



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.

Series D: Education and Rabbinic Career, 1930-1993.

Subseries 3: Rabbinic Career, 1943-1993.

Box
9

Folder
3

Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Move from Cincinnati
to New York. 1948-1953.

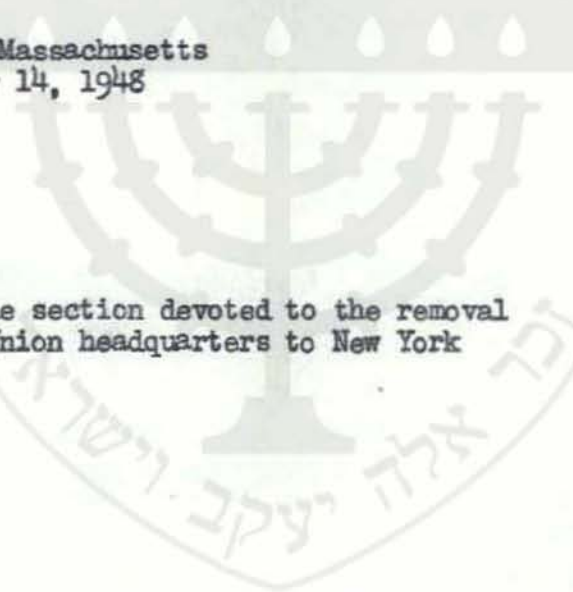
For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

From the
40th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Boston, Massachusetts
November 14, 1948

being the section devoted to the removal
of the Union headquarters to New York



JOINT SESSION
THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
&
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

Tuesday Morning - 10:15

The Session was called to order in the Imperial Ballroom by the Chairman of the Assembly, Mr. Goldman.

The meeting was opened with an Invocation by Rabbi Joseph Narot of Atlantic City.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Milton A. Pearlstine of Charleston South Carolina wishes to extend an invitation to the Union to hold its next Biennial in Charleston - Mr. Pearlstine!

MR. MILTON A. PEARLSTINE (Charleston, S.C.):

Ladies and gentlemen, a quarter of a century before Paul Revere rode through every Middlesex village and farm, and before the shot was fired at Bunker Hill, that resolved this country into the land of the free and the home of the brave, a thriving Jewish colony in Charleston, South Carolina organized Congregation K. K. Beth Elohim in 1750.

It is therefore my pleasure, as its current president, to invite your support and enlist your interest on the occasion of our Bi-Centennial, or 200th Anniversary, which will take place before the next meeting of the Union.

This Congregation has played an historic part in the development of Judaism in these United States. The

first Jew in America elected to public office, Francis Salvador, was a member of Beth Elohim. Most of you know that the Reform movement began in Charleston in 1824 and some of you know that the sainted Isaac Mayer Wise had accepted the pulpit of this first Reform congregation in 1850, but for some unexplainable reason he carried on his great work at Albany, New York.

This Bi-Centennial is a challenge to anti-Semites as this congregation gives definite proof of the important part that Jews have played in the development of America.

Superimposed on this whole scene is the fact that in 1750 Joseph Tobias became the first president of the congregation; 200 years later the president will be his great grandson to the "nth" degree, Thomas Tobias.

While it is impossible for Charleston to accomodate a Biennial Convention of the Union, it is our hope that smaller groups and individuals will visit with us during the BiCentennial year. I thank you. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, if you will please come to order. We have a great deal of business to transact this morning. We will endeavor to transact it promptly; I urge you to cooperate.

(Announcements of Committee Meetings.)

I shall now present the Chairman of the Committee on Headquarters of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations - Mr. Philip Meyers, who is one of the Vice-Presidents or, as they will now be called, Vice-Chairmen of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and who is one of the distinguished citizens of Cincinnati.

Will you please present your report, Mr. Meyers.

MR. PHILIP MEYERS (Chairman of Committee on Future Headquarters of the UAHC.) Mr. President, and friends, I have often wondered what a Vice President of this Union of American Hebrew Congregations is supposed to do; I have never been able to find out up until this morning. It appears now the the Vice President of the Union is a punk used to set off some fireworks. (Laughter)

The Committee on Future Headquarters for the Union was appointed early in 1946, by Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, then president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Mr. Jacob Mack, the distinguished and esteemed Cincinnati and a former Chairman of the Union's Executive Board was selected as Chairman. The members of the Committee were chosen with a view to fair geographic distribution, and to an adequate representation from the affiliates of the Union. In addition to Mr. Mack, the Committee consisted of the following:

Mr. Robert Goldman, of Cincinnati, then Chairman of the Board of the Union;

Mr. Lester Jaffe, of Cincinnati, then Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College;

Dr. Julian Morgenstern, of Cincinnati, then President of the Hebrew Union College;

Mrs. Louis Rosett, President, and Vice President of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, of New Rochelle, New York; and Mrs. Hugo Dalsheimer of Baltimore, respectively;

Mr. Jesse Cohen, of Brooklyn, President of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods;

Mr. Stuart Levy of Louisville, Kentucky, then Vice-President of the National Federation of Temple Youth;

The four vice-presidents of the Union: Mr. Jacob Aronson of White Plains, Mr. Greenman of New York, Dr. S. S. Hollander of Chicago, Mr. Eugene Strasburger of Pittsburgh, and likewise Mr. Irving Fane of Kansas City, and Mr. Harry Stern of Philadelphia.

The Committee held several meetings and considered all relevant data. Reservations were voiced in the committee by Mr. Eugene Strasburger and by Mr. Harry Stern, the latter wishing to have the Union moved to Philadelphia. The Committee as a whole, however, after exploring thoroughly all aspects of the problem, came to the unanimous conclusion, note that it was a unanimous conclusion, that it was in the best interests of the Union that its headquarters be moved to New York. (Applause)

On April 26, 1947, the Committee rendered its report to the Executive Board. Fourteen Cincinnatians were present at the meeting, which was one of the well attended meetings of the Executive Board with very wide geographic representation present. Mr. Jacob Mack, Chairman of the Committee on Future Headquarters, presented the following report: (I shall read it to you)

"Ladies and gentlemen, your Committee on Union Headquarters met last on Friday, April 25. There was further discussion of the background of the project for removal of the Union Headquarters to New York, as well as the reasons for present consideration. It was pointed out that a number of department heads are already officing in New York.

"The pro- change talk was that New York City is the Capital of American Jewry today; there the largest Jewish population resides; the Union, the instrument of our religious movement, should be the most potent organization in the life of American Jewry. We think the destiny of American Judaism rests with us, with the interpretation of Judaism which we support. New York offers the greatest field which our movement must campaign for future growth. There is our golden opportunity to bring our concept of the American Judaism to the largest body of Jews in America. We ought to be on the scene, so that our movement does not become secondary in American Jewish life.

"Your Committee adopted the following resolution unanimously:

"The Committee on Union Headquarters recommends to the Executive Board of the Union, that the Executive Board of the Union recommend to the next General Assembly that the Executive Headquarters of the Union be removed to New York, retaining in Cincinnati either permanently or at least for the immediate future such departments of the Union as may more efficiently and economically be operated there, including a regional office in Cincinnati."

"After presenting that report, Mr. Mack commented, and I will quote from the minutes:

"It was very interesting to me that in our discussion on the removal of the Union Headquarters we were looking for negative arguments and we could not find any;

everything was positive. Our records show that we already have a Finance Office in New York; we have the Sisterhoods, Miss Evans the Executive Director whose office is there; Mr. Levy (he was referring to Mr. Jerome Levy who was then the Financial Campaign Director) whose office is there; Mr. Rettenburg does his work on Liberal Judaism there. In the Cincinnati office we have Rabbi Egelson, who is in charge of the administrative work; we also have Dr. Gamoran who is in charge of Jewish education; Mr. Singer who has full charge of the publication of our books; we have work rooms there; we also have a supplementary office of the Sisterhoods.

"This resolution would let the country know that our head offices are going to be in New York. I might also advise this group that it was stated at our meeting that we thought that more Jews throughout the United States make contact in New York throughout the year, much more frequently than they do in Cincinnati.

"This is a practical question, not a sentimental question. We all have sentiment for Cincinnati. A great many of us love the Union and want it there. We have had it here for three-quarters of a century. However, we feel that in the interests of the progress of the Union and its work throughout the country, it is far better for the Union to be in New York City.

"This has nothing to do with the college; the college is separately incorporated and hopes for ever to remain in Cincinnati."

That is the end of the quotations.

At the Board meeting - this Board meeting that

heard Mr. Mack report, certain reservations were expressed by Rabbi James Heller, Mr. David Kahn of Cincinnati, Mr. James Magrish, of Cincinnati. It is important to point out that during the course of the Board's discussion, Mr. Haydessa of Louisville suggested that he would like to have Dr. Eisendrath, who has had some experience, give us positive facts for the move.

Dr. Eisendrath replied, and this is interesting, "I would really like to hear other members of the Board express themselves before I do so."

The record indicates then at no time did Dr. Eisendrath participate in this particular discussion, and after a free and frank deliberation, and as lengthy a debate as we generally have at our Executive Board meetings, in which many members of the Board from various communities participated, when the vote was taken there was no dissenting vote, nor was any recorded as not voting.

In view of the fact that both the Committee on Future Headquarters and the Executive Board after thorough explanation and full discussion of this matter came to a conclusion, certainly overwhelmingly in favor of the recommendation, I move, Mr. President, and urge the adoption of the Executive Board's recommendation, that, (and I will read it):

"The Executive Headquarters of the Union be removed to New York, retaining in Cincinnati either permanently or at least for the immediate future, such departments as may more efficiently and economically be operated there, including a regional office in Cincinnati."

Mr. President, I move and urge the adoption of this recommendation. (Applause)

(Whereupon there were several seconds offered from the floor.)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: There is a motion to adopt, and a second to the adoption of this recommendation.

RABBI JONAH B. WISE: I wish to second it, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: It is seconded by Rabbi Jonah Wise of New York who asks to speak in favor of the resolution.

RABBI WISE: Mr. Chairman, delegates and friends, I rose to second this resolution after a great deal of thought.

I heard, with very solemn thinking, of the action of the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations when it determined to move the main office, or the administrative office let us say, of the Union, to New York City. I am sure they took this action after very serious deliberation, both in the meeting and before they came to the Executive Board meeting.

I understand that there is a difference of opinion in the matter, as far as this Conference is concerned. I have been told that as long as there are Jews there will be differences of opinion. I think that there should be a slight alteration of that and in view of our history as a dissident people, it might be said, as long as there are differences of opinion there will be Jews. (Laughter)

I don't think it is a particularly Jewish characteristic, however, to concern one's self with the pros and cons of an important matter, and certainly the problem of the moving of the Union Headquarters or the Executive Headquarters

of the Union from Cincinnati to any place in the United States or the world is a very important matter.

I was born in Cincinnati, on 7th and Vine Street, the old Hexter's Hotel. I lived in Cincinnati as a boy and as you know, was in a way a part of its life, a very meager part, and an undistinguished part of course, but still a part. But I retain an affection for and a concern for the position of Cincinnati in world Jewry that I think hardly any other delegate here can have. If I thought for a moment that the moving of these Executive offices to New York would take away one jot or tittle of the position of Cincinnati as a great leading community in Reform Judaism throughout the world, I would say: No. I don't think that any move on the part of the Executive office of the Union can do that thing. Cincinnati has its place not only in history but its place in the present and in the future which nothing can touch, certainly no action such as this can in any way impinge on it.

The Hebrew Union College will remain in Cincinnati with all due respect to the Union, the Hebrew Union College is the place from whence goes forth the law and the word of the Lord; the Union is a functioning body with a tremendous responsibility; its responsibility extends not only to the individual Reform congregations throughout the United States, but as our careers as Jews in the United States now shape up, to all Jews in the United States.

There is no other nationally organized Jewish religious body in the United States that can undertake the responsibilities before the Union of American Hebrew Congre-

gations. We are the spearhead of the civilized Jew in the world, especially in the United States, and as such I believe we should be willing to take risks and to take chances, and to do those courageous things which our responsibility imposes on us as a duty.

Now, if I thought it took a tremendous amount of courage to move to New York, I might continue to emphasize this point, but it does not. I moved to New York myself, I am not a very courageous being. Just why I did I don't know, but I did. At any rate I don't think it requires on the part of the members of this conference a decision in conscience or a decision that they think will involve them in any kind of sacrifice, to place the offices designated by the resolution in New York City.

On the other hand, I think there are tremendous advantages which we should not now allow to slip off. As I have said, Reform Judaism in the United States, although we have, as I am only too ready to acknowledge, a minority amongst the Jewish population here, Reform Judaism has a responsibility which no other religious organization among Jews and no other organization among Jews has. It must carry the banner, it must continue to advance the religious status and the religious being of the Jew in the United States, and it is the one organization historically, and because it is, with its internal organization prepared to do just that.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in order to do that, must be in a place where it meets every challenge. It cannot run away from those challenges; it has got to be in a place where it meets those challenges, and where its first officers, its representatives and its spokesmen

are ready at all times to meet every kind of challenge whether it is in the Jewish or the Christian world, or any other kind of world. And you can believe it or not that those challenges are continuous on the Eastern Seaboard, whether it is in Philadelphia, Boston or Baltimore or in New York City. There is where the problem of Jewish life in America is continually being altered and directed, and in the midst of that scene of alteration and direction the Union should have a powerful representation.

At present it is represented by a regional office. I have the highest regard for the head of that office, and for the office itself, but the regional office does not present to the community of New York, and through the community of New York to the community of the Eastern Seaboard of the United States that authority which the head and front of the Union carries with him through your designation and your vote.

I happen to be connected myself with some major national organizations and I am sure that there is not a delegate here who would for a moment advise those major organizations to move out of New York City.

It is not because it is a more convenient place to be; it is not because you have so much influence on the great masses of Jews in New York City because you are there, it is because of the challenge and because of the vital need for meeting there in New York City those problems and those questions which arise there through its large population and through the concentration in New York City of the men and women of the United States who pass through there almost continually.

I am not going to make a long argument; I have spoken a little at length I am sure as the privilege of the second, but I would like to say this in conclusion: that I have a great sentiment for Cincinnati but I have a feeling of great responsibility for the work of the Union and I am willing to set aside that sentiment and set it aside with reluctance because I think the interests of American Jewry, of American Israel, of American Judaism really demand the setting up in New York City of the kind of institution designated by the resolution of the Board of the Union, and I therefore very heartily second the resolution, Mr. Chairman. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The Chair will now recognize Mr. James Magrish of Cincinnati who will speak in opposition to the resolution.

The Chair will, in the interest of expediting the decision on this matter, and if there is no objection from the Assembly grant Mr. Magrish ten minutes, as Dr. Wise spoke to that extent and thereafter the speakers will, I suggest, subject to your approval, be limited to three minutes each, and we will have speakers alternately from one side and the other.

Is there any objection to that procedure?

A MEMBER: With the exception of the closing, the summary should be of longer duration.

DR. SOLOMON B. FREEHOF (Pittsburgh): Some speakers will be neither on one side nor the other - for the Good of the Union.

MR. JAMES MAGRISH (Cincinnati): Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, we are met in a religious assembly, and

God's blessing has been invoked on our deliberations a number of times, and I do hope that the speakers and the assembly will consider the problem in the light of the message that has been given to us by our rabbis. If there is one time when we should translate into action the kind of advice, the words of wisdom we get, the time for calm and wise deliberation, that time is now, and I certainly hope to avoid even were I able to indulge in any oratory and get down to what I think are the issues of this meeting.

We have heard two reasons given by the able speakers who have preceded me why the Union should move and briefly, they are these: (1) the Executive Board advises it; and (2) New York is a great place and although I love Cincinnati, New York is the place for the Jews to be.

I grant you that any summary cannot be completely fair, but that is what these gentlemen have said.

Now: the Executive Board acted fairly in deciding that the matter should be left to the General Assembly of the Union and that is where it is. I feel certain that none of you wishes merely to be a rubber stamp. Why do we have a thousand people, five hundred delegates, if we are merely to say: yes, because the Executive Board advised it?

I plead with you: think the problem out for yourselves and if you decide that the good of the Union demands that the headquarters be moved to New York, why of course cast your vote that way, but if you are in doubt as to whether or not the Union should move to New York, vote no on the proposal.

The reason I say that, ladies and gentlemen of the convention is that we cannot get unanimity anywhere of course; on the other hand, tolerance and respect for each

other's opinions is an important thing and unless you can get rather general, rather complete support for a proposal as drastic as this proposal is, I say the Union should not move.

Almost one thousand of the members of the Boards of Trustees of congregations have signed cards opposing the move to New York. Many of them, perhaps most of them, in fact I am sure most of them are not here, but you are the guardians of their rights, and even though the advocates of the move to New York should have a bare majority - I hope not - but if they should, I plead with you do not over-ride what is at least a very strong minority.

Now of course we cannot expect to have among our people or among any people no differences of opinion; differences of opinion are healthy; wise planners expect such differences, and they provide for them.

As for the Headquarters of the Union - there is a good analogy of capitals of states and capitals of nations. One of our rabbis in one of the invocations said:

"Save us from the cry of sectionalism,"

That has been the cry through the Ages and through the decades in the history of every country and in the history of every new country. You will remember from your history that when the question of locating the capital of the United States was a great issue, the solution was not to locate it where feelings were strong one way or the other, but to locate it in a central place free, it was hoped, from the sectionalism, the deep feelings which had grown up on other parts of the country, and Washington was selected.

When the states of our Union came to select capitals they avoided centers of population. For the accident

that Boston grew to be a great metropolis, you know most of the capitals of the states of the Union are in central and small places, these places that started small and continued central. The capital of New York State is not New York City, but Albany; in Pennsylvania it is Harrisburg; in Ohio it is Columbus, and so on down the line. As you know from your own experience the wisdom of the founders of our country, and the founders of our states when they said, "Locate your capital away from your great centers of population; locate them at neutral places."

Less than forty percent of the congregations of this Union of American Hebrew Congregations lie on the Eastern Seaboard. It happens to be a fact that the center of population of the United States is within one hundred miles of Cincinnati; the center of population, as many people know, East, North, South and West - Cincinnati happens to be and is the center of the population of the United States.

Ladies and gentlemen, New York is a large place there are over 200 national institutions, national Jewish institutions in New York City. If the Union moves to New York City it is one of those two hundred; it gets enmeshed, it is bound to get enmeshed in the politics, in the currents, in the movements, in the excitement, in the market place atmosphere that must and is bound to exist in New York.

I say to you that is not a place for calm deliberation; that is not a place where the good and welfare of our Union for generations to come may be served, and we appeal to you to retain the headquarters in Cincinnati for the good of our Union. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: I want to say for future speakers that there is a microphone in the center of the middle

aisle that you can use; or you can come to the stage.

I now recognize Mr. Joseph S. Ackerman of Chicago.

MR. JOSEPH S. ACKERMAN (Temple Sholem, Chicago):

First I would like to say to my good friend who just occupied this platform that of the thousand names that he referred to there were quite a few in Chicago, several in my own congregation who were influenced by the original printed material which they received on the subject, and sent in that card; later on when I reviewed with them the few facts that I am going to give you now, they changed their minds and I believe hundreds of others on those cards did the same thing. (Applause)

I am going to deal only with facts, no emotions and no pipe dreams.

The best available figures indicate first that 89 per cent of the Jewish population in the United States resides in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Baltimore and Pittsburgh; 55.5% reside in New York; 8.9% reside in Pennsylvania; 5.7% reside in Massachusetts; 5.4% reside in New Jersey; 2.5% reside in Ohio; 6.8% reside in Illinois.

That gives you one good reason why New York City is the geographic center of the Jewry of the United States and of the Jewry of the world.

Next I have before me a printed document prepared by the Committee to Retain the Union Headquarters in Cincinnati.

As a businessman I am inclined to deal with facts. I give credit, and I have confidence in those who submit facts to me which I can confirm and believe to be

accurate. I want to read a paragraph in this piece of printed material to you:

"Because such a move means an increase of more than 25% in the overhead expense of the Union..."

Now what are the facts? I have had them carefully prepared. I find that 91% of our budget amounting to \$523,000 will not be affected by this move at all; the expenses of your regional offices, the cost of printing Liberal Judaism; Pensions for Rabbis, and a great variety of other things are not affected one way or the other. The remainder of the items are affected to the extent of a net of \$19,200 - a detail which I have here resulting in a net increase in your expenses of not over 3%.

That is a long way from 25%, and on the basis of those facts I began to lose confidence in the other data by the Committee to Retain the Headquarters in Cincinnati.

"\$200,00 could be saved by acquiring the Hanselman, Masonic Lodge and rebuilding it," they said. The fact of the matter is I have before me photostatic copies of letters from architects, etcetera, that it would cost about \$465,000 if we were able to acquire the Hanselman building for \$140,000 which is not yet definitely known, to remodel that building and to extend its size so that there will be adequate floorspace to house the Union Headquarters.

I have before me a list of possible buildings that can be acquired in New York for that purpose, a number of large national organizations both business, philanthropic and communal have set up headquarters in New York where they have utilized some of the old mansions on the side streets in the

60's and 70's; those buildings have been purchased at a low cost; they are readily converted into office purposes because they contain rooms, bathrooms, elevators, and at a cost of \$250,000 we have been offered a dozen buildings that can be fixed up at an over-all cost of building and remodeling for considerably less than to change the Hanselman Building into headquarters for the Union. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: I recognize Mrs. Arthur A. Sultzberger of New York.

MRS. ARTHUR A. SULTZBERGER (New York): Mr. Goldman, ladies and gentlemen as a granddaughter of Isaac M. Wise, I have asked the privilege of telling you why I was opposed to the move from Cincinnati to New York. This is not a family row with my Uncle Jonah. My feeling is not purely sentimental, but Cincinnati has been the headquarters for seventy-five years. In seventy-five years any institution establishes roots, and it is from the tap roots that one gets one's strength.

We Jews have always put great emphasis on history, and our traditions. Why should we throw away the oldest tradition that we have in this country? The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is the oldest organization of Jews in America. The Sephardic Jews were here long before, but they formed no such organizations. We are conceived in America and developed in America; Liberal Judaism has American traditions and Cincinnati is the geographic center of America.

I think one of the great advantages in being away from a great Jewish center like New York, where the Jews form one-third of the population, and where around them, as they say, is 90% of the Jews, is that it gives us a completely

inaccurate picture of the position of the Jews in the United States as a whole. (Applause) We are not 30%, 50% or 90%, we are approximately 3 or 4% in this country.

The Protestant organizations have been in New York, but they, I understand, are moving to Columbus, Ohio; the Catholics do not go to the great centers of Catholicism, their headquarters are in Washington.

We must look to America for our future. Our contribution to Judaism is this integration of the American tradition of Liberalism with the Jewish tradition of religion and service. We have managed to combine in our teaching, the idea of complete freedom of thought not only on politics but in religion and still not abandon any of the fundamentals of loving our God; of being humble and walking with Him and of having charity.

New York, of course everybody admits, even the New Yorkers, I have been there since I was four years old, New York is not typically American; it is too cosmopolitan, and America is not cosmopolitan, but Americans do believe in cosmopolitanism - that, however is one thing we do not need, what we need in America is to understand more the development of this country and the philosophy of this country.

After all the Union is a service organization, it is to service the congregations all over the country, therefore it must have an American outlook rather than a New York outlook, or trans-Atlantic outlook.

Now I know some of you are saying: too much emphasis on Americanism; that possibly many so called friends in America have let us Jews down; our Christian fellow-citizens have not appreciated the tragedy and the misery the Jews have suffered. I agree with you; I think this last immigration law

is terrible, but before we criticize too deeply the Christians, let us stop and think: How many of us lost a night's sleep worrying about the kulaks and other victims behind the Iron Curtain? How much have we contributed to relief from starvation in China? Unfortunately it seems that all of us must be able to say: "there but for the grace of God go I," before we can understand. So let us not condemn them too much, but let us realize that our hope is in our country, America; we must dig our feet into its soil; we must keep our roots here and hope that we can help bring America to realize its dream.

Thank you. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The Chair will recognize Colonel Greenman of New York City.

COL. GREENMAN: Mr. President and fellow-delegates in the three minutes that I have been allotted, within which to save civilization I want to point out first that it is purely coincidence that I follow Mrs. Sultzberger from New York, but I am happy to follow her for the reason that I have been born and brought up in the city of New York, and I am proud of it.

If New York is not yet typically American the thing that will make it will be the bringing of the Union to New York. (Applause) New York did not originate this move. I did not have a thing to do with the committee which brought in the report; it was Cincinnatians who did it. We did not seek it. We did not argue for it. We did not connive at it, and we did not use any city-slicker methods to bring it there. It was the Board which determined it.

Do you want to know how does New York feel about it? It feels this way: The Federation, which met only a week ago, and which is composed of forty-five congregations adopted a resolution which would occupy three minutes to read -- so I will ask the Chairman to read it. (Laughter and applause)

What it says is that we welcome you with open arms; we won't induce you to come to New York; we won't coerce you; we won't argue for it; if you want to come there you are very welcome. We would love to have you; we will support you in every possible respect, but it must be your decision, freely made and without any rancour of any kind. We have no desire to take anything from Cincinnati. I, personally, have great love for Cincinnati, but I am frank to say that three days spent in going to every meeting of the Board is pretty hard on some of us, in fact the inconvenience is getting to be a very important part---- (closing words of sentence lost in commotion stirred up by this last point.)

Now what I want to come back to is this: I have asked the Chairman to take out the time for applause and laughter.

When I became a member of the Board, the Union was a small institution which had a few adherents in Cincinnati and some in New York; our total budget was \$120,000 and that was only in 1938, and I declined to vote for that budget at the first meeting I attended because the money was not in sight. Since that time the Union has grown tremendously. In New York at that time everything was completely in chaos. We had all kinds of organizations that had been set up but none

was functioning at any time and we finally brought unity through a Federation. Today New York raises about \$100,000 a year for the Union; but it cannot go much higher than that unless it is helped by some national office there, and that is essential for that purpose. Under your present budget you will have to raise \$360,000 in New York. I do not see the possibility under present circumstances.

There is one thing I wanted to devote a moment to and that is this; there will be proposals for compromise here. Some have said: let's divide these offices, one half in New York and one half in Cincinnati. I hope that when that proposal comes before you will exercise that Solomon-like judgment, because it was Solomon who determined not to cut a body into two parts and give one to each contending faction, but to give it to those who wanted it. So far as we are concerned in New York, if you are to cut it into two parts and divide it in two I prefer that it all stay in Cincinnati because you can never succeed with a divided office, co-equal offices of the one organization in both cities.

I know that the time is very short; there is a great deal I should like to say on this subject, but when the Chair reads the resolution I think it will say more eloquently than I can, what the sentiment of New York really is. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Colonel Greenman, the Chair is neutral on this subject and all that the Chair will state is that a strong resolution urging the Union to move their headquarters to New York was passed by the assembly of delegates, of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues. If any speaker on either side cares to read that resolution I shall accord him the privilege of doing so.

Mr. Eichel of Richmond Virginia has asked for the floor.

MR. EICHEL (Richmond, Virginia): I am from Congregation Beth Ahabah which has been a member of the Union for seventy-four years.

I have heard a great many remarks this morning in the lobbies; I think some of the arguments that the gentlemen give are entirely irrelevant. For Mr. Greenman to say that he hates to give up the time to go to Cincinnati meetings - how about the men from Texas or California who also attend meetings who will have to go to New York?

I feel that the Union should and is a democratic organization; I feel it should operate on democratic principles. I think that at a convention of this kind, where so many distant congregations are unable to come because of finances or because of lack of time, and are unable to send a full delegation to vote on an important subject, is a matter to be carefully considered, especially when the nearby temples come forward with their full delegations.

I feel that the democratic way is to have our constituent members vote as units, not at this convention, particularly, but I think that Union officials have always said that the Union consists of congregations as members and not as individuals as members, therefore each congregation is a member of the Union and no individuals are. The vote for this particular thing should be passed on by the congregation as a unit vote. (Applause)

I therefore, Mr. Chairman, offer a substitute motion for the motion now on the floor, that the matter be

laid on the table; that the Chairman of this General Assembly Mr. Goldman, appoint a committee of three men, one pro-moving, one anti-moving, and one as neutral as he can find to prepare in very concise form the statements pro and con and send to each member congregation with a printed ballot of suitable form for proper voting; that the pro- and con- people be asked not to flood the mails with additional papers on the subject; that each congregation which is a member in good standing of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and is entitled to one vote, and such constituent congregation be asked to cast its ballot pro or con in any manner, such congregation may decide for itself, and mail it to the Chairman of the special Committee within four months, and that the vote then be tabulated by the Chairman certified by the Board of the Union, and that the Union act in accordance with the majority of these votes.

I thank you. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN, Mr. Eichel, you have made two motions there. You will have to select which one you want. The first is to lay on the table. If the matter is laid on the table there will be no further debate; the second is to appoint a committee, which of these two motions do you wish put?

MR. EICHEL: I would delete the motion to lay on the table.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The motion then is to appoint a Committee to do the things you have heard him say.

(Whereupon the motion was seconded.)

RABBI BAMBERGER: I should like to ask you to rule as to whether in view of the constitutional provisions

by which the Union is governed, this motion can be entertained.

Doesn't it mean that this Assembly give up certain rights and obligations with which it has been vested?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The Chair will rule that the motion is in order; if anyone cares to take an appeal from that ruling he is at liberty to do so.

MR. ARONSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: is this an amendment to the motion that is now pending before the convention?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: It is a motion to appoint a committee to proceed as stated by Mr. Eichel, and if that prevails, that would be a substitute motion for the motion to approve the recommendation.

MR. ARONSON: I submit this point of order: there is already pending before the convention a motion that has not yet been disposed of.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The Chair rules that a motion to appoint a committee and proceed to take a vote as requested is in order as a substitute for the motion that was made.

I want to say that anybody who wants to appeal from a ruling of the Chair is privileged to do so; the Chair will not feel offended.

A MEMBER: I would like to appeal from your decision on the ground that there is a motion on the floor at the present time that has not been disposed of.

DR. LOUIS L. MANN (Chicago): I would like to take the same point of view.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: An appeal is called for; I

will ask Judge Elsner to take the Chair while the appeal is being discussed and voted upon.

(Whereupon Judge Elsner assumed the Chair.)

CHAIRMAN ELSNER: Is there further discussion before we vote on the appeal?

DR HELLER: I don't know whether I can be heard from here.

CHAIRMAN ELSNER: This is an appeal from the decision of the chair. The debate is limited to the appellant who will be answered by the Chair; the determination then rests with the Assembly as to whether the appeal is to be sustained or not.

Dr. Mann: Do you challenge the decision of the Chair as the appellant?

DR. MANN: I do.

CHAIRMAN ELSNER: State your reason.

DR. HELLER: Mr. Chairman I would like to say a very brief word.

DR. MANN: I yield to Dr. Heller.

CHAIRMAN ELSNER: Dr. Mann yields to Dr. Heller.

RABBI JAMES G. HELLER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, there seems to be a little unclarity as I understand it according to the rules of Order when an appeal is taken from the decision of the Chair, the Chair quite properly, as he has done, turns over the rostrum and a debate ensues on sustaining or reversing the decision of the Chair, and I think reference to Roberts or Cushing will substantiate that.

I should like to say, as I said, a very

brief word supporting the decision of the Chairman, Mr. Goldman, as I understand it, this has nothing to do with the merits of the motion that has been made, the Chair ruled, quite properly, that this was in order. This is a motion as to how to take a vote on the question - it has nothing to do with the merits of the question. The original motion that was presented by the Executive Board, asks that the Union, whether through the Assembly or through any other agency which the Assembly may choose to designate as a sovereign body -

RABBI EGELSON: That isn't so.

RABBI HELIER: It is within the power of the Assembly to decide itself how it wishes to vote. I am sorry my friends, it is not within the power of the Executive Board to dictate to the Assembly how it shall vote. The Assembly has a right to determine for itself, for example, whether it wishes to take a referendum.

I should like to call to the attention of the Chair and others, that in the past history of the Union, as a reference to its records will demonstrate, there have been occasions when the Union has preferred to take a referendum of its congregations rather than to take a vote of the Assembly.

All that this is, is a motion that instead of voting on the matter here through the devices suggested in the motion, the vote shall be by congregations.

I say again; I am not arguing for or against that, I merely want to say that in my opinion it is quite in order, and that the Chairman was correct. (Applause)

RABBI LOUIS L. MANN: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, we have kept the discussion rather simple so far, and I hope we shall, otherwise we will be lost in technicalities.

There is only one question before us at this particular moment and that is whether the Chair should be sustained or not sustained in ruling as he did.

Personally I feel that the Chair should not be sustained because we will get things all snarled up if we do. There is another way of taking care of that whenever and as the situation should warrant it. Let us vote on the question whether or not the Chair was right. I believe the Chair was wrong.

(Whereupon the question was called for.)

MR. GOLDMAN: In support of my ruling I only wish to state that this body has the right to vote on any motion that is made that is pertinent to the subject, and I respectfully submit without saying which way the body should vote on the motion when it comes up, that anyone has a right to make a motion to provide for a system of decision, and that that is pertinent to the question that we are discussing. Now, if the Chair is sustained you will then vote on the motion. You can vote on the motion in the affirmative or in the negative, and proceed with the discussion accordingly.

MEMBER: What vote will sustain the Chair?

CHAIRMAN ELSNER: A majority.

MR. GOLDMAN: A majority is correct.

CHAIRMAN ELSNER: The question has been called for. Will you have the question? All those in favor of placing the question before you will raise their hands?

Will you have the question or will you listen to Mr. May?

(Whereupon by a show of red cards a vote was had, and the desire to end debate and vote on whether or not

to sustain the Chair prevailed.)

CHAIRMAN ELSNER: The question is: shall the Chair be sustained.

All in favor hold up their red cards; those opposed?

The opinion of the Chair is sustained.

(Whereupon Mr. Goldman resumed the Chair.)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, I shall now put Mr. Eichel's motion if there is no further debate on that.

A MEMBER: On a point of information: voting yes on Mr. Eichel's substitute motion, does that mean we give up our right to vote as individuals as indicated by the speaker on the motion?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: YES.

THE MEMBER: Is that constitutional?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Yes.

JUDGE STEINBRINK: I am not going to raise any points of order; I think the time has come when the delegates to this convention must have the courage to stand up and vote one way or the other, (applause) and without secretiveness. If I am opposed to the recommendation of the Executive Board, I shall say so, and I am sure everyone here possesses the same courage, but, Mr. Chairman, I direct your attention to Article 4 - will you be good enough, Mr. Chairman, since you undoubtedly have a copy here too, to look at that, because what you are doing now is asking the delegates who have come here, and every one here knows what he came for, to throw back to his congregation this question. And then let me point out to you, that the small congregation with

thirty, or forty, or fifty, or one hundred members has the same voice and power that the larger congregation has, though for that matter, by that method you disfranchise the larger congregations. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: We want to make progress. Let's cut through this thing now. You can vote on the motion.

Are you ready for the question?

(Whereupon the question was called for.)

RABBI BARNETT R. BRICKNER (Cleveland): Mr. Chairman, on the question before us, as I understand the question before us Mr. Chairman, it is whether or not we want to sustain the substitute motion in preference to the original motion.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: That is correct.

RABBI BRICKNER: Now speaking on that question I would like to urge the delegates present to defeat the substitute motion, (applause) and for this concise reason: we have had six months now nearly verging on hysteria, on what I regard personally as a purely administrative question. Two: I think that this whole issue has thrown out of kilter and out of balance the real issues for which we came to this Biennial. (Applause) I feel that those issues have to do fundamentally with raising Reform Judaism out of an organization and putting the dynamic of power behind a movement, and not just an organization.

Another issue that has gone by the board, and is in danger of sloughing away, is the great question of financing this movement so that it does become a great source of spiritual power in the life of our country and our people. There has been no time even to discuss that.

Now what will happen, Mr. Chairman, and I conclude now, if this matter is thrown into a referendum and brought back to every congregation of the Union for further debate, for further flooding of literature, for coming of people to speak face to face with the Boards and presenting to the congregational meetings? A whole year will go by on a matter that is administrative. (A vigorous applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Mr. Aronson, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Union has asked for the floor, then the question will be put.

MR. ARONSON: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, I hope that you will realize the serious import of the motion on which you are now going to vote. I want you to understand that if you vote this, in my opinion you are not only digressing from the spirit of the constitution of this organization, I think you are also digressing from its will, but quite aside from that, something I think even more important than that, I want you to realize not only that you are not doing your duty but also that you are going to render this Union impotent for all the long weary months, that this unseemly controversy will continue. (Applause)

May I say one more word, please? To give to all congregations an equal vote without having all of those congregations have the benefit or the detriment of discussion and argument, I can think of no greater, no more serious disservice to this Union.

Those of us who have had some responsibility in its day-in-day-out workings know how serious it is. Rabbi Brickner called your attention to the fact that we are embarking on a campaign to enlarge the influence and scope

of the Union. We need the sinews of revenue in order to do that. Do you suppose that we can go on with our campaign while that continues for months, and perhaps even longer?

I say that you either do your duty, vote this down, or resign as delegates. (Applause)

MR BICHEL: I wish to call the attention of the gentlemen who have just spoken when they talk of months and years, that the motion specifically states, "...four months from the date, the votes must be in."

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Are you ready for the question?
(Whereupon the question was called for.)

RABBI DUDLEY WEINBERG (Brookline, Mass.): Mr. Chairman, it is my conviction that the Chair itself is out of order. Mr. Chairman it is the duty of the Chair so to facilitate the discussion that true issues are brought for the discussion and debated. I want to know why the Chair is in such a hurry. We have spent months of our time discussing pinpoints of administrative details; does the Chair have the right to put a question or not?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Will you please be seated?

The question has been called for. The question now is: Shall the motion be put. This is not on the merits of the question, not on the motion itself, but shall the motion be put.

All those in favor say "aye".

VOICES: What do you mean? What are we voting on?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The previous question has been called for; if you vote "yes" that shuts off the debate

on this motion; not on the main issue; if you vote "no" then we will continue the debate.

Those in favor of the previous question will raise their red cards. The question is: shall the debate on the substitute motion be ended? That is what is known as the previous question. All those in favor raise their red cards. All those opposed raise their red cards.

The previous question is sustained and a vote on the motion of Mr. Eichel is called for.

All those in favor of the substitute motion of Mr. Eichel please raise their red cards.

All those opposed?

The substitute motion is defeated. (Applause and cheers.)

Rabbi Freehof has asked for the floor.

We are proceeding with the debate on the motion shall the report of the Committee be adopted.

RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF (Pittsburgh): By this time the tempest has escaped from the teapot and we are in the midst of the beginnings of an emotional tornado.

By the time this debate is settled it will take at least six months for the losers, whoever they may be, to cool down to work in the drive for the combined campaign for the Union.

I believe we owe it to each other to explore the possibilities of other solutions.

It is obvious that there is a weakness in the arguments of either side, that is why all this heat is engendered. The people who want the Union to remain in Cincinnati

have strong sentiment on their side; the weakness of their argument is that certain work of the Union can manifestly be done better in other places.

The weakness of those who want to move the whole Union bodily to New York is that they have proved that certain activities can better be done in New York, and have not proved the necessity of moving the entire Union to any other city, New York or anywhere else.

It is difficult to prove that more bottles of coco-cola will be sold if the headquarters move from Atlanta to New York. Now it is clear that we can arrive, I believe at an action that will be just to both sides and both sides have justice.

The Executive Board should be formally empowered and trusted completely to move from Cincinnati to whatever other city they desire; (it is not only New York,) certain activities will best be done in Chicago perhaps, we may discover, and some in the West. There is nothing sacred about New York. I am not even sure that it is the main stream of Jewish life. I know you can get great mass meetings there when you need to protest, and that is a useful function, but it isn't the main function of Jewish life.

Now ladies and gentlemen, I believe that we should make a distinction between moving special activities of the Union wherever they can be efficiently carried out, and as to moving the entire Union, lock stock and barrel, no one has proved either the benefit of keeping the entire Union in Cincinnati or moving the entire Union.

Furthermore, in it is involved the House of Living Judaism. There is a lot of mass bitterness with regard to that. Where the House of Living Judaism will be, where the Headquarters will be. Where the Headquarters will be there the House of Living Judaism should appropriately be built, but as a matter of fact nobody is going to do any building in the next two years; it costs too much. We are being excited about the House of Living Judaism two years at least too early. That can be decided at the next Biennial safely. It is a fact. You may make decisions but you will not build a House of Living Judaism within the next two years.

Now then, I propose, as an alternative, to omit the entire discussion of headquarters but to give the Executive Board the right to move to whatever city it decides the work can be most efficiently done; to move whatever activities of the Union it desires to move, and to leave the rest of the discussion unsettled; and I suggest this be another alternative, whatever way you wish to put it in parliamentary fashion - in other words, it can be a substitute motion, and the debate can continue on all of them at the same time.

(Indications from the floor were that this procedure was objected to.)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: If you desire to make a substitute motion you will have to frame it.

RABBI FREEHOF: I will frame this substitute motion; you might have been more in the mood for it, or you may be more in the mood for it after you are one hour wearier, but I will make it now, I will leave out from it therefore consciously you understand, all discussion of headquarters.

I move that the Council shall hereby authorize the Executive Board to move any of the separate national activities of the Union to whatever city it seems to the Executive Board these activities can best be done in.

(Objections from the floor.)

It has not been put to a vote yet, wait a minute; (continuing) these activities can best be carried out.

I offer that as a substitute, and that is it.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Rabbi Freehof, I am sorry, I am going to have to rule that substitute out of order because it seems to the Chair that that is a negative of the proposal to adopt the report of the committee. I don't think that that is proper substitute for the motion. (Applause)

RABBI FREEHOF: Mr. Chairman, I don't wish to throw us all into another debate on sustaining the Chairman, but this is no more negative than Mr. Eichler's suggestions. Now my proposal is clearly a substitute; it is entirely different in principle and give the delegates a chance to vote it down if they so desire, or vote for it. It omits all questions of headquarters and it is not merely negative, it is a substitute.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The Chair will adhere to its ruling.

RABBI FREEHOF: Oh well! (Laughter)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Rabbi Bamberger has asked for the floor. We are debating the question: shall the report of the Executive Committee be sustained?

RABBI BAMBERGER: Ladies and gentlemen, It seems to me that the problem before us can be put this way:

We have a Cincinnati office; we have a New York office. Nobody is suggesting that either of these offices be eliminated; the only thing that is suggested is that the administrative headquarters - and this is precisely the issue before us, it is not the question of moving everything in the Union to New York - that the administrative headquarters be located in New York.

Now the work has to be done; the creative work, the constructive work has to be done primarily on the East Coast and to some extent on the West Coast; the very fact that only 40% of the congregations of the Union are located in the East is an argument for moving the headquarters of the Union to New York because evidently that is where the work has to be done (applause). Now if the Union wants to make its branch office in New York larger, more imposing and more expensive and better staffed than the main office in Cincinnati then it becomes just a question of work.

There is one other thing: the work has to be done by the people who do the work. You have in the President of the Union a unique combination of the ability to do the work and what I may call the insanity to undertake it. (Laughter) I think that he and his co-workers on the Executive Board can be trusted when they have come to a conclusion as to what is the most effective and best way for them to do their job.

The character of reform Judaism in the future will not be determined by the location of the head office of the Union but the effectiveness with which the work of Reform Judaism is done will be determined by doing the thing that is most practical, and those people who have the work to do

are in general to be trusted to know how they can do their work best. (Applause)

MR. DANNENBAUM (Houston, Texas): I suppose it is not astonishing to find here a difference of opinion on this subject. While you will soon learn which side of the issue I favor, I will not make you believe that the Board of my congregation is almost unanimously of the same opinion. It occurs to me most of the arguments we have heard from the rumors in the cloakrooms, and on this floor should carry a little weight regarding the real factors which should sway us in this matter.

For my own part, and I think on the part of most of the delegates we are not so much concerned about what the congregations in and around Cincinnati may resolve, nor are we concerned about the unanimity of what the congregations in New York may feel about the matter. I feel that the matter was best expressed by one of the speakers the other evening who said that it was not so much a case of whether the Union had its headquarters here or there as that the Union rest in the hearts of these delegates and the membership throughout the United States (Applause) I don't think it is so much a question of how much a building is going to cost to be run in Cincinnati or how much a building is going to cost to renovate and construct in New York. The sole question it seems to me before us is this: from what point can the Union best conduct the movement of Reform Judaism. Individually and in my congregation we have seen fit from

time to time to be critical of the Executive Committee of this Union and I should like first at this moment to pay my respects to our Executive Board who despite the fact that they are not forestalled by anything in our constitution to determine and insist upon the moving of the headquarters to New York, there being nothing whatever in your constitution and by-laws which calls for submission to the Assembly, they saw fit to submit it to us. I compliment them upon that recognition of democratic principles. (Applause)

Briefly I should like to say this: Cincinnati was selected these great many years ago for obvious reasons, because at that time it was the right thing to do; the only point that I should like to make, Mr. Chairman is: IF we gather here today for no other purpose than to determine initially today: where can the movement of Reform Judaism be best initiated in these United States? Where are the impulses and the impacts upon which we must gauge your activities we would I think determine that that place is in New York, and I hope that the opinion of the Executive Committee will be sustained. (Applause)

MR. SYLVAN LANG (San Antonio, Texas): Mr. President, fellow-delegates I feel very presumptuous in appearing on this platform at this time but I wish to take the first of my three minutes, even though we differ from the decision of the Executive Board, of paying sincere tribute and expressing our deep admiration to Rabbi Eisendrath, to the Chairman and to the members of the Executive Board for the great ability and sincerity which they have displayed in bringing this question before us.

We, who have a small, 400 membership congrega-

tion in Texas feel that the headquarters should remain in Cincinnati, first, it is true that it will be more convenient and pleasurable for us to visit New York than to go to Cincinnati but is the viewpoint of New York truly representative of the national viewpoint? New York has great extremes of wealth and poverty, of standpat conservatism and of left-wing radicalism. New York, naturally is filled with many generous outstanding Jews, but New York has problems peculiar to New York. There is not a soul here today who is not influenced by his local environment. Keep the headquarters where the background will be genuinely representative of the United States. Reform Judaism is the spearhead, do not submerge it in the cross-currents of conflicting Jewish problems with which New York Jewry is peculiarly faced.

Secondly, we feel grateful in Temple Beth El for three splendid rabbis who have been furnished by the College in the last twenty-five years and for the invaluable aid given by the Union to our Sunday School. We fear that the separation of the headquarters of the Union and the College from Cincinnati may militate against the effectiveness and the efficiency of both.

Throughout the Southwest our membership has doubled, and trebled in the last fifteen years. Our increased memberships have come from Orthodoxy and Conservatism; with a strong regional office in New York, with active leadership, with a fine staff and proper efforts the unaffiliated should be secured as readily as though we had our national headquarters there with a fine building.

We have had thirty new congregations in the past year. Can we furnish the rabbis for more than the pres-

ent rate of increase, even if we move to New York?

And lastly: we regard Reform Judaism primarily as a religion. Move the headquarters to New York and whether it be the State of Israel or the Taft-Hartly Act, our Union will inevitably become embroiled in politics -

(Murmurs of objection from the floor.)

Other organizations better equipped to handle political matters than we are may be left to take care of such matters. We have sufficient religious, educational and basic social problems for the attention of our headquarters.

The Union has grown splendidly in Cincinnati, keep it there.

(The question was called for.)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: We must finish this debate within the next fifteen minutes and take a vote, ladies and gentlemen.

There are several people who have asked for the floor. We will have to continue all afternoon unless we come to a conclusion. Dr. Mann has asked for the floor next, but he has yielded to Dr. Silver, then we will have the summation of this if there is no objection.

To what point do you rise, Mr. Solow?

MR. EUGENE M. SOLOW (Dallas): I wanted to take a moment's part in the discussion. I happen to be a member of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas; I came to this meeting this morning with my mind not made up on this question, but after hearing the remarks of Mr. Lang of San Antonio I am voting for New York. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: In case you don't know him,

this is Rabbi Silver of Cleveland. (Applause.)

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER: My dear friends, this is one controversy I have tried to stay out of, and I am rather confused as to the meaning of all the heat that has been generated over this issue.

I rise just to say two things: first, that I whole-heartedly approve the decision taken by the Executive Board and Secondly to deprecate this new note that has been introduced into our convention about New York and the East not being American, (applause) and Cincinnati and Houston being American.

AMERICAN JEWISH

This new line that is being drawn between Jews in one part of the United States and Jews in the other part of the United States is to me a dangerous thing. The last time I heard this argument that "New York is not American" was at a meeting of anti-Semites in the United States. From my reading of American tradition and the development of American life, not the America of 1776 or of 1850, but the America of 1948, I am inclined to believe that that great composit in New York City is far more representative of the America of tomorrow than any city in the middlewest. (Applause)

Furthermore, Cincinnati does not determine the tone of Reform Judaism today, that is a delusion; that is a delusion! Just who in Cincinnati today is determining the tone and the character of Reform Judaism? The Executive which has control over our policies is made up of representatives from all corners of the United States. As far as any impact that may be given to the development of Reform Judaism is concerned that presumably would come out of the seat of

learning in Cincinnati, the Hebrew Union College, and nobody has suggested that the Hebrew Union College should move from Cincinnati. Why the retention of administrative offices, the machinery, the apparatus retained in Cincinnati will automatically preserve the character and spiritual tone of our Reform Movement in America baffles me. I have sat here and tried to listen to the arguments; I have been unable to be persuaded.

This is a problem, as I see it, with which your Executive has wrestled for some time, namely where to put the machinery of your organization so that it can function most efficiently and most successfully, and after due deliberation it has arrived at a conclusion that the place to put your effective motor power for your great movement is the center of the Jewish population of the United States, and that to my mind is the one and only consideration that ought to sway us in making the decision.

It is not intended to take Reform Judaism out of Cincinnati; it is not intended to take the College out of Cincinnati; it is not intended to change the character of our movement. It is purely a matter of mechanics, of greater efficiency, and those who are closest to the work whom you have selected to guide you in this very battle, have come to a unanimous conclusion (applause) that the main offices of this great body should be put in New York, and I am heartily for it. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The Chair will now recognize Rabbi Heller, and then Mr. Aronson to sum up on both sides.

Again, in case you don't know the gentleman, this is Rabbi Heller of Cincinnati. (Applause)

RABBI JAMES G. HELLER: Mr. Chairman, fellow-delegates, I should like the privilege of trying to consider calmly in the light of the welfare of this organization which has been so dear to all of us for many years, the problem which is before us.

I cannot help confessing at the outset that I have found, during recent months, have found it rather difficult to understand why so much heat has been engendered in the discussion of this problem. I have been a member of one organization for quite a few years where if you want to get a really hot debate you discuss not the principles, but the dues. Last year I think we had one of the most serious discussions in the history of the Union; it was conducted on a high plane, and the conclusion was reached, as far as I could tell, without creating ill will, and I am in hope that we shall be able to do the same thing this morning and this afternoon.

There are a certain number of things which I think ought in the first instance to be excluded. This discussion in regard to the headquarters of the Union and you will pardon me if I speak very frankly and candidly, has absolutely nothing to do with the personal wishes of the President of the Union; it is not because he wants to live in New York that he has advocated the moving of the headquarters and I have resented the allegations that have been made in this respect - it has nothing whatsoever to do with the contest; or, the contrast between Jews from the East and Jews from the West, with Russian or German Jews; that

is an attempt to becloud the issue on several sides. It has nothing to do, and I assure you that this is the truth, with the mere desire of Cincinnatians of whom I am proud to be one, to keep the Union in Cincinnati because it has been there since 1873. And throughout the discussion most of those whom I know have argued this question without dragging in this question without dragging in this kind of argument, and I happen to have gotten some letters recently I tell you frankly that have been trying to tell me that this is a question of the American Council for Judaism point of view, against others. That is absolute nonsense.

Nor does it signify on the part of any people an avoidance of change, an unwillingness to consider drastic changes in the life of the organization.

This strikes me, at least, as a thoroughly practical problem: what is going to do the Union the most good? To have its headquarters in New York, or to have them elsewhere?

I was the only one who at the meeting of the Executive Board in April 1947 spoke against the moving of the headquarters to New York. I did the utmost at that time that was within my power on the basis of some little experience concerning the advantages and the disadvantages of moving to New York, of coming to a judgment upon the plain factors which at that time appeared to me to enter into the equation.

I have not changed my opinion since that time, and I would like to have your consent to repeat the main elements of the analysis which I attempted to make at that time.

It appeared to me then, and it still does now, that anyone who will approach this with a certain degree of objectivity and fairness must agree that there are certain ends to be gained by moving to New York, certain gains that could be made, and I think that equally it must be conceded that there are certain losses which the Union would suffer by moving to New York. In reckoning up these two factors on either side of the equation it was my opinion that the losses would outweigh the gains. I should like to tell you why.

I think it is fair to say that the Executive Board of the Union and certainly its President are completely sincere in their contention that in moving to New York the Union would have more direct contact with the masses of Jewish life. That is an end I think devoutly to be wished.

In the second place the contention that contacts with national organizations would be easier in New York where most of them have their offices is obviously true.

In the third place, I believe that the task of the President of the Union would be materially lightened by moving the offices to New York. I think it would somewhat diminish the necessity of his running about the country, and he would be able, I think, to spend more time, (and that is something too which weighs very heavily with me as I think it should with you because I know that Dr. Eisendrath has been spending much too great an amount of energy) upon his task these last months.

Now what are the reasons as I see them which would mean loss to the Union?

In the first place it is easily possible, my friends, that these are the results of prejudices on my part, but I have to say that I have been associated through the course of the last ten or twelve years, with a number of organizations which have their headquarters in New York, and again I would like the privilege of speaking frankly: I don't want to hurt the feelings of New Yorkers but I have observed certain things in New York. They have nothing whatsoever to do with the goodwill, with the splendid character, with the fine Jewish leanings of many people in New York, but I do assert that there is no New York Jewish community. I have had abundant reason and opportunity to see that. New York is a conglomeration of disparate elements who have very little to do with each other. It would be very simple to demonstrate that. I happen to know from the UJA that there isn't a community in the country that presents us with difficulties comparable with those of New York. We have never been able to organize the City of New York; we have had to organize it on the basis of trades and industries, and I venture to say that if we were able to compile complete statistics, that we have never been able to reach eighty per cent, of the Jews in New York in what has been during the last years the greatest single enterprise in the history of the American Jewish community.

In the second place, New York does differ from other communities and I think that that results from the very character of the community in that one becomes inevitably embroiled in the quarrels, in the difficulties, to a certain extent in the political problems of the New York Jewish

community. That derives from the very size of the community. You cannot be in New York for a long period of time without confronting these difficulties and had we the time I could give you instances from quite a number of national organizations which have their headquarters in New York.

In the fourth place, to my mind one of the wisest things that was done by Isaac M. Wise was to link closely the Union and the College. He regarded them as indissolubly one, and again and again in the course of his own speaking and writing he pointed out not merely that the Union was created in order to call the college into being, but also because in a movement that was to be properly integrated, there must be a constant interchange of influence and of consultation between the two bodies. (Applause)

Now while it is quite true that no one has the slightest intention of moving the College from Cincinnati, I am sorry to tell you, it is an open secret and I deplore it as much as anyone else, that these last few months there have been considerable points of difference between the Union and the College. I happen to have been a member of some of the Committees which have been vested with the task of exploring these differences. I am fearful that moving the Union to New York will add the element of distance to that of difference, and that instead of trying to heal these breaches and to work together as we ought in fact as we must, that we will exacerbate them and widen them and that worries me very greatly because I have the interest I think of both institutions deeply at heart and the feeling that the great father of Jonah Wise

had, that the congregations which the graduates of the Hebrew Union College serve and which ultimately are their citizenship, from whom they derive their franchise, and to whom they are accountable, must be interactive and interrelated with the institution which serves them and which brings men to them.
(Applause)

Now, my friends, there is one additional element and I think it would be incomplete if I did not mention it. There is a certain deep sentiment, not only in Cincinnati, but I think in the United States, which does bind the Union to that community. Had we the time I would like to tell you some of the efforts which Isaac Mayer Wise had in his early days, I am sure that all of you know that when he organized it in 1873, only congregations in the Middlewest and the South belonged to it, and it was not until 1878 - five years after the organization of the Union, that two New York congregations joined it.

Now that does not mean that it is true today. Isaac M. Wise was enough of a realist to have served the welfare of the organization, and at one time in 1771 I think it was, he considered taking a pulpit in New York so as to attack the problem there where the greatest opposition lay to him and to his ideals at that time.

I am inclined to believe on the basis of this analysis that the Union will discover - and this I have told my beloved friend Dr. Eisendrath again and again - will discover after five years from experience of having its headquarters in New York that it has made a serious mistake and that the benefits which it thought it would gain would dis-

appear and the losses and dangers to which I have referred will creep in upon it and engulf it.

I cannot see in the present situation of the Union any necessity for so drastic a change. I do not see the factors which dictate it and I trust that this convention with all due regard to the Executive Board and to its President will determine to continue along the way we have followed these seventy-five years. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The last speaker will be Mr. Jacob Aronson who is well known to you all, the Chairman of the Executive Board - for the Executive Board, and then I will call for the vote. (Applause)

MR. ARONSON: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, you have heard many speakers this morning, and you have exercised extreme patience. I am hoping that you will continue that patience and what is even more important I hope and I beg that you will keep your mind open a few moments longer until you hear the little that I have to say.

I also am anxious to put to one side the many irresponsible and false statements that have been made during the long period of this unhappy and this unseemly campaign, and when I put them aside I hope others also will put them aside because I have been somewhat the target of some of these improper things that have been said.

I want to say one more personal word before I proceed to the few things that I think are most important for me to impress upon you. Outside my own family I have few interests that are nearer to my heart than the welfare of this Union (applause).

Now let me say my few words: I think much of the opposition to the motion that is pending before you has been addressed to emotion that is not even before you. Nobody is proposing uprooting everything connected with the Union that is now in Cincinnati. That is not the proposal. That is not the recommendation of the Executive Board.

Rabbi Freehof urged that you support the proposition that the Executive Board be empowered, be authorized to move to New York such activities of the Union as in its judgment may better be administered there. Every last element of substance in that suggestion of Rabbi Freehof is already contained in the motion that is now pending before you. (Applause) It is tremendously important that you realize that.

The Executive Board of this Union is not something apart from the group that is now here; the Executive Board of this Union is not something apart from the Union, not something apart from the congregations that constitute the Union; it is made of their representatives; most of them are here today. We had a meeting, I think the largest attended meeting of the Executive Board that was ever held in Cincinnati. At the time that this matter was considered. Now the matter was deliberately considered at a meeting of the Executive Board that was held in Cincinnati. Of the membership of 55 on that Executive Board, I think some 14 are Cincinnatians, distinguished, esteemed, energetic, helpful Cincinnatians. The easiest thing in the world is to arouse one's self to a hysteria of emotion, a sort of type of patriotism, and to try to paint the picture that this is an attack on Cincinnati, that it is a repudiation of the service that Cincinnati and Cincinnatians have rendered; that it is a movement to change

the nature and the character of the Union. That is not only the verbal charge, that is the written charge, in the literature - if it can be called that - that has already been distributed to you. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It serves no good purpose for me to repeat here what has been said a number of times in the documents that have been sent to you and on other occasions, that no member of the Executive Board that I know of who voted for this proposition is lacking in respect of and gratitude to the Cincinnati group, but ladies and gentlemen, as Rabbi Freehof has told you and as others on the other side have told you, after all, this is a practical administrative proposition. Please don't be frightened of New York Jews (laughter) you don't seem to be frightened of me, I am a New York Jew, born and raised in New York. (Applause)

Others that are here are New York Jews. Is there anything that disturbs you? What is it that you fear from the location of the headquarters of the administrative offices of the Union in New York?

The suggestion has been made on this platform this morning that New York Jewry is not representative of the Jewry of America. For the moment I don't care whether it is or is not; you are not being asked to surrender the Administration of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to the New York Jews. Please bear that in mind.

The constituency of the Executive Board of the Union is geographically distributed, incidentally with less in the way of representation on the part of New York Jews than many other communities of far less populous nature

and with fewer congregations than New York are already represented on the Board of the Union. The Executive Board of the Union is to continue to administer the operation of this Union. We are talking about the location of its administrative offices.

And now here I hope that you will accept at par what I am going to tell you: I hope you accept all that I have said and am saying at par, but especially do I hope that you will accept this: it has fallen to my lot in the last year and a half or two years to give considerable in the way of time to the day-in-and-day-out operations and functioning of this Union, not of mine, of yours. I wish that I had more time to give to it. You may be able to find others who can give more time, unfortunately for some of us including myself, I have a parttime job trying to earn my living (laughter) but I too have had enough contact with the day-in-day-out operations of this Union, with all due respect, I probably have more understanding of its functioning than some of my good friends who are opposed to this move. Nobody that can have had that opportunity of observation, to say nothing about that opportunity of participation as to the work of the Union, can be unconscious of the fact, ladies and gentlemen, if you want an efficient organization, if you want an efficient administration, you cannot continue as you now are; you cannot continue as you now are! You must be in one place or the other; you cannot continue with efficiency, having the head of your professional staff, the President of the Union, spending 75% of his time traveling between New York and Cincinnati; you cannot expect him to be responsible for the efficient administration of the staff and of the organization

if he is located in New York ostensibly theoretically, figuratively speaking, and a large portion of the staff, or any considerable portion of the policy-making part of the staff not in the same headquarters in which he is to be located.

Now what is it that is involved here?

Is my time up?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Go ahead.

MR. ARONSON: I hope you will give me a few more moments. (Applause)

q The Executive head of this organization is entitled to have in the same offices in which he is to be located, the heads of departments that form his staff, that constitute his staff for the day-in-day-out functioning of the organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I was tremendously impressed with what one of our friends from Texas said. Those of you who have as much or more knowledge of geography than I have know that while mileage-wise Cincinnati is nearer to Texas than New York, nevertheless he said that from a personal point of view it was more pleasurable, or more satisfactory or more desirable for him to go to New York than to come to Cincinnati.

Don't overlook the fact that for better, for worse, for one reason or another reason, more of our congregational leaders from California to Texas, from Oregon to Florida, have occasion to come to New York than they have occasion to come to Cincinnati. We need not only more contacts with them, they need more contacts with our Union officers.

I want to say - I know how time is going - one further word, and then I will pass on (laughter) - I was

going to say that I will pass on to do my praying while you do your voting.

Reference has been made to the fact that if we remove the administrative offices to New York, the relations between the Hebrew Union College and the Union will suffer. Nothing could be farther from the actual expectation, and for this important reason, if for no other: I wonder whether you have in mind, ladies and gentlemen, that this Union no longer has exclusive or sole relationship to the Hebrew Union College that is located in Cincinnati? It has an equal relationship, of equal importance to the Jewish Institute of Religion which is in New York. (Applause)

Cincinnati will continue to have, as of course it should have, everlastingly, the Hebrew Union College located there. The Jewish Institute of Religion is located in New York; nobody has suggested any administrative, practical reason why the President of the Union must be located in New York because of its relationship to the College that does not equally apply to its relationship to the Institute, but quite aside from that type of argument, anybody who does not recognize that New York, rightly or wrongly, desirably or otherwise, is now the center of Jewish population in this country, from there we have these organizations that are concerned with Jewish life - the suggestion was made that we will be one more in some hundreds of Jewish organizations in New York - my time is up?

Well - the Chair very rightly says that my time is up and I must state my conclusions.

Let me say this, ladies and gentlemen, then I am through: please vote on the proposition that is before

you and not the proposition that has been improperly described to you. The program is to approve the recommendation of the Executive Board and I don't mind saying if you don't have enough confidence in the unanimous or nearly unanimous action of the Executive Board it is time you got a new Executive Board. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The question has been called for and the question will be put.

RABBI DOPPELT: I wish to discuss the method of voting on this issue, not the issue itself. May I have the floor for a moment?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The question has been called for; the Chair will ask for a yes, and no, vote on the proposition. If the Chair is in doubt after seeing the cards, the Chair will appoint tellers representative of both sides of the controversy to count the cards on both sides and I will ask you all to remain seated and in order until the vote is determined.

RABBI DOPPELT: I should like to ask whether we are going to vote by a show of cards?

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The speaker is asking on a matter of voting, if you will please be patient. Sir, proceed.

RABBI DOPPELT: I should like to state that I think it advisable, and would like to put it in the form of a motion that in view of the heat of this discussion that we have had here today, that the most democratic method of proceeding and getting the best results is by the method of the secret written ballot.

(Loud and manifold objections.)

I should like to explain -

(Vigorous objections.)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: The question has been called for.

RAEBI DOPPELT: This is not a matter of discussing the issues.

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: I will have to rule you out of order; the question is being called for.

Now, in order that you may know what you are voting on I would like to re-read the recommendation of the Executive Board, and this is what you are voting either to sustain or to disapprove:

"The Executive Headquarters of the Union be removed to New York, retaining in Cincinnati either permanently or at least for the immediate future such departments as may more efficiently and economically be operated there, including a regional office in Cincinnati."

That is the recommendation of the Executive Board.

I just want to say before the vote is taken that this is - that you have all been very patient and we appreciate it here, and I know that whatever the decision is, and I have no idea what it is going to be, and I have no desire to influence it one way or the other, that everybody on both sides will work from this moment for the interests of the Union and the promotion of the Union wherever its headquarters may be. (Applause)

As many as are in favor of sustaining the action of the Executive Board will raise their cards.

Put them down.

As many as are opposed will raise their cards.

The Chair is of the opinion that the motion is carried and the Executive Board is sustained. (Vigorous applause and cheering.)

Judge Steinbrink of New York asks for the floor.

The Chair has ruled that the Executive Board is sustained and the motion is carried. Judge Steinbrink!

JUDGE STEINBRINK: My friends of the Union, no matter which way this vote had gone I would still have asked the privilege of two minutes to make a statement: "United we stand, divided we fall." (Applause) Reform Judaism is much more important than any individual.

Now let me address myself to my good friends from Cincinnati, and I will be very brief: I am going to tell you hurriedly a story which will leave a good flavor.

One man was saved from a shipwreck; he clung to a lifeboat which drifted to shore. When he measured his surroundings, he built himself a little where he could sleep; then he built himself a second little hut, which was his synagogue, where he could go to pray; then he built himself a third little hut in the back. Soon another boat came along and saw his flag of distress, and ascertained what the cause was, and what was going on. They asked him, "Who is here with you?" He said, "No one I have been here alone for six weeks." What is this house?" He said, "That is the hut where I live." "And what is this hut? next door." He said,

that is my synagogue, where I pray." They asked him then, "What is this third hut?" "That," he said, "Is another synagogue." "What is the idea," they asked him, "You are here along, with two synagogues?" "That one," He said, "I won't go to."

(Laughter)

Friends, I say to you seriously, from this moment on, let all of us join hands in vigorous support of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Mr. Sidney Meyers of Cincinnati wants to make a statement; then Rabbi Eisendrath and after that we will recess until 2:30.

MR. SIDNEY MEYERS: Thank you.

As President of the Isaac M. Wise Temple, and one of the Chairmen of this Committee to Retain the Union in Cincinnati, I felt that I should have the opportunity of saying a few words.

As you know, my brother is one of the Vice Presidents of this Executive Board, who was given the job of starting off the firecrackers, as he put it, and I would like to volunteer my services as fireman to make certain that the firecracker is completely out. (Applause)

For the Committee with whom I have been sitting all morning, I pledge the support to the Union. A democratic council has made its decision and we support it one hundred per cent. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN: Dr. Eisendrath!

DR. MAURICE N. EISENDRATH: This is, my dear friends, after all, a religious body; we are permeated by the spirit of God; we are fundamentally brothers; we are comrades in arms and at heart.

For the second time within the brief five years that you have paid me the rare honor and accorded me the exalted privilege of being called to leadership of this magnificent institution, for the second time we have risen to the loftiest spiritual heights of sympathetic understanding and comradeship. I thank God and you. I thank Mr. Meyers particularly for that, which is in the heart of every one of you I know, that at all times, regardless of those legitimate differences between us, we will at the end of our honest and earnest and frank and candid debate invariably rise to that synthesis which will bind us together in ever more profound unity, because we recognize that it is unity that transcends differences, that it is unity not predicated on conformity or totalitarianism but unity that is founded upon understanding of divergencies.

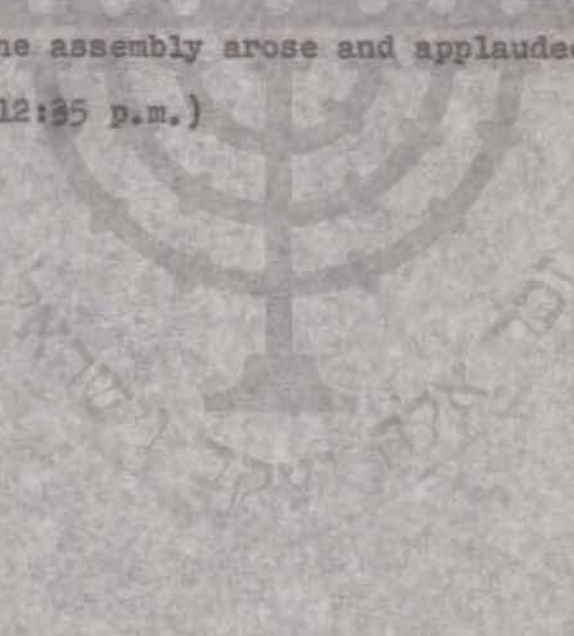
My friend Dr. Heller undoubtedly spoke the truth when he warned me as he has repeatedly, that there are dangers and difficulties in moving to New York. It presents a herculean problem, and task, an almost unprecedented challenge, to go into that great metropolis of New York, swarming with its hundreds of thousands, and millions of Jews, and endeavor to make that kind of impact which we have not previously made. I know that there are those difficulties, and I thank Rabbi Heller for pointing them out to me, but neither I, nor this Union, nor our Reform movement are going to flinch from that difficulty, and danger and challenge. (Applause) We understand it; we are going to face it; we are going to deal with it, and we are going to conquer it.

And as for the Hebrew Union College, and the Jewish Institute of Religion, Mr. Aronson spoke well, that

if there ever be frictions between us, and I pray there will not be, that they are not matters of geographic location. There may be various viewpoints with regard to some matters, but now that the agency and the Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion are welded together, may I assure you that wherever the Union is and it is not going to be completely severed from Cincinnati, wherever the Union functions it functions together with, hand in hand and heart to heart with the Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion.

My friends, in gratitude to God, with a new sense of unification, we go forward to do the work of the Lord.

(The assembly arose and applauded vigorously, and adjourned at 12:35 p.m.)



April 29, 1953

Miss Nessler
Secretary to Rabbi Eisendrath
838 Fifth Avenue
New York 21, New York

Dear Miss Nessler:

I spoke with Rabbi Eisendrath by phone on Sunday, and he said that he was extremely busy just prior to departure, so asked me if I would communicate this request directly to you.

I would like all the literature relevant to the move of the Union to New York. I have in mind specifically a transcript of the arguments at the 1948 Bi-Ennial in Boston; copies of any statements Rabbi Eisendrath may have made on the importance of New York as a center for Reform Judaism; copies of the statements issued by the Cincinnati Committee to retain the Union in Cincinnati; and any transcripts of the arguments pro and con at the Boston Bi-ennial.

He said you would dig these out and forward them to me. I need them in preparing for a paper I am writing now for the forthcoming meeting of the C.A.R. in June. Therefore, I would appreciate receiving them as soon as possible.

With many thanks I am

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF/ms

AGET

AT THE BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE UAHC IN BOSTON

NOV. 14-17, 1948 THERE WILL BE PRESENTED AN IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. BECAUSE THE DECISION IS TO BE MADE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BIENNIAL, THE FINAL VOTE TO PRESENT IT FOR ACTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY RECORDED.

THE MOTION WAS TO MOVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UAHC FROM CINCINNATI TO NEW YORK AND THEREFORE TO BUILD IN NEW YORK "THE HOUSE OF LIVING JUDAISM", THE GRAND (\$600,000) PROJECT OF THE N.F.T.S. FOR WHICH FUNDRAISING HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE MARCH 1946. UP TO AUGUST 1948 APPROXIMATELY \$220,000 HAS BEEN PLEDGED.

The suggestion has given rise to so much discussion that the matter threatens to become one of the most serious and most vigorously debated issues in the forthcoming Biennial session of the UAHC in Boston on November 14-17 of this year.

The case in favor of moving has been set forth at length in the Union's official journal, "Liberal Judaism".

Our committee is taking this opportunity to present the case in favor of retaining the UAHC administrative headquarters in Cincinnati. We address this statement to ~~the~~ leader in Liberal Judaism, who wishes to hear both sides of the matter before arriving at a decision and before ~~the~~ cast ~~his~~ vote at the Union Biennial.

The following are but a few of the reasons why

THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS SHOULD BE RETAINED IN CINCINNATI:

(1) In the Union's 75 years—all of which have been with administrative headquarters in Cincinnati—the Union has grown from a membership of 34 congregations to a membership of 365 congregations, and the healthy increase continues apace.

(2) The identification of Cincinnati as the fountain-head of the Reform or Liberal Jewish movement has always been a gracious and mutually beneficial relationship. Over the years, an inestimable amount of good-will has been built up through this relationship. Why sever that bond?

(3) Geographically, Cincinnati is ideal, because it is located in the center of 60% of the total UAHC membership. Cincinnati is one of the nation's most immediately accessible cities. Other religious denominations are moving to the nation's geographical centers. Cincinnati breathes the spirit of America's "grass-roots" with its objective viewpoint. Even the flow of Jewish population westward has been evidenced by the phenomenal growth of the Union on the Pacific coast and in the smaller communities.

(4) The day may come when the Union will be sufficiently wealthy so that it need not take expenses into consideration. But you know the Union's financial situation today; the organization even has to forego the opportunity of taking on new and worthy activities because finances are not available. In view of such a situation, we submit that moving the administrative headquarters to New York City is absolutely unjustifiable—because such a move means an increase of more than 25% in "overhead" expense. In addition, it will cost far more to erect "The House of Living Judaism" in New York City than in Cincinnati.

(5) Cincinnati now has readily available a building ideally located and easily and economically adaptable as a home for the Union—a beautiful "House of Living Judaism". This building is directly next door to Reform Judaism's own Hebrew Union College, on beautiful Clifton Avenue in the heart of Cincinnati's most famous cultural center, across the street from the University of Cincinnati. The Union could exercise its opportunity to acquire this building (known as Hanselmann Masonic Commandery) at a most reasonable figure, thereby permitting a large sum now being sought for "The House of Living Judaism" building to be channeled into constructive activities. At least \$200,000 can be saved by the use of this Hanselman building.

A photo of the proposed new home of the Union is included in this ~~ARTICLE~~.

(6) Some advocates of moving the Union to New York have said that Cincinnati's Reform Jews do not wish the Union to remain in Cincinnati. How inaccurate! The facts are as follows: By invitation of the Boards of Trustees of Cincinnati's

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1)

two Reform Congregations (Rockdale Avenue and Isaac M. Wise), Mr. Jacob S. Aronson, Chairman of the Union's Executive Board, and Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, President of the Union, presented the case in favor of moving to New York, before a joint meeting of their Boards. Thereafter, each of the two Boards VOTED UNANIMOUSLY in favor of having the Union remain in Cincinnati.

(7) Some advocates of moving the Union maintain that New York headquarters would enable Reform Judaism to "win the unaffiliated". The fact is that the present constitution of the "New York Federation of Reform Synagogues—an agency of the UAHC" states that its purpose is "to promote the aims, purposes, and welfare of the Union in Metropolitan New York" and is staffed to carry out these functions without the duplication of national office personnel. We urge that the additional money required to maintain the Administrative Headquarters in New York should be supplied to the New York regional office for an intensive program "to win the unaffiliated" and to support new, small congregations in that area.

(8) A corollary of the foregoing is the fact that the existing and proposed regional offices in other sections of the country will do more for "winning the truly unaffiliated" in the Eastern States and elsewhere than can be achieved by any administrative headquarters in New York City.

(9) We now come to a matter of SIMPLE DEMOCRACY, a matter that must interest everyone to whom the cause of Reform Judaism is dear. The vital Biennial session of the Union is to be held in Boston November 14-17 of this year. Boston, a truly hospitable and delightful city, located in the extreme northeast corner of our country, is not a convenient location for many delegates. Therefore, many of the delegates will not be able to attend the sessions. The Ohio Valley Regional meeting of the UAHC overwhelmingly approved the motion to ask the Union Executive Board to offer a constitutional amendment by which each congregation could empower one of its delegates to cast the votes for the other delegates from that congregation. The Union's Executive Board has decided to recommend to the convention that the proxy amendment be defeated. *WHY DO THEY FEAR THAT PROGRAMS CANNOT BE MADE SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTING TO ATTRACT LARGE DELEGATIONS TO THE U.A.H.C. CONVENTIONS?*

We urge you to seek to have your delegates instructed to vote "YES" on this proposed amendment - so that a full vote can be had from EVERY CONGREGATION, on the question of moving the Union headquarters as well as on other questions before the Biennial convention. This does not lessen the importance of attendance at the Convention, but merely assures the constituent congregations that their FULL VOICE be heard through those delegates that they have sent. Simple democracy.

(10) Some advocates of moving have labeled the efforts to retain the Union in Cincinnati as a "Cincinnati project." In other words, they have in one moment maintained that Cincinnati does not desire the Union and in another that Cincinnati alone desires the Union. The facts are that (a) Cincinnati, speaking through the unanimous action of both Cincinnati Temples' Boards, most assuredly does desire to retain the Union headquarters in Cincinnati, and (b) Cincinnati is not alone in that desire, since -

(11) The Reform Congregations of Indiana, West Virginia, and Ohio - by resolution adopted at a recent session of the Ohio Valley Regional organization of the UAHC - overwhelmingly voted for the retention of the Union headquarters in Cincinnati.

(12) The Ohio Federation of Temple Sisterhoods recently overwhelmingly adopted a resolution disapproving the proposal to move the Union to New York City, requesting "that the House of Living Judaism be built in Cincinnati on or near the campus of the Hebrew Union College." And this resolution has been already endorsed by 56 individual Sisterhoods from California to New York City.

The undersigned will greatly appreciate your efforts in bringing the foregoing facts to the attention of those persons who will be delegates to the November 14-17 Boston UAHC Biennial.

Your comments, reactions and questions will be welcomed.

~~With cordial greetings, we are,~~

Sincerely yours,

THE COMMITTEE TO RETAIN UAHC HEADQUARTERS IN CINCINNATI.

For the committee,

Dr. Leon Saks, President,
Rockdale Avenue Temple,
Rockdale and Harvey,
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Sidney Meyers, President,
Isaac M. Wise Temple,
Reading and N. Crescent,
Cincinnati 29, Ohio



**A BEAUTIFUL, WELL-CONSTRUCTED, SPACIOUS STRUCTURE IS AVAILABLE
READY TO BE INTEGRATED WITH THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE CAMPUS AND BUILDINGS**

WHY overlook an opportunity which seems "tailor made" for the very purpose for which we are urging that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations be retained in Cincinnati? Here is a building adjacent to the Hebrew Union College and its magnificent campus . . . conveniently located in an area devoted to educational purposes . . . directly opposite the University of Cincinnati which is now being enlarged and many buildings added . . . remote from traffic congestion . . . in the heart of one of Cincinnati's finest residential sections . . . on street car and bus lines . . . on an unusually wide street . . . removed from any possibility of industrial encroachment . . . open on all sides to air and light . . . in brief, a building which "has everything."

This building is available and in the opinion of the Committee is fitted ideally for the purpose with a minimum of expenditure for alterations to suit our needs.

NOTE THE FACTS! THEY MEAN LARGE SAVINGS!

Hanselman-Lodge contains a usable area of about 21,000 square feet.
8,000 sq. ft. are usable on the first and second floors.
5,000 sq. ft. are usable in the basement.
5,000 sq. ft. can be added in the auditorium area.
The land has a frontage of about 100 feet with a depth of 300 feet.
The property can be secured at about \$140,000.

**COMPARE THIS WITH THE COST OF A NEW BUILDING OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN RENTED SPACE
IN NEW YORK CITY!**

**WHEN YOU GO TO THE BIENNIAL IN BOSTON BE SURE TO URGE THAT THE UAHG BE RETAINED
IN CINCINNATI**

MONEY IS EASY TO SPEND . . . BUT HARDER AND HARDER TO RAISE

THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE MONEY WHEN NEEDED MOST

THE COMMITTEE TO RETAIN UAHG HEADQUARTERS IN CINCINNATI



Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, President
838 Fifth Avenue - New York 21, N.Y. - Regent 7-8200

May 11, 1953

BY SPECIAL DELIVERY AIRMAIL

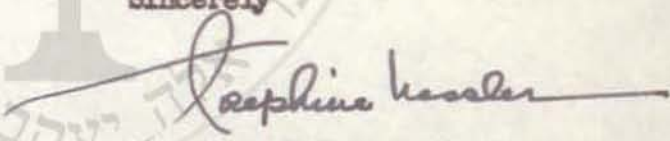
Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun
2419 E. Kenwood Boulevard
Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin

Dear Rabbi Friedman

You will find enclosed the material from the proceedings of the Fortieth Biennial in Boston relating to the removal of Union Headquarters to New York City, which I have had copied for you; and photostatic copy of the argument of the Committee to Retain the UAHC Headquarters in Cincinnati.

I hope this is the material you want and that it will be helpful.

Sincerely


Josephine Nessler, Secretary to
Dr. Eisendrath

jen/n
enclosures