CONFERENCE CANDID PHOTOS

photos by Vic Raphals

ROSENWALD CITED FOR COUNCIL SERVICE

Teaching of modern Hebrew "is not primarily an instrument of learning, but an instrument to bind the Jews of America to Israel," declared Lessing J. Rosenwald, chairman of the Board, at the Annual Conference.

"On countless occasions," said Mr. Rosenwald, "Israeli officials have urged that Hebrew be taught as one means of interesting American Jews in Israel, with the hope that eventually it will entice them to emigrate there."

Mr. Rosenwald recalled that during a "recent World Zionist Congress, when tremendous pressure was applied to induce American Jews to come to Israel, the president of Hadassah (Zionist women's organization), dissented on the basis that American Jews were not sufficiently prepared. The plea was for an interval of ten to fifteen years to educate the uninitiated. The teaching of Hebrew is part of this educational process," declared Mr. Rosenwald.

Mr. Rosenwald spoke during the annual dinner, after receiving a citation from the Council's leadership for his long-time service to the organization. The presentation was made by Alexander Hamburger, Baltimore, Md., nephew of Aaron Straus, one of the founders of the Council who died six weeks before at the age of 93. In accepting the honor, Mr. Rosenwald paid the Council's final tribute to Mr. Straus. The diners stood for a moment of silence, after hearing Mr. Rosenwald describe the late leader as "a giant in word and deed." Two things he guarded zealously, said the speaker, "his religious heritage and his American citizenship. He never accepted either with apathy. To him these two great gifts were to be cherished, nurtured and preserved."