TEMKIN, Jacob S.

RIHER **Obituaries** 7-28-1967

JACOB S. TEMKIN

Funeral services for Jacob S. Temkin, 61, of 15 Harwich Road, former United States district attorney for Rhode Island, who died Sunday, were held on Tuesday at Temple Emanu-El. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery. He was the husband of Tamara (Backman) Temkin.

He was born in Providence on Sept. 22, 1905, a son of Noah and Deborah Temkin.

He attended the Doyle Avenue grammar school, and in 1922 was valedictorian of his class at Hope Street High School. He was graduated in 1926 from Brown University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1929. He was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in November of that year.

Mr. Temkin, who was the state's chief federal prosecutor from 1953 to 1955, also was an assistant state attorney general from 1939 to 1940 during the administration of Gov. William H. Vanderbilt.

During World War II he was chief enforcement attorney for the state Office of Price Administration and later was made acting enforcement attorney for all six New England states.

He sought unsuccessfully the Republican nomination for attorney general in 1948. He won the nomination for the post in 1952, but was defeated in the general election.

In recent years Mr. Temkin devoted his time to an extensive private law practice. He headed his own firm, Temkin & Temkin, with offices in the Hospital Trust Building.

During the 1930s, Mr. Temkin was active in various Jewish organizations in Providence and the state. He served from 1930 to 1938 as counsel for the Jewish Family Welfare Society, and was elected president of that organization for 10 successive terms from 1938 until 1948.

He also served during that period as president and a director of the Touro Fraternal Association and as a member of the board of directors of the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

At the time of his death he was also a director of the Jewish Home for the Aged, Miriam Hospital, where he headed the legal committee, and Temple Emanu-El, of which he was an honorary vice-president.

During his term as an assistant state attorney general, Mr. Temkin played a major role in drafting new laws on arrest procedures. Earlier in the 1930s, he had been credited as one of the framers of the Rhode Island Old Age Assistance Act of 1935.

He returned briefly to private practice after his work for the state, but was named in May, 1942, as price attorney for the newly-opened office of Price Administration.

The following year Mr. Temkin was made chief enforcement attorney for OPA, with the responsibility of directing investigative work against black market gasoline peddlers and other price, rationing and rent violations.

In the fall of 1943 he was made acting enforcement attorney for all of New England in addition to his Rhode Island duties.

Returning again to private practice in 1944, Mr. Temkin was mentioned in Republican Party ranks as a possible candidate for attorney general. He sought the Republican nomination in 1948, and won it in 1952, but lost in the election.

After the Eisenhower administration took office in 1953, Mr. Temkin was named to become the first Republican U.S. attorney for the state in 20 years. Again he served two years before returning to private practice.

A controversy broke out over his term as federal prosecutor in November, 1955, about five months after he left the job.

In a juvenile delinquency hearing being held in Providence by the late Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, three federal postal inspectors accused Mr. Temkin of failing to prosecute a "strong" pornography case involving a young Providence man.

Mr. Temkin vehemently denied the charges, saying he broke the case personally in 1954, and that the postal inspectors themselves had advised him against prosecution.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Charles B. and Dean N. Temkin; a brother, Nathan Temkin, and a sister, Mrs. Belle Saxe, all of Providence.

Rabbi Eli A. Bohnen and Rabbi Joel H. Zaiman officiated at the services which were attended by some 600 to 700 persons. Cantor Ivan E. Perlman chanted prayers. An honor guard included the boards of trustees of Miriam Hospital, Temple Emanu-El and Jewish Family and Children's Service.

Delegates present represented the Jewish Home for the Aged; Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, the Rhode Island Bar Association and the Harvard Law School Association of Rhode Island.

Honorary bearers included state and city officials, judges of the state Supreme and Superior Courts, judges of the federal court, the present U.S. attorney and other legal groups.

Active bearers were Dr. Irving A. Beck, Dr. Aaron T. Beck, Maurice Beck, David B. Temkin, Leon H. Temkin, Shepard J. Freed, Malcolm Makowsky, Jacob N. Temkin, Noah Temkin, Dr. S. Frederick Slafsky, Mitchell V. Green, Merrill N. Temkin and Noah T. Temkin.