



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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Anti-Defamation League, 1920-1934.

Independent Order B'nai B'rith

LEWIS DRUCKER, SECRETARY

B'NAI B'RITH BUILDING 7103 EUCLID AVE.

Cleveland, Ohio

BENEVOLENCE, BROTHERLY LOVE
AND HARMONY

September 24, 1920

Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple
E. 55th & Central

My dear Rabbi Silver:

The Anti-defamation League of Cleveland will hold a meeting Thursday evening, September 30, at the B'nai B'rith Building. The resolution committee will bring in its report, outlining the policy, the scope, and the methods of the committee, which will be the subject for discussion by the members present.

In addition, the credentials committee will submit its report, recommending the organizations whose representation will be solicited for this group.

In addition, the finance committee will be ready with its report, outlining in a definite way the manner and methods of raising funds for Anti-defamation work locally as well as nationally.

We feel that this is a most important session and would ask that you make every effort to be present. The meeting will begin promptly at 8.15 P. M. If unable to attend, please advise us by phone - Rosedale 2633 or Princeton 898.

Very sincerely yours,

Alfred A. Benesch
Chairman

AAB*LJ

September 27th, 1920.

Mr. A. A. Benesch,
Society for Savings,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Benesch,

I am in receipt of your letter inviting me to attend a meeting of the Anti-Defamation League, on Thursday evening, September 30th. I am sorry that I shall be unable to be present, inasmuch as I shall be in New York on that date. I need not tell you that I am in complete accord with the purposes and plans of the League.

I would take this occasion, however, to state again my opinion with reference to the raising of funds. By no means should a city-wide campaign be instituted. Rather, a selected list of names should be drafted and a few men designated to solicit these. The amount to be raised thus should be obtained in a much quieter and more dignified and in the least harmful way.

Wishing you well in your work, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

SAMUEL ROSENFELD
PRESIDENT
ST. LOUIS

E. J. SCHANFARBER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
COLUMBUS, OHIO

ARTHUR F. FRIEDMAN
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
DENVER

WILLIAM ORNSTEIN
TREASURER
CINCINNATI

LEONARD H. FREIBERG
SECRETARY
CINCINNATI

INDEPENDENT ORDER B'NAI B'RITH

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE No. 2

OFFICE OF MEMBER GENERAL COMMITTEE

912 SOCIETY FOR SAVINGS BUILDING

CLEVELAND, OHIO

October 11, 1920.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
Dayton, O.

ALFRED A. BENESCH
Cleveland, O.

ADOLPH BICCARD
Indianapolis, Ind.

L. M. FRANK
Toledo, O.

HENRY D. FUERST
Akron, O.

RALPH LEVINSON
Steubenville, O.

DR. H. H. MAYER
Kansas City, Mo.

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Chairman

ARTHUR F. FRIEDMAN
Vice-Chairman

ALFRED M. COHEN
Treasurer
Cincinnati

MILTON ANFENGER
Denver

EUGENE E. WOLF
Cleveland

LOUIS GROSSMAN
Louisville

GEORGE GOLDMAN
Kansas City

A. W. SCHULMAN
Dayton, O.

ISADORE SILVERMAN
Toledo

A. L. LEVI
St. Louis

LOUIS BERNSTEIN
St. Joseph, Mo.

S. J. GOLDSTEIN
Terre Haute, Ind.

DR. CHARLES REDERER
St. Louis

ISIDOR FEIBELMAN
Indianapolis

LOUIS FRIED
Youngstown, O.

BEN SHIFRIN
St. Louis

DR. SAMUEL T. THURMAN
St. Louis

DR. DAVID ALEXANDER
Akron, O.

MILTON HURTIG
Cincinnati

MAX D. MAY
Cincinnati

JOSEPH H. GRAND
St. Louis

JACK MEYER
Columbus, O.

MORRIS ABELES
Leavenworth, Kans.

BERNARD GREENSFELDER
St. Louis

SAM FRIEDMAN
Akron, O.

ABE JACOBSON
Topeka, Kans.

S. K. FRANKENSTEIN
Fort Wayne, Ind.

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Colorado Springs, Colo.

L. U. GUGGENHEIM
Pueblo, Colo.

H. C. STRAUSS
Canton, O.

SAMUEL I. LIPP
Cincinnati

Rabbi A. H. Silver,

The Temple,

East 55th and Central, City.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

At a preliminary meeting of the Cleveland branch of the Anti-Defamation League held last week organization was effected and the chairman was authorized and empowered to appoint an administrative committee, twenty-five in number, to supervise the local work of the League.

As chairman, I feel this responsibility very keenly and am, therefore, exceedingly anxious that you consent to serve as a member of this committee.

That there is abundant work for us in Cleveland goes without saying. That our co-operation is necessary in the work which the League is doing nationally and internationally, is equally self-evident.

I shall be very grateful if you will advise me not later than Thursday, October 14th, of your acceptance of this appointment.

I am planning to call a meeting of the Administrative Committee for some evening next week.

Very sincerely yours,

Alfred A. Benesch

AAB-H

October 13th, 1920

Mr. A. A. Benesch,
Society for Savings Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Benesch,

Replying to your letter of
the eleventh instant - I shall be very happy
to serve on the administrative committee of
the Cleveland branch of the Anti-Defamation
League.

With kindest regards,

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

1228 TRIBUNE BLDG.

CHICAGO

LEON L. LEWIS

SECRETARY

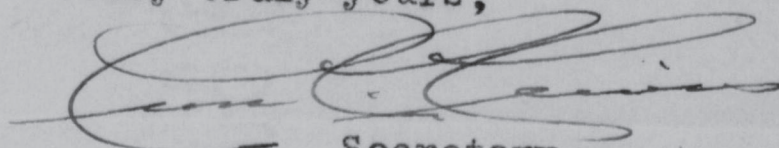
January 18th, 1921.

Rabbi A.H. Silver,
The Temple,
East 55th St. and Central,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Under separate cover I am sending you fifteen copies of our first answer to Mr. Ford's anti-Semitic propaganda, five copies of our second answer, and twenty five copies of our third pamphlet which contains an address delivered by Ex-President Taft in Chicago under the auspices of the Anti-Defamation League.

Very truly yours,



Secretary.

LLL:G

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

812 TRIBUNE BUILDING
CHICAGO

LEON L. LEWIS
SECRETARY

TELEPHONE
STATE 4258

March 4th, 1921.

Dear Sir:

The Anti-Defamation League has contracted for a special edition of "The Jew and American Ideals" by John Spargo, which will be published by Harper & Brothers, early in March. In this book anti-Semitism is called to a severe accounting. The book gives the inquiring American public a chance to learn the facts concerning the vicious anti-Semitic propaganda which is as anti-American in its policy as it is anti-Jewish in effect. The book is no partisan defense of the Jew, much less a pro-Jewish argument. It is, however, an independent and original investigation of the facts, a defense of American ideals and institutions as opposed to anti-Semitism, and a plea for Christian civilization. The League intends to present a copy of this book to all moulders of public opinion throughout the country.

The book will carry greater weight than any similar publication which has thus far appeared. No one is better fitted than Mr. Spargo to write a book of this character. He is one of the very few Americans who can write from intimate personal knowledge of the role of Jews in the Russian movement. He is a Socialist who is not afraid of avowing his Socialist faith but who cannot possibly be under suspicion of being pro-Bolshevist. In fact, he is one of the leaders of the anti-Bolshevist forces throughout the world. Finally, he is not a Jew. Mr. Spargo, you will remember, took the initiative in mobilizing non-Jewish public opinion against the organized anti-Semitic campaign. The Protest which was given wide publicity in the press early last month, copy of which I am enclosing herewith, was prepared by him and the signatures thereto secured through his personal endeavor.

There are in your community a certain number of men and women who should have a copy of this book; e.g. some of your clergymen, the editors of your local papers, the secretary of your local Y.M.C.A. and perhaps some others because of their position in the community. A copy should also be in the Public Library.

We are therefore, sending you under separate cover 125 copies of Mr. Spargo's book for free presentation to the non-Jewish leaders of your community.

In our opinion, the books should be presented by individuals rather than by an organization. We would suggest that a committee be appointed, consisting of the leading Jewish citizens of your community, to prepare a list of persons to whom the books should be sent, and that the books be presented with the card of some member of the committee who is personally acquainted with the person to whom the book is to be presented. Do not include members of Congress. Copies will be sent to them direct from this office.

We desire to keep on file in this office a card index of the names, addresses and positions in the community, of those who receive these copies, so that additional literature may be sent to them from time to time. Please send us this information at your earliest convenience.

The books are sent to you without charge. If ADDITIONAL copies are desired for distribution in your community, we can supply them to you at the rate of 75¢ per volume. (\$6.50 per ten copies, \$55 per hundred.)

Please give this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely yours,
GOVERNING BOARD.

Secretary.

LLL:G

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

812 TRIBUNE BUILDING
CHICAGO

LEON L. LEWIS
SECRETARY

TELEPHONE
STATE 4258


March 15, 1921

Dear Sir:-

Last week a copy of the enclosed letter was mailed to the secretary of the B'nai B'rith Lodge in your city. Shipping instructions were sent to Harper and Brothers and by the time you receive this letter the books should be in the possession of the Lodge. The Secretary will no doubt call upon you as suggested in the second paragraph of page two. We hope that the League will have the benefit of your advice and assistance in this task.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

GOVERNING BOARD


Secretary

LLL:G

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

1228 TRIBUNE BUILDING
CHICAGO

LEON L. LEWIS
SECRETARY

TELEPHONE
RANDOLPH 1011

September 25, 1924

Dear Rabbi Silber:

"Papini's Life of Christ" has been more thoroughly advertised and exploited than any other book published in recent years. Hence it is that there has been much bidding for the rights to film the book. We are informed that these rights have now been acquired by the First National Films, Inc., (383 Madison Avenue, New York City) under conditions whereby the film company is bound "to follow the book closely."

Many sections of the book have a distinctly anti-Semitic trend and unless the producers attach a very elastic interpretation to the above provision, the effect of the film on public opinion may well be serious. Thus far, no final arrangements have been made, but the film company intends, we are told, to make "a most ambitious production."

You have undoubtedly read the book and have no doubt formed definite ideas of the effect that the film version of the story if closely adhered to might have upon relations existing between Jews and non-Jews in America.

We are sending this letter to a group of representative American rabbis whose judgment, in our opinion, will have a definite influence upon the officers and directors of the film corporation. We believe that a letter from you addressed to the film company will be certain to have a great effect in moulding the plans for the production.

This letter has been multigraphed to save time, but we hope you will regard it as a personal communication and favor us with an acknowledgment, and, if possible, a copy of your letter to the film company, in the event you decide to write them in reference to this matter.

Very respectfully,
GOVERNING BOARD

Leon L. Lewis
Secretary

LLL'FL

September Thirtieth
1924

Mr. Leon L. Lewis,
Anti-Defamation League,
1228 Tribune Building,
Chicago, Ills.

My dear Mr. Lewis,

I have not read Papini's "Life
of Christ", and therefore cannot voice an opinion
concerning it.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

130 N. WELLS ST., SUITE 1417

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

Anti-Defamation Commission

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SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

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RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF

RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN

RABBI G. GEORGE FOX

RABBI CHARLES SHULMAN

L. LEWIS COHEN

May 16, 1934

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

The further we go in the investigations of the League the more seriously do many of our problems present themselves. The Chicago Advisory Council has for some time now faced the realization that the Anti-Defamation League must continue its heroic efforts to preserve a proper state of the public mind. It is hardly necessary for me to give you the program of the League, for I know how informed you keep upon these movements.

The work of our Speakers Bureau is being extended tremendously. Thousands of addresses will be delivered before service clubs, Legion posts, and other groups. We have listed hundreds of willing speakers, Jews and non-Jews. While no compensation is granted to ordinary speakers, the actual expenses are defrayed in every case where speakers leave communities of their residence.

We plan, in addition, to place in libraries at strategic points some of those worth-while books which may present new viewpoints. We have already placed many hundreds of copies of Professor Moehlman's "Christian-Jewish Tragedy." We believe Professor Ewald Banse's "Germany Prepares for War" will likewise be an eye-opener to many of those inclined to give ear to Hitler's specious representations of his pursuit of peace. We have also placed several thousands of Fox's brochure, "Democracy and Naziism." Many additional brochures and pamphlets are being worked up at this time all of which have very definitely in contemplation the enlightenment of masses of people in connection with various phases upon which their thinking has been perverted.

The budget of the League calls for an expenditure of \$225,000 for this year. Part of this is supplied by the Wider Scope campaign of B'nai Brith. That portion which goes for administration and educational activities can be incorporated in the Wider Scope budget. That very important part which calls for "fact-finding" cannot well be included in the regular budgets. Until now it has been financed by groups of well-to-do men in the several communities who have been, in confidence, familiarized with the value of our work. A substantial sum is being raised now by some of the outstanding Jews of Chicago. We have not approached Cleveland, for we are not unmindful of the grave problems which your city has faced.

The general situation is now extremely tense. We must not relax our vigilance, nor can we for a moment consider such a contingency as permitting lack of finance to frustrate our ultimate purpose. I recently wrote to Al Benesch requesting permission to sit down with a limited group of say twelve or fifteen men of your city who still

5/16/34

have means. There I would like to convey the importance of our work and the quiet, but we believe effective, course which we have pursued. We would not expect a vast sum of money, but surely there are a few men in Cleveland who will feel a sense of obligation for that which the League has already accomplished in their behalf and that which it has dedicated itself still to achieve.

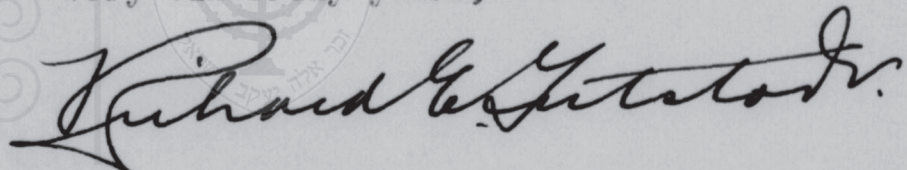
Al Benesch suggested that I write to you, for he feels that you and he together could furnish me such a group. Indianapolis, St. Louis and Pittsburgh between them raised approximately \$30,000 for this work. Chicago has already given us almost \$20,000 and the rich men have organized themselves into a committee to secure further substantial commitments. All this is done quietly, for we do not want this work publicized.

In view of these facts, do you not believe it possible for us to assemble a limited group such as is proposed? Would it not, in your judgment, enable us to secure at least a few thousands by which we may further carry on this very essential effort.

I would appreciate a word from you at your earliest convenience.

With personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Richard E. Gutstadt
Director

REG:EF

May 25, 1934.

Mr. Richard E. Gutstadt, Director,
Anti-Defamation League,
130 N. Wells St.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Gutstadt:

Let me thank you for your letter of May 16th. The Cleveland Jewish community is at the moment engaged in its Jewish Welfare Campaign. The Anti-Defamation League is one of the beneficiaries in this campaign as well as the Hillel Foundation. The campaign is not moving as it should. All our energies are being concentrated upon it at the present time. It would therefore not be advisable in my judgment to arrange any special meeting for the Anti-Defamation League now. But I am convinced that the matter is of sufficient importance to bring it to the attention of a select group of people in the community in a few months.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

130 N. WELLS ST., SUITE 1417

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

Anti-Defamation Commission

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JUDGE JOSEPH B. DAVID

RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF

RABBI SOLOMON GOLDMAN

RABBI G. GEORGE FOX

RABBI CHARLES SHULMAN

L. LEWIS COHEN

May 31, 1934

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Thanks very much for your gracious note of the 25th instant. I can well understand how the pressure of your campaign would render it unwise at the present time to call such a meeting as I suggested.

For the next few months our finances for outside activities are assured. I shall therefore be pleased to abide by your judgment, and trust that should the occasion be equally pressing several months from now, that I may then rely upon your very generous offer of cooperation.

Very cordially yours,

Richard E. Gutstadt
Richard E. Gutstadt
Director

REG:rs

[undated]

Independent Order B'nai B'rith

CLEVELAND LODGE NO. 16

7103 EUCLID AVENUE

~~Cleveland, O.~~
TO COME DOWN TO THE POINT!

HENRY FORD IS GOING TO GET OUT FIFTEEN MILLION
COPIES OF HIS DEARBORN INDEPENDENT THIS COMING
YEAR!

FORD'S FORMER EDITOR, MR. E. G. PIPP,
EDITOR OF PIPP'S WEEKLY, IS AUTH-
ORITY FOR THIS STATEMENT!

ELEVEN MEN HAVE BEEN SENT TO EUROPE BY B'RER
HENRY FORD TO DIG UP PROOF OF AN INTERNATIONAL
JEWISH CONSPIRACY WHICH DOES NOT EXIST EXCEPT
IN A DISEASED IMAGINATION!

The B'nai B'rith is the Jewish organ-
ization fighting this monstrous attempt
at Un-american Jew-Baiting. The B'nai
B'rith needs more members, live members,
fighting, intelligent members to assist
in fighting Ford's malicious and anachron-
istic campaign of defamation.

Get Busy! Let your answer be greater and more vigorous
effort toward building up the B'nai B'rith whose Anti-
Defamation Campaign has driven home the truth!

Enclosed is a letter which you can send out-
to your friends who are not members. Send us the names
of those you write so we may also work with you.

At work, at play, at home, at business -
let your answer to Anti-Semitism be a fighting and aggres-
sive determination to get more members into the B.B.
Enclosed are application cards. Send us the names of those
you write or SEE as soon as written or seen. Then we'll
back you up with more PEP!

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

S. J. WARSHAWSKY
SECRETARY

Independent Order B'nai B'rith

CLEVELAND LODGE NO. 16

7103 EUCLID AVENUE

Cleveland, O.

Dear Friend:

Having been a member of the B'nai B'rith for some time now, I feel that I can write with assurance about the value of this organization and the desirability of membership.

Lodges are, as a rule, merely common meeting grounds for the purposes of good fellowship. Sometimes they incorporate material benefits. Generally they are very limited in their scope.

But the B'nai B'rith is exceptional in respect to its purposes and activities.

Of course, we have our good times. But, I just want you to know that the major part of the dues go toward the support of charitable organizations which ARE NOT COVERED BY DONATIONS TO FUNDS OF ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION.

For instance, your dues would go toward the support of THE JEWISH CHILDREN'S ORPHAN HOME, THE LEO LEVI MEMORIAL, THE DENVER SANITARIUM FOR CONSUMTIVES.

Last year the B'nai B'rith spent \$80,000 in the work of the Anti-Defamation League.

This year the Anti-Defamation League, a B'nai B'rith institution, will have the task of combatting the malicious efforts of ELEVEN AGENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO EUROPE TO DIG UP EVIDENCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL JEWISH CONSPIRACY WHICH EXISTS ONLY IN THE DISTORTED IMAGINATION OF HENRY FORD, and 15,000,000 copies of FORD'S PUBLICATION which Mr. E. G. Pipp, Former Editor of Ford's Independent, states are to be circulated in this country the coming twelve months.

The B'nai B'rith has headquarters in every city of any importance in the country and lodges the world over. It is the focus of Jewish effort. The local organization has a magnificent clubhouse at 7103 Euclid Avenue where there is always something of interest going on for the members.

Please fill out the enclosed application card with your first check for six dollars for six months dues or twelve for the year and mail in to B'nai B'rith headquarters, 7103 Euclid Avenue.

Sincerely yours,

[undated]

ANTI DEFAMATION LEAGUE APPEAL

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE NO. 2

I. O. B. B.

ARTHUR F. FRIEDMAN, President,
A. C. Foster Building,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir and Brother:

America entered the World War of Civilization to save the future of mankind. The Anti-Defamation League entered the War of Civilization to save the future of the Jew in America.

The results achieved in the past by the Anti-Defamation League have justified its existence and its policy of constructive work for the future.

Its consistent campaign for the truth, its dignified attitude of calm conservatism, its quiet method of combating attack serenely and without hysterical outburst have completely vindicated its position before American Jewry.

But the last two years have witnessed the outburst of a carefully conceived, insidious, and growing program of Anti-Semitism in America. Even now the effects of that campaign against the Jew have not worn away. The slow poisons of subtle innuendo and direct charge are still at work. The Anti-Defamation League has consecrated its energies to the stupendous work of bringing Truth to Light and Justice to the Jew.

The Anti-Defamation League must have our united support in our defense. Its proposed educational campaign for the next few years is more than educational—it is our salvation. Our future is at stake!

Support the League 100%!

Cordially and fraternally yours,

Arthur F. Friedman.

President District Grand Lodge No. 2.

Proposed Educational Program
OF THE
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
1922—1925

I Supplying articles and news items to all daily and weekly newspapers and special articles to magazines and Sunday supplements. These articles will preach tolerance and mutual understanding among all sections of American Citizens.

II Co-operation with University Extension Departments.

[a] Lectures on Jewish History, Literature, Ethics and Ideals

[b] Visual Instruction

[c] Package Libraries

[d] Bibliographical Aid

[e] Information Service

[f] Syllabi

III Distributing books and pamphlets to all public and university libraries and to those whose position makes them moulders of public opinion.

IV Distribution to all reference libraries of Cumulative clipping files giving latest data and information on all subjects affecting the Jew in America.

- V Publication of books, pamphlets, bulletins and a quarterly magazine of high literary standard devoted to Jewish life and thought.**
- VI Maintenance of library and information bureau covering all subjects relating to the Jew and placing facilities at the disposal of students, publicists, authors, lecturers, teachers and organizations.**
- VII Guarding against radio transmission of defamatory matter and co-operating wherever necessary in broadcasting of general messages preaching good-will and tolerance.**
- VIII Prevention of abuses by some Jews which lay all Jews open to attack.**
- IX Co-operation with other Jewish educational organizations and aiding in extending their activities.**
- X Investigation and disclosure of all Anti-Semitic propaganda and movements.**
- XI Continuing present activities in connection with:**

- [a] Motion Pictures**
- [b] Improper School Texts**
- [c] Defamation on stage**
- [d] Proper use of word "Jew"**
- [e] Summer Resort Advertising.**

"I hope that all America will catch the spirit of B'nai B'rith in campaigning against ignorance, intolerance and defamation, against all the movements aimed to rend the concord of American citizenship. Fraternity, helpfulness and service must be the abiding purpose of our people, and the compensations that come to this consciousness of helping one's fellowmen contribute more to the happiness of self than success, distinction and all the other triumphs of life.

WARREN G. HARDING