

SF Examiner

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Teddy Here - Vows More Israel Aid

Senator Edward Kennedy told more than 1000 celebrants of the state of Israel's 25th anniversary last night, "Our commitment to Israel is not negotiable."

The scion of the Kennedy political dynasty was principal speaker at the Jewish National Fund's annual Chai-Banquet, at the Fairmont.

He called for continued U.S. provision of military support for Israel's self-defense, on which, he said, the stability of the Middle East depends, rather than upon Arab superiority.

The Massachusetts Senator also called upon all Americans to use voice and influence "in the tribunals of world opinion to see that the outrageous barriers to the exit of Soviet Jews are removed forever.

"We know the unconscionable ransom being asked in Moscow, the thousands of dollars still required to purchase an exit visa for Israel."

Then, evoking loud applause, he added:

"What sort of administration is it that gives a higher priority to a few bushels of wheat than it gives to basic human rights?"

This applause was notably stronger than that which followed a burst of enthusiasm on the part of area Jewish National Fund president Abraham Bernstein, M.D., who informed the crowd:

"We have here a very distinguished Senator who, please God, will be President of these United States someday!"

Further evidence that the GOP was well represented among the banquetees



SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY, BENJAMIN SWIG
Massachusetts Democrat addressed Jewish group here
—Examiner Photo

came when the laughter was appreciably light after Kennedy announced:

"Washington is uneasy. Everyone is wondering if the President will let Congress stay on during his second term!"

Mirth seemed to increase however when Kennedy noted that "My family's long-time friend, Ben Swig, assured me that (1) The Redskins would defeat Dallas (2) The new Democratic National Chairman would be a Californian and (3) I would be warmly welcomed this weekend in balmy California."

Kennedy went on to demand that "We take steps against governments that support assassins," mentioning "the martyrs of Munich," and noting that "Americans also know the horror of brothers shot down in the prime of life."

References to Kennedy's someday becoming President — and to Mayor Alioto's becoming Governor — the latter made by JNF West Coast chairman Fred Kahan of Los Angeles — were frequent.

Hence, when Rabbi Jacob Traub, President of the Northern California Board of Rabbis was called upon to pronounce the benediction, he opened with:

"Mr. President; Mr. Governor; Senator Bernstein! . . ."

On the sidewalk in front of The Fairmont some two doz-

en Arab college students picketed and distributed anti-Israel literature, while inside the banquet opened with an invocation by Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken, who said:

"You called your chosen people out of the land of bondage and gave them the land you promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as their home forever . . ."

"May the candles we light inspire us to banish the darkness of prejudice and malice. We ask this in God's Blessed Name."

—Rev. Lester Kinsolving