

MEET IRVING EDISON OF GEORGIA

Introducing JWB's New President
BY BERNARD POSTAL

A new portrait—that of a handsome, youthful-visaged midwesterner—was added to the gallery of national Jewish leadership when Irving Edison of St. Louis was elected president of the National Jewish Welfare Board as the successor of Frank L. Weil, who retired after ten consecutive years of service. The fifth man to head JWB since its establishment in 1917, and the first from outside the East, Edison now holds the post once filled by Harry Cutler of Providence, R. I., Dr. Cyrus Adler, of Philadelphia, and Judge Irving H. Lehman, of New York, Weil's predecessors.

Edison comes to the leadership of JWB with three essential assets: a deep insight into the needs and desires of American Jewry born of many years of active leadership in his own community; a long record of experience and achievement in those fields which have made JWB universally known and respected; a personal philosophy of Jewish life ideally suited to an organization dedicated to the creative survival of the Jewish people.

Edison was born in Adel, Georgia, in 1899, one of five sons of a Lithuanian immigrant. He had a traditional Jewish upbringing in Atlanta and Boston where he grew up and sunk his first roots in the soil of American Jewish life. In Atlanta, Edison discovered the Jewish Community Center movement when he joined the Jewish Educational Alliance. His youthful experience in this Jewish Community Center, and later as a member of the Roxbury YMHA, were lasting influences. When he came to St. Louis twenty

years ago as an up and coming young businessman of 31—he is now vice-president of Edison Brothers Stores, Inc., largest retailer of women's shoes in the United States—Edison found a natural outlet for his Jewish communal interests in the YMHA.

Edison has been actively identified with the St. Louis YMHA, one of the largest Jewish Community Centers in the country, for two decades. In 1934, four years after joining the Y, he was elected to its board of directors. He became president in 1945, serving until 1947. Gilbert Harris, the Y's executive director for more than 25 years, credits Edison with much of the Y's progress and growth. Edison's resourcefulness, ability to conciliate conflicting viewpoints and deep concern for people are revealed in three incidents cited by Harris.

During his first year as Y president, the Y urgently needed an additional allocation from Federation for essential staff salary increases. Federation was thinking in terms of curtailed budgets but Edison even then was urging raised sights in support of local Jewish services. His dramatic presentation of the Y's needs convinced the budget committee, and the Y got its money. On another occasion the Y board found itself involved in heated debate over a critical issue. Tempers were high but Edison kept his head and his wit. Picking up a rubber band, he said, "Look at this rubber band. It gives and it contracts. Why can't we do the same?" That cracked the tension and the board proceeded to solve its problem amicably.

Calendar Oddity

The Detroit Jewish News in its Rosh Hashonah issue makes the interesting observation that the Jewish New Year occurred the earliest in 100 years on the Gregorian calendar on September 5, 1899. The latest it occurred in the century cycle was on October 5 and 6 of 1929, the same dates on which it will fall in 1967. In 1951 Rosh Hashonah will fall on October 1. The wide difference is due to the fact that 5711 is a leap year on the Jewish calendar.

PLAIN TALK

(Continued from page 1)

care of. Doing the work was as sacred as dying, all of one sanctity. Now the continuing work of their hands was speaking to God for her.

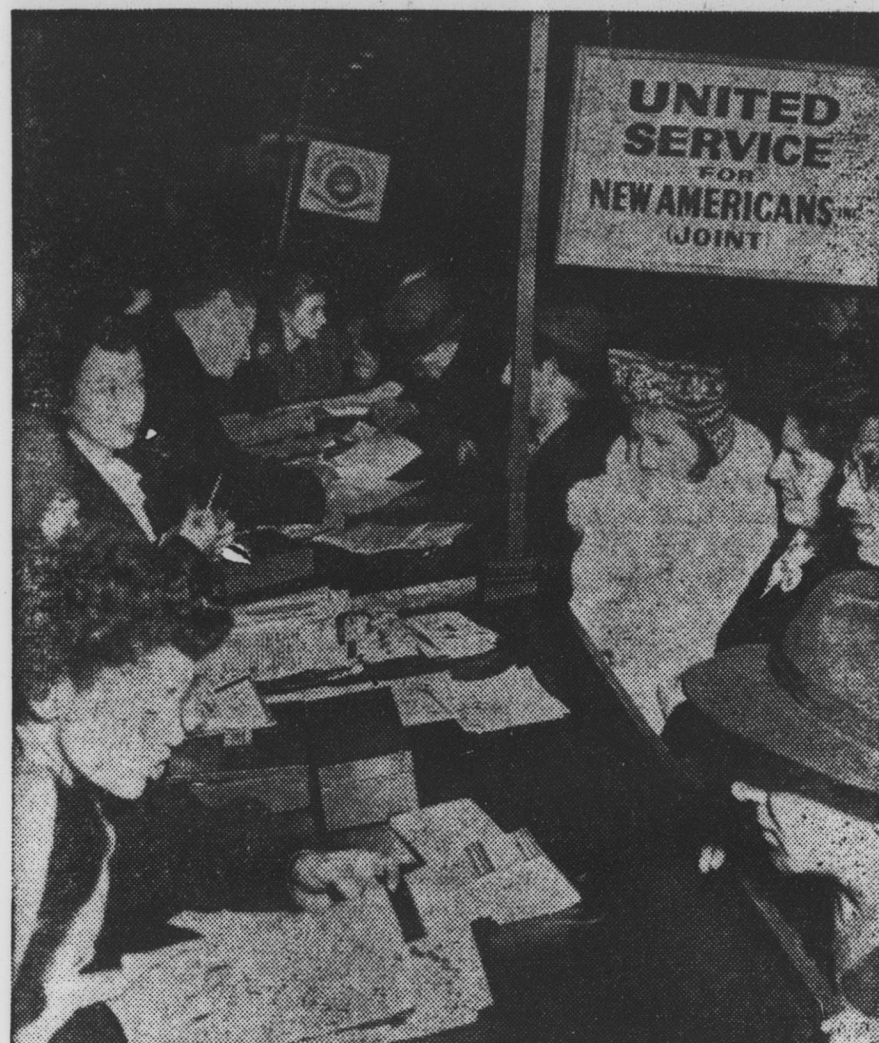
You may ask me, How come? You write a Jewish column and what's Jewish about this one? All about a lady of another religion! A great lady, all right, but where's the Jewishness?

The answer: It is good to know the merit of another religion. It is proper to publish it in the press of one's own religion. To the end that respect for other people's faith and the sanctity of their works may be enlarged.

This column is a contribution to that respect.

Note to Jewish Bodies

The influx of known Nazis into the United States is a serious problem. While Washington officialdom has shown proper appreciation of the problem when specific cases were referred for investigation, New York's immigration authorities have shown a reverse tendency. The matter requires scrutiny and action too. The subject was discussed at a recent private gathering of Jewish leaders, but as far as we know no decision has been reached on the form of action.



LAST STOP ON FREEDOM ROAD: Port and dock workers of United Service for New Americans speed through the last formalities for newly-arrived displaced Jews before the newcomers proceed to communities throughout the United States.

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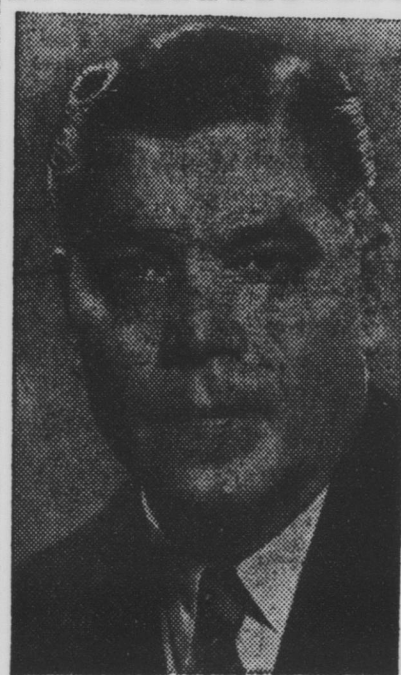
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- His opponent has served for 4 MONTHS and one month of this brief period was taken off for a vacation.
- Judge Jones was a practicing attorney for over 12 years before becoming a judge—
- His opponent has been an employee of the Florida Industrial Commission for the past 9 years before Gov. Fuller Warren gave him a temporary appointment.

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Elect **EDWIN L. JONES**

CIRCUIT JUDGE

(Paid Political Advertisement by Edwin L. Jones)