utterly superfluous" such as work in education and stimulating immigration to Israel.

ORTHODOX JUDAISM DENIES ROLE FOR REFORM...

Reform Judaism continued to be maligned by members of Orthodox Judaism this past month. The Reform rabbinate is seeking to "infiltrate" into Israel, a letter writer told the editor of the *Jewish Post & Opinion* , in order to introduce the "abominable and sacrilegious" practice of mixed marriages between Israeli Jews and Arabs, and to bring the "flagrant violation of ritualistic requirements" in which converts accept Judaism without halachic (Orthodox) ritual. Such Reform rabbis must be "exposed and opposed most energetically for the sake of unity," said the correspondent.

In the *Jewish Chronicle* of London, Reform fared even worse. The Glasgow reporter, in an interview with the head of the London Bet Din (religious court), Dayan Berger, quoted Berger as saying that Reform is not an aspect of Judaism but a "breakaway religion." There is a misunderstanding about Reform, Berger said, because it tries to present itself as a legitimate branch of Judaism. Asked how he would regard a Reform 'get' (religious divorce decree), he answered "exactly the same as any 'get' administered by the Church of Scotland," that is, not at all, so that a woman who remarried after receiving one would have her children considered illegitimate. Asked if he would share a platform with a Reform minister, the Dayan said he would "if it were an inter-faith platform," since he had no personal animosity against Reform ministers. Only, he said, "we do not wish to mislead the public by helping them to present themselves as a legitimate dimension of Judaism."

...BUT REFORM HAS THE SAME ROLE AS EVER

The dim view of Reform Judaism presented in the London *Jewish Chronicle* by the head of the religious court (*see preceding story*) was balanced shortly after by the presentation of a letter from one of Britain's most distinguished rabbis,David Goldberg. Rabbi Goldberg, who is Minister of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and chairman of the Rabbinic Conference of Liberal and Progressive Rabbis, said that using the Orthodox criterion(that a Jew is one born of a Jewish mother or one who converts to Judaism by a halachic process which includes ritual immersion for a female and ritual circumcision for a male) cannot be justified biologically, eugenically, genetically or educationally, and can only be defended on the basis of tradition. There are two further considerations which cast doubt on the contemporary applicability of halachic criteria for deciding Jewish status, Goldberg wrote:

> The first is that since the development of Progressive Judaism in the last century, very many thousands of people in this country, America and elsewhere have converted to Judaism under the auspices of Reform and Liberal movements which place more emphasis on an intensive period of study than on ritual requirements such as tevila (immersion)...It is a fact of Jewish life that the vast majority of modern converts have been Progressive Jews.
>
> They have taken their place in the community, participated fully in its activities and concerns, brought up their children as Jews, and been accepted de facto by almost all branches of Judaism...Yet, halachically, and despite their loyalty to Judaism, these many thousands of people would not qualify as Jews...
>
> The second consideration is this. Being a Jew in a post-ghetto, open,tolerant society is the sum of many complex options. Religious belief, biological descent, national consciousness, cultural identification, ethnic affinity and self-perception are just some items to be ticked off on the checklist of anyone describing himself or herself as Jewish ...It is for all these reasons that Liberal Judaism in this country has long ruled that the Jewish status of the child of a mixed marriage depends upon education and upbringing...
>
> It is the wish of my colleagues of the Rabbinic Conference of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues that our policy on this issue should be better known by the Jewish community at large... Our attitude is to do everything possible to make Judaism inclusive not exclusive, to leave a way back for the children even when regrettably we may have lost the parents [through their misapprehension that no branch of Judaism would welcome or recognize their mixed-marriage children].

RUMANIAN CHIEF RABBI ROSEN ASKS U.S. TO GRANT MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS

Moses Rosen, who has been Chief Rabbi of Rumania for 34 years and is president of the Federation of Jewish Communities there, has urged that most-favored-nation status be granted to his country despite the testimony heard by Congress that Rumania's emigration policies would not conform to Jackson-Vanik Amendment requirements.

Stating in a New York *Times* story that there are "those who seek to make Jews the scapegoat in their attempts to block [extending most-favored-nation status],"Rosen noted that more than 93 percent of the Jewish population has "quietly and peacefully" been given the opportunity to emigrate to Israel, that there are at present 120 synagogues in Rumania, and that the Jewish community is given full opportunity for cultural and religious expression.

The "lives, institutions and free emigration of Rumanian Jews should not be drawn into an issue" which they have no responsibility for nor interest in, Rosen specified.

MIAMI FEDERATION FUNDS: OVER HALF GO TO ISRAEL, FUND RAISING

In the annual report of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, income is totalled at nearly $22 million raised through the Combined Jewish Appeal-Israel Emergency Fund, the non-sectarian United Way, and a Project Renewal campaign for the city of Or Akiva in Israel.

A breakdown lists over $5.7 million spent on fund raising, collections and administration; $5.3 million for local agencies and services; $276 thousand to non-local agencies such as American Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith; approximately $800 thousand for the Project Renewal city in Israel; and the remaining $9.5 million allocated to UJA-Israel Emergency Fund, through which Israel's programs are supported.