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The Evansville Press

70th YEAR—NO. 307

EVANSVILLE, IND., JUNE 23, 1976

86 PAGES

7★

PRICE 15 CENTS

First Lady leads shaken rabbis in prayer



Betty Ford leads a prayer after the president of the Jewish National Fund suffered a heart attack.

United Press International

NEW YORK — Dr. Maurice Sage, president of Jewish National Fund, collapsed on stage last night as he was about to present a Bible to Betty Ford at a Bicentennial dinner in the New York Hilton Hotel. He died shortly afterwards.

Doctors in the audience rushed to the dais to give assistance to Sage, 58. The First Lady calmly took over the microphone and led the audience in prayer.

“Can we all bow our heads for a moment and say a prayer for Rabbi Sage? He’s going to the hospital and needs our prayers. Would you rise and bow your head?”

“Dear Father in Heaven, we ask Thy blessing on this magnificent man. We know You can take care of him. We know You can bring us back our leader. You are our strength. You are what life is all about and love of fellow man is what we all need and depend on. Please, dear God. Let’s all join together in silent prayer for Rabbi Sage.

“Thank you very much. I know it will mean a great deal to him and I know it means a great deal to me.

“Thank you.”

“It is rather ironic,” said one witness who asked not to be identified, “that in the moment of Sage’s collapse everyone was paralyzed, and although many of the country’s most prominent rabbis were present it was Betty Ford who calmly led the group in a touching prayer.”

“Everyone rose and applauded when she concluded,” she said, “but Betty responded by saying that it was not appropriate. She then said we shouldn’t go on with any more of the program and the guests gradually left.”

Later Mrs. Ford announced that Sage had been taken by ambulance to French Polyclinic Hospital. Doctors worked for more than an hour on Sage before he was pronounced dead of a heart attack.

Mrs. Ford and Sage were attending a gathering of some 3200 persons, including many of the top Jewish leaders of various organizations at the Jewish National Fund of America dinner when he collapsed.

Betty Ford Offers a Prayer as Jewish Leader Collapses



The New York Times/Larry Morris

Betty Ford asking the audience to join her in prayer after Dr. Maurice S. Sage collapsed at the Hilton Hotel last night. The rabbi is being assisted on the floor behind her.

By EDITH EVANS ASBURY
 Dr. Maurice S. Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, collapsed at the New York Hilton Hotel last night just after introducing Betty Ford, who then stepped to the microphone and called on the audience of 2,500 to pray for him, because "he is going to the hospital."

in a trembling voice Mrs. Ford delivered a prayer for Dr. Sage's recovery before a audience in the grand ballroom.

Behind her, efforts were being made to resuscitate the elderly rabbi, who was stretched out on the stage, and Secret Service men who had accompanied Mrs. Ford were pounding on his chest.

As soon as Rabbi Sage's collapse was noticed, one of the men on the dais stepped to the microphone and called for a doctor. With increasing urgency in his voice, he called for oxygen and an ambulance.

As this was going on, Martin Hoffman, one of the men on the dais, grasped the First Lady as she comforted him with pats on the back. Her own back was turned to the audience.

Mr. Hoffman is the son of Milton Hoffman, an old friend of President and Mrs. Ford. Mrs. Ford had been scheduled to present a key as the next event on the program. The key was to the American Bicentennial National Park in Israel. The dinner last night was to open

Continued on Page 12, Column 5

*U.S. Times
 7/3/61*

*Original to Grand Rapids
 Ford Museum 7/3/61*



UPI photo

Betty Ford prays as rescuers try to revive Sage (right): Grace under pressure

A FINAL TRIBUTE

Betty Ford had just been honored at a benefit at the New York Hilton hotel last week when Dr. Maurice Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund, suddenly turned pale and collapsed on the dais, the victim of an apparent heart attack. In the confusion that followed, Mrs. Ford first comforted a close friend of the stricken leader, then rose to address the stunned audience of 2,500. "Can we all bow our heads for a moment and say a prayer for Rabbi Sage?" she said. As doctors and her Secret Service escort worked to revive Sage on the floor behind her, Mrs. Ford went on to pray for "God's blessing on this magnificent man." It was an impressive display of grace under pressure, but Sage died within the hour at a nearby hospital.



turned the 1966 and 1974 amendments to the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act, which extended Federal wage-hour protection to more than 6 million state and local government workers. Justice William Brennan denounced the decision as a "patent usurpation" of legislative power, but the majority held that Congress had infringed upon state sovereignty.

■ In another 5-to-4 decision the Court upheld a Detroit zoning ordinance that blocked "adult" (i.e., pornographic) businesses from opening within 1,000 feet of other commercial establishments or within 500 feet of residential areas. Cities thus may use zoning laws to herd "sex shops" into designated red-light areas or to disperse them.

■ The Court ruled 7 to 2 that "segregation academies"—private schools set up mostly in the South to circumvent the 1954 decision outlawing segregated public schools—were violating Federal laws in denying admission to blacks because of race. The majority ruled that because these schools advertise to the general public, they are barred from racial discrimination under an 1866 law giving blacks equal rights "to make and enforce contracts." The decision does

not extend to private clubs or to schools open to only one sex or religion.

Although state aid to parochial schools has been banned under the church-state separation provisions of the First Amendment, the Court nevertheless approved by 5 to 4 a Maryland program providing grants to church-affiliated colleges. The decision continued a trend begun in 1971 allowing states considerably more leeway in providing aid to church colleges than to church schools.

■ In a pair of 7-to-2 opinions, the Court reflected a hardening attitude toward the rights of defendants in criminal cases. In the first, it ruled that the doorway of a home constitutes a "public place" where a suspect may be arrested without a warrant. And if the suspect retreats indoors, the police may pursue and arrest the suspect inside. In the other instance, the Court said that while prosecutors may be required to disclose evidence that could help the defendant's case, they are obliged to do so only when such evidence is "material" to the case—that is, when it might raise a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt that did not otherwise exist.

—DANIEL CHU with DIANE CAMPER in Washington

CONGRESS:

Cleaning House

After seven and a half hours of griping, grumbling and parliamentary gamesmanship, the House Democratic Caucus finally approved a twelve-point package of reforms last week. The house cleaning was intended to prevent the payroll and expense-account abuses brought to light by the Wayne Hays-Elizabeth Ray affair—and possibly to enhance the Democrats' re-election prospects. Among the most significant reforms:

- Consolidating members' allowances for telephone, stationery and various other expenses into a single account with strict reporting rules.
- Reducing the reimbursement rate for automobile travel on official business from 20 cents to 15 cents a mile.
- Stripping the House Administration Committee of the power to increase allowances without a House vote.
- Ordering a quarterly report of all House spending. Each member would have to describe the work performed by each employee.

Despite their embarrassment over Hays's alleged abuses, a few Democrats seemed unwilling to part with their perquisites. They hissed and booed proposals to reduce the mileage allowance, and made repeated attempts to adjourn the session entirely. In the end, election-year realities prevailed. "Either we make these reforms or the Republican Party is going to do it," warned Rep. Frank Annunzio of Illinois. "If they do it, there are a lot of people sitting here this morning who will not be back."

The Democrats interrupted their bickering long enough to install Frank Thompson as the new chairman of the House Administration Committee, and he immediately embarked on some reforms of his own. Within minutes, locksmiths arrived at the committee offices to change all the locks—including Hays's. (This was partly Thompson's way of complying with an FBI request that committee records, some of which may be useful in the investigation of the Hays-Ray scandal, be secured.) Thompson also fired four top Hays staffers and requested a General Accounting Office audit of committee books. Other changes may come more slowly since a pro-Hays faction still dominates the 25-member committee. But Thompson hopes to enact the Democrats' quarterly disclosure provisions—perhaps the most significant of the new reforms—as soon as the full House approves the package.

THE FBI:

Bag Jobs

Its squeaky-clean image has long since vanished in the revelations of Watergate and excessive domestic spying. But the biggest embarrassment in the history of the FBI may be yet to come—the possi-

~~B~~

Sage
File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 2/8

TO: *Shula Underfield*

FROM: **DAVID LISSY**

✓

 FYI

 For Appropriate Action

COMMENTS

Ford Joins In Mourning For Dr. Sage

Omni North West (LA) 7-2-76

President's Wire Read At Funeral

**Mrs. Ford Invites
Widow, Family
To White House**

By TRUDE B. FELDMAN

*Staff Writer
White House Writer*

NEW YORK—First Lady Betty Ford offered her own spontaneous prayers in a dramatic and tragic moment as Dr. Maurice S. Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund,

See Also:
L.A. Tribute To Sage
On Page 11

collapsed beside her on a dais at the organization's dinner.

The traumatic scene Tuesday eve, June 22, was in the ballroom of the New York Hilton at Rockefeller Center. The occasion was the JNF fundraising banquet inaugurating the

Please Turn To Page 18.

Betty Ford Offers Prayer At JNF Banquet

by TRUDE B. FELDMAN

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK CITY — First Lady Betty Ford offered her own spontaneous prayers in a dramatic and tragic moment as Dr. Maurice S. Sage, President of the Jewish National Fund, collapsed beside her on a dais at the organization's dinner.

The traumatic scene last Tuesday eve was in the ballroom of the New York Hilton at Rockefeller Center. The occasion was the JNF fundraising banquet inaugurating the American Bicentennial National Park in Israel.

Dr. Sage had just completed his introductory remarks about Mrs. Ford: "As a chemist, I like to talk in terms of compounds,"

he began. "Mrs. Ford is a combination of the wonderful elements we found in some of our former First Ladies — she has the internal fortitude of Eleanor Roosevelt; the gaiety of Mamie Eisenhower; the beauty of Jackie Kennedy; the quiet courage of Pat Nixon; the dignity of Bess Truman and the compassion of Lady Bird Johnson.

A moment earlier, Betty Ford had received a silver-covered, jewel encrusted Israeli Bible. Suddenly, Dr. Sage turned pale and slumped over. While Secret Servicemen (there for Mrs. Ford), doctors from the audience and family members rushed to Sage's aide, Mrs. Ford, poised

and composed, took the microphone, and asked the 2,300 people to stand for one moment of silence. Her voice quavering with emotion, she said, "Can we all bow our heads for a moment and say a prayer for Dr. Sage? He is going to the hospital and needs our prayers.

"I'll have to say them in my own words . . . 'Dear Father, in heaven, we ask Thy blessing on this magnificent man. We know you can take care of him. We know you can bring us back our leader. You are our strength. You are what life is all about, love, and love of fellow man is what we all need and depend on . . . please, dear God . . .

"Let's all join together in

—TURN TO PAGE 14

Chicago Tribune
Mrs. Ford's aplomb

Few of us have the grace to do the exquisitely right thing when the unexpected or the tragic occurs at a public gathering. We stand paralyzed, as did most of the 2,500 people present Tuesday when Maurice S. Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, suffered a fatal collapse on a New York stage.

But Mrs. Betty Ford, to whom a Bible had just been presented, knew precisely what to do. While Mr. Sage was being taken to a hospital, the First Lady, though pale and shaken, took the microphone and suggested everyone join in prayer. She then delivered an impromptu prayer, beginning, "Dear Father in Heaven, we ask thy blessing on this magnificent man . . ."

The incident reflects the poise which, coupled with her candor and naturalness, has made Mrs. Ford so popular a First Lady. The President has called her a better politician than he is and a great asset to him. She is more. She is an asset to the nation.

6/24/76

Opinion Page

The Marietta, Ohio, Times

Thursday, June 24, 1976

First Lady

First Lady Betty Ford has reaped much criticism for her outspokenness on subjects that only a few years ago were taboo in polite society. Tuesday night was a different story.

When a gala affair to raise funds for a Bicentennial park in Israel was turned to tragedy as a Jewish dignitary suffered a fatal seizure, Mrs. Ford showed a new side to those at the party and to TV viewers.

Making her way to the

microphone in the New York hall, the wife of the President asked the audience to stand. While efforts were made to revive Dr. Maurice Sage, Mrs. Ford led them in prayer for the stricken man.

The easy way would have been for Mrs. Ford to let her Secret Service guards lead her from the building. Instead, she took charge courageously. Her actions at a time of crisis more than made up for any of her past statements which have upset some moralists.

Betty Ford Dedicates AJC Center With A Mezuzah

By Trude B. Feldman
White House correspondent

NEW YORK CITY—First Lady Betty Ford delighted a group of friends and officers of the American Jewish Congress with her natural charm and grace at

plaque, and spoke of the purposes of the Martin Steinberg Center, which will serve as a gathering place for young Jewish artists, writers, musicians and filmmakers.

"The dedication of the Jewish people throughout the centuries to

Jewish artists and sculptors, were provided by a gift from Martin Steinberg, a Brooklyn realtor and investor. Steinberg, a longtime supporter of the Congress, is the husband of Lillian Steinberg, an active leader of the organization who served as president of its

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date

2/18

TO:

Shirley Mendenhall

FROM: DAVID LISSY

 FYI

 For Appropriate Action

COMMENTS

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*Israeli Birth Messenger 7-9-76
(LA)*

The First Lady Receives A Mezuzah

By TRUDE B. FELDMAN

*Brith Messenger
White House Writer*

NEW YORK—First Lady Betty Ford delighted a group of friends and officers of the American Jewish Congress with her natural charm and grace at ceremonies marking the dedication of the Martin Steinberg



Sheldon



Prayers Fail To Revive Stricken JNF Head Dr. Maurice Sage At Banquet

By **TRUDE B. FELDMAN**
Journal White House Correspondent

NEW YORK CITY—First Lady Betty Ford offered her own spontaneous prayers in a dramatic and tragic moment as Dr. Maurice S. Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund,

asked the 2,300 people to stand for one moment of silence. Her voice quavering with emotion, she said, "Can we all bow our heads for a moment and say a prayer for Dr. Sage? He is going to the hospital and needs our prayers."

"I'll have to say them in my own

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sage
FL

Date

7/7

TO:

Shila Weidenfeld

FROM: DAVID LISSY

FYI

For Appropriate Action

COMMENTS

Mrs. Ford asks prayer for dying JNF president

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Dr. Maurice S. Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, collapsed and died June 22 shortly after he introduced Betty Ford to 2,500 persons attending the JNF's Gala Bicentennial Dinner.

President Ford's wife, visibly shaken and her voice trembling, asked the audi-



southeast of Jerusalem. Minutes before he collapsed, Sage told the audience that the \$6 million park "which is the largest project endorsed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in celebration of our nation's heritage, will be dedicated in Israel on the 4th of July in the presence of the President of Israel, Ephraim Katzir, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Malcolm Toon,

treasurer and a member of the board for several years.

He was formerly president of the Religious Zionists of America.

He was also a former treasurer of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; a member of the United Jewish Appeal Cabinet; chairman of special projects for State of Israel Bonds; a

UP -024

(BETTY)

NEW YORK (UPI) -- DR. MAURICE SAGE, PRESIDENT OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND, COLLAPSED ON STAGE LAST NIGHT AS HE WAS ABOUT TO PRESENT A BIBLE TO BETTY FORD AT A BICENTENNIAL DINNER IN THE NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL. HE DIED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

DOCTORS IN THE AUDIENCE RUSHED TO THE DAIS TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO SAGE, 58. THE FIRST LADY CALMLY TOOK OVER THE MICROPHONE AND LED THE AUDIENCE IN PRAYER.

"WE MUST ALL PRAY IN OUR WAY," SHE SAID AS SAGE WAS ADMINISTERED OXYGEN SUPPLIED BY THE HOTEL, AT ABOUT 10 P.M. "IT IS UP TO GOD WHAT WILL HAPPEN, WE SHOULD ALL HAVE FAITH."

"IT IS RATHER IRONIC," SAID ONE WITNESS WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, "THAT IN THE MOMENT OF SAGE'S COLLAPSE EVERYONE WAS PARALYZED, AND ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST PROMINENT RABBIS WERE PRESENT IT WAS BETTY FORD WHO CALMLY LED THE GROUP IN A TOUCHING PRAYER."

"EVERYONE ROSE AND APPLAUDED WHEN SHE CONCLUDED," SHE SAID, "BUT BETTY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE. SHE THEN SAID WE SHOULDN'T GO ON WITH ANY MORE OF THE PROGRAM AND THE GUESTS GRADUALLY LEFT."

LATER MRS. FORD ANNOUNCED THAT SAGE HAD BEEN TAKEN BY AMBULANCE TO FRENCH POLYCLINIC HOSPITAL.

UPI 06-23 09:56 AED

UP -081

R B

(BETTY)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BETTY FORD WILL FLY TO NEW YORK TOMORROW FOR A ONE DAY ROUND OF ACTIVITIES.

SHE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 4 P.M. OPENING OF THE MARTIN STEINBERG CULTURAL CENTER, WHICH A WHITE HOUSE AIDE DESCRIBED AS A "MEETING PLACE" FOR YOUNG JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN.

IN THE EVENING, THE FIRST LADY WILL SPEAK AT THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND DRIVE DINNER AT THE NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL.

ON THURSDAY, MRS. FORD WILL PRESENT A GREEN LONG EVENING DRESS TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TO BECOME PART OF THE INSTITUTION'S FIRST LADY GOWN COLLECTION.

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R

FIRST LADY

NEW YORK (AP) -- A GALA AFFAIR TO RAISE FUNDS FOR AN AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL PARK IN ISRAEL ENDED IN TRAGEDY WHEN A ZIONIST LEADER ON THE DAIS WITH FIRST LADY BETTY FORD COLLAPSED AND DIED.

AS POLICEMEN TRIED IN VAIN TUESDAY NIGHT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF DR. MAURICE S. SAGE, MRS. FORD LED THE 2,500 GUESTS IN PRAYER.

"DEAR FATHER IN HEAVEN," THE FIRST LADY BEGAN, HER VOICE TREMBLING. "WE ASK THY BLESSING ON THIS MAGNIFICENT MAN. WE KNOW YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM. ..."

SAGE, 56-YEAR-OLD HEAD OF SAGE LABORATORIES, INC., AND THE RECENTLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AMERICA, WHICH WAS SPONSORING THE EVENT, WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT POLYCLINIC HOSPITAL LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER.

SAGE HAD FINISHED SPEAKING AND WAS STANDING BESIDE MRS. FORD ON THE DAIS AS SHE ACCEPTED FROM ANOTHER OFFICIAL A DECORATED BIBLE FROM ISRAEL.

AS SAGE SLUMPED TO THE FLOOR, SECRET SERVICE AGENTS GUARDING THE FIRST LADY RUSHED TO HIS SIDE AND BEGAN EFFORTS TO REVIVE HIM. HE WAS LATER TAKEN BY AMBULANCE TO THE HOSPITAL.

MRS. FORD TURNED PALE AND TOOK HER SEAT WHEN SAGE COLLAPSED. MOMENTS LATER, SHE STOOD AND STEPPED TO THE MICROPHONE.

"CAN WE ALL BOW OUR HEADS FOR A MOMENT," SHE SAID, "AND SAY A PRAYER FOR RABBI SAGE. HE IS GOING TO THE HOSPITAL AND NEEDS OUR PRAYERS. WOULD YOU RISE AND BOW YOUR HEADS."

AS THE SHAKEN AUDIENCE ROSE, MRS. FORD PAUSED, THEN CONTINUED.

"I'LL HAVE TO SAY IT IN MY OWN WORDS," SHE SAID, AND BEGAN HER PRAYER, WHICH LASTED ABOUT TWO MINUTES.

MRS. FORD THEN SAID TO THE AUDIENCE, "THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I KNOW IT WILL MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO HIM AND I KNOW IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME. THANK YOU."

SHE THEN LEFT THE BALLROOM AT THE NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL, HER PLANNED SPEECH UNDELIVERED.

THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY SAID MRS. FORD'S ERRONEOUS REFERENCE TO SAGE AS A RABBI RESULTED FROM AN IMPRESSION SHE RECEIVED DURING A MEETING WITH SAGE AT A ZIONIST FUNCTION ABOUT A YEAR AGO.

SAGE WAS THE SON OF A FORMER CHIEF RABBI OF PARIS AND FLED FRANCE DURING WORLD WAR II.

06-23-76 12:41EDT



Mrs Ford prays for dying guest

From SIMON WINCHESTER

Washington, June 23.

In one of the most moving scenes of this political year, Mrs Betty Ford last night led an audience in spontaneous prayer for a man who was dying a few feet behind her, at a bicentennial celebration. Mrs Ford, who has taken some criticism in the past over her

6/24/76

rites set today for Maurice Sage

Jewish Fund Leader Died at 59 at Group's Dinner

Funeral services for Dr. Maurice S. Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, who suffered a fatal heart attack Tuesday night at the organization's dinner at the New York Hilton Hotel, will be held today at 12:15 at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, 5 East 62d Street.

Minutes before the 59-year-old Jewish leader was stricken, he had introduced Betty Ford to a gathering of 2,500 persons in the grand ballroom.

As efforts were made to revive Dr. Sage, Mrs. Ford stepped to the microphone and asked those present to "bow our heads for a moment and say a prayer for Rabbi Sage."

The audience rose and Mrs. Ford gave a spontaneous prayer lasting about two minutes in a trembling but determined voice.

Held Many Patents

Dr. Sage, a chemist and president of the Sage Laboratory, held many patents in the chemical field. He was president of the Religious Zionists of America from 1972 to 1975.

The \$150-a-plate dinner Tuesday night was the initial step in a campaign to raise \$6 million for an American Bicentennial National Park in the Judean Mountains, 25 miles outside of Jerusalem.

He had been associated with the Jewish National Fund at first as a treasurer and later in major executive posts. Two years ago he was elected president of the fund, which is the land development arm of the world Zionist movement.

Born in Russia, Dr. Sage and



Dr. Maurice S. Sage

his family migrated to Paris his family migrated to Paris he was ordained as a rabbi at the Rabbinical Seminary in Paris. Dr. Sage's father was a chief rabbi of Paris. The younger Sage later graduated from the Faculty of Science of the University of Paris. During his stay in France, the French Government cited him with the Legion d'Honneur Educationale. In World War II Dr. Sage served with the French Army and escaped from Nazi-occupied France to the United States where he served in the United States Army.

Among Jewish philanthropic organizations Dr. Sage had been active were the Jewish National Fund, which is the land development arm of the world Zionist movement; the Israel Bond Organization, and the United Jewish Appeal.

Dr. Sage, who lived at 200 Central Park South, is survived by his wife, the former Lillian Gelfand; two sons, Martin and Malcolm, and a daughter, Ann.

The funeral services will be presided over by Rabbi Emanuel Packman. The body will be temporarily interred in New York City and later taken to Israel for burial.

Betty Ford leads prayers as rabbi collapses



Daily-Mail Reporter
in New York

WITH her head bowed and hands clasped, Mrs. Betty Ford yesterday led a stunned audience of 2,500 in prayer as police fought to save the life of a Zionist leader who had collapsed just a few feet behind her.

Dr. Maurice Sage, 57, was on the dais with the first lady at New York's Hilton Hotel for a fund raising dinner to set up a \$3 million bicentennial park in Israel.

The doctor, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, went white and then slumped from his seat. While security service men and security police tried to revive him, Mrs. Ford stood up and went to a microphone.

Her voice trembled slightly as she said: "Can we all bow our heads for a moment and say a prayer for Rabbi Sage. He is going to the hospital and needs our prayers..."

Dr. Sage was pronounced dead in hospital less than an hour later.

Mrs. Ford leads prayers

Mrs. Ford had planned to return to Washington immediately after the dinner. Instead she went to a hotel suite to comfort some of Dr. Sage's close friends. She eventually left for home in the early hours of the morning.

One of the security guards said: "Mrs. Ford was magnificent. She showed tremendous compassion."

than 1,000 community...

Betty Ford Visits City and Goes Home With a Mezuzah



The New York Times/Barion Silverman

Betty Ford accepts a handcrafted silver mezuzah from Arthur Herzberg during the dedication ceremony at the Martin Steinberg Cultural Center, at 16 East 85th Street.

Betty Ford, wife of the President, came to New York City yesterday to appear at two Jewish functions and took a hand-crafted silver mezuzah back to Washington with her.

After receiving the mezuzah—a small case containing a scroll with Biblical passages—Mrs. Ford expressed thanks for the "mezuzah" to Rabbi Arthur Herzberg, who had just presented it to her.

"Mezuzah," shouted someone in the audience in the garden between the headquarters of the American Jewish Congress and the new

Martin Steinberg cultural center at 16 East 85th Street, which Mrs. Ford was helping to dedicate.

The rest of the audience was politely silent, however, and, within a few minutes everyone was applauding Mrs. Ford for her short speech.

Mezuzah means doorpost in Hebrew, and, as Rabbi Herzberg had explained before making his presentation, it is affixed to the entrance door of observant Jews' homes. The rabbi, who lives in Englewood, N.J., and is president of the American Jewish Congress, affixed a

mezuzah with hammer and nails to the doorway of the new center and blessed it.

The center, which Mrs. Ford toured afterward, houses books, records, films, recording and filming facilities and other cultural tools designed to attract young Jewish artists to develop their creativity within the framework of their heritage.

Later, Mrs. Ford was a guest at a dinner at the New York Hilton opening the campaign of the Jewish National Fund of America. It seeks \$6 million for an American Bicentennial National Park in Israel.



הנוכת־הבית צענדלענע פון קולטור־צענטער ביים אמעריקאנער אידיש קאנגרעס. פון רעכטס צו לינקס: האווארד סקוואדראן, מרס. בעטי פארד, ראבאי ארטור הערצבערג און מארטין פ. סענגאל. פארשטייער פון דער שטאט ניו יארק.

קולטור־צענטער ביים אמעריקאנער אידיש
קאנגרעס געעפנט דורך מרס. בעטי פארד

בעטי פארד דערפענט אידישען קולטור צענטער; קרינט מוזות

בעטי פארד האט זיך לינט א טאג בייטאג באטייליגט אין א פייערליכער צערעמאניע פון דער דערפענטונג פון דעם מארטין סטייבערג קולטור צענטער פון דעם אמעריקאנער אידישען קאנגרעס. דר. ארטוד הערצבערג, דער פרעזידענט פון קאנגרעס, האט געגעבן דער ערשטער לייד אום אלס מחנה א זילבערנע שיידל פון א מוזות. די פייערליכע צערעמאניע איז פארגעקומען עטליכע שעה פאר דעם בייסענטעניעל באנקעט פון אידישען נאציאנאל פאנדר, וואו דר. מאריס סידושש איז צוזאמענגעכראכן און געשטאנען בען.



בעטי פארד ריט זיך צו צו דער מוזות האט איז ארויסגעקלאפט געהאָרען ארץ דער סיר פון דעם מארטין סטייבערג קולטור צענטער פון דעם אמעריקאנעם יידישן קאנגרעס. נעבן איר שטייט דר. ארטוד הערצבערג.

Part 6/23/76
Jewish Leader Dies

NEW YORK, June 23 (AP) — Maurice S. Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, collapsed tonight while he was handing First Lady Betty Ford a Bible at a Bicentennial dinner at the New York Hilton.

Sage was pronounced dead at Polyclinic Hospital.

Mrs. Ford turned pale as Secret Service men rushed to aid Sage. She sat down in her seat on the dais while

the agents surrounded her and attempted to revive him.

Sage did not respond. He was rushed by ambulance to the hospital where a team of cardiac specialists attempted unsuccessfully to revive him.

Mrs. Ford stood and asked the audience at the dinner for the Jewish National Fund of America to observe a moment of silent prayer.

Mrs. Ford Leads Guests in Prayer

As Zionist Leader Is Stricken Fatally

NEW YORK (AP) — A gala affair to raise funds for an American Bicentennial Park in Israel ended in tragedy Tuesday night when a Zionist leader on the dais with First Lady Betty Ford collapsed and died.

standing beside Mrs. Ford on the dais as she accepted from another official a decorated Bible from Israel.

As Sage slumped to the floor, Secret Service agents guarding the First Lady rushed to his side and began efforts to revive him.

"I'll have to say it in my own words," she said, and began her prayer, which lasted about two minutes.

Mrs. Ford then said to the audience, "Thank you very much. I know it will mean a great deal to him and I know it

*Grand Rapids
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—AP Wirephoto

A Prayer at a Tragic Moment

First Lady Betty Ford leads the audience in a moment of silent prayer for Maurice S. Sage as Secret Service men (in the background) try to revive Sage after he collapsed during a dinner at New York's Hilton Hotel. Sage, president of the

Jewish National Fund of America, collapsed as he was about to hand Mrs. Ford a Bible during the dinner. He was pronounced dead at a New York hospital.

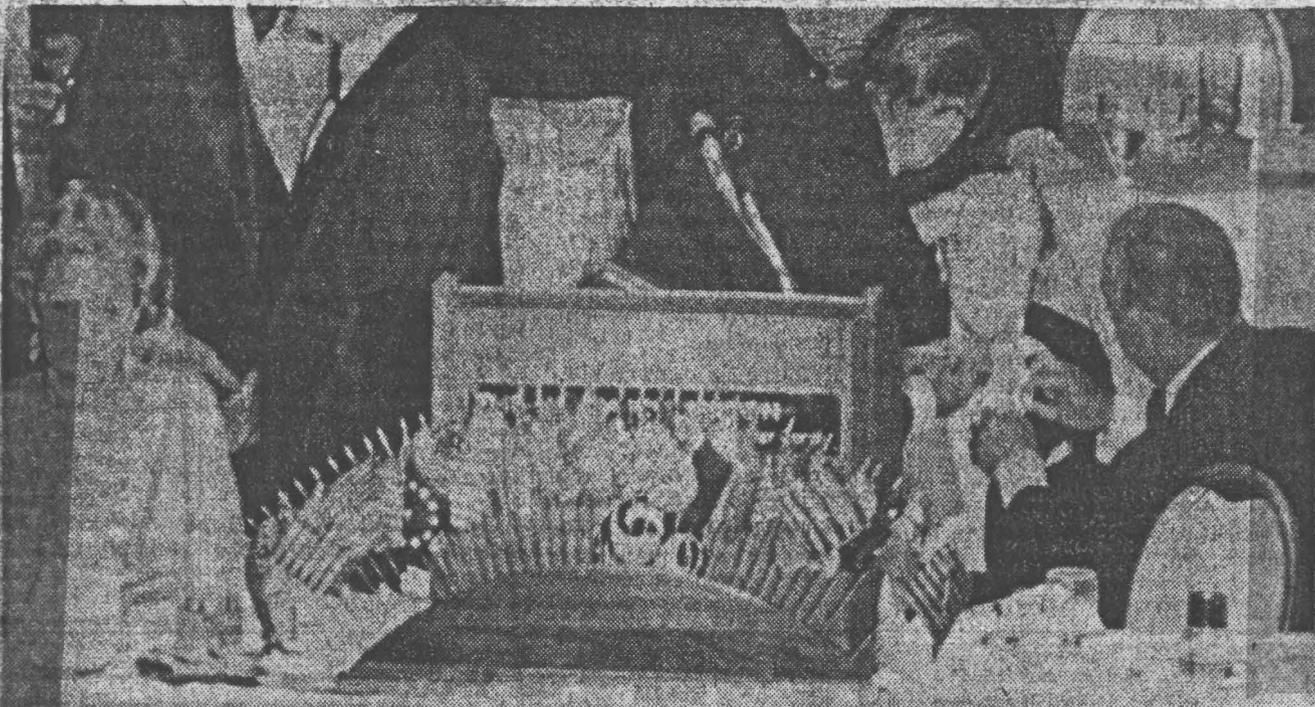
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'WE MUST ALL PRAY IN OUR WAY'



Mrs. Betty Ford watches as Dr. Maurice Sage (center) takes part in a ceremonial bread presentation.



—United Press International

A short while later, she sits stunned as aid is given to the fatally stricken president of the Jewish National Fund.

Gala Dinner Takes Grim Turn for First Lady

From News Services

NEW YORK — Dr. Maurice Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund, collapsed on stage last night as he was about to present a Bible to Betty Ford at a Bicentennial dinner.

He was rushed by ambulance to the hospital where a team of cardiac specialists attempted unsuccessfully to revive him.

The President's wife took the microphone to lead the audience in

HE HAD BEEN the fund's president since November 1975, and before that he served as treasurer of the organization. He was also president of Sage Labs, Inc., a chemical industries organization.

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Mrs. Ford Leads Prayer as Jewish Leader Collapses, Dies



NEW YORK — Dr. Maurice Sage, president of the Jewish National Fund, collapsed on stage last night as he was about to present a Bible to Betty Ford at a Bicentennial dinner. He was pronounced dead at French Polyclinic Hospital, apparently of a heart attack.