

The RYS Daily 3/19/07 Public and Political Action IV

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R. Israel invested enormous efforts in his attempts to have the Recruitment Law abolished. This vicious ukase had bored into the very depths of his soul. He would complain that it was shortening his life. He instigated the sending of numbers of deputations to government circles and would go to all lengths in his endeavors. Once, he learned that a Minister of State who disapproved of this edict was to be found in a distant region of Russia. R. Israel made a special trip to see him, and begged him to use his good offices with the Czar to annul the decree. He fought ferociously against those community heads who remained indifferent when it was in their power to protest. A few instances deserve mention in this context, and these, incidentally, throw light upon the noble character of R. Israel and his Musar approach to every public event.

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