



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, 1938-1939.

STATIONS THAT NEED A LESSON

W J R?
Detroit
Good Will Station?

Some recent Sunday afternoon broadcasts from a local station bring sharply to the front again the need for an effective method whereby speakers who are careless about the truth may be restrained from making misleading and slanderous statements.

The probabilities that inaccuracies and misstatements, such as those to which Father Coughlin is prone, will be curbed by mere public contradictions is not large, no matter how conclusive the contradictions may be.

The type of orator that blunders and blusters ahead in a manner which suggests that he is quite contemptuous of accuracy ordinarily is not much disturbed by exposures and rebukes.

But the radio station which permits use of its facilities for reckless assertions that contain vicious assaults on reputable people can, and should be brought to account.

It should be held as strictly accountable for any slanders disseminated by it over the air as a newspaper is for printing libel.

The big, nationwide broadcasting systems try to guard themselves and their public from assertions about men and things which are clearly and grossly contrary to fact and which baselessly disparage conduct and reputation.

Individual stations needing the lesson should be taught that it is worth their while to do so also.

Detroit Free Press - December 5, 1938.

Dear Rabbi:- If you
are going to answer Coughlin
I would like to mention
a point to you
O.L.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1415
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

December 6, 1938

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Received word from Detroit today that Station WJR is very anxious to donate a half-hour of time between twelve and two o'clock, it may be at 1:30 or at 1:00, for someone of our selection to speak. They stated that they did not want, however, to utilize this donated time for any rejoinder to Coughlin, that it is to be entirely separate and apart from the Coughlin incident, the same as if Coughlin had not spoken over the air at all. They desire this time utilized for the purpose of publicizing the contributions made by Jews for the betterment and progress of the world, and also a denunciation of persecution. I did not avail myself of the offer for the reason that I was a little doubtful whether the same should be accepted. My understanding from Detroit is that the management of this station now is somewhat afflicted with "jitters" for fear that they have permitted the other gentleman to go too far and that it might cause a reaction against them; and putting two and two together, I had the feeling that they were trying to utilize this proffer as a token of appeasement to us.

I may be entirely wrong in my attitude. I am putting it up to you. It may be that no matter what influences their generosity, still some good may be accomplished by putting on the air the contribution that the Jews have made as a dignified offset against everything that has been said against them.

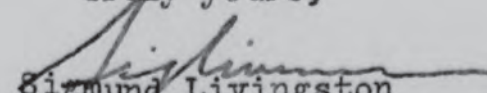
I know of no man who could fulfill this assignment better than you. I leave it to you to decide whether it is advisable to accept the offer. If you desire to accept it, you will let me know at once. Of course, there is another thing to be considered, and that is that the time is not one of vantage. It is the noon time, when people usually do not listen to radio.

All this, however, for your consideration. We have received a definite price for the same forty-eight stations, which would cost \$5,519.63. As far as I know, at the present time, the New York group will make arrangements for these stations, and Mr. Frank Hogan, President of the American Bar Association, is to be the speaker.

I have just suggested to Washington and to New York that it would be advisable at the end of Hogan's talk, to have a statement read by Countess Catacuzene, the granddaughter of General Grant, who supports Kerensky in everything that he stated, suggesting that this would be dramatic and forceful.

Regards.

Truly yours,


Sigmund Livingston
Director

SL:EF

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

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

Day Letter

December 7, 1938

Mr. Sigmund Livingston, Chairman
Anti-Defamation League
130 N. Wells Street
Chicago, Ill.



IN MY JUDGMENT IT WOULD BE GREAT MISTAKE TO ACCEPT OFFER OF STATION WGAR. IT IS AN EASY WAY FOR THEM AND A CHEAP WAY TO GET OUT FROM THE MORAL CENSURE WHICH IS THEIRS FOR PERMITTING THE VILE BROADCASTS ON THEIR STATION AND A READY EXCUSE FOR THEM FOR ALL FUTURE TIME. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT NO ONE ACCEPT THAT OFFER AND THAT YOU REJECT IT. IF THE NEW YORK ARRANGEMENT DOES NOT GO THROUGH PLEASE NOTIFY ME AT ONCE AS I AM PREPARED TO TAKE OVER THE STATIONS MYSELF FOR A PERIOD OF TEN TO TWELVE WEEKS.
KINDEST REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1415
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

December 8, 1938

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am in receipt of yours of the 7th instant. I tried to reach you by telephone this morning before receiving this letter, to tell you that definite arrangements have been made for the Hogan broadcast.

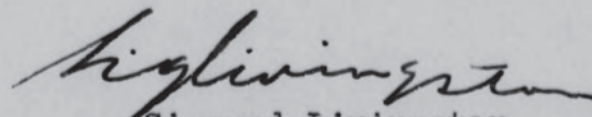
I have for some time proposed a short broadcast every week, not in answer to Coughlin, but rather taking up one subject matter a week and calling it "The Truth About False Propaganda". I understood from your office that you were in New York at the time that I phoned you this morning. I would be very happy if at some time convenient to you, you could be here and I would call a meeting of our Advisory Council and have you discuss with them your ideas about all these matters.

We are now considering the advisability of instituting libel suits against the stations which permit libelous matters to be broadcast. In order that there be no conflict, I submitted the proposition to the New York Committee for their consideration. Of course we have no group libel law. We could not act without the consent of the persons who were libelled, as such persons would have to be plaintiffs.

Of course, there is another avenue, namely, criminal libel, but being a criminal charge it might involve considerable danger of failure of conviction.

With kind regards, I am

Truly yours,


Sigmund Livingston
Chairman

SL:EF

(Dictated--not read.)

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1415
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

December 13, 1938

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 12th instant. This is in reference to the Wells article.

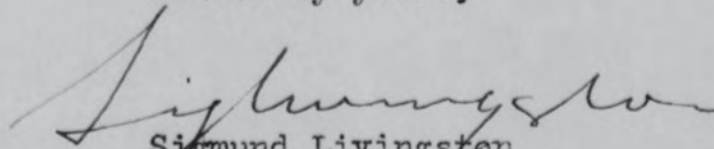
I immediately reached Mr. Gutstadt in New York by phone, and requested him to contact the managers of the magazine. I have also sent a circular letter to the Rabbis and have taken the privilege of quoting from your letter.

I agree with you that we should use the radio more extensively. We favor the idea of a Sunday weekly broadcast. I believe, however, that that broadcast should be in positive form rather than an answer to anything the other gentleman may say. We should describe the conditions of the Jews in lands other than democracies. It should also show the contribution of the Jew in a discreet manner. It should enlighten the public as to the cardinal principles of Judaism and its ethics. It should demonstrate that minority groups, Jews as well as others, can find security only in democracies.

I would be very happy to take this matter up with you further in a personal conference or if possible, in a conference between you and our Advisory Council. The local station here this morning has offered us fifteen minutes daily for such purpose. I have requested Mr. Saltiel of our office, who has had great experience in public speaking, to undertake this job, and he has made a tentative appointment with the owners of this station to effectuate the plans. On next Sunday the General Council for Jewish Rights meets in New York. I will attend that meeting.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,


Sigmund Livingston
Chairman

SL:EF

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1415
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

December 13, 1938

Dear Sir:

"Liberty" magazine has planned to publish an article entitled "The Future of the Jews", written by H. G. Wells. The same is to be published in the issue of December 24. Advance excerpts of same indicate it to be unfriendly and supporting some of the charges made against Jews.

This day we have requested our New York office to contact the managers of this magazine in reference thereto. We received a letter from Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver specifically upon this subject. He states:

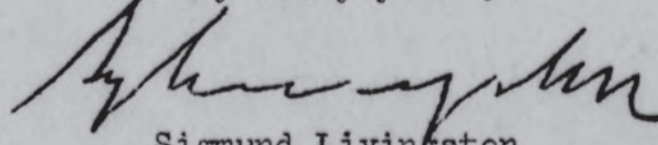
"If it is to be published, I would suggest that the Anti-Defamation League at once circularize our Jewish magazines, newspapers, and our Rabbis, and request them not to create a sensational controversy about the article, but to ignore it entirely. We are just in the midst of the Coughlin controversy involving Jews. We have gone through six or eight weeks of intensive Jewish discussion relative to the German situation. I do not think that it is wise to make another assault upon American public opinion through a loud and vociferous denunciation of another anti-Semite. It would be a great mistake."

We fully concur in the statement made by Rabbi Silver, and relay the same to you.

Will you be so kind as to admonish the Anglo-Jewish press in accordance with the thought as expressed by Dr. Silver.

I beg to remain

Very truly yours,


Sigmund Livingston
Chairman

SL:EF

December 23, 1938

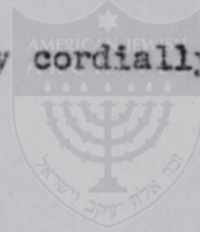
Mr. Richard Gutstadt,
Anti-Defamation League
130 North Wells Street
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Gutstadt:

Mr. Livingston undoubtedly told you
about the conversation which we had in Chicago
last week. What is the present status of the
whole Coughlin matter?

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1415
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

December 29th,
1938

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I sat in part of the session of the General Jewish Council meeting in New York City. At the time I was compelled to leave, they were in the midst of the discussion on the subject concerning which you wrote.

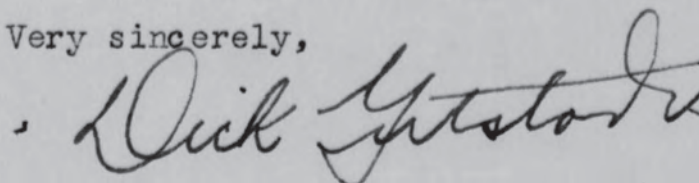
There had come from Washington, some rather significant information leading to the belief that the Hierarchy was very definitely stepping into that picture, that there was reason to believe that this broadcast of last Sunday would be the last of that particular character. The final action as gathered by me from the reports, was that nothing would be done for two or three broadcasts. We would then be in a position to know whether any modification of the Father's attitude had been effected. If so, there might be no occasion to follow through. If not, the subject would have the immediate consideration of the Policy Committee.

We are awaiting next Sunday's broadcast.

I want to assure you that neither Mr. Livingston, nor I, are quite satisfied with the decision which appeared to be that of a large majority. The hope was expressed by the General Council that no individual community would attempt to make answer since it would indubitably lead to many similar efforts in other communities, where the judgment of the leaders might be questionable.

With personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely,



Richard E. Gutstadt

Director

REG:EBF

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

HOME OFFICE NEW YORK, N.Y.

THOMAS I. PARKINSON, PRESIDENT

ALLAN TARSHISH, Representative
27 E. STATE ST., COLUMBUS, OHIO

AGENCY AT

Col. Feb. 6. 39

Rabbi A. H. Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Whenever any great problem which concerns
the Jewish people arises, I can find no one better
than yourself for reassurance and counsel.

Here in Columbus, as in many other cities,
Jews and many non-Jews are asking what can
be done about Father Coughlin. Some advocate
having the Federal Radio Commission to have
Coughlin; others suggest that the Head of Catholic
Church, be urged to intervene; some mention legislation
to curb this type of menace; a great many urge
bombarding the Pope with telegrams, letters, etc.

I shall be very happy, to hear from
you on what you considers the proper course of

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

HOME OFFICE NEW YORK, N.Y.

THOMAS I. PARKINSON, PRESIDENT

AGENCY AT

ALLAN TARSHISH, Representative
81 E. STATE ST., COLUMBUS, OHIO

action in regard to this dangerous
fanatic on the radio.

I happen to be chairman of the Anti Defamation
Committee here and am keenly interested to
get your reaction.



Yours sincerely,
Allan Tarshish

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1415
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

February 13, 1939

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Thank you for yours of the 9th instant in reference to Gerald Smith. You may be sure that we had long ago made the effort to check up completely on the record of this party. We had some information with respect to his earlier affiliation with the Silver Shirts. This was prior to his having gone over to Huey Long. Smith explains that he at no time authorized the use of his name by the Silver Shirts, but that in an effort to ascertain more about Mr. Pelley's activities, his interest was misinterpreted. This may or may not be true.

We tried to check up on other aspects of the man's past. We found out that he had been under suspicion in Shreveport where he once had a pulpit, but this was not in connection with anti-Semitism. Smith's record is rather nebulous, nothing of authenticated character having come to us, but considerable unauthenticated material of a disquieting nature.

You are quite right in assuming that Smith desires to go on the radio again. You are also right in your statement that he can rip the hide off the Detrouiter, because as a rabble-rouser I believe Smith has no equal. In my talk with Smith, I made it very clear it would be unwise for any Jews to finance him, and I also stated to him my conviction that answers to anti-Semitic demagogues should, in my judgment, be made by Jews.

Frankly, Dr. Silver, I am a little reluctant about working with this man because, despite his protestations, we may be building up a Frankenstein. I am not only worried about his Fascist tendencies (though he disclaims any), but I am also

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

-2-

February 13, 1939

concerned with his violent anti-Roosevelt pronouncements.

It is my best judgment that we ought not to arouse this man's antagonism. We can be very noncommittal in our replies to inquiries. We should, however, be very conservative about manifesting any enthusiasm with respect to inquiries that may be made of us. I trust you agree with my judgment.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Gutstadt", is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES" and a Star of David.

Richard E. Gutstadt,
Director.

REG:SR

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A Non-Profit Motion Picture Producing and Distributing Organization

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NEW YORK CITY

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February 14, 1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
THE TEMPLE,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, OHIO.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We are happy to welcome you as a member of our Advisory Board. We are reluctant, however, to accept your warning that you will not raise any funds for us.

We are tackling a worthwhile task which will tend to preserve and extend American Democracy. It cannot be done without the necessary funds with which to maintain our office.

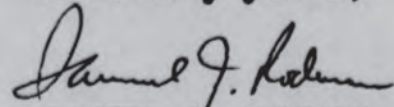
We therefore earnestly hope that you will find it possible to devote a little of your time to interesting friends of Democracy to support us.

Specifically we would ask of you that your secretary submit to us a list of people to whom we may write under your signature, as a member of our Advisory Board, urging them to join our organization and contribute generously to it.

If you think they will be sufficiently interested, and deem it advisable, we shall be glad to forward with our appeal a copy of the first script which we are considering for production. The hero of the script is, of course, a progressive American who sacrifices everything for the preservation and extension of Democracy in our land.

I saw Mrs. Ickes in Washington last week; she also consented to circularize some of her friends. She asked me to urge you to do likewise.

Sincerely yours,



SAMUEL J. RODMAN
Executive Secretary

SJR:JG

February 20, 1939

Mr. Allan Tarshish
The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S.
21 E. State Street
Columbus, Ohio

My dear Allan:

The questions which you raise in your letter are, of course, being raised all over the country. All I can say to you is that the General Jewish Council, of which Mr. Edgar Kaufmann is the chairman, has been in close touch with the situation and is thoroughly acquainted with all the angles involved. I believe that the situation may well be left to them for they represent the four large national Jewish organizations including, of course, the B'nai B'rith and the Anti-Defamation League. I believe that whatever can be done in the Coughlin matter is being done. We must remember that in a free country, there are limits to what can be done.

I am sending you, under separate cover, the booklet which the General Jewish Council has recently printed and distributed on Father Coughlin.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Temple Israel
Saint Louis

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, RABBI

OFFICE OF THE RABBI
KINGSHIGHWAY AND WASHINGTON
SAINT LOUIS

Feb. 27, 1939.

(Dictated Feb. 23, 1939)

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

In observance of George Washington's birthday yesterday, each of the ten local high schools here was visited by a team composed of a rabbi, a priest and a minister. With Father Ryan of St. Louis University and Dean Sidney Sweet of Christ Church Cathedral, I visited two high schools--both of them in south St. Louis where the population is predominately German--speaking to the assemblies. ^{Frank Reith} Instead of delivering set and formal addresses, we discussed ^{among} ourselves and invited questions from the student audience. In one high school I was aroused when several questions with reference to Father Coughlin's broadcast were asked, ~~in that each time the~~ questions were referred to Father Ryan ^{who} ruled them out as being controversial. Father Ryan is a member of the faculty of St. Louis University whose broadcasting station carries Coughlin's broadcasts.

In the second high school--considerably larger--where twenty-two hundred pupils were in the assembly, no mention was made of Coughlin at all and the concern I felt because of my experience at the first high school was somewhat dissipated. Yesterday evening, under the auspices of the A.Z.A. and ^{of the} youth groups, a mass meeting was held at the high school in the westend of the city. This section of the city has a large Jewish population. A panel discussion by a rabbi, a minister, and a priest was a feature of the evening. I was the rabbi, the priest was Father Ryan of St. Louis University, the minister was Hampton Adams of the Union Avenue Christian Church. In the course of the discussion, Father Ryan analyzed propaganda and said that when it involves deliberate distortion of truth that that propaganda should be censored. I then said that there is a radio program carried weekly in our city on Sunday afternoons which consists of deliberate distortion of truth and I asked him whether he felt that that should be censored. *father*

Temple Israel
Saint Louis

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, RABBI

Feb. 27, 1939

OFFICE OF THE RABBI
KINGSHIGHWAY AND WASHINGTON
SAINT LOUIS

Page 2

The Protestant minister said that he believed it to be pernicious and was very unhappy because it is on the air. Father Ryan then stated that Father Coughlin's broadcasts were not a deliberate distortion of the truth and that he is only doing to Jews what on other broadcasts he had done to gentiles. This defense of Father Coughlin at this meeting to promote democracy among American youth, provoked ~~a~~ frenzied, fanatical and enthusiastic applause on the part of half of the young people in the audience. Being on the platform, I could observe their faces. I read in them the same frenzied passion that I had seen on the faces of Nazi youths in Germany when Rosenberg attacked the Jews at public meetings.

One of these young people rose and stated that Coughlin had never been answered and that no one had challenged his arguments. I told him of the pamphlet gotten out by the committee in New York. ~~They~~ promised to write to me for it. A Jewish layman in the audience speaking to an anonymous Protestant learned from the Protestant that he too believed that Father Coughlin's arguments were a fact because they had remained unanswered.

I have described these experiences to you in detail because they do disturb me. Apparently, although we may not listen to Father Coughlin other radios are more hospitable. He is influencing and shaping the thinking of an important segment of American youth. Especially was I struck by the fact that the Jews pleaded guilty to the charges because to their knowledge Coughlin had not been answered. I am sure that you must have given this matter some thought. I for one do not feel that we Jews are facing this situation adequately. I am wondering what your reaction is, what you think can and should be done. Do let me hear from you.

With kindest greetings, I remain

Sincerely yours,

FMI

FMI/SK

My secretary is ill, so excuse the error.

Some returned

March 1, 1939

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

My dear Mr. Gutstadt:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received today from Rabbi Isserman of St. Louis. After reading it, please return it to me.

I had a committee of three gentiles representing organized labor in the State of Ohio call on me the other day. They, too, expressed grave concern at the inroads which Father Coughlin is making among the ranks of organized labor. They, too, could not understand why an answer to Father Coughlin was not being made on the radio.

Cleveland was host, this week, to the American Association of School Administrators. The subject of propaganda was the chief topic at most of the sessions. The speakers seem to be unanimous in the thought that the only way to answer false radio propaganda is by true radio propaganda.

The General Jewish Council, I suppose, sooner or later will have to come around to this point of view. However, a tremendous amount of valuable time is being lost, and the seeds which this man is sowing will bear fruit. By the time we get around to the job of answering him, our work will be doubly hard.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1602
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

March 14, 1939

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

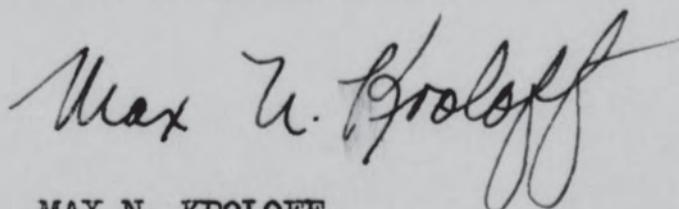
Dear Rabbi Silver:

Your letter of March 1st relative to Father Coughlin, directed to Mr. Gutstadt, reached his desk while he was confined to his bed with a cold and throat infection. Immediately upon his recovery, it was necessary for him to leave for the East to fulfill engagements there. Mr. Gutstadt will return to our office this week.

In the meantime, Mr. Sigmund Livingston returned from the South and read your letter, as well as the letter from Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman, which you enclose, with a great deal of interest. He has asked me to make a copy of your letter for his personal file so that he can give it further consideration, and you will undoubtedly hear from him with regard to the subject matter.

Pursuant to your request, the letter of Rabbi Isserman is returned to you herewith.

Most cordially yours,



MAX N. KROLOFF,
Assistant Secretary

MNK:SR
Enc.

Anti-Defamation

Just Chat

It Must Not Happen Here

If my discussion of persecution of Jews in Germany in the last issue of Hardware Retailer, has conveyed to anyone the impression that I approve or condone such procedures, or that I would advocate even the slightest semblance of such action in this country, I want to promptly and emphatically eradicate the impression and to express regret that my statements were not so definitely worded as to leave no grounds for such opinions.

So it seems important to follow "It Can Happen Here" with "It Must Not Happen Here".

To that objective, the thoughts and efforts of American business leaders should be bent. In these times when business nerves are frayed with competitive strife, when bitterness comes easily to the surface, when retaliation seems a natural arm of protection, it is so easy to generalize from the particular and to blame the many for the misdeeds of a few.

These leaders, therefore, need frequently to remind those who follow their guidance that tolerance must continue to be an integral part of the foundation of our freedom of action, thought and religion.

Sources of provocation should be earnestly sought out and diligent efforts made to eradicate them. But in such activities it must be recognized by all that the "sins of business" cannot justly be allocated to any particular group on the basis of race or creed.

Therefore, I feel that mention of a specific firm on a racial or religious basis, is to be regretted. Merchandise offenders are by no means limited to any one race or creed, and it is equally true that Jews join with Gentiles in business practices that are to be commended.

Equally important is need for universal recognition of the truth that a desire or effort to punish any group, race or religion, because of the actual or alleged misdeeds of some members of it, is a betrayal of the trust the founders of this Nation have bestowed upon us.

If all types of business men will constantly remember and observe the injunction, "Do unto others***", it may be said with confidence that it will not happen here.

April 1, 1939

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

My dear Mr. Gutstadt:

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory.
If you take any action in the matter, please
notify me.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc. - 2



April 1, 1939

Mr. George J. Koller
The Koller Brothers Co.
724 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Friend:

Thank you for bringing to my attention the article in the Hardware Retailer. I am sending your letter and article to the Anti-Defamation League in Chicago. As soon as I hear from them, I will get in touch with you.

With all good wishes for a happy
Passover, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1602
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

April 6, 1939

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

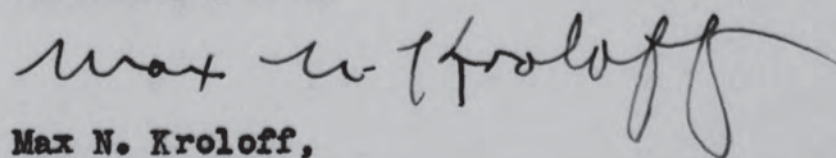
In the absence of Mr. Gutstadt, who is fulfilling engagements out of the city, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 1 addressed to him.

With your letter you enclosed the letter under date of March 28, 1939 received by you from George J. Koller of the Koller Brothers Co. of your city, and a page from the March, 1939 issue of "Hardware Retailer" containing an objectionable editorial with reference to the Jewish people under the signature of Rivers Peterson, Managing Director.

We are grateful to you for your cooperation in forwarding this item to us. However, we had already received notice of the same from various parts of the country and had brought it to a rather satisfactory conclusion. Infact I made some reference to this particular editorial in an address to the B'nai B'rith of Cleveland in the Auxiliary Auditorium of your temple on March 15. Upon receipt of information concerning this editorial we immediately took the matter up with the National Retail Hardware Association, publishers of the "Hardware Retailer". A number of conferences ensued. We can now advise that we have the assurances of the executives of the latter association that such unfair statements and innuendos as were expressed and implicit in the article will not be repeated in the future. Moreover, there has been drafted a corrective editorial entitled "It Must Not Happen Here" ^{to appear} in the next issue of the "Hardware Retailer". We went over the first draft of the forthcoming editorial and made certain corrections therein. A copy of the editorial in its final form is in our possession, and we enclose a copy thereof for you.

We are taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Mr. George J. Koller along with a copy of the editorial "It Must Not Happen Here", as we are certain you desire us to do.

Cordially yours,



Max N. Kroloff,
Assistant Secretary

MNK:HW

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1602
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

April 21, 1939

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

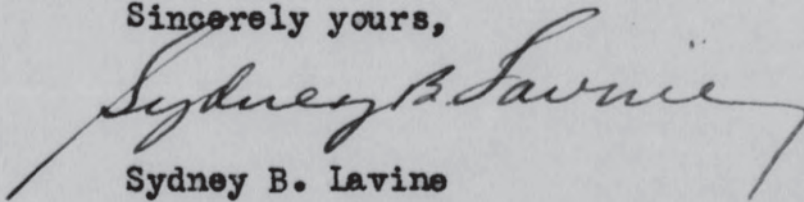
Dear Rabbi Silver:

You were advised in previous correspondence of our consultations with the management of the "Hardware Retailer" and officials of the National Retail Hardware Association, which publishes this magazine. In this letter we advised you of a corrective editorial which would appear in the April issue of the same periodical.

We are happy to enclose a photostatic copy of the editorial "It Must Not Happen Here", which appears on page 85 of the April issue of the "Hardware Retailer".

We feel sure you will agree with us that the handling of this matter has been marked with success.

Sincerely yours,


Sydney B. Lavine

SBL:HW
Enc.

Protect National Hardware Week

ONE of our members has advised me that certain specials which have been offered, through jobbers, by a manufacturer for National Hardware Week are already being placed on sale in his community—at the National Hardware Week prices.

It is tremendously important that everyone be made to realize the folly of any such procedure.

National Hardware Week is a movement which holds great potential good for each branch of the hardware industry. This good will be utterly destroyed if dealers do not keep faith with each other, and the industry, and if they destroy the promotion by trying to steal a march on their competitors and offer the specials which are made available in advance of the time decided upon.

It has been suggested that jobbers and manufacturers withhold shipment of their specials until just before the time fixed for the sale. I doubt very much whether this can be done satisfactorily, though it may be worthy of consideration.

To my way of thinking it is the responsibility of retailers rather than of manufacturers and wholesalers to see that the plan is maintained, and this may call for local work on the part of dealers. Wherever it is found that a dealer is making advance offerings of Hardware Week specials, other dealers in the community should visit the offender and attempt to make him realize just what will happen if such tactics are continued.

I'm glad that only one report of this nature has reached me, and hope it will be the last. I do consider the matter of sufficient importance, however, to bring the matter to the attention of the entire trade and urge the co-operation of all.

It Must Not Happen Here

OF my discussion of persecution of Jews in Germany in the last issue of **HARDWARE RETAILER** has conveyed to anyone the impression that I approve or condone such procedures, or that I would advocate even the slightest semblance of such action in this country, I want to promptly and emphatically eradicate the idea

and express regret that my statements were not so definitely worded as to leave no grounds for such opinions. I also wish to make it clear that they were made without consultation with, or approval of, any other person.

So it seems important to follow "It Can Happen Here" with "It Must Not Happen Here."

To that objective the thoughts and efforts of American business leaders should be bent. In these times when business nerves are frayed with competitive strife, when bitterness comes easily to the surface, when retaliation seems a natural arm of protection, it is so easy to generalize from the particular and to blame the many for the misdeeds of a few.

These leaders, therefore, need frequently to remind those who follow their guidance that tolerance must continue to be an integral part of the foundation of our freedom of action, thought and religion.

Sources of provocation should be earnestly sought out and diligent efforts made to eradicate them. But in such activities it must be recognized by all that the "sins of business" cannot justly be allocated to any particular group on the basis of race or creed.

Equally important is need for universal recognition of the truth that a desire or effort to punish any group, race or religion because of the actual or alleged misdeeds of some members of it is a betrayal of the trust the founders of this nation have bestowed upon us.

Therefore, I feel that mention of ownership of a specific firm on a racial or religious basis is to be regretted. Merchandising offenders are by no means limited to any race or creed, and it is equally true that Jews and Gentiles join in support of business practices that are to be commended.

If all types of business men will constantly remember and observe the injunction, "Do unto others . . ." it may be said with confidence that it will not happen here.

Rivers Peterson
Managing Director.

Ford Statement Was Authorized

Bennett Denies Trick Charge by Coughlin

In his weekly attack on the Jews, Father Charles E. Coughlin Sunday afternoon directly assailed the integrity of Rabbi Leo M. Franklin, of Temple Beth El. He claimed that Dr. Franklin had obtained an interview with Henry Ford and then had written a statement himself and purported that it was a statement made by Mr. Ford. It was the now famous Ford statement of protest against the Jewish persecutions in Germany.

The Royal Oak priest then charged that The Detroit Free Press had taken this statement and had used it as "an interview" with Mr. Ford. Coughlin claimed that it was "a gigantic attempt to put into the mouth of America's foremost manufacturer words he did not say."

May Not Understand Word

It is obvious that Father Coughlin either does not know what the word "interview" means, or is giving still further evidence of his congenital inability to tell the truth.

The Free Press at no time said that it was an interview or even that it was a direct statement from Mr. Ford. It printed the statement, as did every newspaper in Detroit, Michigan and the Republic, for what it was.

In the edition of Thursday, Dec. 1, the Free Press said: "The statement, AUTHORIZED for publication by the motor manufacturer, was released after a conference between Ford and Rabbi Leo M. Franklin in Ford's office at Dearborn."

Statement Was Authorized

Mr. Ford authorized Dr. Franklin to make the statement. At no time was there any attempt on anybody's part, or on that of any newspaper, to fool anybody—as Father Coughlin pretends. The statement representing Mr. Ford's views was written by Dr. Franklin and submitted to Harry Bennett, of the Ford company, and was sanctioned by him.

"The story as it appeared in The Detroit Free Press was absolutely accurate," declared Mr. Bennett last night. "The statement as finally prepared by Dr. Franklin was reproduced exactly in the Free Press as my copy of it read."

"Two men representing Father Coughlin came out to my office and asked if the statement had been made by Mr. Ford personally. I explained to them how it was made. The statement as it appeared in the Free Press was an exact copy of the statement prepared by Dr. Franklin, and Dr. Franklin was authorized to make it on behalf of Mr. Ford."

Friends for Many Years

Dr. Franklin and Mr. Ford have been friends for many years. The Doctor's reputation and standing in this community is such that when he issued the statement, and said that it was authorized by the motor manufacturer, no newspaper in this city had any reason to question it. Nor have they now.

Though Father Coughlin insisted all through his address that he was only assailing "atheistic Jews," Rabbi Franklin for almost a half century has been one of the great spiritual leaders of Detroit and is so recognized by all denominations.

Father Coughlin's exact words in charging the Free Press with being "venal" were: "The Free Press printed a purported first person interview with Mr. Henry Ford . . . A new low in journalistic responsibility—a mark seldom equaled in the history of American journalism."

Explained Authorization

Instead, this newspaper—as did all the others—merely said that the statement was "authorized." Mr. Bennett, as spokesman for Mr. Ford, says that it was authorized. That's that.

Dr. Franklin was asked last night if he cared to make any answer to the attack. "I have nothing to say," was his answer.

At no time since the nationwide publication of the statement authorized by Mr. Ford has he or any of his associates denied its accuracy. That there was no attempt to conceal Rabbi Franklin's part in the statement is well evidenced by the fact that the two men posed together for newspaper photographers.

May 1, 1939

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

My dear Gutstadt:

I can do no more and no better than
to send you the enclosed letter which I received
from Mr. Samuel J. Rodman, Executive Secretary of
Films for Democracy. I am sure that you would
wish to do everything you can for this good
cause.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:EK
Enc.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1602
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

May 4, 1939

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

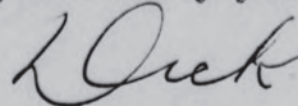
My dear Rabbi Silver:

Thank you for yours of May 1 and the enclosures, namely the letter from Samuel J. Rodman with copy of another letter from Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild. With respect to agency therein referred, I was somewhat favorably impressed. We subscribe, however, for the motion picture trade publications in order to be fore-warned of story purchases and production plans which might be of concern to us. In a recent issue of the "Motion Picture Herald" there was a lengthy article concerning the editorial by Walter Wanger, eminent motion picture producer, regarding the withdrawal of the use of his name by the Films for Democracy group. The reason Mr. Wanger ascribed was the refusal of the group to take a position in opposition to Communism as well as Fascism. Wanger, who is by no means a reactionary or a conservative was pretty definite in his statement, and this caused me to hesitate before presenting the matter to our Council. We have rather definite convictions, Rabbi, upon the unwisdom of supporting those efforts which may be shown to be too Left-wingish, since any investigation of their financial support might, if our name was included therewith, render us somewhat vulnerable.

Apart from the specific correspondence, which you so kindly forwarded, have you any further information about the group? If so, I should be glad to get it. In the meantime, I am checking a little further, because I would not care to withhold our modest support if the project was shown to have real merit.

With personal regards, I am

Very cordially yours,



Richard E. Gutstadt
Director

REG:HW

May 8, 1939

Mr. Samuel J. Rodman, Executive Secretary
Films for Democracy
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Rodman:

I forwarded your letter and your request to the Anti-Defamation League of Chicago. The organization writes me, among other things that "in a recent issue of the "Motion Picture Herald" there was a lengthy article concerning the editorial by Walter Wanger, eminent motion picture producer, regarding the withdrawal of the use of his name by the Films for Democracy group. The reason Mr. Wanger ascribed was the refusal of the group to take a position in opposition to Communism as well as Fascism. Wanger, who is by no means a reactionary or a conservative was pretty definite in his statement, and this caused me to hesitate before presenting the matter to our Council."

I would appreciate hearing from you about this matter as I, personally, would not care to be identified with an organization which sets itself against Fascism and Nazism and which refuses to take a position in opposition to Communism.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

May 18, 1939

Mr. Richard E. Gutstadt
Anti-Defamation League
130 No. Wells St.
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Gutstadt:

Rabbi Silver has requested me to send
you the enclosed letter which he received from
Mr. Samuel J. Rodman.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

DR. LEO M. FRANKLIN

DETROIT, MICH.

May 19, 1939

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

My dear Friend and Colleague:

I am writing to you asking your help in a real emergency. I greatly dislike doing so because I know how tremendously busy you must be at this time both with your local duties and your Co-Chairmanship of the United Jewish Appeal.

To put the matter briefly, I have just returned from a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Detroit where the matter of sponsoring a radio program was discussed. Our Mr. Simon Shetzer reported that he had met you and other members of the Cleveland Community Council at a meeting held in your city this week and he told us of the opinions there expressed.

It is my conviction that the stand taken by your organization that this is not the psychological moment to begin an attack on Coughlin is absolutely logical and I wish that we might have succeeded in convincing our Committee to take the same stand.

It so happens, and I say this without in any sense impugning the integrity of their motives, that on our Committee there is a disproportionate number of men who are ruled by emotion rather than by reason and whose judgment, therefore, is not wholly sound. Despite many arguments presented to them on the other side of the question, those in favor of putting on immediately an anti-Coughlin program far outvoted those who believed that the matter might better be postponed a bit until the whole thing could be more fully thought through.

DR. LEO M. FRANKLIN

DETROIT, MICH.

-2-

Rabbi Silver

May 19, 1939

The decision was to put on during the month of June, if possible, three or four radio talks with Station WJR as the local outlet, provided time on that station could be secured. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that you are the one logical man to give these addresses and I may say that I, myself, made a motion that if you could not be secured for this service, the Committee should report back to the larger group before further arrangements were made. Because of their haste in the matter, this substitute motion was voted down.

Now it all comes to this, my dear friend. You know the situation as well as any living man knows it. You are tactful, though you are highly courageous. You will say the right and telling word and frankly, I know of no other man at this time whose influence would be as far-reaching as yours and upon whose good judgment we may depend.

I need not emphasize to you that the wrong word spoken at this crucial moment in our history might prove to be disastrous to us. For that reason I am appealing to you to consent to give the several radio addresses that are to be given under the sponsorship of our Council during the month of June.

I am writing this letter on my own initiative, but after consulting several of the more influential men in the community whose judgment you would trust as fully as I do.

I believe that Mr. Shetzer is to be in Cleveland again tomorrow and he will unquestionably put this whole matter before you, but I am writing this letter with the hope that even at considerable sacrifice to yourself, you may see your way clear to accepting the invitation that Mr. Shetzer will no doubt officially extend to you.

DR. LEO M. FRANKLIN

DETROIT, MICH.

-3-

Rabbi Silver

May 19, 1939

It is my opinion that should you see your way clear to doing so, it would not be necessary for you to come to Detroit, but that you could speak over a Cleveland station that is under the same direction as WJR in Detroit.

Assuring you that I am not insensible of the magnitude of the favor that I am asking you and with cordial personal regards, as always,

Faithfully yours,

Leo M. Franklin

LMF:sg



ANTI-DEFAMATION COMMITTEE

of District Grand Lodge No. 4, Bnai Brith

DAVID ROBINSON, CHAIRMAN
PACIFIC BUILDING, PORTLAND, OREGON

EDWARD A. ZEISLER, SECRETARY-DIRECTOR
149 EDDY STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

OFFICES: 149 EDDY STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA • TELEPHONE PROSPECT 1414

THIS COMMUNICATION FROM

P. ALLEN RICKLES

NORTHERN LIFE TOWER, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

SUPERVISING: STATE OF WASHINGTON
AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

May 22nd
1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I know how disturbed you must be about the Palestinian situation. The news of Great Britain's action was one of the most depressing things that has happened in Jewish life in recent times. In Seattle, we have followed instructions and have mobilized public sentiment and opinion against this new White Paper.

Dr. Mark A. Matthews is the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle, Washington. This is the largest Presbyterian Church in the United States. Dr. Matthews is also a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly of the United States and an extremely influential Church man. I am very friendly with Dr. Matthews and frequently visit with him and discuss the whole anti-Semitic situation and other matters concerning the Jews.

I saw Dr. Matthews late Friday afternoon, as he was preparing to leave Sunday evening to attend the Presbyterian Assembly of the United States, which meets in Cleveland Wednesday, May 25th. I discussed the Palestinian situation with Dr. Matthews and he expressed himself very bitterly towards Great Britain and the Chamberlain attitude in Palestine. He further stated that it simply could not succeed. Dr. Matthews to a large extent is a fundamentalist and one of those Christians who believes that the Jews must be restored to Palestine.

I suggested to Dr. Matthews that he take this matter up before the Presbyterian Assmebly and secure the passage of a resolution there demouncing Great Britain's present attitude towards Palestine. He promised me that he would do so.

I further suggested to him that I would write to you and ask you to contact him and give him additional facts and data that might be of help to him in putting over such a resolution. He was very enthused about my thought and said that he knew who you were, knew all about you and would consider it an honor if you were to call upon him and discuss this matter with him.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver - #2

5-22-39

Dr. Matthews will be at the Hotel Cleveland this coming Wednesday, May 25th.

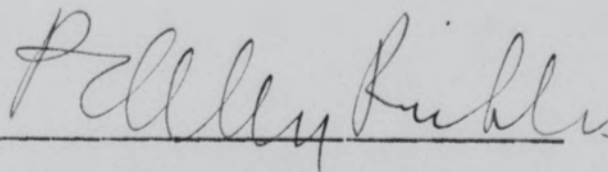
I might add that in 1936 Dr. Matthews put over a very strong resolution in the Presbyterian Assembly denouncing anti-Semitism and all attacks on the Jews. The New York Times and other eastern papers commented most favorably upon this resolution. In 1937 and 1938 he put over resolutions before this same assembly demanding the admission of refugees without quota. He also plans on having the assembly endorse the Wagner Bill for the admission of the 20,000 German children and is planning on going on to Washington to see some prominent Government officials in regards to this bill.

I am certain that a resolution of the Presbyterian Assembly on this Palestinian matter ought to be very helpful in mobilizing public opinion.

In order that you might recall the writer -- I might call your attention to the fact that Mr. Esfeld and myself had lunch with you and later drove you to the airport when you were in Seattle last year.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. Allen Rickles". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

P. Allen Rickles.

PAR:E

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B'NAI B'RITH
130 N. WELLS ST. SUITE 1602
PHONE FRANKLIN 2221

SIGMUND LIVINGSTON,
CHAIRMAN
RICHARD E. GUTSTADT,
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

CHICAGO

May 22nd,
1939

Miss Bessie Kline
Sec'y. to Rabbi Silver
East 105th Street at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Kline:

Mr. Gutstadt has asked me to acknowledge receipt
of your letter of May 18th with enclosed letter from Mr.
Samuel J. Rodman.

With many thanks, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

Rebel Fleischman

Secretary to
Richard E. Gutstadt

ebf

May 25, 1939

Dr. Leo M. Franklin
Temple Beth El
Woodward at Gladstone
Detroit, Michigan

My dear Dr. Franklin:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of May 19. I received it while I was confined to my home for a few days with an illness from which, fortunately, I have recovered.

Since receiving your letter, Rabbi Adler and Mr. Elman of your city called on me. I told them that my health would not permit me to take on any additional responsibilities at this time; that, in fact, I have been cancelling quite a number of engagements for the remainder of the season. I am a very tired man. The work involved in my offices as chairman of the United Palestine Appeal and co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, plus the chairmanship of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund, has taken a great deal out of me in the last eight months and I must give myself a rest. I urged upon these men who called on me, even as I urged upon Mr. Shetzer, to postpone the broadcast until Fall; and that the summer months be spent in carefully planning for the right kind of a reply either locally, regionally, or nationally.

With all good wishes and hoping to see you at the Rabbinical Conference, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

DR. LEO M. FRANKLIN

DETROIT, MICH.

May 29, 1939

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

My dear Friend and Colleague:

I am indeed sorry to learn through your kind letter of May 25 that you have not been well, but it is easily understandable that with the tremendous burden you have taken upon yourself, you should be pretty well worn out.

I realized when I wrote to you that I was asking more than I had a right to do, but I did it in the hope that by your coming here, we might avert a fairly serious tactical blunder. I am hoping that the committee in charge of the radio program will take your excellent advice and postpone the matter until fall.

With kindest personal regards and sincerely hoping that you will soon be well on the way to your accustomed health and strength, as always,

Faithfully yours,

Leo M. Franklin

LMF:sg