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

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Anti-Nazi activities, 1931-1933.

ILLINOIS STAATS-HEROLD PUBLISHING Co.

INC.

PUBLISHING

PAPERS WITH AMERICAN IDEALS IN THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

2148 SHEFFIELD AVE., TEL. DIVERSEY 1670

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

December 8, 1931

Strictly Confidential

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
105th Street at Ansell Road,
Cleveland, Ohio

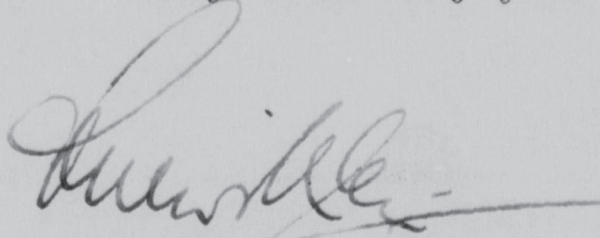
My dear Rabbi Silver:

I have this day written to the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., as per the enclosed copy.

I wish you would be kind enough to study this letter. The Hitlerites in America have pledged themselves not to become American citizens, are slandering the Jews and are lending their support to their home organization from whom they take orders. Their activities are unamerican and against the policies of this country.

I am looking with great fear in the future for the German Jews, and it is our duty to do something at once. The activities of the Hitlerites should not be allowed in this country, and I sincerely believe our Government should take steps to stop them immediately.

Very sincerely yours,



JULIUS KLEIN,
Editor



JK:Z
encl.

December 8, 1931

Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.,

Strictly Confidential

Gentlemen:

Publishing newspapers with American ideals in the German language, trying to Americanize our readers and make them eligible to become good citizens to this country, we consider it our duty to call your attention to the activities of the Hitlerites.

The Hitlerites belong to an organization of German National Radicals, who have come to this country solely for one purpose to cause trouble and disturb the peace of American Citizens of German extraction.

These young Hitlerites active in the United States have pledged themselves not to become American citizens, and in word and script are disavowing our country and our sister Republic of Germany. Besides being against the present German Government, they are conducting a vicious campaign against the Jewish Race. They are carrying the emblem of the Hitler Anti-Jewish organization, have their flags here at their meetings and even on occasions wear Hitler uniforms on the street. Their war-cry is "throw the Jews out, hang them and destroy them". They are lending their support to a political party of the German Reich, taking orders from that party and trying to organize support in the United States for same.

While in Chicago there are only a small group of men active in the work, we believe that the Government should investigate their activities. It would be advisable to check their printing matter. They are using the mails for the purpose of propaganda of their cause. They are here to obstruct and not build up. Their pledge not to become citizens of this country explains their aims.

These Hitlerites have a press organ here called "Vorposten", which is published in Chicago by one Mr. Doering, 1060 Waveland Avenue. The nominal head of the Chicago organization is Fritz Giesibl, 2166 Warner Avenue. The National

December 8, 1931

Department of Justice

leader is Mr. Walter Kappé, who resides in Cincinnati. They hold their Chicago meetings at Sachsen Hall.

It is the opinion of the German-Americans, who are good citizens in this country, that these men should not be tolerated here and that the Government should take steps to stop their activities. Their conduct is vicious and malicious and against good American Citizenship.

The December 15th issue of their press organ accuses the Associated Press of publishing fake reports, lies, slander, etc.

While we believe there is no immediate danger at the present time, it is of vital importance that your Department look into the affairs of these Anti-Jewish and Anti-Good Government terrorists.



Very truly yours,



JULIUS KLEIN,
Editor

JK:Z

B'nai B'rith

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Cincinnati

May 16, 1933.

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PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

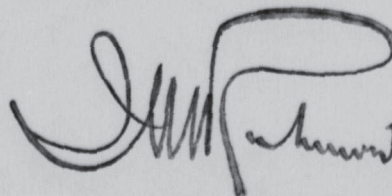
Dr. Abba H. Silver,
The Temple,
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Welcome home! We need you badly here and have missed you not only in the unemployment insurance matter but particularly in this hopelessly muddled up German situation. I don't know how closely you have kept in touch with things in this country but you will have no difficulty in getting the complete picture from your colleagues: Brickner of your own town, Lazaron in Baltimore and others, as well as from the files of the Anglo-Jewish press. We need just now a very powerful voice to stop the internal conflicts and move towards some union of national Jewish organization in the German situation. Perhaps you can help to bring that about.

With kindest regards from Mrs. Rubinow and myself to Mrs. Silver and you, I am

Cordially yours,



Secretary.

May 17, 1933.

Dr. I.M. Rubinow,
Secretary, B'nai B'rith,
Electric Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Rubinow:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 16th. I enjoyed hearing from you. I am glad to be back and to resume my work. On the subject of unemployment insurance, Miss Magee wrote me to my steamer informing me of the public meeting which has been arranged for the 25th of the month. Its purpose is to bring some pressure to bear upon the Legislature to bring the bill up for a vote at an early date. I shall address this meeting.

I have followed up the local situation with reference to the German Jewish problem very closely, both from my vantage point in Europe and since my return. Quite a few people have approached me since my arrival on the matter which you referred to. I know the difficulties involved and I know also that many people have attempted to bring about unity of action and the creation of a central Jewish body to speak for American Jewry. Certainly American Jewish public opinion is clamoring for such an organization. I should like to be helpful. I realize that I am in a rather fortunate position to help in as much as I have been quite neutral in the controversies which developed. If I were persuaded that an appeal from me for the immediate convoking of a conference of representatives of the important Jewish bodies in America would be immediately backed up by the B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee and one or two other organizations, I would assume the responsibility and aggressively push the matter through. I am inclined to think that only such a public appeal voicing the sentiments of the American Jews could in the present situation bring about such a conference.

May 17, 1933.

Diplomatic correspondence, manoeuvring and personal interviews on my part with spokesmen of organizations will not achieve the desired end. I assume that that has already been tried aplenty.

I am not angling for the role of a peace maker. Also, I do not wish to make a futile appeal adding my voice to the great chorus of voices which have already pleaded for peace and unity. But I shall be very happy to lend my services to this desperately need effort if I were convinced that I would receive a quick and hearty cooperation of at least a number of the organized bodies who would be expected to attend such a conference. There should be no difficulty in agreeing upon the nature of the appeal and upon the number of organizations to be invited.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Rubinov, in which Mrs. Silver joins me, I remain

As ever,

ARS:BK



May 24, 1923.

Dr. I.M. Rabinow,
Secretary, B'nai B'rith,
Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Rabinow:

I did not send the telegram which you suggested and I am glad that I did not send it. It would have been just another futile effort. Judging from the sentiments expressed at the sessions of The American Jewish Congress in Washington, the hope of corraling the three organizations for unified action has gone glimmering. I suppose nothing further can be done at this time. Should the plan which I suggested to you in my last two communications ever commend itself to you I shall be glad to renew conversation with you on this matter.

With all good wishes, I remain as ever

Yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. The enclosed advertisement of the German Tourist Information Office which appeared in the B.B. magazine of April seems to have aroused a large amount of unfavorable comment hereabouts.

B'nai B'rith

ELECTRIC BUILDING

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London, England

and

PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

May 29, 1933.

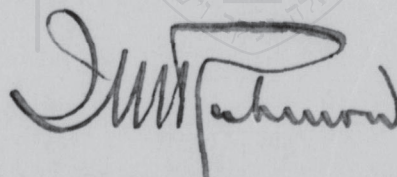
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Have just returned from a trip to Washington and New York and find your note. It is quite true that a week ago the possibilities of peace between the big three were very low. We have, however, met representatives of the other organization in Washington and things seem to have been patched up. If nothing slips then by the middle or the end of this week there should come an announcement of re-establishment of relationships. This is confidential because "there is many a slip twixt cup and lip".

But let's hope for the best.

Cordially yours,


Secretary.

P. S. The German Tourist ad was unfortunate. It was, however, in compliance with a contract entered into six or eight months ago and will not appear again. I know that a good deal of fuss was made about it. Some people evidently insist upon interpreting it as friendship for Germany. I believe they ought to know better. The best thing to do is to forget about it.

IMR/NS

June 7, 1933.

Morris D. Waldman, Sec'y,
American Jewish Committee,
171 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Waldman:

A Vice President of the Agfa Film Company, a German Jewish firm, came in to see me together with a leading Jewish druggist of Cleveland who had refused to trade with the Agfa people and talked with me about the boycott which is going on against their products throughout the country. We discussed the subject at great length and finally suggested to him the advisability of getting in touch with half a dozen other German American business enterprises and together send a statement to the German authorities calling attention to the attitude of the American businesses etc. He was very much impressed with the idea and asked me for a list of such commercial organizations. Could you suggest to me the names of eight or ten of them?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:RK

(COPY)

no
June 19, 1933.

Mr. Louis Selzer,

Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Selzer:

I wonder whether you personally saw the enclosed letter which was printed in the Press last Saturday, before it was published.

The Press has been so eminently fair in its news concerning the Hitler Government that I hesitate to make any criticism, but I am sure you would not wittingly permit the publication of an article containing such glaring mis-statements and so clearly calculated, as is this one, to stir up race prejudice.

Note the last portion of the last paragraph, which I consider absolutely vicious.

I recognize the necessity for an open "forum" for the people to express their views on current topics, but I am sure you often have to exercise your discretion in blue-pencilling communications which should not see the light of day.

It takes only one ignorant man to write a letter of this kind, but the mischief which it does, permeates the minds of hundreds of ignorant readers.

Here was a letter which, it seems to me and to my friends, should have been suppressed.

I will appreciate a word from you.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Nathan Loeser

NL-K

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

171 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK

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LEWIS L. STRAUSS,	NEW YORK, N. Y.
SOL. M. STROOCK,	NEW YORK, N. Y.
B. C. VLADECK,	NEW YORK, N. Y.
FELIX M. WARBURG,	NEW YORK, N. Y.
MORRIS WOLF,	PHILADELPHIA, PA.

June 20, 1933.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I hope you will forgive me for not answering your kind letter of June 7th at an earlier date. However, we have been quite rushed with the preparation of our booklet "The Jews in Nazi Germany" which you will probably have received by now.

We have gone carefully into the matter which was the subject of your letter and believe that you are on the right track. As a matter of fact, we are contemplating at the moment to undertake a similar action on a large scale.

In accordance with your request, I am appending a list of several concerns here in New York, which might answer your purpose. May I point out that the names on the list have been carefully selected; they are all representative businesses with large German connections, and what is more, the people who head the various firms are likely to cooperate.

Reciprocating your kind good wishes, I remain, with best regards

Very sincerely yours,

Morris D. Waldman

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

ND

Julius Blum & Co.	532 West 22d St., New York City
Ludwig Bendix	50 Broad St.
Ludwig Baer	50 Union Square
Cassel & Co.	61 Broadway
Dr. Rudolf Mattfeldt	157 West 73d St.
Ore & Chemical Corp.	40 Rector St.
Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co.	25 Broad St.
Carl Schreiner	225 West 34th St.
Gafco, Inc.	145 West 30th St.



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Attorneys - at - Law
National City Bank Building
Cleveland

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RAY L. ALEXANDER
JOHN LADD DEAN
EARL R. HOOVER

June 20th, 1933.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi:

The Press of Saturday contained a very vicious letter
from one Herman Schwenhagen. No doubt you saw it.

I wrote the enclosed letter to Mr. Selzer, the editor of
the Press, and I have a letter from him whereof I enclose a copy.

Sincerely,

Nat.

NL-K

1

no

July 31, 1933.

Mr. Nathan Loeser,
National City Bank Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Nate:

I am returning herewith the letter of
Rabbi Fink. I enjoyed reading it.

Have you spoken with Edgar about the
matter which I mentioned to you? Please let me
know. A confidential conference will soon be held
in New York on the widening of the boycott, under
the chairmanship of Mr. Samuel Untermyer, who will
also report about his activities abroad. A few big
men from various parts of the country will be
invited to attend this meeting. I am going and I shall
invite two or three Clevelanders to come with me.
Would you be free to go?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:EK
Enc.

MD
August 28, 1933.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency,
122 E. 42nd St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Friends:

I have this day sent the following cable
to the Zionist Congress. I thought you might be
interested in reading it.

WRHS AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
"Regard export agreement with Germany
harmful and degrading. Palestine should not be
made dumping ground for German goods which Jews
everywhere are rejecting. Zionist organization
must not allow itself to be used by Hitler to
break the back of worldwide boycott."

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

August 28, 1933.

The Jewish World,
10600 Superior Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friends:

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Very sincerely yours,

AHS:EK

The Temple

EAST 105TH STREET AT ANSEL ROAD

TELEPHONES CEDAR 0132-0133

Cleveland

RABBI LEON I. FEUER
MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D.D.
RABBI

HARRY A. LEVY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

August 30, 1933.

Mr. Walter H. Blumenthal,
American Hebrew,
212 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Return to B

My dear Mr. Blumenthal:

I believe that the enclosed letter which Mr. Alfred A. Benesch let me see, may be of interest to you. It is, of course, a private letter and therefore cannot be published. But I thought that you might be interested in the line of reasoning of the gentlemen who are responsible for the publication of Hitler's "My Battle." Please return the letter to me after you have read it.

I understand that preparations are being made in New York for presenting "The Romance of the People" on a very large scale. The proceeds of this pageant, as I understand it, are to be devoted to the campaign fund of The Jewish Agency for Palestine. I believe that the question should be raised at this time as to what percentages ~~are~~ going to the campaign and how much of the funds are to find their way into the pockets of the impresario, publicity agents, hangers-on, etc. I understand that in Chicago, \$150,000 was collected and only \$30,000 was turned over to the Palestine Fund. I am not sure of these figures, but you can check up on them by consulting the proper authorities. An inquiry at this time may avoid unpleasantness later on.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:EK

Enc.

For Mr. Blumenthal

ND

August 30, 1933.

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American Hebrew,
212 Fifth Ave.,
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Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

Enc.

American Hebrew and Jewish Tribune

212 FIFTH AVENUE
New York

DAVID A. BROWN, *President and Publisher*

Telephone
ASHLAND 4 - 5880

A WEEKLY JOURNAL FOR THE JEWS OF AMERICA

September 1st, 1933

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We here at The American Hebrew are deeply grateful for your kindness in sending us a copy of the letter received by Mr. Benesch from Houghton Mifflin Company. It is very encouraging to have the support of such men as Mr. Benesch.

Some day, when you are in the office here, which I hope will not be too far distant, we shall be very glad to show you the many letters that have come in supporting our attitude, as well as the many letters (some of them scurrilous) from those who disagree.

We feel, however, that our effort is having a beneficial influence, and, judging from the tartness of Houghton Mifflin's reply to Mr. Benesch, it seems to be getting under their skin. Maybe after all, they may change their minds. This, in the last analysis, is our purpose, and we only wish it could have been done without any publicity at all.

At the moment we are deeply occupied with divulging to the press and to the public the machinations of the Silver Shirts of America. Within a few days we will send out to the press the first of our releases on this anti-Semitic organization and the literature which they are circulating.

There is a wealth of material now in our hands, indicating a widespread organization for anti-Jewish propaganda, all of which has to be developed and presented so that public opinion may be aroused.

We are therefore side-tracking for the moment such matters as the Romance of a People. We are thoroughly aware that but a minor part of the receipts of this pageant is being handed over to the Zionist Organization. We are convinced that a very fat livelihood will be garnered by the promoters, and that it is to them more of a romance than to anybody else.

The several careful inquiries which we have made, in an attempt to get information as to the proceeds turned over to the Zionist Organization, have met with evasion and we have no information at all.

May we offer this urgent suggestion to you? If the pageant is to turn out to be nothing but a racket, with all the attendant disgrace (which we can little afford today to have), we certainly want to prevent further exploitation, if possible, of well-meaning Jews and non-Jews in various communities.

No doubt, the plan is to duplicate the feat in every large city in the country, for suckers are not geographically limited.

It is my firm conviction that a man of your standing, commanding the attention that your utterances do, could very easily bring the whole subject to the surface. We should be more than happy to have an article by you, exposing the whole thing on the basis of information which you have gathered. We cannot do it, because we have not the information.

Will you please give this suggestion your careful thought, and let us know just what you will do.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

Walter Hart Blumenthal

Walter Hart Blumenthal
Associate Editor

WHB:FA

May 17, 1933.

Dr. I.M. Rubinow,
Secretary, B'nai B'rith,
Electric Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Rubinow:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 16th. I enjoyed hearing from you. I am glad to be back and to resume my work. On the subject of unemployment insurance, Miss Magee wrote me to my steamer informing me of the public meeting which has been arranged for the 25th of the month. Its purpose is to bring some pressure to bear upon the Legislature to bring the bill up for a vote at an early date. I shall address this meeting.

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With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Rubinos, in which Mrs. Silver joins me, I remain

As ever,

AHS:BK

