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

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American Jewish Relief Committee, 1924.

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AMERICAN JEWISH RELIEF COMMITTEE

FOR SUFFERERS FROM THE WAR

103 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

DAVID A. BROWN

CHAIRMAN NATIONAL APPEAL

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January 7th, 1924

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Rabbi A. H. Silver,
1529 Guardian Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Since the announcement was recently made that the American Jewish Relief Committee has collected the unprecedented sum of over sixty-three million dollars and that this work is now to be terminated, I have been besieged by requests from all over the country that an imperishable record be made of the monumental effort in which you and other leaders have played such an important part in the saving of thousands of lives of our stricken brethren in the War Areas of Eastern Europe.

This has inspired me to accept the duty which they have urged upon me, because of my service in this work for over seven years. I have therefore begun the preparation of this book which I purpose to make into a big human interest story, telling how from the small beginning there was created a great national organization operating without friction in forty-eight States, each unit of which was composed of representative Jewish men and women who gave without stint of their time, money and energy.

I shall also record the magnificent service in our Campaigns of such leading non-Jews as Herbert Hoover, Pierre Dupont of Wilmington, Del., who underwrote the Campaign in that State, W. C. Sweet, a leading banker of Denver and now Governor of Colorado who was our Colorado chairman in 1919, B. F. Bush, President of the Missouri-Pacific Railway and team captain in the St. Louis appeal, Sir Edmund Walker, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, George Eastman of Rochester, N. Y., George F. Johnson, President of the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company of Binghamton, N. Y. and many other great-hearted men whose sympathies towards stricken humanity were above race or creed.

Scores of heart-gripping incidents and many humorous episodes shall also be permanently recorded before they are lost in oblivion. The letter of the old Indian Missionary which brought us more than a half-million dollars will be published. How a janitor in a great factory found our letter to his wealthy employer in the waste-basket and as a result made a collection among the employes, is a story which cannot help but thrill all who read it. The incident of a prominent citizen of Anniston, Ala. with a Jewish name who wrote us that he was not of our faith but suggested as chairman, the leading Jew in that community - Mr. Columbus Smith, - is one of the many bits of humor which will

PLEDGES MADE MUST BE PAID

enrich this volume. And the little negro newsboy of Duluth, Minn. who gave the entire proceeds of his week's work to the Jewish Relief Fund because he had heard that Mr. Julius Rosenwald was interested in our cause, is another incident well worth perpetuating. There are many more occurrences of throbbing interest.

As you can see, this book has already been written by the seven thousand people who have taken part in the work of the American Jewish Relief Committee. I shall merely be a chronicler of their deeds and my aim will be to simply tell the true story of the various campaigns which have resulted in this epoch-making sum. And I want also to point out the spiritual significance of this great effort in its relation to Jewish life in America, and in the relation of Jew to non-Jew, for the Jewish Relief Campaigns marked the first time in our history when we called upon our non-Jewish friends who responded so willingly to the call as sounded by ex-United States Senator Willard Salisbury of Delaware who at a fund-raising dinner said: "This is not only a Jewish movement - it is a human movement!"

I should like to have an expression from you and a few other leading Jews of America who have been a vital factor in our work and whose association has been such a great joy to me, as to whether this volume would be of personal interest to you. An early reply will be tremendously appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

erely yours,

B. H. Thomas

January 10th, 1924.

Mr. Henry H. Rosenfeld,
103 Park Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Rosenfeld,

Your project of publishing a record of the monumental achievement of American Jewry in the field of war relief is a most praiseworthy one. What interested me especially as a teacher of religion was the remarkable spiritual by-product of this vast enterprise of mercy. Nothing has done so much for unity in Israel and for the awakening of a sense of Jewish solidarity and loyalty as the successful campaign for relief in their accumulative effect. I shall look forward with great pleasure to the results of your labors.

With kindest regards, permit
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1924.

Mr. Henry H. Rosenfelt,
American Jewish Relief Committee,
103 Park Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Rosenfelt:

I have your letter of January 8, 1924 telling me of the book which you propose writing in regard to the work of the American Jewish Relief Committee.

I think that this will be a fine thing as I feel that the activities of that committee have represented one of the most inspiring chapters in the history of America's unselfish effort to relieve distress through Eastern Europe during the post war period.

Yours faithfully,

(SIGNED) HERBERT HOOVER

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1924.

My dear Mr. Rosenfelt:

Your announcement that the work of the American Jewish Relief Committee is now on the point of termination, brings a striking reminder of the extent, the generosity and the efficiency of this effort during the long period that it has been carried on. The statement that no less than \$63,000,000 was raised and distributed in the course of this work is the most impressive suggestion of the magnitude of the program. It is particularly good to know that a permanent record is to be made that will be in future a reminder of this phase of America's great work for relief of suffering and privation throughout the world, and I am more than glad you have given me opportunity to contribute my own word of commendation and endorsement in that connection.

Most sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) CALVIN COOLIDGE

Mr. Henry H. Rosenfelt,
American Jewish Relief Committee,
103 Park Avenue,
New York City.

American Jewish Relief

HENRY H. ROSENFELT

103 PARK AVENUE

New York

Telephone 2635 Vanderbilt

January
Fourteenth
1924

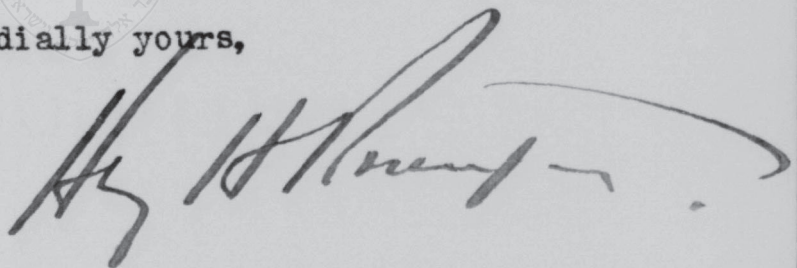
Rabbi A. H. Silver
Cleveland
Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Accept my heartfelt thanks for
your kind expressions of approval of the book
which I am writing.

Your letter has embodied most
effectively the thesis which I will endeavor
to put across.

Cordially yours,



HHR:DS