



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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American Jewish Committee, 1941-1945.

September 16, 1941

Mr. Morris D. Waldman, Secretary
American Jewish Committee
386 4th Ave.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Waldman:

I have been receiving quite a number of letters similar to the one I am enclosing herewith, and through the community there has been widespread discussion about the efforts of the American Jewish Committee to suppress criticism of Mr. Ford and Mr. Cameron. Just what are the facts?

With all good wishes, I
remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BE
Enc.



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

386 FOURTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.

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New York, N. Y.
Detroit, Mich.
Philadelphia, Pa.

September 19, 1941.

Dear Dr. Silver:

This is merely an acknowledgement of your letter of the 16th. There is much more than meets the eye here, and we will send a full answer after Rosh Ha Shanah.

In the meantime, I cordially wish you and your dear ones a happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Morris D. Waldman

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

MDW

From: The American Jewish Committee,
386 Fourth Ave., New York City
MUrray-Hill 3-6700

FOR RELEASE ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

New York, Sept. 21 - The following message to Americans of the Jewish faith was issued today (Sunday, Sept. 21) by Louis E. Kirstein, of Boston, Mass., Chairman of the Board and Morris D. Waldman, of New York City, General Secretary of the American Jewish Committee on the occasion of the Jewish New Year Holidays which begin this evening:

"On the occasion of the Jewish High Holy Days, we take the opportunity of addressing our fellow Jews throughout the United States.

"The past year has witnessed a rapid development of the world crisis. Both hemispheres have been affected by it. Nation after nation has been crushed either by armed might or by intrigue implemented by the sword. Death and disease, hunger and poverty, homelessness and oppression have been visited upon many millions of human beings. The agonies of harassed humankind have spread over every continent, crossed every sea, failed to recognize any national boundary.

"The United States has not, as indeed it could not, remain unaffected by the economic, social and political problems which a world in conflict has released. These problems confront us today as a challenge to our courage and our very faith in democratic institutions. To preserve this nation, its traditions and its free institutions, all Americans, from every walk of life and representing the many races and creeds that make up the rich pattern of America, must meet that challenge with every national resource; must contribute toward that effort by accepting their full responsibilities as citizens.

"As in other periods of our country's history, the nation finds itself under the necessity of making momentous decisions. Spirited discussion of public questions is only normal at such a time. Today, however, a factor has been injected for which earlier American history offers no parallel -- the factor of foreign-inspired propaganda seeking to create disunity as a means of weakening the nation as a whole in its hour of stress, exploiting honest differences of opinion as to the course the nation should chart. All Americans have, by observing its use abroad, become familiar with this technique of confusing issues and of stirring up discord through setting group against group, class against

class, race against race. Not least, Americans have learned to see through the Nazi trick of fomenting anti-Jewish feeling. We have indeed come to recognize as a pattern of conquest the spread of such disrupting ideas — ideas completely foreign to our American belief in individualism and freedom. We know that this pattern for conquest deliberately makes use of methods of smearing and blackmailing in an effort to silence the views of Americans on important issues of the day.

"We now see the concerted effort of foreign powers to import these techniques into the United States. Moreover, we find that, unwittingly or deliberately, a small minority of Americans has seemingly embraced these very methods and doctrines which the United States as a nation has repeatedly and emphatically rejected.

"We denounce the innuendos and accusations made by the agents of these foreign powers and their conscious or unwitting tools. We reflect in all respects, save a common religion, a cross section of the American population. We come from all walks of life and represent all shades of opinion. As part of the great American people, we can say nothing less; we need say nothing more.

"Together with all other good citizens, we will resist with all our energy the encroachment of such un-American practices. And we share with our fellow Americans the sense of satisfaction that those who copy the Nazi strategy of anti-semitism and disruptiveness are being overwhelmingly repudiated by the vast majority of decent men and women from coast to coast.

"On the occasion of these Holy Days, we prayerfully rededicate ourselves to those high principles on which this nation was founded and which have made it great. We pledge ourselves as citizens to resist every effort to introduce or to foster within our national boundaries the elements which have destroyed democracy, civilization, and humane living among millions throughout the world."



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

386 FOURTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y.

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MAURICE WERTHEIM New York, N. Y.
JOSEPH WILLEN New York, N. Y.
HENRY WINEMAN Detroit, Mich.
MORRIS WOLF Philadelphia, Pa.

September 29, 1941

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Mr. Waldman turned over to me your note and enclosure of the 16th with reference to the alleged facts about a recent publication of the Friends of Democracy on Henry Ford.

I am sure you are sufficiently familiar with the work of the several national organizations in the field of defense to conclude for yourself that the charges as reported are completely unsubstantiated and undoubtedly emanate from an utterly irresponsible person.

If at any time you should be in New York and would care to have additional information, I am sure that both the Anti-Defamation League and ourselves are at your disposal.

Sincerely yours,

Frank N. Trager
Secretary, Public Relations Committee

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

FNT/ss

May 19, 1942.

Mr. Morris D. Waldman, Secretary
American Jewish Committee
588 Fourth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Waldman:

With reference to Mr. Kramer's letter to you in re the directory, may I write you that the Board of Jewish Ministers of New York, at its own initiative, appointed a committee to cooperate with us in the getting up of the directory. Rabbi Bienenfeld, the chairman, wrote me on May 18, 1942 as follows:

"...the New York Board is very much interested in the Rabbinic directory. We feel a proper directory would be invaluable to the community. On the other hand, we are tremendously worried about a directory that might include names of people who are not Rabbis."

The influential rabbinic association, The Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, is likewise interested in this great project.

May I also write you that I sent copies of Mr. Kramer's letter to you to some members of our board. Portions of the answers that reached me todate, are given on the sheet attached.

Very sincerely yours,

HSL:A

H. S. LINFIELD, Director

DR. ROBERT AXEL, BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, STATE OF NEW YORK:

"It is my belief that there is a real need for such a directory and this project will go a long way in promoting the welfare of the Jewish Community as an American religious group. At the same time, it will also be of direct benefit to the American rabbis."

DR. EDWARD N. CALISCH, FORMER PRESIDENT CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS, RICHMOND, VA.:

"It is my opinion that such a directory, as you project of Jewish congregations and rabbis is desirable, and I trust that you will be enabled to publish it."

DR. LOUIS M. EPSTEIN, FORMER PRESIDENT RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY, BROOKLINE, MASS.:

"I am very much interested in your proposed plan to publish a directory of Synagogues and Rabbis. I think it will be a definite service to organized American Jewish life. It is the kind of service that community-minded people need from time to time and which, if not supplied by you, they cannot get at any cost."

DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN, FORMER PRESIDENT ZIONIST ORGANIZATION, CHICAGO, ILL.:

"We are certainly in need, for many reasons, of a directory of Jewish Congregations and Rabbis. It is no credit to us that up to the present time, the American Jewish community has had no such information available."

HONORABLE WILLIAM B. HERLANDS, COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION, NEW YORK, N.Y.:

"I am of the opinion that a directory of Jewish congregations and of American rabbis is urgently required. Such a directory would be most valuable for many reasons, some of which are set forth in your memorandum of May 4. Please let me know if I can be of service."

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN, DROPSIE COLLEGE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.:

"It is an important undertaking and the surprising feature is that it has not been done in these past twenty years."

RABBI IRVING F. REICHERT, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.:

"I am very definitely in favor of a directory of Jewish Congregations and of Rabbis. I think such a project will be very valuable in many ways."

The American Jewish Committee

Cleveland Chapter
1030 EUCLID AVENUE
Cleveland 15, Ohio

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GEORGE B. MAYER
LESTER I. MILLER

February 2, 1945

Rabbi A. H. Silver, Pres.,
Cleveland Zionist Society,
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The growing surge of anti-Semitism in this country is a problem that today weighs heavily on all our minds - not only as Jews, but as Americans.

WHAT IS THE TRUE STATE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN THIS COUNTRY?

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT IT?

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

You are invited to hear a confidential report on these questions Monday evening, February 12th, at 8:00 P.M. at the Euclid Avenue Temple, Euclid at East 82nd street. For the first time, this community will have the opportunity to hear the unvarnished, first hand facts from two men, who, perhaps more than any other individuals, know that story - and what is being done about it. They are:

DR. SOLOMON ANDHIL FINEBERG, celebrated author of the widely read book "Overcoming Anti-Semitism", and of the recently published discussion course, "Common Sense for American Jews", will present the glaring facts on the extent of anti-Semitism in this country, and will discuss the sound principles he has authored for the effective combating of anti-Semitic activities. During World War I, Dr. Fineberg served for twenty months in the U.S. Marine Corps. Following his discharge, he was ordained Rabbi at the Hebrew Union College, and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Columbia University. He has addressed audiences in more than 250 cities in the United States and Canada. His books and articles are considered the outstanding works on the subject by experts in the field of civic protection.

GEORGE J. MINTZER, former Chief Assistant United States Attorney in New York City, will present a thrilling, factual account of the Committee's war against anti-Semitism. For a number of years George Mintzer has been one of the most effective leaders in the tremendous and detailed work of routing out anti-Semitism. Mr. Mintzer's qualifications for this task are borne out by his professional record. As assistant U.S.

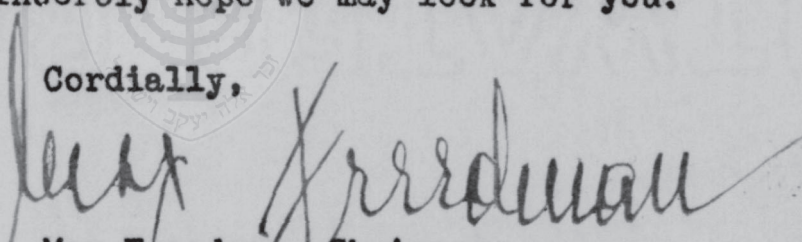
attorney, he was an important factor in breaking up loan shark gangs who preyed on small wage earners, white slave gangs, drug and counterfeit bands, and bankruptcy rings. His work in uncovering anti-American activities has won him high praise. He is coming to Cleveland to tell us about some of the things that have happened, where they happened, and what has been done about them, with names, dates and places.

After you have heard the story Dr. Fineberg and George Mintzer will bring us, we somehow feel that you will experience both pride and reassurance that a cause so close to you and your family is being championed by such outstanding men. The task, however, is one far too great to be successfully accomplished by any limited group of men. It calls on all of us, as both Jews and Americans, for the skillful direction of our best efforts.

This will not be an open meeting. However, because the reports to be presented are of such profound importance, we are asking a representative group of community leaders to join us. We are addressing you not merely as an individual, but as a leader representing an important community activity directly concerned with the problems to be discussed.

Admission will be by card only. We sincerely hope we may look for you.

Cordially,


Max Freedman, Chairman
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
Cleveland Chapter

In 1941 Dr. Weizmann approached Mr. Sol Strook, President of the American Jewish Committee "to see whether common ground for united action could not be found." Mr. Strook invited a number of his associates to serve as individuals in conference with Zionists. Later on, these negotiations were adopted as official by the American Jewish Committee. Quite a number of meetings were held, and following the death of Mr. Strook, Mr. Maurice Wertheim continued these meetings. In 1942, Mr. Wertheim reported: "I am happy to tell you that the spirit of good will which has thus far been manifested on both sides augurs well."

Mr. Ben Gurion came to participate in these negotiations when he visited the United States, and on June 4, 1942, the following agreement was actually initialed by Mr. Ben Gurion and Mr. Wertheim, which was approved by the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee:

"1. To act in common

"a. For the maintenance of Jewish rights under the Mandate in Palestine for the immediate future;

"b. For the fulfillment of the original purposes of the Balfour Declaration, whereby through unrestricted Jewish immigration and large-scale colonization under a regime designed for this purpose, Jews may constitute a majority in Palestine and establish an autonomous commonwealth, it being clearly understood that

"(1) In such a commonwealth, all the inhabitants, without regard to race or religion, shall enjoy complete equality of rights;

"(2) The establishment of this commonwealth will in no way affect the political or civil status and allegiance of Jews who are citizens of any other country."

Mr. Proskauer threatened to bolt the Committee along with his followers if this agreement were adopted by the American Jewish Committee. In order to avoid a split, Mr. Wertheim had the agreement shelved.

On January 31, 1943, Mr. Proskauer was elected President. He made his election contingent upon the acceptance of a statement of views on Palestine which he presented. The statement ignores the Jewish National Home, the Balfour Declaration, the Mandate, the Jewish Agency completely. It was a complete reversal of the former attitude of the American Jewish Committee as represented in the adherence of its leaders to the Jewish Agency.

When Judge Proskauer's statement adopted, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, as a member of the American Jewish Committee did not vote against it nor did he resign from the Committee in protest. He simply requested that he be recorded as not voting. Judge Levinthal was at that time President of the ZOA. Draw your own conclusions as to the character of a man who refrains from voting on a crucial issue such as this when as head of the Zionist Organization of America he is officially obligated to represent the Zionist viewpoint.

You will recall that Judge Proskauer advocated that the Zionists forget their ideologies for the time being and join with the American Jewish Committee in what he called "practical work" for Palestine -- the program which the same Judge Proskauer presented to the American Jewish Conference, and which the Conference overwhelmingly voted down.



CLEVELAND CHAPTER

The American Jewish Committee

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1078 Union Commerce Bldg.

Vice Chairmen . . . LESTER I. MILLER
IRVING B. HEXTER

Treasurer WALTER M. HAAS
3140 E. 65th Street

Secretary . . MRS. EDWIN I. BAMBERGER
20888 Sydenham Road

The Cleveland Chapter invites you to attend the
Presentation of the Public Relations Department of the
New York Office of the American Jewish Committee

"CLINIC ON ANTI-SEMITISM"

8:00 P.M. Monday, January 21, 1946
Euclid Avenue Temple Auditorium

This novel program which explains the AJC's domestic defense policies and operations, aroused wide-spread interest in New York and Philadelphia. It will be given by four professional members of the Staff of the Public Relations Department, who are actively engaged in the work of counteracting anti-Semitism. The participants will be Mr. Richard C. Rothschild, director, Mrs. Ethel C. Phillips, head of the production division, Mr. Newman Levy, their legal counsel, and Col. Julius Schreiber, consultant on veterans activities.

We hope that you will be with us and bring interested friends. There will be no solicitation of funds or membership.

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D. I. Simon, Active Treasurer

Headquarters

Bureau of Jewish Education Office
813 Ulmer Building
Cleveland, Ohio

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF:

EMERGENCY FUND FOR PALESTINE 4/18/30

RECEIPTS

Deposits

September	3	60.00
	5	2179.00
	5	2973.50
	6	1423.04
	6	1425.00
	9	1587.50
	9	611.65
	10	771.00
	10	884.36
	11	985.50
	12	926.00
	13	616.00
	16	2243.30
	17	621.00
	18	870.55
	19	304.00
	20	2151.51
	23	1956.00
	24	944.50
	25	471.00
	26	570.00
	30	436.00
October	3	293.00
	8	1033.00
	11	565.00
	22	891.50
	25	581.83
November	8	271.00
	15	171.55
	15	687.50
December	6	62.00
	12	155.00
	31	68.00
March	21	25.00
April	14	4.00

Total Deposits

29,818.79

Add

Total Amount of Interest Earned

14.29

Total Income Received Directly At
Cleveland Office

29,833.08

Total Income

29,833.08

DISBURSEMENTS

Remitted to New York Office

Sept. 6	10,000.00
16	5,000.00
24	5,000.00
Oct. 8	5,000.00
22	2,000.00

Total Amt. Remitted to New York

27,000.00

EXPENSES

Sept. 16	M. & D. Simon Co.	Postage	124.45
25	Bureau of Jewish Education	"	12.00
25	Marguerite Firth	Clerical	20.00
Oct. 3	Atlas Commercial Printing Co.	Printing	85.50
3	Western Union Telegraph Co.	600 Night Letters	120.00
3	Marguerite Firth	Clerical	16.00
3	Bureau of Jewish Education	Misc.	11.25
8	M. & D. Simon Co.	Telegrams	8.64
8	Burrows Bros. Co.	Office Supplies	13.71
8	Ideal Office Supply Co.	" "	1.62
Nov. 21	Bureau of Jewish Education	Rent, 'Phone, etc.	150.00
21	Pearl Saperstein	Services	100.00
Dec. 4	Progressive Printing Co.	Circulars	15.00
11	National Fund Council	Error in Receipt	100.00
	Error in Accounting		.01

Total Expenses

778.18

Returned Checks Re-deposited, and deducted from Income

170.00

Total Disbursements

27,948.18

Balance Now on Hand

1,884.90

April 18 Check Issued to New York Office To Close Account

1,884.90

In addition to the amounts above listed we have knowledge of the following monies that were sent directly by individuals or organizations of Cleveland:

Beth Hamedgrash Agudal (To Rabbi Kook In Palestine)	350.00
Junior Hadassah (To New York Office)	75.00
Senior Hadassah (To New York Office)	350.00
Individual Contributions, According to List Received from New York Office	1725.00
	2500.00

Amount Remitted from Cleveland Head-

quarters

28884.90

Net Total Amount Remitted to Palestine Emergency Fund from Cleveland

\$ 31384.90