

C-7388 Transcription

Friedman, Herbert A. and Golda Meir. [Jerusalem, Israel].

2 September 1970.

M1:

...and God never told the government what to do.

M2:

I'm sitting at the table with Golda Meir and Herb Friedman. The meeting is about to start. You will hear various comments from her and people that are guests here this evening from all over the country.

Herbert A. Friedman:

[unclear] the enormity of the challenge that you find here...and this is the climax of your visit. You were invited here by the Prime Minister. The things that you saw, the people you listened to, were arranged for through the...through her office, and now the final moment you've come here to partake of her hospitality and her presence. And it isn't just a ceremonial ending where she sends you away with a thank you for having come and a wish for a good voyage back home. This is a substantive

evening, where hopefully all the things that you've seen and heard up to now will be tied together in your minds, impressions coalesced, um, opinions formed, and, uh, a challenge to some action will be left with you, uh, as the final thought and final word. The Prime Minister has invited, and you are enjoying the presence at your tables of various emmbers of this governemtn in various other positions. I'm not sure that I have the whole list. I went around to try to say hello to everyone. If I missed anyone, please forgive me, but there is here the deputy prime minister and the minister of education, uh, Mr. Yigal Allon, who is sitting right over there [applause]. He's busy and tired because school opened yesterday and, uh, you know what that means [coughs]. There are more, there are more children who went to school yesterday than there were citizens of this whole country when it was established in nineteen hundred and forty-eight [applause]. There's a new minister of interior in the government, Dr. Yosef Burg, who has the honor of being the oldest member of the government, in many capacities [laughter, applause]. Right, not the oldest, only the senior. [laughter]. Gotta be careful with your words. There is the justice of the supreme court Mr. Justice Agranat, who is sitting here [applause], who some have you discovered has having a

relationship to [unclear], which always seems so strange to people but not to you familiar with [unclear]. Uh, there is the secretary to the cabinet, uh, I think that's it, or the secretary to the government, I'm not sure, Mr. Michael Anon [?], who [applause] many of you know when he was council chair in New York. There is the, the [unclear] officers represented here tonight, although you met the foreign minister last night, but Mr. [unclear] is sitting back in the corner there [applause]. The prime minister has an advisor - she has many, many advisors - but one of her advisors, uh, is Mr. [name] and I saw him somewhere before, there [unclear]. I think he's called political advisor, but the title's not important. When you want to find her, you look for her. And they are...there's a gentleman I met just recently, when Mr. [name] was out of his office, a Mr. Mizrahi was in his office, and he is right here [applause]. And then there's one other, uh, mustachioed gentleman, old friend of many of us, Mr. Adi [Yatva] who used to be in the prime minister's office and is now, what, Adi? Tell me.

Adi Yatva:

Many things.

HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN:

Many things [laughter, applause]. Someday I think you'll be introduced as a leader of the Knesset [unclear]...Um, and if, I say, if I've forgotten anybody, please excuse me. Um...there's no need whatsoever to uh make any introductions. Ladies and gentleman, Prime Minister of the State of Israel.[applause]

Golda Meir:

Ladies and gentlemen, please don't take it just as a nicety when I say that I'm really very happy that you accepted my invitation and that you are here. Don't hold it against them if uh you were exploited in a terrible fashion in the last uh forty-eight hours, and I understand that you tried hard to break the ceasefire on the Canal [laughter]. Came back...[unclear] the report that I heard that the morale was very good, despite what happened to you. We're sorry but I hope you will forget about that. Uh, for Israelis to say that the [unclear] very critical moment in our lives, and [unclear] that we're facing a very serious situation. My God, how many times have you heard that? But, the interesting this, and the important thing is that every time you heard it it was right! And nobody ever exaggerated when we tried at one point during the 22 years, and many, many years

before, but as far as I, [unclear] nobody of you, I'm sure, has heard any [07:00] lectures, reports of the status of the state because you were too young [laughter]. ...grandfathers, not to you. And whenever we say that, it's true. And then every time we try to compare the difficulties of any given moment to the difficulties that we had long in the past, and they may be much greater and more serious and more dangerous than they were in the past, but then we never forget to add on difficulties and problems and danger we've always had. But, what is the ratio between the difficulties and our ability to meet them? What is the ratio between the greatness of the problems that we had to face in the past [08:00] and our ability to solve them?

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