

My friends, I will share one of my human failings with you tonight. I have real hatred in my heart. I hate Daylight Savings Time.

I have always hated it. I can remember being a young child, I would guess about five or six, and hating DST because I had to go to bed when it was still light outside. I'm sure I liked it when I was older and could stay out playing baseball, but as an adult I came to loathe it again. In fact, I think that DST stands for things other than Daylight Savings Time—Out of respect for the young people present, I will soften the first two words and say that one way I understand DST is, shall we say, “Darn Silly Time.”

There are some other ways to understand DST that I will share with you tonight. First, let me share some more of my reasons for hating it. This is not a complete list of my reasons, but among others I hate DST because it is artificial, and it is a lie. DST saves no daylight at all—that would be physically impossible. It is also a lie that DST

saves energy, as you will soon see. My friends, sit back and listen to the story of DST.

What you are about to hear is something I learned in 2005, when I was listening to an author being interviewed on the Dennis Prager Show. It was DST in two ways; it was during Daylight Savings Time, and it was also Dennis's Show Time. He was interviewing Michael Downing, an author of fiction who had written a nonfiction book entitled *Spring Forward: The Annual Madness of DST*. I think you will find it fascinating. So tonight at Shaarey Tefilla, we have our own version of DST—a Dennis Sermon Time.

1907 London, William Willett horseback riding at sunup, noticed that London's windows were shuttered, wasting the early morning sunlight. Most homes were lit primarily by sunlight; he proposed turning the clock back in order to get a later sunrise. He was not trying to save energy. He thought people would spend the time in recreation and leisure.

During WWI, the Wilson administration sold DST to the public as an energy saving measure, but it saves no energy. It probably requires more energy. But it does redistribute the time of maximum demand of energy, which was significant.

Big city department stores were one of America's strongest economic forces, and they wanted DST—windows would be lit, it would be light out when factory workers got off work, and they would stop and buy on their way home. The government told people it was helpful for the war effort because there was so much public resistance. The public so opposed DST that Congress repealed it after WWI even before Versailles Treaty was signed, and did not pass another DST act until WWII.

So in 1919, the entire country went back to Standard Time except NYC. NYC was driven by two economic forces, the big department stores and Wall Street. In that time, there were real bankers' hours: six hours per day. London, the world's financial capital, was five hours ahead of NYC, but

London was on DST, making it six hours ahead. Without DST, there was no overlap between the NY markets and the London markets, and therefore no chance to make billions of dollars on arbitrage. NYC passed a **city** DST law. Other cities, first on the east coast and then moving west to Chicago, also go on DST, because in order to survive economically, their banking hours had to be the same as New York's.

Big cities were now on DST, and most all surrounding areas were not. There was no coordination of the clocks—NYC's 8:00 news went on at 7:00 in the next town. That is but one minor example, but bottom line is it created tremendous confusion.

We went back to national DST for WWII, again sold as a wartime energy saving measure, but again, that was not true. FDR put the nation on year round DST. FDR was very pro Chamber of Commerce—remember that he moved Thanksgiving to the third Thursday in November to create an extra shopping week before Christmas? That was so for

three years, and FDR openly stated his reason for doing it. Again, DST did not save energy, but did shift demand time. As I said before, that was useful to a wartime economy—less chance of blackouts, but energy savings during war years were not due to DST. DST actually *increased* energy use—people used their cars more, buildings left cold overnight had no help from the sun in warming up again in the morning, and so on.

As late as 1965, 130 cities had populations over 100,000—71 were on DST, and 59 were not. There was tremendous confusion. Still, states were reluctant to go on statewide DST—there was still a great deal of public opposition. People were constantly calling airlines and trains to find out what would be the local time when they arrived at a destination. And most of us were told that DST was to help farmers, but it hurts them. Farmers hate it. They go by the real sun. If the markets open an hour closer to sunrise, farmers lose that hour of work time.

In 1974 under President Nixon, the only real study of DST proved energy savings were not real.

So why did Congress recently expand DST? You yourself may love it—did Congress do this to ensure your loyalty as voters? Probably not as much as they did it to please industry. Oil companies make more money during DST, the golf industry will make \$200-400 million more from the extension, convenience stores will make \$30 million more, the barbeque industry \$150 million more—need I continue?

So really, DST is Daylight Spending Time. But not for me, not for anyone who observes Shabbat. Shabbat does not begin and end according to the clock, it begins and ends according to the sun. Those of us who wait until Shabbat is over before going out on Saturday night have an extra hour to wait. Factor in that we are observing Shabbat during DST in the very western edge of the Eastern Time Zone. You know what DST is to me? Delayed Shabbos Time. I hate DST!