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American League Against War and Fascism, 1937.

Western Reserve Historical Society

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THE AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

Monthly Magazine **THE FIGHT**

National Office
268 Fourth Ave., Room 701
New York, N. Y.

Cable Address
Amleag, New York
Tel. AL 4-9784-5

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September 7, 1937.

Rabbi Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
105 Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The People's Congress for Democracy and Peace will be convened at Pittsburgh, Pa., on November 26-28. This will be the 4th National Congress of the American League Against War and Fascism. You may recall that our 3rd Congress, held in Cleveland in January, 1936, was attended by over 2,000 delegates representing over three and a quarter million people.

Although only a preliminary announcement has been made, responses indicate that this 4th Congress has caught the interest and imagination of labor, farm, religious, professional and middle class groups.

Enclosed is the text of the official Call for the Congress. We are very eager to have your personal endorsement of this Call along with endorsements of other leaders of American public life. The weight of your name will aid in bringing the attention of many people to this great assembly.

Will you please let us have your reply by mail or telegram - at our expense - at the earliest possible moment?

Faithfully yours,

Harry F. Ward.

Harry F. Ward
National Chairman

ALL

A movement to unite in common resistance to War and Fascism all organizations and individuals who are opposed to these allied destroyers of mankind

National Executive Committee

Israel Amter, New York
 Roger Baldwin, New York
 Mrs. Clinton M. Barr, Wisconsin
 Max Bedacht, New York
 Ruth Bennett, Ohio
 Mrs. Victor L. Berger, Wisconsin
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 Charles Blome, Missouri
 Mrs. Ella Reeve Bloor, Pennsylvania
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OFFICIAL CALL
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE
Pittsburgh, Pa. Nov. 26-28, 1937

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS ago the people of this country established the Constitution of the United States of America in order to "insure domestic tranquility. . . and secure the blessings of liberty". TODAY the peace and freedom they sought are gravely imperiled. War follows war -- in Ethiopia, Spain, China. Nation after nation, including our own, takes bread from the mouths of little children in order to prepare for war. Millions of men and women all over the world find work only in fashioning machinery of death and destruction. The aggressor invades other nations unchecked. The forces of reaction are mobilizing for universal conflict.

THE FREEDOM that the democratic process promised mankind is in peril in every quarter of the globe. In Italy, Germany and Japan human life is ruled by military force. For over a year the people of Spain have fought against their own reactionaries and an international coalition in defense of the right to govern themselves in ways of their own choosing. In North China, the autocratic rule of Japanese militarism is opposed by a peace-loving people. The Fascist International -- Germany, Italy and Japan, supported by the anti-democratic crusade of the Vatican -- seeks to over throw democratic government everywhere. In Poland, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Mexico and many other lands forces of reaction plot against the people.

HERE IN THE UNITED STATES the same destructive forces are at work. Under the pretense of defending the Constitution, calculating Tories strive to destroy our democratic government. Disdaining the law of the land, economic royalists establish company unions, controlled citizens' committees, and open vigilante bands. They employ armed thugs, company police, local authorities and the National Guard to commit acts of violence and murder. They draft laws to entangle unions in the courts and destroy labor's recent gains. With one hand, Congress gives us a billion dollar war budget, not for defense of our coasts and borders but for conflict on foreign soil; with the other, a "neutrality" law which is invoked against the defenders of democracy and not against those who are destroying it. Through the Industrial Mobilization Plan our American Fascists seek a military-industrial dictatorship. In schools and camps they speed the militarization of our youth. They forge chains of tyranny to endanger the freedom of racial and religious minorities.

THIS COURSE OF EVENTS makes it necessary once again for the people of these United States to assemble in time-honored custom and face the enemies that threaten their democratic government and the peace of the world. To make plans for action in this crisis, the American League Against War and Fascism has called the PEOPLE'S CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE to convene in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 26, 27 and 28, 1937.

Endorsed by _____

Date _____

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

CLEVELAND CITY COMMITTEE

ROOM 203 SUPERIOR BLDG.
CLEVELAND, OHIO

CHerry 5479

HARRY F. WARD
National Chairman

September 9, 1937

ALEXANDER F. WHITNEY
Honorary State Chairman

MAX S. HAYES
Honorary City Chairman

PROF. PAUL P. ROGERS
Chairman

GEORGE PALDA
Executive Chairman

HARRY I. BECKER
Executive Secretary

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road and E. 105 Street
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Your secretary has asked me to take this means of communicating to you my wish for an interview.

During your absence from the city there was brought to light the fact of the existence here of an anti-Semitic "Association of Leagues." The story of this organization was printed by the Cleveland Press, after the original data had been uncovered by the American League Against War and Fascism.

Publicity resulted in the raising of the hue and cry. Many letters to the editor were written commending the expose, and some in defense of the Association and its secretary, Susan Sterling. The Cleveland City Council passed a resolution requesting Congress to instruct the LaFollette committee to investigate the Association and other Nazi groups.

The American League assumed the brunt of the work involved in informing the public of the true nature of this Fascist crew. Support came from many organizations, such as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the United Automobile Workers of America, the Cleveland Industrial Council, the American Youth Congress, and others.

An effort was made to secure the cooperation of Jewish organizations. The Jewish Community Council decided to let the matter rest with the executive committee of the League for Human Rights Against Nazism. That committee was presented with the facts of Susan Sterling's organization, was convinced of its anti-Semitic nature, but balked when it came to rendering the proper assistance to the American League, since it was shown that the Association of Leagues is also anti-labor. Certain members of the anti-Nazi League's executive committee were prone to attach the red label to the American League, and used that as a bar to any action.

Such nonfeasance disgraces the Jewish community. I think that we should take steps to convince a majority of that committee to reverse its decision, to support the expose and help stamp out the Fascist association. That is a job that still remains.

A MOVEMENT TO UNITE IN COMMON RESISTANCE TO WAR AND FASCISM ALL ORGANIZATIONS
AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THESE ALLIED DESTROYERS OF MANKIND

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

I should like to have a thorough discussion with you, to investigate the possibilities of really securing the cooperation of the Jewish community in a program which they should be the first to support.

Sincerely yours,

Harry I. Becker

Harry I. Becker,
Executive Secretary



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Trade Union
REV. HERMAN F. REISSIG
Religious
ROBERT K. SPEER
Education

Rabbi A. Hillel Silver
The Temple
105th Street-Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Several weeks ago we invited you, among other leaders of American public life, to give your personal endorsement to the PEOPLE'S CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE. On page 3 of the enclosed Call you will note those who have already responded.

We would like very much to have your endorsement to add on the next printing of the Call. Only 20,000 were printed in this first run; we expect to issue a total of 100,000.

A brief statement of endorsement from you would be very helpful in promoting and advertising this Congress. Won't you let us have an early reply from you on this very urgent matter?

Faithfully yours,

Harry F. Ward
National Chairman

HEW:NT
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Call to Action!

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS for DEMOCRACY and PEACE

November 26-28, 1937

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Fourth National Congress

AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

To the People of America:

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS ago the people of this country established the Constitution of the United States of America in order to "insure domestic tranquility . . . and secure the blessings of liberty." Today the peace and freedom they sought are gravely imperilled. War follows war—in Ethiopia, Spain, China. Nation after nation, including our own, takes bread from the mouths of little children in order to prepare for war. Millions of men and women all over the world find work only in fashioning machinery of death and destruction. The aggressor invades other nations unchecked. The forces of reaction are mobilizing for universal conflict.

THE FREEDOM that the democratic process promised mankind is in peril in every quarter of the globe. In Italy, Germany and Japan human life is ruled by military force. For over a year the people of Spain have fought against their own reactionaries and an international coalition in defense of the right to govern themselves in ways of their own choosing. In China the autocratic rule of Japanese militarism is opposed by a peace-loving people. The Fascist International—Germany, Italy and Japan—supported by the reactionary forces in other countries, seeks to overthrow democratic government everywhere. In Poland, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Mexico and many other lands the forces of reaction plot against the people.

HERE IN THE UNITED STATES the same destructive forces are at work. Under the pretense of defending the Constitution, calculating Tories strive to destroy our democratic government. Disdaining the law of the land, economic royalists establish company unions, controlled citizens committees, and open vigilante bands. They employ armed thugs, company police, local authorities and the National Guard to commit acts of violence and murder. They draft laws to entangle unions in the courts and destroy labor's recent gains. With one hand Congress gives us a billion-dollar war budget, not for defense of our coasts and borders but for conflict on foreign soil; with the other, a "neutrality" law which is invoked against the defenders of Democracy and not against those who are destroying it. Through the Industrial Mobilization Plan our American Fascists seek a military-industrial dictatorship. In schools and camps they speed the militarization of our youth. They forge chains of tyranny to endanger the freedom of racial and religious minorities.

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We Summon all sections of the American community to assemble to promote PEACE
and defend DEMOCRACY.

SEND DELEGATES

Labor unions and farm organizations, peace societies and religious groups, organizations of progressives and professionals, Negroes, veterans, racial and minority groups, political parties and civic bodies, language and fraternal orders, women's and youth clubs—all bodies of the people, elect your representatives to this Congress!

ACT ON THESE ISSUES

AN AMERICAN PEACE POLICY: Make the United States a power for Peace in the world.
Stop the Fascist invaders of Spain and China. Build the People's Peace forces.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS: Defend the rights of organized workers; protect the trade unions from vigilante and reactionary forces; preserve the freedom of national, racial, and religious minorities.

WAR PREPARATIONS: Free the people from the war-promoting policies of the War and Navy Departments. Reduce war budgets; defeat the Industrial Mobilization Plan. Halt militarization of our youth.

FASCIST FORMATIONS: Expose Fascist organizations of employers, anti-democratic agents and enemies of labor; protect the foreign born; defeat repressive legislation.

AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Harry F. Ward, *Chairman*
Mrs. Victor L. Berger, *Vice Chairman*
Earl Browder, *Vice Chairman*
Max S. Hayes, *Vice Chairman*
Robert Morss Lovett, *Vice Chairman*
Jacob Mirsky, *Vice Chairman*
William P. Mangold, *Treasurer*

NATIONAL BUREAU

Roger Baldwin Clarence Hathaway
Ludwig Bolz Charles Krumbein
LeRoy E. Bowman William P. Mangold
Eleanor D. Brannan William Spofford
Margaret Forsyth Harry F. Ward
James Waterman Wise

CONGRESS ENDORSED BY

(These endorsements are personal, not organizational.)

Hon. John T. Bernard
U. S. Representative, Minnesota
John H. Bosch
President, National Farm Holiday Association
Richard Bosch
Minnesota Farmers Union
Oscar Brekke
President, South Dakota Holiday Association
Howard G. Costigan
Secretary, Washington Commonwealth Federation
Joseph Curran
General Organizer, National Maritime Union
Prof. Jerome Davis
President, American Federation of Teachers
John P. Davis
Secretary, National Negro Congress
Charles D. Egley
Manager, Farmer's Union Live Stock
Commission Co., Minnesota
Hon. C. W. Fine
State Senator, North Dakota
Francis J. Gorman
International President, United Textile Workers
of America
Mauritz A. Hallgren
Associate Editor, BALTIMORE SUN

L. O. Hartman
Editor, Zions Herald
Rev. Donald G. Lothrop
Community Church, Boston, Mass.
Prof. Kirtley F. Mather
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
Lewis Merrill
President, United Office and Professional Workers
of America
Hon. Jerry J. O'Connell
U. S. Representative, Montana
Hon. James P. Pope
U. S. Senator, Idaho
Dr. A. L. Sachar
National Director, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
Maxwell S. Stewart
Associate Editor, THE NATION, New York, N. Y.
Hon. Henry G. Teigan
U. S. Representative, Minnesota
John G. Walz
Vice President, North Dakota
Farmers Holiday Association
A. F. Whitney
President, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen
Byrl A. Whitney
Director, Educational & Research Bureau,
Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen

INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATES

The program adopted by the Third Congress will be subject to such amendments and additions as the Fourth Congress shall deem necessary in view of changed conditions and the expressed will of the delegates.

Outstanding international leaders in the struggle for Democracy and Peace in other countries have been invited to attend by the National Bureau.

Delegates should be elected from all local organizations and groups that stand for Democracy and Peace and against Fascism and war. Every organized body is entitled to one delegate for its organization, plus an additional delegate for every 250 members or major fraction thereof. A registration fee of \$1 for every delegate will be charged to help meet expenses of the Congress.

National and state organizations shall be entitled to two delegates at a special registration fee of \$3 each.

DELEGATE'S CREDENTIAL FORM NO. 1

(Name of delegate)

(Street address)

(City)

(State)

(Organization or Group represented)

(Address of Organization or Group)

Number of members

(Secretary or Officer of Organization)

To be sent with registration fee to the National Office of the *American League Against War and Fascism*

DELEGATE'S CREDENTIAL FORM NO. 2

(Name of delegate)

(Street address)

(City)

(State)

(Organization or Group represented)

(Address of Organization or Group)

Number of members

(Secretary or Officer of Organization)

To be retained by delegate as means of identification at Pittsburgh, Pa.

Send credential form No. 1 and fee, and address all inquiries to

AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM
286 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.