



Rabbi Bekritsky Feted

Prominent at the testimonial dinner last night at Shaarey Tphiloh synagogue for Rabbi Morris Bekritsky, fourth from right, were left to right, Rabbi David Berent, Lewiston, the Rev. Howard O. Hough, Portland, Dr. Perley J. Lessard, Portland, Barnett I.

Shur, Portland, the Most Rev. Daniel J. Feeney, bishop of Portland, Rabbi Bekritsky, Rabbi Seymour Gewirtz, Waterbury, Conn., Rabbi Norman Zdanowitz, Auburn, and the Rev. Wilbur E. Hogg, Falmouth Foreside. (By Staff Photographer Johnson)

500 Admirers Brave Storm

Rabbi Bekritsky Honored At Dinner

Despite the northeast storm that blanketed most of the state last night more than 500 gathered at Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue to honor Portland's Rabbi Morris Bekritsky at a testimonial dinner.

Representatives from local and state political, religious and educational circles congratulated the rabbi on his tenth anniversary as head of the Greater Portland orthodox community. He was congratulated, too, on his efforts which led to construction of the new suburban Hebrew Day School and synagogue on Noyes street, where last night's dinner was held.

Rabbi Seymour Gewirtz, Waterbury, Conn., a longtime friend and former classmate of Rabbi Bekritsky described the testimonial to the Portland leader as a testimonial to the community itself in its recognition of his leadership and guidance.

THE MOST REV. DANIEL J. FEENEY, Bishop of Portland, praised the rabbi for his community consciousness and described him as a man who has risen far above so many others in his religious educational leadership.

Bishop Feeney praised members of the Portland Jewish

community for their recognition of their basic right to educate their children in keeping with their beliefs and ideals.

The Bishop said the building of the Hebrew school was reason enough in itself to honor the rabbi. The Jewish community must stand firm in defense of the right to educate the children in their own school and never fear the charges that are leveled at private education, he added.

Other speakers included the Rev. Howard O. Hough, pastor of the First Radio Church of America; the Rev. Wilbur E. Hogg Jr., pastor of St. Mary's Church, Falmouth Foreside, representing the Rt. Rev. Oliver L. Loring, Episcopal Bishop of Maine, and Rabbi David Berent, Lewiston, dean of the Maine Rabbinate.

HUNDREDS OF LETTERS and telegrams were received from those unable to attend, including well-wishes from Gov. Edmund S. Muskie, Sen. Frederick G. Payne, and numerous educational and religious leaders throughout the northeast.

In addition to the verbal tribute, the rabbi was presented a scroll signed by all the people of the Hebrew School and Day School and a check on behalf of the local Jewish

community in appreciation of his untiring efforts and devotion. Dr. Perley J. Lessard, Portland City Council chairman, presented Rabbi Bekritsky a city medallion.

Barnett I. Shur, Portland corporation counsel, was toastmaster. Bernard Zade and Dr. Daniel I. Kornetsky were co-chairmen of the dinner.

MEMBERS OF the rabbi's immediate family in attendance included his mother, Mrs. Sarah Bekritsky, his wife Dorothy and two children, Joy and Bruce, and two brothers and

their wives. Mr. and Mrs. Milton Bekritsky and Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Bekritsky.

Special arrangements chairmen were Arthur M. Waterman, Samuel J. Cohen, and David I. Rubenstein.

Mrs. Owen Mack was in charge of the dinner with Mrs. Maxwell L. Wiesenthal, chairman of the local education committee.

Bertram H. Silberman was program committee chairman.

The program included tableaux and special music by Cantor Samuel Zinsman and the Shaarey Tphiloh Choir.