In order to meet Senator Richard L. Neuberger, the new Senator from the State of Oregon, I had to fly 3,500 kilometers westward; but I am pleased to admit: the effort was worth it. Neuberger is no doubt one of the most remarkable persons the U.S. has produced in recent years.

Neuberger's triumph was in many respects the sensation of the last Congressional elections. Why? The youthful age of the victorious candidate—he is 41, whereas the average age of the Senators is somewhere between 60 and 70—is not the decisive factor. The fact that Neuberger is the first Democrat in more than 40 years who succeeded in being elected in the arch-Republican State of Oregon, is far more remarkable. Neuberger achieved it, though the Republicans spent more than 250,000 dollars for election propaganda; whereas the Democrats and their friends had far less than half that amount at their disposal; Neuberger triumphed, although almost a dozen Republican Senators traveled all through the State, and although President Eisenhower himself risked his own prestige at the last moment in his desire to have Senator Cordon reelected. Richard L. Neuberger is what they call in this country, and also elsewhere, with slight disdain, an "intellectual": he has achieved fame both as a journalist and as the author of five mostly historical works.
Neuberger won his election victory on the basis of his undisguised liberal program: he courageously turned against the "Conservative" practices of the Eisenhower Cabinet insofar as the natural resources of the United States such as forests and oil, electricity and other power are concerned, which the Republicans want to have developed by private industry and the Democrats by the government. Neuberger’s election proved that even the almost legendary popularity of Eisenhower cannot convince the voter masses that the wheel of progress must be turned backward for his sake.

The easy-going, boyish journalist brought a welcome breath of fresh air with him to Washington when he took his seat in the Senate last January. In the Senate of his home State of Oregon he has since 1948, fearlessly, humorously, intelligently, and successfully, pursued a liberal policy against an overwhelming Republican majority. In 1950, his wife, Maurine Neuberger, the daughter of a farmer, was elected to the Oregon State House of Representatives, and the Neubergers were the first couple in American history to be active in a legislative capacity both at the same time. In 1952, those two together obtained more votes in the State of Oregon than did Eisenhower.

In his latest book, Adventures in Politics, the youthful Senator advocates that more young people take an active hand in the affairs of their communities, State, and other organizations. He proves that in contrast to all predictions of "experienced", older politicians, young and vigorous people, who stick to their beliefs, can achieve amazing triumphs.

Neuberger, who is a confessed Jew, speaks without hesitation about his German-Jewish ancestry: his grandfather emigrated to America in 1869 from Ludwigshafen-on-the-Rhine, the capital of the Palatinate; lived in the
States for 15 years, returned to Germany, and a short time later went back to the USA, this time, as a matter of fact, to stay.

For the first time in history the new Senate has among its 96 members two Jewish Senators, and, what is truly remarkable, both are of German-Jewish origin. For Herbert H. Lehman also, former Governor of the State of New York, who represents his home State in a most admirable manner and who is, despite his age, one of the most courageous champions of a determined Liberalism, is of German origin: his family came to America from South Germany about 1848.

Source: Allgemeine, Feb. 18, 1955, p. 3, "Jewish Life".

Translated by
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