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Research Report No. 1



National Association of Jewish State Legislators

1978

National Association of Jewish State Legislators
311 Hackett Blvd. Albany, New York 12208
(518) 489-7983

Senator Matthew Feldman (N.J.)

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JEWISH STATE LEGISLATORS IN AMERICA



He was the first Jew to serve in an American legislature. His name Francis Salvador. Of Portugese descent, born of a well-to-do family in London that lost much of its fortune in the failure of the Dutch East Indies Company and an earthquake in Lisbon, he came to South Carolina virtually a newly wed in his mid-20's. Here he amassed considerable land and became a plantation owner.

While still under 30 he was elected in 1774 to the Provincial Congress, was assigned important committees and took part actively in many debates. He was elected again in 1775 and was prominent in drafting the South Carolina constitution. He served in the first General Assembly until its adjournment in June 1776. The British fleet and army shortly afterwards attacked Charles Town and was defeated but inland the British had stirred the Cherokees to violence. They plundered plantations and massacred their inhabitants. Assemblyman Salvador rounded up some militia and scored several victories until trapped in an ambush where he was scalped and killed.

Assemblyman Salvador was in a sense the "father" of the 208 Jewish state or territorial legislators who today cast their Ayes and Nays in legislatures from Maine to Hawaii, from the Virgin Islands to Alaska.

Today there are six Jewish legislators in South Carolina. That state has a long tradition of being most open-minded and hospitable to Jewish legislative candidates. With the largest, most cultured and wealthiest community of Jews in America centered in Charlestown in the early 19th century, it sent Dr. Levi Myers to the lower house as early as 1796 and Chapman Levy in 1812. The latter became a State Senator in 1818. We doubt any other state had elected Jewish legislators that early in our history.

In 1810, South Carolina gave impetus to one of the oldest legislative families in Jewish-American history. That year Myer Moses was elected to the lower house. His son, Franklin, was four years old at the time. Franklin became a state senator for twenty years, 1842-1862. A Sumter lawyer, he chaired the influential Judiciary Committee and later was elected Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

Franklin's son became the black sheep of the family. Franklin J. Moses, Jr. was raised by his non-Jewish mother, a Ms. McClenahan, in her own faith. He never affiliated with any Jewish group and became the notorious Reconstruction Governor from 1872-74.

Another of Myer's grandsons, Col Altamont Moses, also of Sumter, became a Democratic city chairman, local councilman, was active in Jewish causes and served in the House of Representatives for at least 18 years, 1886-1904. He headed the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

One Jewish legislator served in the legislatures of two states. Solomon Cohen, a lawyer and bank director, served in the South Carolina legislature 1831-1836, being elected on the Nullification Ticket. He moved to Savannah and was elected to the legislature there. Later he was elected in 1866 to Congress but was not allowed to take his seat, probably stemming from his nullification activities.

No clearer evidence of the upward mobility of Jews in U. S. politics can be adduced than the fact that there are today Jewish legislators in 35 state legislatures.

This phenomenon is largely a 20th century development, coinciding with (a) the migration of Jews to this country, (b) the entry of large numbers of Jews into the legal profession (often in the past associated with legislative careers) and (c) the increasing willingness of non-Jews to vote for Jewish candidates.

Today, almost three percent of the 7600 state legislators in the nation are Jewish, a figure roughly equivalent to the proportion of Jews in the country. And each election year seems to witness the addition of new solons of Jewish ancestry.

The rise in numbers of Jews in American state legislatures reflects the integration of American Jews into society, the tilt of American Jews toward involvement, the sweep of migratory trends in the post World

War II era, with Jews moving westward and southward, and the growing openness of American culture.

State Legislatures Without Jews

There are three types of legislatures insofar as the phenomenon of the Jewish solon is concerned: (1) the legislature that has no Jewish member; (2) the "break-through" legislature which has within it a lone legislator of Jewish origin; and (3) legislatures with 2 to 40 Jewish members.

Today there are 15 states which do not have a single Jewish legislator. These tend to be (a) in the northwestern corner of the nation to which relatively few Jews have migrated, (b) rural wheat-and-corn states, and (c) a swath of states in the south just adjacent to the southeastern seaboard states where Jews are now being elected.



Zero-Jewish legislatures are not to be viewed as anti-Jewish or anti-Israel. In fact, Israel has many friendly non-Jewish legislative leaders in these states who have traveled to the Middle East for on-site inspection of Israel's problems. Many are Christian fundamentalists with deep-seated emotional feelings toward the Galilee and Jerusalem; they do not want Moslems to control their holy places. Others simply admire the plucky Israelites for establishing a democratic toe-hold in the Middle East. And in these states there are often some Jewish activists in political campaigns who have gained the respect of the non-Jewish legislative leaders. In the 1980's, New Hampshire, Washington, and one of the

southern states are likely candidates to move from the "zero category to the "breakthrough" rank.

The Break-Through States

Nine states and one territory have already moved into a developmental phase in American politics by electing a single Jewish solon. The break-throughs are due to a variety of reasons. In some states they reflect the beginnings of immigration. This is the case, for example, in Virginia where numerous Jews working for the National government now reside, or in Arizona, where substantial number of Jewish sun worshippers have settled. Elsewhere the election of a Jewish legislator represents the recognition by a non-Jewish constituency of extraordinary individual ability. Some might call this political accident. For others, it is the reaffirmation of the American political ethic.

**Table II
Legislatures Having One Jewish Legislator**

South	Middle West	West
Arkansas	North Dakota	Utah
Virginia	Nebraska	New Mexico
Virgin Islands		Arizona
Delaware		Alaska

Electing one Jewish legislator is like planting a seed. Once having passed the test of his peers ("He's a regular guy") or the test of a constituency ("He gets things done for us") the sole Jewish lawmaker is likely by his example to break down political barriers for other Jewish candidates for legislative office.

Legislatures with Jewish Legislators

Of the 208 Jewish state legislators in the United States, 118 are concentrated on the northeastern seaboard, principally in New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Maine. That 59 per cent of all Jewish solons in our country come from these states reflects not only the migratory phenomenon of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but also the openness of the political systems in these states. It is in these states that sons of immigrants have traditionally, whether Jew, Irish, Italian

or German worked their way upward in the establishment through the political route. And it is here that the bulk of American Jews still live today.

Table III
States Having More Than One Jewish Legislator

(1977) (1980)

2-5	6-10	11-20	21-40
Alabama	Rhode Island	Connecticut	Maryland
Colorado	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania	New York
Georgia	New Jersey	Illinois	
Hawaii	So. Carolina	California	
Maine		Florida	
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Missouri			
Nevada			
Oregon			
Vermont			
Wisconsin			
No. Carolina			
Texas			
Ohio			



As shown in Table IV, New York, Maryland, Florida, California and Pennsylvania rank as the top five states for having the most Jewish legislators. However, percentage wise, comparing the number of Jewish solons to the total lawmakers in each state, New Jersey bumps Pennsylvania out of the top five (9.1% to 4%), and elbows ahead of California (9%) and Florida (8.1%), while New York and Maryland lead the pack 14.7% and 11.3%.

Table IV
Legislatures with Most Jewish Legislators

States	No. of Jewish Legislators
New York	31
Maryland	22
Florida	13
California	11
Pennsylvania	11

The spread of Jewish families southward during the post World War II era led to a number of Jews being elected to the Florida legislature. There are 30 Jewish state legislators in the south, 13 of whom are in Florida. The six in the South Carolina legislature may be due to

the early settlement of Jews there in the 19th century who gained the respect of the non-Jewish majority. The large number of Jewish legislators in Maryland, more than those in Pennsylvania or New Jersey, for example, is a consequence of the concentration of large numbers of Jews in Baltimore over a period of nearly 50 years.

The growing penetration of Jews into western legislatures, indicated by 12 in the California House and Senate and three in Oregon, seems to be an effect of the large number of Jews who have settled in the west in the post World War II period.

While in the 1980's there is little likelihood of any substantial increase of Jews in legislatures already having 11-40 such solons, with the possible exception of Florida, the largest growth is likely to come in the states in the 2-10 Jewish lawmaker category.

Jewish legislators coming into the legislature appear to be arriving at a younger age than ever before. Senator Donald Halperin of Queens, N. Y. was elected while still in law school. Assemblyman Alan Hevesi of Queens, a political science professor, also was elected almost immediately after his internship with the New York State Senate. Representative Steven Sklar of Maryland also is typical of the new breed of young Jewish solons.

The "Jewish mother" is now at the State Capitol. Seventeen states have Jewish women in their legislatures. This is largely a recent development arising from the women's liberation movement, the increased political viability of women as candidates, and general upward trend in education of women. The young Jewish female activist on the campus in the 1960's is likely to be in the legislature of the 1970's. Assemblywoman Elaine Bloom of Miami is known statewide for her pro-Israel commitment. Mrs. Linda Winikow of suburban Rockland County, New York, and Ms. Karen Burstein of Queens-Nassau, N. Y. are both Jewish and Senators. The former is a middle-aged activist housewife, and the latter a younger lawyer, both Democrats, but their votes are not always identical, reflecting different constituencies. Ms. Burstein has just been nominated for Public Service Commissioner. There is a likelihood that an increasing number of Jewish women lawyers or non-lawyers, who might in the past have found themselves in civic groups

(e.g., The League of Women Voters) will enter legislative activities. In virtually every legislature to which they have been elected, these women are standouts as activists, articulate, concerned, competitive, energetic, bright, aggressive and fair. Indeed, they share these characteristics, one might add, with the increasing number of non-Jewish women now making lawmaking a career. The prejudices of the male lawmakers, often a most chauvinistic, macho-oriented group, are breaking down somewhat under the influence of these women.

The Jewish Legislators in American Politics

Definitive study of the Jewish state legislator remains to be done. No roll-call analysis has been done to determine whether Jewish legislators in varying state cultures vote differently on what kind of issues than their non-Jewish brethren. No studies of effectiveness of Jewish solons have been undertaken. No history of the Jewish legislator in American politics has been written. Nor have scholars produced any behavioral studies of the Jewish solon in the political milieu.

In New York, Jewish legislators were coming to Albany in the latter part of the 19th century. Charles Adler came in 1895. Louis Davidson was elected a year later. Then, at the turn of the century, there was an upsurge of Jewish legislators. Isadore Cohn came in 1900 and again in 1903. Emanuel Cahn served from 1904-06. Tammany Hall began to reward Jews for their political service by sending them to the Legislature, and also used Jews to balance tickets in poly-ethnic districts. As early as 1913 Aaron J. Levy was elected House Majority Leader, marking probably the first time a Jew was elected a leader in the New York Legislature, or for that matter, anywhere in the nation. Maurice Bloch became Minority Leader in 1924-1929, followed by Irwin Steingut in 1935, the first Jew in America to be elected Speaker. His son, Stanley, is now Speaker of the New York Assembly, indicating Jews are following a pattern being developed among non-Jews, of sons following their father's political footsteps. Many Jewish legislators served in "safe" Jewish districts for long terms. Leonard Farbstein came into the Assembly in the depression of 1933 and remained until 1956, when he was elected to

Congress.

One dramatic episode involving Jewish legislators stemmed from Bolshevik hysteria that swept the nation in the World War I period. Benjamin Citlow and other Socialists who were Jewish and came to the New York Assembly from the East Side where Eastern European idealism developed into socialism among many Jews of that period, were evicted from that body.

Despite the predominance of New York Jews on the legislative scene in America, history may indicate that Jews first entered legislatures in the South during or soon after the Civil War.

Because assembly districts are usually smaller in area and in population than Senate districts, Jews came first into the lower houses. Jews congregated in ghettos gave Jewish aspirants for elective office leverage in gaining access to Assemblies. Now that Jews have moved to the suburbs in many states, various suburban districts offer fertile field for Jewish Assembly aspirants. Jews can win victories also in districts where, although they may not constitute a majority of voters, they are the deciding "swing" vote. The upper house district in America poses a more difficult problem, since they generally cover a more heterogeneous population, include far more voters, and except in the large metropolitan cities often embrace cities, towns and villages.

Nonetheless, Jews are being elected to the upper house and some Jewish legislators have achieved the highest posts available in them. Senator Matthew Feldman of New Jersey is Senate President Pro Tem, Senator Manfred Ohrenstein is Minority Leader of the New York State, David Shapiro is Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate.

Elsewhere, as well, Jews are rising to leadership. Kenneth Rothman is Speaker of Missouri, Joe Lieberman is Connecticut's Majority Floor Leader. A Jew is Chairman of Maryland's powerful Ways and Means Committee.

Thus, we find America has indeed opened its legislative doors to Jews. But usually this occurs in very special circumstances:

1. Where a Jew has served his party regardless of the ethnic or religious composition of the district.

2. Where a district is predominantly Jewish.
3. Where a district is not predominantly Jewish but is significantly weighted with Jews who are vocal, constitute a swing vote, contribute significantly to campaigns, or participate beyond normal percentages in primaries.
4. Where Jews are traditionally assigned certain job roles or "slots" (i.e., district attorneys, corporation counsels, legislators.)

Nonetheless, a Jew occasionally will be able to secure nomination and election from a virtually 100 per cent Christian community. What explains this? Meritocracy in the Wasp value system? Perhaps. The Jews' hard work, integrity, and imagination that attract prized media support? Perhaps. Just as likely, however, his socialization patterns may be so non-Jewish in nature, and his business or professional interrelationships so excellent that his party is hardly conscious of his Jewishness (which he is careful not to wear on his lapel like a mezuzah on a door jamb or a Star of David on his ring.) His upbringing may have been quite non-Jewish, his youthful companions non-Jewish; he is simply not perceived as a Jew.

Ben Feinberg, with an obviously Jewish name, was elected to the New York Senate from a lily-white non-Jewish district in the North Country, and rose to become Majority Leader by vote of his overwhelmingly non-Jewish Republican peers, a double phenomenon as startling as an upside down rainbow! But Ben was such a great orator and, in the cold-war McCarthy era, such an anti-communist patriot spell-binder, his conservative constituency looked upon him as a political saviour.

The historic one-man, one-vote court decision has had a significant impact on Jews in legislatures. Generally, it has switched power from declining urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas to fast growing suburban areas. As Jews left the cities along with their middle income non-Jewish friends, they achieved "swing" power in mixed districts or congregated in Jewish suburban enclaves where their numbers gave them political muscle. Meanwhile, the decline in "red-necks" in the legislatures, the influx of a young,

new breed of better educated legislator, provided more openness and acceptance of the Jewish solon among his peers when he arrived in the state capitol.

The lone Jew in a legislature confronts the historic plight of the Jews who dared to be first. He confronts the challenge of his Jewishness from the moment he throws his hat in the ring. Should he duck the issue of his Jewishness? How should he respond to whispering campaigns and underground coalitions of anti-semites? Once elected, do his colleagues perceive him as Democrat or Republican or simply as Jew? He threads his way cautiously. Should he sponsor legislation that will aid the few Jews in his state? While Jewish legislators in houses that have numerous Jewish colleagues face the same question, the confrontation is of different intensity and texture. The lone Jew more than his colleagues often faces the struggle between his conscience as a Jew in the Burkeian sense and his responsibility to represent the views of his district. No matter how he may vote in the show-down, on issues such as abortion, state-aid to parochial schools, integration, Sunday closing laws and other super-emotional issues with religious connotations, the lone Jewish solon is not likely to choose to be "up front."

Even in legislatures with 20-40 Jews, the struggle within the Jewish legislator is poignant. One of the most dramatic moments of legislative history came a few years ago when a quiet Jewish New York Assemblyman from a non-Jewish upstate district rose to break a tie vote on a pro-abortion bill. He revealed that his wife and children had told him they would think less of him if he voted "No" and his party chairman back home had told him the party would disavow and lick him if he voted "Aye." "I vote 'Aye' " he cried out, and sat down weeping. The next time he attempted to run for re-election, his own party beat him. There are elements here that need sorting out. Would his party have been able to beat him if he were not Jewish? Hopefully, studies by social scientists will provide answers to such questions.

The caucus is where a Jewish legislator often finds his severest test. Here, where no reporters normally intrude, members let down their hair, speak their minds

without fear, fly at each other's throats in a way not seen on the floor. It is here that the anti-semitic remark and the vicious anti-semitic prejudice explodes often unintentionally. Here is where Jews are tested in an arena often out of sight of fellow Jews. Here the lone Jew tests himself. Shall he let the smear pass or wait for a more propitious moment? Should he demand an apology? Is this anti-semitic a powerful threat or a pompous paper-weight? Can he become a useful ally on many worthwhile issues in the future? He may feel like David facing Goliath. There are few Jewish legislators who are so driven by ambition that, when confronted with a show-down issue, they will run and hide. For each knows he represents not only his constituency, but his heritage.

The split of Jewish legislators between the two major parties has not been documented, and while there are many prominent Jewish Republican legislators, such as Senators Roy Goodman of New York, Bernard Gordon of Westchester County, N. Y. and David Shapiro of Illinois, the predominant number will undoubtedly be found to be Democrats. This reflects not just early Tammany success in enrolling the Jewish immigrant, but also the prevailing liberalism deeply rooted in 19th Century Eastern European Jewish thought.

Jewish legislators have not been immune from scandal. Headlines have roared about conflict of interest or other misconduct in various states, sending tremors throughout the Jewish community which often feels that a transgression by one visible Jew becomes transmitted into an attack on all Jews by the non-Jewish population. Jewish legislators, however, are no more immune than their Christian colleagues to the lure of power and money, and generally, most observers would agree, have behaved at least as well as their peers.

The recently created National Association of Jewish Legislators is a significant milestone in the march of Jewish legislators to influence in American life. Not a caucus, but an organization designed to promote research and education on legislation of Jewish interest, NAJL reflects the growing number of Jews entering legislative life. Nearly 60 per cent of all Jewish state legislators in

the United States joined the new organization within weeks of its creation in 1977. Many of them expressed a yearning to exchange experiences with Jewish colleagues from other states, to join together to help wherever possible Israel's cause in their own lawmaking agency, and to share research data on legislative matters of concern to Jews.

The legislature is a unique educational instrument. It is here that legislators from diverse backgrounds, people who have never had contact with Jews learn to work with them in caucus, in party apparatus and on the floor, and to socialize with them out of the Chamber. Soon the non-Jewish legislator learns that the Jewish Senator and Assemblyman is much like any lawmaker. He sows that seed back home, in the parlors, in the Capitol agencies. The Jew who knows how to survive through long experience in overcoming odds also learns here how to adapt without submerging in this setting.

Increasingly, young Jewish state legislators after learning the legislative ropes at the State House are moving onward to Congress. Today 40% of all Congressmen have emerged from the legislatures. This trend is likely to continue.

No research is available on whether non-Jewish constituencies expect greater virtue, greater accomplishment from the Jews they send to the Capitols than from non-Jews. However, forty years observation of Jewish and non-Jewish legislators in Capitols across the country indicate that the Sons of Moses, the greatest of Law-givers, have been a credit to their people. They stand out in their respective legislatures as energetic, sensitive individuals alert to needs of people, and as fair-minded solons. In 35 states the Jew is no novelty as legislator. Some day, history will document the enormous contribution Jewish state legislators have made in fiscal reform, court reform, welfare legislation and health legislation.

The Jewish community has not yet awakened fully to the great force these Jews who are elected by their neighbors can be in combatting anti-semitism, in strengthening Jewish causes, and in promoting social progress. However, as we plunge into the 1980's, it is likely that the Jewish legislator will be more numerous, more visible and more influential than ever before in American history.

April 21, 1980

Mr. Albert J. Abrams
Executive Director
National Association of Jewish Legislators
45 Thorndale Road
Slingerlands, New York 12159

Dear Mr. Abrams,

Thank you very much for your warm and thoughtful invitation to speak at the annual meeting of the National Association of Jewish Legislators on July 8th.

I am happy to accept your invitation and look forward to being with you at that time.

My preference would be to speak somewhere between 10 and 11 a.m.

It would help me if you would send me any background literature about your association so that I might become better acquainted with its purpose and its membership.

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosure

bc: Bert Gold
Robert Jacobs
Haskell Lazere

NCSL TRIP TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

October 5-12, 1980

APPLICATION FORM

Please return to: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
Attention: Lonnie Kay Isaak
1125 Seventeenth Street - 15th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80202

I am enclosing a deposit/full payment of \$ _____ (minimum \$50 per person) for the NCSL trip to the Republic of China (Taiwan). Your check should be made payable to the National Conference of State Legislatures and sent to the above address.

NAME _____

PLUS: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code) _____

TELEPHONE: _____
(Capitol) _____ (Business) _____ (Home) _____

PASSPORT NO. _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____

PROFESSION: _____

LEGISLATIVE TITLE: _____

GOVERNMENTAL AREAS OF INTEREST: _____

Optional Travel Plans: (please check only if you want an itinerary developed for additional travel at an additional cost):

- () Hong Kong (+\$130; total = \$1,050) Stopovers in any or all of the following may be included at no additional cost: () Manila, () Korea, () Taipei, () Tokyo, () Honolulu
- () Singapore (+\$310; total = \$1,230) Stopovers in any or all of the following may be included at no additional cost: () Kuala Lumpur, () Bangkok, () Hong Kong, () Taipei, () Tokyo, () Honolulu

VISITS THE

REPUBLIC of CHINA (TAIWAN)

OCTOBER 5-12, 1980

The Republic of China (Taiwan) has invited the National Conference of State Legislatures to sponsor a one-week visit to Taiwan for a 40-member delegation of state legislators, legislative staff and their spouses.

ITINERARY AND PROGRAM

The capitol city of Taipei will be the focal point as the delegation meets with various government officials representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development and/or the Taipei City Council. Taipei offers interesting cultural attractions as well, such as the National Palace Museum and its countless treasures. A highlight of the week's visit will be the Double Ten Celebration on October 10, the national holiday, and the delegation, along with other foreign dignitaries, will observe the spectacular Double Ten Parade.

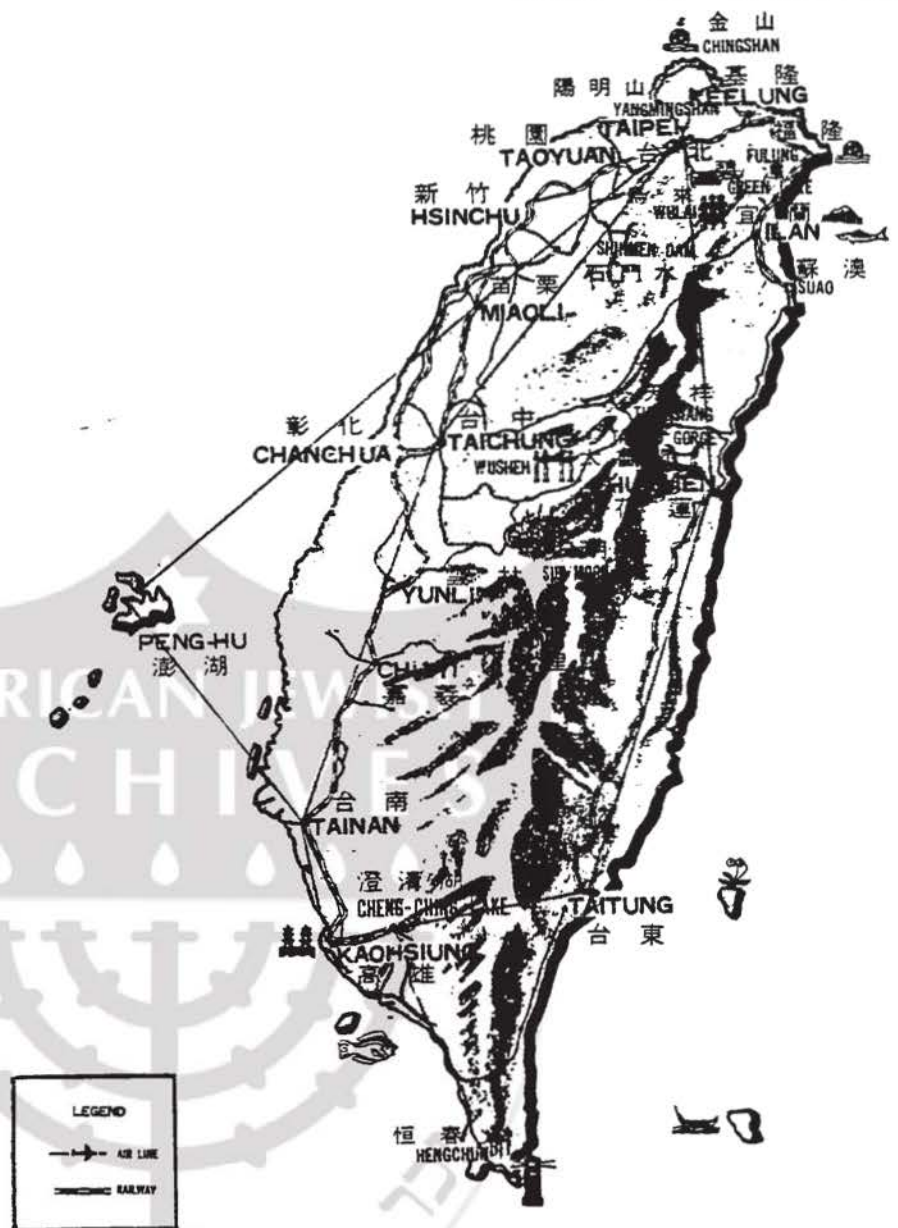
The week will be fully packed with various tours of health and educational facilities and the country's impressive industrial enterprises, such as the China Shipbuilding Corporation in Kaohsiung and the Taichung Harbor. The delegation will have the opportunity to explore and discuss with officials on site Taiwan's current priorities and plans for its future. The visit will include a touch of history as well as opportunities to view some of Taiwan's striking natural scenery.

COSTS

The cost per person round-trip from San Francisco will be \$920 (return flight stop-overs in Honolulu and/or Tokyo can be arranged for no additional cost). For an additional fare, arrangements can be made on an individual basis for side trips in the Far East following the official visit to the Republic of China.

RESERVATIONS

The attached form, along with a \$50 deposit per person, may be used to make a reservation to participate in the trip. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for reservations is September 1, 1980. Cancellations are subject to a \$25 per person cancellation fee. For further information, please call Lonnie Kay Isaak at (303) 623-6600.





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NCSL ENERGY PROGRAM

Public officials across the country are confronting increasingly difficult and complex energy issues. Trying to satisfy energy demand with energy supplies--while maintaining equity--has become a major effort for the fifty state legislatures.

To assist state legislatures in meeting this challenge the National Conference of State Legislatures has established a comprehensive Energy Program. The Program provides policy research, direct technical assistance and information services for legislators and their staffs. These services are to meet NCSL's three basic objectives: to improve the quality and effectiveness of the state legislatures; to ensure the state a strong voice in the federal decision-making process; and to foster interstate communication and cooperation.

The Energy Program has a staff of twenty, with Dr. T. Dwight Connor serving as Director. Reflecting the dual needs of researching policy issues and assisting state legislators, the Program has an Assistant Director and Research Coordinator, Doug Sacarto; a State Assistance Coordinator, Ron Smith; and a staff of professionals trained in law, economics, planning government relations, public policy, physics and environmental science.

SERVICES

The Energy Program provides three basic services to state legislatures:

- General Information Services--These include regular Issue Briefs covering topical energy developments in the public and private sectors; an up-to-date compendium of state energy legislation; responses to spot research requests; and regional and national seminars on current energy concerns.
- Policy Research--In-depth policy reports are prepared on the technical, economic and institutional aspects of specific energy topics. Past reports include "Electricity Pricing and Demand" and "State Policies for Geothermal Development"; and guidebooks for conservation, oil shale, energy emergency preparedness, solar and small-scale hydropower are in preparation.
- Direct Technical Assistance--The Program supplies direct in-state assistance tailored to the needs of the particular legislature. This assistance may precede policy review, complement state staff activities or aid in legislative debate. The most comprehensive state assistance is offered through Special Projects; currently these include conservation, small-scale hydropower and geothermal energy. The Energy Program will provide technical assistance to at least thirty-seven states in 1980.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS

The State-Federal Assembly (SFA) is NCSL's mechanism for formulating state-federal policy resolutions. The SFA considers Energy and General Revenue Sharing to be the two main priorities facing the states in 1980. The SFA's Energy Committee is chaired by Kansas State Senator Paul Hess, who was appointed by President Carter to the State Planning Council, established to work with the Executive branch and Congress on nuclear waste management. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss specific policy recommendations, which when adopted by the SFA form the basis for the activities of NCSL's office in Washington, D.C. The principal energy-related activity is lobbying Congress, the White House and the U.S. Department of Energy on behalf of the states. Major concerns of the Committee include the implementation of Building Energy Performance Standards, the role of the Energy Mobilization Board, nuclear safety and waste disposal, the Energy Management and Partnership Act, energy impact assistance and emergency energy conservation.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The primary channel for Energy Program activities is the special projects it conducts. Projects are designed to be topical, important and enhance interstate cooperation. Five projects, listed below, currently are underway; recently completed was a project on states' roles in the implementation of the National Energy Act. New projects are being considered regarding nuclear waste management, utility regulation and solar and wind energy policy.

1. Geothermal Policy Project--To aid state legislatures review geothermal policy and assist development, the Project prepares technical assistance documents, analyzes specific areas of concern, and offers legislative alternatives. This year the Project will expand its efforts to include issues associated with groundwater heat pumps. The Project works with states upon request of their legislature and expects to assist fifteen states in the upcoming year. Project Manager: Ken Wonstolen.

2. Small-Scale Hydroelectric Project--Legal, institutional and economic obstacles hinder the utilization of small-scale hydropower. In 1980 the Project will be assisting twelve states investigate their hydroelectric potential, review existing state statutes and regulations, and develop new legislation. Project Manager: Ken Wonstolen.

3. Energy Conservation Project--The national mandate for energy conservation requires new initiatives to be taken by states. In furthering this end the Project is identifying conservation techniques and will assist state legislators in eleven states in their review of existing policy and in framing needed legislation. Project Manager: Gene Barfield.

4. Energy Insights Project--The Project assists legislatures by preparing educational materials and policy guidebooks on energy emergency preparedness and small-scale renewables. The Project is currently working with three states in the review of policy which impedes the development of comprehensive energy emergency planning. Project Manager: Russell Frum.

5. Region VIII Legislators' Energy Project--The Project will provide Region VIII legislators with accurate, up-to-date information on energy topics important to the region's six states, including oil shale, the nuclear fuel cycle, coal policy, conservation and energy emergencies. By facilitating contact among legislators and with technical experts, the Project can lay the groundwork for effective policy formation. Project Manager: George Weber.