

Headliners



Paul Hosefros/The New York Times

A Prize First

Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits has a fresh way of looking at old ideas, in the view of the people who award the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. Rabbi Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi of Britain, last week became the first Jew to be awarded the prize, which was created in 1972 by John M. Templeton, an American financier. The prize carries a cash award, \$820,000 this year, that is deliberately kept larger than the Nobel Prizes because Mr. Templeton considered religion more important than the various disciplines recognized by the Nobels. Rabbi Jakobovits, who became a member of the House of



Camera Press

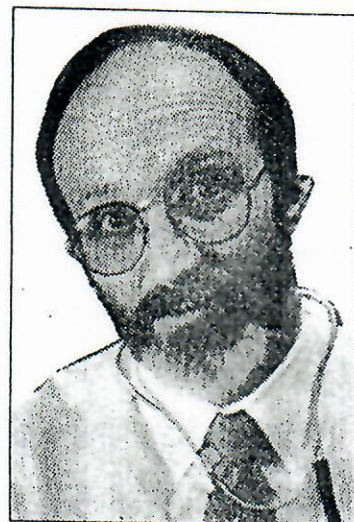
Lords in 1988 when he was named a life peer, was cited for his "enlightened approach to interfaith relations and his originality in interpreting the traditional values of Judaism." Describing his approach to his faith, the rabbi said, "Being progressive in religion means a broadening in our vision, but not necessarily giving up past insights."

Pro Whose Bono?

Even for a Park Avenue law firm, Myerson & Kuhn seemed to be charging a bit much — millions too much. Clients complained to Federal authorities, an investigation was launched and last week Harvey Myerson was indicted on charges of swindling his clients and partners out of \$3.5 million in two years. The indictment said that Mr. Myerson, who was a law partner of Bowie Kuhn, the former baseball commissioner, used the money for a wide array of personal expenditures, including luxury gifts for friends — like an \$86,000 diamond ring for a woman — and chartered jets and expensive hotel rooms for friends and family members. Investigators charged that Mr. Myerson stole most of the money — \$2.5 million — from six corporate clients by billing them for work that was never done. Myerson & Kuhn went bankrupt in December 1989, two years after it was founded. Mr. Myerson denied any wrongdoing and said he would represent himself and "erase the cloud that has been placed over me."



Neal Boenzi/The New York Times



Associated Press

An Ethical Death?

Are there circumstances under which it is ethical and moral for a doctor to help a terminally ill patient reach the end sooner? Dr. Timothy E. Quill seems to have provided, by his own example, the most thorough answer to date. In an article published last week in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Quill described how and why he helped a longtime patient die. The patient, a 45-year-old woman identified only as Diane, had acute leukemia and stood a 25 percent chance of survival if she opted for a grueling regimen of the chemotherapy and other treatment. Diane said she would rather die. When she later asked him for barbiturates to help her sleep, Dr. Quill said he knew she had decided to end her life. He prescribed the pills and told her how many would kill her. Authorities in Monroe County, N.Y., where Diane died, say they are investigating the incident. But a medical ethicist, Dr. Ronald E. Cranford said, "This is a very important case and people will have trouble criticizing the procedure."

Bush Backer

Visiting Washington last week to collect a Freedom Medal from George Bush, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher displayed some of the steel for which he is famous. And Mr. Bush let it drop that at one point during the gulf crisis, she had lent some of it to him. Mrs. Thatcher, who was cited for aiding Britain with "fearlessness, determination, integrity, and a true vision," said it was an honor to receive the medal from a President who had just won a victory that "will rank with the greatest in history." At one point in the ceremony, Mr. Bush described how he had called Mrs. Thatcher to explain why he was letting one Iraqi ship through the blockade. She agreed with his decision, but then, he recalled, offered some unforgettable advice: "Remember, George," she said, "this is no time to wobble." Later, in a speech, Mrs. Thatcher suggested that Mr. Bush maintain his pluck and be ready to respond swiftly if the "dark forces of reaction" in the Soviet Union threaten a return to repression.