

June 10, 1975

HEARD AT AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

1. "Bad News -- Disguised" -- A committee was appointed to investigate the educational system in a certain town. They did their work, and came up with a report: Everything is good -- the teachers are good pedagogues, the curriculum is excellent, etc. Only two things are lacking: the candle and honey.

No one knew what it meant, except for one wise man:

אין קאנצלען און און

2. "Jewish Survival; longevity" An old Jew comes into an insurance company for a life insurance policy. He is told that it is impossible because he is too old. "How old are you?" He answers: 101. "Why, that is impossible, we never give insurance to people of that advanced age." "But you gave my father an insurance policy just last week!" "Really? And how old is he?" The answer: 142. The agent went and checked his files, and discovered that that was indeed correct. He told him, "All right, we can do so, but you've got to come for a physical next Tuesday." The old man replies: Sorry, I can't make it. "Why not?" "Because my grandfather is getting married on that day." "How old is he?" The answer: 173. "And he really wants to get married at that age?" The answer: not really, but his parents are pressuring him...

OLD AGE; LONGEVITY

3. An old lady who had lived in Western Canada for over fifty four years but never learned English became ill, and asked her daughter to take her to the doctor. She took her to the Manitoba Clinic, which is almost totally devoid of Jews, except for a token doctor or two. As her luck would have it, she was assigned to a non-Jewish doctor who was anti-Semitic. "How old are you?" he asked the old lady. The daughter translated into Yiddish. The answer came: אין אונזערע יארן איז מיר שוין 54 יאר. The daughter to the doctor: Mother is shy about giving such information. The doctor keeps on pressing: I've got to have her age. The old lady says the same thing, and the daughter says: Mother is quite adamant about refusing to divulge such personal information. The doctor becomes irate, and insists. The old lady is stubborn. The daughter: Mother feels that it is a traumatic experience for her to have to divulge this information. The doctor becomes explosively angry and threatens to throw her out, he can't fool around any longer. When the daughter tells it to the mother, she replies: אין אונזערע יארן איז מיר שוין 54 יאר!

4. State of Israel -- Rabbi Maimon used to say: For 2000 years Jews prayed for a Jewish state, and it had to happen to me!