

"Free speech ends where neighbour's begin"

"My freedom of speech ends where the rights and freedoms of my neighbour begin," declared Rabbi Dr. H. Sanger on Friday night.

Addressing a congregation of several hundreds at Temple Beth Israel, Rabbi Sanger said that "democracy grants the right of free speech, but if this privilege is used to bring down democracy and freedom itself, the limits of free speech have been reached."

He was commenting on incidents resulting from the recent activities of Sir Oswald Mosley's Union Movement and other neo-Nazi groups in England.

"The simple Gloucestershire folk who chased Rockwell and his followers out of their districts and the plain Cockneys who wouldn't allow Mosley to speak knew this," he said.

"They took action because they disagreed with the advice of the editor of a London newspaper — 'Allow him to drown in his own paranoia.' The villagers and the Cockneys remembered another paranoic at whose command bombers flew night after night over England, devastating London and one English city after another.

"They remembered, too, that the paranoic Hitler first tried to drown the world in blood and that it cost the world millions of lives to free itself from this scourge.

"The Jews remembered Ben Gurion's words at the time of the Eichmann trial: 'I believe that through this trial all thinking people will come to realise that in our day anti-Semitism can lead to the gas chamber and the soap factory and that they

can lead to the gas chamber and the soap factory and that they will do what they can about it, morally.'

Church Visitors

"It was moral condemnation that made the villagers and the Cockneys act, the realisation that the price of hatred is too high in our world today."

Among the Temple congregation who listened to Rabbi Sanger were visitors from Wesley Church and from another Methodist church in Moorabbin.

The rabbi told them he believed "that if Jews and Christians had done in the 1920's and the 1930's in Europe what we are doing this evening — if they had visited one another in their synagogues and churches

—they would have known, they would have understood and respected each other. A disastrous tragedy like that of the 1940's might never have come upon the world."

Perhaps the King of Denmark knew this when he visited the synagogue in Copenhagen

on the Jewish High Holydays

on the Jewish High Holydays at the time when his country was occupied by the Nazis. Inspired by their King's example, the citizens of Denmark helped their Jewish neighbours to escape to Sweden and thus saved many from death, Rabbi Sanger added.