community....

#### WHAT IS HAPPENING?



SUNDAY APRIL 23

HOWARD BALSAM  
President, Yeshiva Achei  
T'mimim



SUNDAY APRIL 30

HERMAN D. ENGELBERG  
President, Hillel Academy  
of Pittsburgh



SUNDAY MAY 7

NORMAN TOBIAS  
President, Talmudical  
Institute of Pittsburgh  
(Yeshiva Gedolah)

SUNDAY MAY 14

LEE HORVITZ  
Chairman, Pittsburgh Voice for Soviet  
Jewry  
"Progress in Saving Soviet Jewry"

SUNDAY MAY 21

MAURICE GOLDSTEIN  
Former Penna. State Legislator  
"Reminiscences in the Political Arena"

SUNDAY MAY 28

SEYMOUR WEISS  
Executive, Weiss Packing Co. and Prime  
Kosher Market  
"The Kosher Food Industry in the '70's"

SUNDAY JUNE 4

MARTIN LEFKOWITZ  
U. S. Steel Corporation  
"Corrosion Affects our Day to Day Living"

SUNDAY JUNE 11

AARON SACKS  
Executive Director, Information and  
Volunteer Services of Allegheny County  
"Getting and Giving Needed Help in  
Allegheny County"

SUNDAY JUNE 18

DR. MERVIN BOKSENBAUM  
Dermatologist  
"Skin Ailments and Their Detection"

SUNDAY JUNE 25

RABBI DR. JOSEPH SHAPIRO  
will address the Minyan Breakfast  
Institute's Closing Session.

Services begin in the Joseph B. and Mathilda Prize Beth Hamedrash at 8:45 A.M. every Sunday Morning.

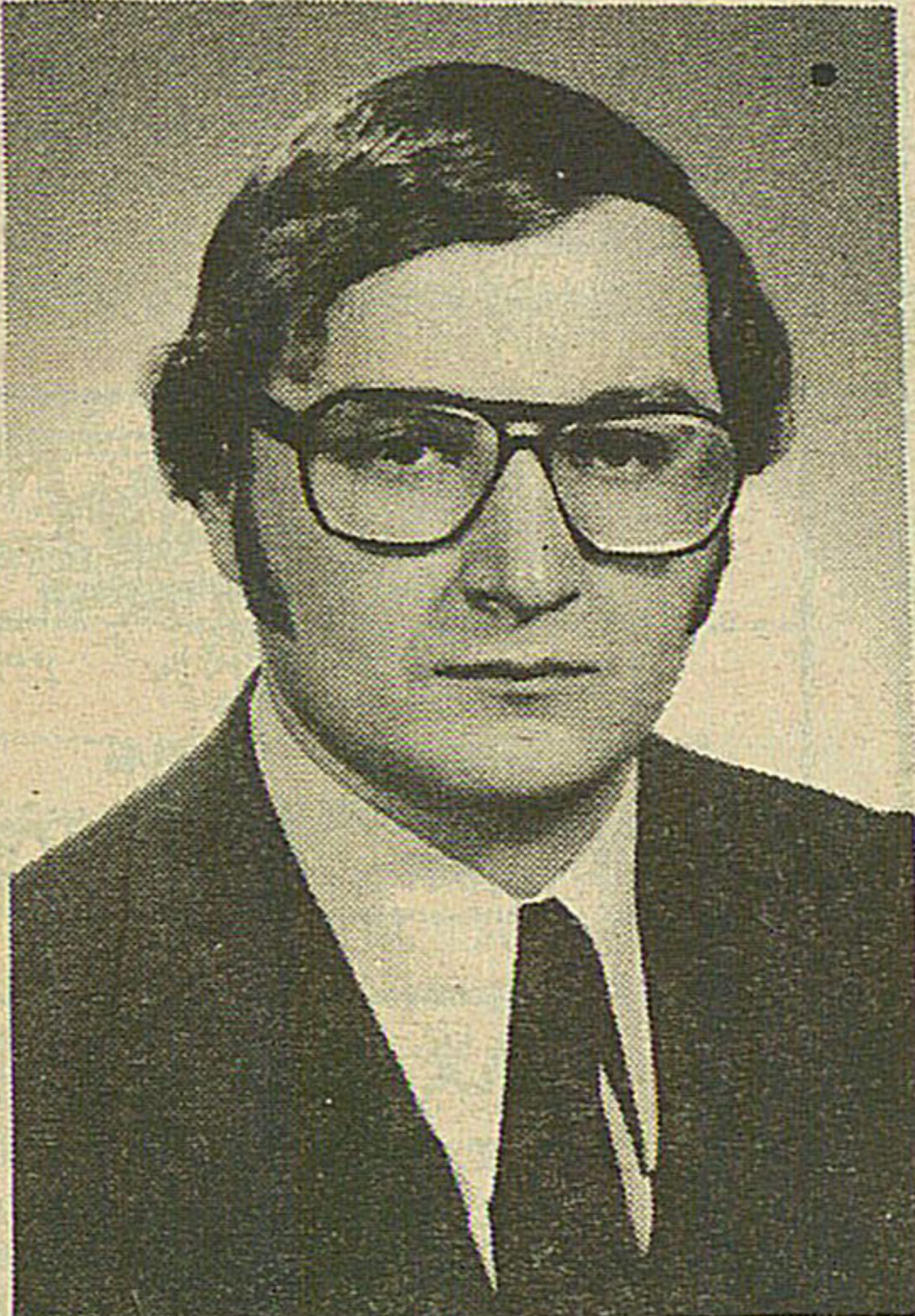
Breakfast is served in the newly decorated Social Hall of the Congregation at 9:30.

Men and Women are Invited to Attend.  
There are no fees or solicitations.

A Special Invitation is extended to the Jewish Youth in our Community to participate in this thought-provoking experience.

Harold Tabor, President Poale Zedeck Men's Club Carl Margolis, President Poale Zedeck Congregation Mrs. Ben Isack, President Poale Zedeck Sisterhood

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