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Special to The New York Times.

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Neuberger Asserts Israel's Desert Can Become Farm Lands Like Our West

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 11—Senator Richard L. Neuberger urged American Jewry tonight to help in the development of the Negev. This is Israel's southern desert that borders on Egypt and the Red Sea.

The Oregon Democrat chided "voices of doubt and confusion." He declared that more and more of Israel's wastelands could be turned into rolling farmlands.

A frequent speaker on conservation, Mr. Neuberger addressed the Land for Security Assembly of the Jewish National Fund of America. The Fund, which opened the meeting yesterday, acquires land in Israel, reclaims the soil, and generally prepares it for settlement. It now holds in trust in Israel about 1,000,000 acres.

Attending the meeting are more than 500 representatives of communities throughout the United States and of all the Zionist groups in the country.

"Individual citizens should make the same investment in Israel today that our Government ventured a century ago in the development of the American West," the Senator declared.

"Without such investment, our West would never have been settled or developed," he continued. "The Government undertook the Lewis and Clark Expedition, it sent cavalry troops, it set aside forest reserves, it built reclamation projects and it advanced vast land grants to the railroad companies.

"Today, Israel requires the same support and backing from us as individuals."

Senator Neuberger told the delegates that Israel relied upon the vision and unselfishness of backers all over the world in her efforts to become economically self-supporting.

"It takes men of faith and vision to rise above such false prophecies, whether they concern Israel or the vast wide open spaces of the American West," he said.

Itzhak Ben Zvi, President of Israel, sent a message to the conference. He declared that the Jewish National Fund, through its land reclamation projects, "strengthens our economic independence, helps to solidify our position and fortifies our security."

At this morning's session, Albert Shiff of New York, fund treasurer, reported gross income of $3,159,280 in 1954, and total expenses of $349,157. Since the fund was founded in 1901, it has raised more than $200,000,000.

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