

First Senatorial Prayer Meeting in Delaware

Neil Salonen
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Photo 1973 - location unknown

More than 144 legislators and state leaders attended Delaware's first Senatorial Prayer Luncheon on March 5, co-sponsored by the International Cultural Foundation and State Senators Holloway and Elliott. The program was initiated with the hope that all men and women in state government would take a day for prayer and meditation to revitalize the state and bring inspiration into the various areas of individual responsibility.

Featured speaker at the luncheon, which was held at the Gold Key Restaurant in Dover, Del., was Dr. Joseph Sheftick. His talk was entitled "Delaware's Role in America's Rebirth." The program also included prayer, recitation of psalms, and vocal entertainment. Banquet coordinators were Nanette Crist and Janet Cook, assisted by Janelynn Ockerman, Susan Bright, Donna McIntyre, Carol Van Eaton, Barbara Larson, Dr. Crist, Bill Baum, Richard Bennett, and Robert Brown.

Dr. Sheftick told the luncheon delegation that they are "Ambassadors of God" and explained the spiritual heritage of America and the moral responsibility of her leaders to encourage the people of America to create a God-centered society.

In 1776, he said, Americans accepted the challenge to separate the colonies from tyranny and led the way for America's birth. Now Americans must accept the challenge to separate from the tyranny of self-centeredness expressed in isolationism, immorality, corruption, apathy, and Godlessness, and bring rebirth to America in 1976, establishing a new covenant with God. In conclusion, Dr. Sheftick asked, "Who will accept this challenge and make the necessary sacrifice to turn this nation back to God, so that God will not have to cry out in anguish, 'America... America, why have you forsaken me?'"

After the luncheon, the state senate passed a resolution sponsored by Senator Isaacs congratulating Senators Holloway and Elliott, and Dr. Sheftick for his "eloquent and inspirational speech." Members of the House of Representatives have expressed a desire to have a similar event.

Members of the International Cultural Foundation are introducing a move to have a prayer room in Legislative Hall at the State Capitol in Dover.