



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 Zionist Emergency Council, Taft, Robert A., 1944-1945.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MEMORANDUM

To Harry L. Shapiro

Date August 8, 1944

From Abe Tuvim

I am attaching herewith copy of my letter to Alex Rose.

As you know, he is an avowed Zionist and in his position as State Executive Secretary to the Liberal Party, he is the person closest to Dean Alfange in liberal and labor circles. Rose assured me today that he would obtain a statement favoring Zionism from Alfange within the next few days.

7 With reference to Philip Murray, I can advise you that I spoke to Mr. Zaritsky. He will try to see Murray within the next week. It is his opinion, however, that the inclusion of Murray's name among the honorary sponsors of the Emergency Committee Conference was due to the fact that Murray is interested in rescuing the Jews of Europe and is not concerned with the Bergson crowd in any other sense.

AT:BP

Enc.

August 8, 1944

Mr. Alex Rose
Hotel Claridge
Broadway & 44th Street
New York City

Dear Alex:

I want you to know that I was thrilled with the information you gave me today about the prospects of obtaining a statement from Dean Alfange in which he will clarify his position relative to Jewish aspirations in Palestine.

If, as you say, he has practically committed himself to an endorsement of Zionism in his conversations with you, I need not tell you what an electrifying effect a statement embodying this would have on all of our people.

I would ask that you send Dean's statement to Mr. Harold P. Manson, the public relations director of the American Zionist Emergency Council, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City. As soon as he receives it, it will be released not only for the general press but for the Jewish and Anglo-Jewish papers throughout the country, as well as the press agencies servicing England and Palestine. I know Manson will do a bang-up job on this.

I consider myself personally indebted to you for your cooperation in regard to the above. If there is anything that you feel I can do to help you in your work, I will consider it a privilege to have you call on me.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Abe Tuvim

AT:BP

P.S. You are a fast worker. I no more than had this letter dictated than Dean read his statement to me over the 'phone.

September 26, 1944

The Honorable Robert A. Taft
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

Thank you for your kind letter. I am returning herewith the letter of the Zionist Organization of America requesting a message to be read at their convention. I think it would be very helpful if you would send such a message. The Zionist Organization of America has close to 125,000 members and is the largest Jewish organization in the United States.

I am interested to know whether you have received a reply to your communication from Secretary of War Stimson. It would be very helpful if we could get such a reply, especially if the reply were favorable, and it would be a fine thing if the reply were made public by you -- that is, providing it is favorable. Perhaps a little prodding is indicated.

I am delighted that you will be with the Cleveland Zionist Society on Sunday evening, October 22. We are proceeding with arrangements.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

COMMODORE HOTELNYK=

WRHS



=IN SPITE OF CALLS MY OFFICE HAS NO WRITTEN REPLY STOP I
BELIEVE YOU COULD QUOTE ME AS STATING THAT I HAVE BEEN
ASSURED BY WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT THE PALESTINE
MATTER IS NO LONGER REGARDED FOR MILITARY DECISION STOP IF
LETTER ARRIVES:WILL HAVE IT FORWARDED TO YOU=

ROBERT A TAT.

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

October 11, 1944

Senator Robert A. Taft
603 Dixie Terminal
Cincinnati, Ohio

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE WRITTEN REPLY FROM WASHINGTON WHICH YOU REQUESTED. IF SO PLEASE WIRE ME COMMODORE HOTEL NEW YORK CITY WHERE I SHALL HOLD IMPORTANT PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW THURSDAY EVENING. I WOULD CREDIT YOU WITH FAVORABLE REPLY IF ANY STOP. AFTER THURSDAY WILL BE BREAKERS HOTEL ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. FOR FOUR DAYS ATTENDING ZIONIST CONVENTION. IF REPLY COMES THROUGH DURING THAT PERIOD PLEASE WIRE OR PHONE ME THERE SO THAT I CAN MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AT CONVENTION. KINDEST REGARDS.

A H SILVER

C
O
P
Y

October 17, 1944.

Dear Miss Vilkomerson:

I have your letter of October 15th. in which you enclosed a copy of the Resolution adopted at the recent Convention of the National Association of Women Lawyers in Chicago.

I appreciate your taking the time and trouble to write to me and to send me this enclosure. As you probably know, the Secretary of War has withdrawn his objections to my resolution and I hope to make some headway in this matter after the recess.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Robert A. Taft.

Taft For Senator Campaign Committee

603 DIXIE TERMINAL BUILDING

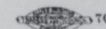
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October 23, 1944.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I cannot say how much I appreciate your kindness in inviting me to the meeting last night and making the statement which you did. I shall always be deeply grateful. I am sure that rapid progress can be made when Congress returns, and I will do all that I can to see that it is made.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

RT:CJ

October 26, 1944

Mr. Paul W. Walter
Leader Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Walter:

I have dictated the enclosed few paragraphs from memory. I trust that you will find them satisfactory.

Senator Taft's visit made a profound impression and I am sure that he made many friends.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

News Release

From Taft For Senate Committee

John B. Hollister, Chairman

(Immediate Release)

TAFT FIGHTS TO MAKE PALESTINE A JEWISH COMMONWEALTH

Sunday night, October 22, Senator Robert A. Taft was privileged to address nearly 2,000 Jews at a meeting of the Cleveland Zionist organization at The Temple, East 105th Street at Ansel Road, Cleveland. Senator Taft spoke about the Taft-Wagner Resolution which was introduced into the Senate and provided for unlimited immigration into Palestine and making Palestine a Jewish commonwealth. Senator Taft, as Chairman of the Resolutions Committee at the Republican Convention, was successful in including a provision for an open Palestine in the Republican platform. This was the first time in the history of the United States that a major political party had included such a plank and a few weeks later the Democratic Party also adopted this policy as a plank in its platform.

Senator Taft urged immediate hearings on the Taft-Wagner Resolution last spring but the hearings were prevented due to action by the War Department declaring it was a matter of military necessity that the hearings not be held. Senator Taft continued to press the War Department during the summer of 1944 and finally received a letter from the Department releasing its restrictions and said the military objections had now been withdrawn but there might be political objections which were not within the province of the War Department.

On October 12 Governor Dewey declared that he supported the Republican platform declaration on open policy and three days later President Roosevelt declared through Senator Wagner that if he were re-elected he would be for an open Palestine policy.

Senator Taft expects that hearings will start on the resolution in the Senate about November 14 when the Senate reconvenes after election.

In introducing Senator Taft last Sunday evening, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver stated:

"It is with great pleasure that I am about to present to you our guest and speaker of the evening, Senator Robert A. Taft. I recall with pleasure my many contacts with him during the past year in Washington. When we planned to introduce our Palestine Resolution in Congress, friends advised me to see Senator Taft. I discussed with him at considerable length the entire subject, and he was greatly interested. He asked for time to consider the subject more fully and for literature to read up on it. Senator Taft is a man who arrives at his conclusions with great deliberateness. He makes no quick commitments. When he had familiarized himself with the whole problem and had arrived at the conclusion that the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth was just and sound and necessary, he informed me that he would be pleased to sponsor the resolution in the Senate together with Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York.

"Ever since that time, Senator Taft has been an active proponent and advocate of the cause. As Chairman of the Resolutions Committee at the Republican National Convention in Chicago, he more than anyone else, was responsible for the inclusion of the pro-Palestine plank in the platform.

"More recently he urged upon our War Department, which last Spring requested postponement of action on the Palestine Resolution in Congress because of military considerations, to withdraw its objections since the military situation had completely changed during the year and the war had moved far away from Palestine and the Near East. It was to Senator Taft that the Secretary of War Stimson addressed his communication recently in which the War Department withdrew its objections, stating that "political considerations now outweigh the military and the issue should be determined upon the political rather than the military basis."

"It has been a great source of pleasure to me to have come to know Senator Taft, distinguished son of a distinguished father, the President of the United States, William Howard Taft, who was also profoundly interested in the cause of the Jewish people, and with whom I had the great honor to speak more than once after the last war from the platform of important Jewish gatherings.

"It was a great source of strength to me during the past year to be able to draw upon the sound judgment and the political experience of this friend of our great historic cause, Senator Robert A. Taft."

November 24, 1944

The Honorable Robert A. Taft
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

In anticipation of your appearance before the Foreign Relations Committee next Wednesday, you may be interested in the enclosed official statement of the Jewish Agency on the status of non-Jewish residents in the contemplated Jewish commonwealth. Questions may be asked on this subject at the meeting and you may wish to have this special pronouncement of the Jewish Agency. It might perhaps be advisable to talk to the Republican members of the Foreign Relations Committee prior to the meeting.

I plan to be in Washington Monday and will remain for a few days.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

December 28, 1944

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have written to Bob Wagner to ask him whether he will join with me in reintroducing the Palestine Resolution. I would like to do this but will not do so unless it meets with your approval.

With best wishes for a happy year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Taft

RT/pr

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

COMMODORE HOTEL=

NEW ZIONIST ORGANIZATION WISH TO HAVE ME SPEAK AT HOTEL
ASTOR NEW YORK SUNDAY MARCH EIGHTEENTH ON THE PALESTINE
PROBLEM DO YOU THINK IT WISE TO ACCEPT=

ROBERT A TAFT.

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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Senator Robert A Taft 19

Street and No. United States Senate

Place Washington



Suggest that you accept
invitation New York March eighteenth
I'll write you to-morrow. Kindest
regards
Abba Heller Silver

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

Sender's address
for reference

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

CHRISTIE B. KENNEDY, CLERK

January 29, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

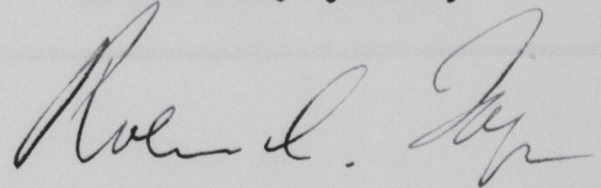
Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of January 25th and I have wired Mr. Netanyahu that it would be impossible for me to address the New Zionist Organization on March 18th.

I should be glad to attend any testimonial dinner in your honor, and particularly the one at the Commodore Hotel on Wednesday evening, March 21st, and I shall be glad to speak at that meeting.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



RT/pr

January 30, 1945

The Honorable Robert A. Taft
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

Thank you for your kind letter of January 29.
I am delighted that you will be with us on March 21.
I shall look forward eagerly to seeing you again.

With all good wishes, I remain
Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

March 26, 1945

The Honorable Robert A. Taft
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Taft:

I have just returned home from New York and I hasten to send you this note to express my great pleasure ~~at~~ the fact that you were present at the testimonial dinner last Wednesday evening, and my profound satisfaction with the memorable address which you delivered on that occasion. Both the secular and the Jewish press gave it the sort of prominence that I had hoped for. The Jewish press particularly, has been commenting editorially and most favorably upon the forthrightness and kindness of your utterance. We are having your address published in full and will circulate it widely throughout the country.

With all good wishes, and again thanking you for the major contribution which you made to an evening which will long be treasured by me, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

[undated]

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Abe Tuvim

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

I had a long conversation last night with Harold Goldenberg of Minneapolis and we discussed the current controversy rather fully. He told me that every impulse he has tends in your direction, largely because he too has a direct approach to Jewish problems ^{and} rebels against back-door diplomacy.

He has spent a good deal of time around the country for U.P.A. and is now in New York for a meeting with Joel Gross and some of the other U.P.A. leaders. Consequently, he is in a position to hear a good deal of what the other side is saying and he is most disturbed by one phase of the rumor mongering. This he claims to have heard from an authority in which he is inclined to attach credibility.

It seems that when S.S.W. was last in Washington, which is apparently the visit before the President left for the Yalta conference, the Reverend Dr. told the President that every Jew in America is not only praying for him, but supports him without qualification. The President is supposed to have asked, "Every Jew?". The Answer is said to have been, "Yes, Mr. President". Whereupon the President is said to have queried, "Even Dr. Silver?". And the answer to that was "Yes, even Dr. Silver". And both are said to have had a hearty laugh.

Goldenberg points to this as evidence which is being spread around the country to substantiate the claim that the White House doors are practically shut. He feels that hundreds of leading Zionists would come over to our side if these rumors were exploded. He recommends that we do everything we possibly can to undo the harm which is being generated.

I spoke to Sidney Hillman's secretary. She is a friend of longstanding. She is an unusual person and Hillman is very often guided by her. She asked me whether there was any truth to the rumors that you had opposed Roosevelt in the last election and that you had come out for Dewey. The intonation was ~~very~~ clear that this was Hillman's opinion, and that of many others surrounding him. I did what I could to clarify the actual situation and believe I made an impression.

This morning I discussed both of the above matters with both Shapiro and Manson and we three are agreed that it might be a good move for you to see Hillman. Very few people are closer to the White House and your seeing him might serve not only to straighten him out where you are concerned, but also be means of dealing with the rumor.

I believe that I can arrange the appointment with Hillman. I know him quite well and he has in the past been favorably inclined toward me.

Please let me know what you think of this.