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

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Billikopf, Jacob, 1927-1932.

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THE FEDERATION OF
JEWISH CHARITIES OF PHILADELPHIA

330 SOUTH NINTH STREET

September 13, 1927.

Dear Silver:

Welcome home! I note you were in Russia and am glad of it. To what extent do my views, expressed in the enclosure, harmonize with yours?

I suppose you have read about Max Steuer's sensational charges against the J.D.C. I am enclosing copy of a letter to Steuer, which will interest you.

Did you get a line on the colonization work in Russia?

Yours,

Rabbi A. H. Silver.

Billikopf

COPY

September 14, 1927

Mr. Max D. Steuer
42 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Steuer:-

A copy of the letter, written to you last week, was sent to Dr. Lee K. Frankel who, as you recall, was the Chairman of the Commission that went abroad five years ago to make an intensive analysis of our activities. Among the members of the Commission were Professor Milton Rosenau of Harvard University, Mr. David M. Eressler, a noted communal worker and Mr. Morris Wolf of Philadelphia, one of the ablest members of the Pennsylvania Bar. Mr. Morris Wolf concerned himself largely with an analysis of the fiscal reports.

This morning I received from Dr. Frankel a communication in which he expresses complete accord with my views and from which I quote the following sentence:

"As you know, five years ago, when the Commission of which I was Chairman went to Poland, we went very carefully into the matter of finance. We were unable to find anything which indicated misuse of funds. Naturally, there had been some waste, but this was occasioned by the conditions which existed at the time the J.D.C. first undertook to send relief".

When I was in Warsaw last summer, the secretary to our American Minister wanted me to meet Bartels, the then Chief of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Bartels had just given out an exceedingly encouraging statement, expressing, in behalf of Pilsudski and his colleagues, sentiments of friendship toward the Jews. I was naturally anxious to meet Bartels and obtain more concrete information as to what was actually implied in his pronouncement. Unfortunately, he was called to Paris, but I did have an opportunity of discussing matters with one of the attaches in the Department. The gentleman was quite friendly but did not disguise the fact that: "If one half of the Jews of Poland would trek, the Poles could get along quite amicably with the rest of the Jews." As an evidence of his personal affection for our

people, he assured me that: "Some of the best friends I have in the world are Jews." (I don't believe there is a Polish word for Hebrew, otherwise he might have used a more euphonious term.)

Having just read Dubnow's "History of the Jews" I proceeded to point out to my newly acquired acquaintance what the Jews had meant to Poland; how much they had contributed to its industrial development and what distinct contributions Russian and Polish Jews had made to American life and civilization. His comment was:- "You are a stranger! Naturally you cannot grasp our problems; but why don't you speak to Deputy Gruenebaum who is certainly a conscientious Jew? He will repeat what he has been saying again and again in public - that Poland has a million more Jews than it can possibly care for. So, you see, I am not expressing merely a Polish point of view."

Of course, I will not accuse Mr. Gruenebaum of consciously placing most dangerous weapons in the hands of Polish antisemites. In his zeal for Zionism, he wants the world to know that the only way of helping Polish Jewry is to transfer them en masse to Palestine. The fact remains that Deputy Gruenebaum has done so much damage to the Jews of Poland by his reckless statements that his newly conceived "constructive measures" cannot possibly compensate for the injury he has done his people.

Mr. Israel Zangwill and Mr. Jacob Schiff initiated in 1907 what was then known as the Galveston movement and the purpose of which was to deflect streams of immigration to the West, South and Southwest, thus relieving the tension in the crowded Eastern sections of the country. It was a movement in which Mr. David Bressler, Mr. Morris D. Waldman and I cooperated extensively. Suppose, in his enthusiasm for the Cause and in his passionate desire to enlist the sympathetic cooperation of the Western and middle Western Jewish communities, Mr. Jacob Schiff had come out with pronouncements that the Metropolis had a million or a half million more Jews than belonged there; that they could not possibly be assimilated, industrially and economically; that their proportion to the Gentile population was too large, how do you suppose Mr. Schiff's pronouncement would have been received by the antisemites? And what would the Jews have said?

When I think of the Gruenebaums and their like, I feel like uttering the cry of the old Latin poet:

"Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes."

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Billikopf

C O P Y .

B
Billikopf

Dear Mr. Billikopf:-

I want to thank you for your letter of September 12th which reached me together with the enclosure of a copy of a letter which you forwarded to Mr. Steuer.

You may have noticed in the 'New York Times' that when I returned I contented myself with a general statement that the outlook in Europe, as far as our people were concerned, was a much better one than it was during the preceding years of my visit to the same countries. I was perhaps responsible for the occurrence because I acted as host at a few luncheons given to these delegates from the different countries of the Continent. I saw - although it was my first experience - that we Americans count for nothing when it comes to any European problem. These men, for one reason or another, and particularly by reason of their great ability and versatility, have these problems at their fingers' ends whereas we Americans are required to go through the ABC to each question that comes up for discussion.

At our own conference in Zurich we Americans counted for nothing. I noticed that at the Basle conference, fifteenth Zionist Congress, our American delegates cut but a very sorry figure.

So to recur to the first paragraph of my letter, I at least wanted to become more closely acquainted with the leaders of these different countries; hence these intimate talks with these men from Poland, Latvia, Bulgaria, etc. Mr. Steuer was present at every one of these talks and a great many statements were new to him. He did not know the condition as it existed then, and while I don't want to say it for publication, some things were told at those conferences which needed a great deal of explanation, to say the least.

I do not take it upon myself to judge of Mr. Steuer's method of remedying what he considered a great evil. He is well able to speak for himself and my only regret is that the attitude of the leaders of the Jewish community of the city and in the nation extends such scant courtesy to Mr. Steuer and to his statement. You may search the country from coast to coast to find a man who has done more constructive work whenever called upon by the leaders of our communities than has Mr. Steuer; and a man of his standing at the Bar in not only the State but in the nation, should have been accorded more decent treatment than he has received, unless it is the policy of the leaders to do with the Jewish community of America what has been done in England and in France, to wit, have one man speak for the whole community on every conceivable problem as in England. However, that particular spokesman makes good any deficiency of the budget of the community for which he speaks. I am informed that the same thing is true in France. I will leave it to your superior knowledge and information as to existing conditions, to judge whether the leaders in this community do what the leaders in the other communities have been doing for many years.

It did seem curious to me, if I may be permitted to say so, that since the outbreak of the European War to the present moment, with an expenditure of approximately \$60,000,000. not a single effort has been made to make a clear statement of what and how and when and where and by whom this money was expended, especially in view of the numberless complaints both from abroad and from at home as to the method and manner of the distribution. I personally asked Mr. Warburg during one of the drives: "Mr. Warburg, what am I to say to the charge that out of every dollar given not more than a half a dollar reaches its destination?" Mr. Warburg appreciated my dilemma and tried to help me out but he did not question my motives. He knew that I was simply repeating a thousand time repeated charge that the money did not reach.

In view of such a situation, Mr. Steuer being a lawyer of the first order with an equitable mind and with a mind desirous of proof and proof only, I am not at all surprised that he has taken the attitude he has in view of what he heard. These men who spoke to him did not seem to be the scum of the earth. They were leaders in their community and if not leaders should be leaders, because they are able, honest, informed, cultured and belonging to families in some instances who have lived for many centuries in the communities from which they come and which they represented.

In view of the length of your letter I hope I have not presumed upon your good nature to ask you to read these lines.

In conclusion, I want to say that the leaders of this community will have to seek far and wide for a substitute for Mr. Steuer, whom they have so unceremoniously banished from their councils.

(signed)

Cordially yours,

Emanuel Hertz

-C-O-P-Y-

September 14, 1927.

Emanuel Hertz, Esq.,
149 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hertz:-

When I was associated with the late Jacob H. Schiff in the 1917 Foreign Relief Campaign in New York City, and in consequence of which the then colossal sum of \$5,000,000. was raised, it was my proud boast that one of the finest contributions we were making to local Jewry was the discovery of hidden, but powerful potentialities, such as represented by Mr. Max Steuer. If my memory serves me correctly, it was in the 1917 campaign that Mr. Max Steuer, for the first time, took a very active part in a large communal enterprise, and I recall that immediately after the Campaign, Mr. Steuer and I discussed at length the great human assets to the Jewish community which were revealed in that humanitarian effort. I am, therefore, the last person to under-rate Mr. Steuer's importance to the Jewish community of New York or to the larger Jewish community of America.

You state in your letter that "a man of Mr. Steuer's standing at the Bar should have been accorded more decent treatment than he has received, unless it is the policy of the leaders to do with the Jewish community of America what has been done in England and in France." I think I am sufficiently familiar with what goes on in American Jewish life and with American Jewish leaders, to say that they would have been delighted to have availed themselves of Mr. Steuer's services. It is a fact, is it not, that in recent years Mr. Steuer has been one of the outstanding spokesmen in the community for the Federation of Jewish Charities, which is the largest single expression of Jewish life, and you may rest assured that the Marshalls, the Warburgs and the others to whom you refer by implication, would have been only too happy to allow Mr. Steuer to share in other activities, if they thought Mr. Steuer was receptive. Parenthetically, if you know a suitable person or persons who would care to relieve Mr. Marshall (same is true of Warburg, Lehman, Rosenwald and others) of any of his numerous obligations, he will, I am sure, be only too happy to relinquish these obligations, without imposing on his successors the burden so righteously assumed by those European Jewish leaders who, to quote you, "make good deficiencies of the budgets of the communities for which they speak."

Whether these assurances are acceptable to you or not, I must, however, express utter lack of sympathy for the following comment in your letter, namely, "the leaders of the Jewish community and in the nation have extended such scant courtesy to Mr. Steuer, and to his statement." I repeat what I said in my letter to Mr. Steuer, that if he has been genuinely concerned in arriving at the truth, the least courtesy he might have shown to Mr. Warburg, with whom he has been associated for years in Federation activities, and to Mr. Marshall, for whom he expresses such extraordinary regard, was to have communicated to them privately

the serious charges presented to him at Zurich, and, failing to get satisfaction, he might have then sought recourse to the press. No, he need not have spoken to them as a matter of courtesy, but on account of the far-reaching effects a statement coming from him was likely to have on thousands of persons who had made definite commitments and many of whom are only too happy to be relieved of their pledges.

I am woefully ignorant of the rules of legal procedure. I am unfamiliar with the Principles of Evidence. Wigmore on Evidence is merely a name to me - nothing else. But, as a layman, it would seem to me that a fundamental principle in the Law of Evidence would demand the submission of your case in an orderly manner - and not have it tried in the newspapers. True, occasionally some lawyers present preliminary statements to the press with a view to creating atmosphere for their clients, but I imagine that the Bar condemns such procedure as highly unethical. As a prominent member of the New York Bar, you will correct me, if I am mistaken. Mr. Max Steuer, having presented his facts to the newspapers, before he had an opportunity to discuss them with those who have been in charge of the distribution of the funds for nearly fifteen years - those for whom he expresses such rare admiration; Mr. Max Steuer having assumed the triple role of Judge, Jury and Chief Executioner - how did you expect the leaders to extend anything but "scant courtesy to Mr. Steuer and to his statement?"

It has been a source of great surprise in various circles as to what actuated Mr. Steuer to make against the J.D.C. the startling charges in the manner in which he did. Persons are asking themselves the question: "Why did he do it? Why did he adopt such methods?" All sorts of answers have been given to those speculative questions. Those charitably inclined merely commented: "Goes to show that even a brilliant lawyer will be guilty of a faux pas." Your letter makes the matter fairly clear. Apparently, Mr. Steuer bitterly resents that a man of his standing at the Bar, in the State and in the Nation, should not be receiving from the Jewish leaders the treatment to which he and such ardent admirers as you feel he is entitled. He probably shares your conviction that the spokesmen in our American Jewish communities should, at least, emulate the example of their European confreres and "make good deficiencies of the budgets of the communities for which they speak." To satisfy his resentment, he, therefore, heedless of the consequences to thousands of suffering co-religionists, prefers against the J.D.C. leaders charges based on hearsay evidence, which would not be acceptable even in a magistrate's court, much less in a higher court of law. Your letter, I repeat, clears up the mystery - to overthrow the existing Dynasty in Jewish life. The methods of the Joint Distribution Committee were to be "exposed!" The J.D.C. - delenda est!

You state: "It did seem curious to me, if I may be permitted to say so, that since the outbreak of the European War to the present moment, with an expenditure of approximately \$60,000,000, not a single effort has been made to make a clear statement of what

and how and when and where and by whom this money was expended." As a matter of fact, at every Conference called for the purpose of stimulating relief activities abroad, the Treasurer has read detailed and comprehensive statements, showing how and when and where and by whom the money was expended. These reports have always been available.

I am enclosing copy of another letter written to Mr. Steuer, in which you will note what Dr. Lee K. Frankel, Vice-President of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, and Chairman of the Commission which studied J.D.C. activities abroad five years ago, has to say regarding financial operations of the J.D.C. At the time, Dr. Frankel's report was given widespread publicity.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Jacob Billikopf

P. S. As I finished dictating this letter, I received word from New York that Mr. Naumburg, the well known Warsaw journalist, wired to the Forward the following unsolicited message: "Steuer's statement concerning me false." One of Mr. Steuer's star witnesses repudiates his testimony! Mark my word, before the week is over, there will be other voluntary repudiations. Do you know why? Because if Shabad, Tchernikoff and Naumburg actually made the statements with which they are credited, their respective communities would deny the slanderous charges alleged to have been made by them.

THE FEDERATION OF
JEWISH CHARITIES OF PHILADELPHIA

330 SOUTH NINTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA. PA. September 30, 1927.

Dear Silver:-

I regret exceedingly that you did not have an opportunity to visit the Jewish colonies in Crimea, Krivoi Rog and particularly in the Cherson regions. You would have returned full of rhapsodies and many a brilliant sermon would have been delivered by you on the subject. It makes a great deal of difference conferring with representatives of the Gezerd (never heard of the name) in Moscow and seeing things with one's own eyes!

Even though you have seen the colonies in Russia through the eyes of the Moscow representatives of the Gezerd, you can truly sympathize now with the views expressed a year ago by that dear old patriarch, Ruben Brainin - vies for the expression of which Ruben Brainin was castigated at the time and dismissed by colleagues as a "mere poet" and, therefore, unable to grasp the Realities.

Your opinion is that colonization in Russia, or to adopt Dr. Wise's correction, "the back-to-the-soil-movement," will not prove a permanent achievement; that should there be an extension of the NEP the Russian Jews will not stay on the soil. Of course, neither one of us has any definite data with which to back up our respective judgments, but it is my conviction that even though the NEP assumes larger proportions and even though the present philosophy of State Control breaks down considerably, those Jews who are on the soil today will remain there.

I just read an interview by Dr. Wishnitzer, general secretary of the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden, who has been investigating the Jewish colonies and concurs in the views expressed a year ago by Hexter and myself, that as the economic position of the colonies becomes more firm, the likelihood of the colonists remaining on the soil is assured. Again and again they would say to us: "We have burnt our bridges behind us. The new life is harder but more sure and more stable."

Then, again, you must remember that even in the Czarist days there were substantial Jewish colonies. Larin, in many respects the ablest Jew in the Communist party and a noted economist, reminded a few days ago his Russian colleagues that even in Czarist days the Jews were in control of larger tracts of land than has been granted them since the Revolution. If the NEP does spread, the exodus from the cities will naturally not be as great; but after the settlers will have oriented themselves to their new surroundings, they will not pull up stakes.

I hold no brief for the J.D.C. As I stated in my letter to Mr. Steuer, only once during the past ten years have I had occasion to appear before an Executive meeting - and that was in behalf of the Palestine Economic Corporation in which I was only remotely interested. But, you could not have given much reflection to the following statement in your letter: "Much of what Steuer says is, of course, true," although you object to the manner and method in which he presented his facts.

What did Steuer say?

(a) That a considerable amount of the money sent to Poland prior to 1924 was stolen.

When Mr. Marshall demanded facts, Steuer claimed to have been misrepresented by the newspapers. Yet, the New York Times, the New York World and New York American quoted him on the subject in almost identical language.

(b) That 40% of the \$51,000,000 sent to Poland was lost on account of "strange" banking methods.

Not a bit of truth in this statement. To begin with, no such amount was ever sent to Poland and Steuer might as well have said 90% was lost: he was entirely too modest in his estimate. He alleges to have secured his facts from Shabad, Tchernikoff, Gruenebaum and others. Each one of them, even Gruenebaum who has been one of the severest critics of the J. D. C., has denied ever making such a statement to Steuer.

(c) That the activities in Poland are not constructive in their nature, but ephemeral.

Well, that is a subject on which Mr. Warburg and his associates threw considerable light in their rejoinder. Incidentally, Dr. Shabad (Vilna) sent me a copy of the cryptic Memorandum which was handed to Mr. Steuer before his departure from Zurich - a Memorandum supposed to contain such damaging evidence against the J.D.C. As a matter of fact, it is a perfectly harmless document in which a group of fine men present an agrarian program for Poland and with which I am heartily in accord: only I wish we had many more millions at our disposal.

From the above you need not conclude that in my opinion the J.D.C. is an infallible organization. Under separate cover I am sending you copy of the report presented by Hexter and myself in Chicago last October. Please read the concluding paragraphs. You will note what we think of the policy of Drift which the J.D.C. is pursuing.

Reciprocating your kind wishes, I am, as ever,

Cordially yours,

Willikoff

October 7, 1927.

Mr. Jacob Billikopf,
Federation of Jewish Charities,
330 South Ninth Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Billikopf:

Thank you for your kind letter. Inasmuch as you have never heard of the Gezerd, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a clipping from the Moscow "Emes" which not only mentions the Gezerd but which tells you of a lottery which this organization is now putting on for the benefit of the colonization project in Russia. Gezerd, I understand, are the initials of Gessellschaft fur Erdarbeit.

I read the "Emes" daily as well as other Russian Jewish newspapers and magazines. This helps me to possess more information about conditions in Soviet Russia than some of my J.D.C. friends would like me to possess.

With kindest regards and wishing you a very happy New Year, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:NFB

THE FEDERATION OF
JEWISH CHARITIES OF PHILADELPHIA
330 SOUTH NINTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

January 17, 1929.

Dear Silver:-

"The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the Year." So, I think, saith the poet. We are in the midst of our annual Federation Campaign, trying to obtain \$1,750,000 or nearly \$25,000 more than last year, but under more difficult circumstances as many factors in our community, particularly the realtors, have been hit. This by way of apology for not acknowledging sooner the receipt of your book and more particularly for your affectionate inscription.

You may rest assured that I will read the book with unusual joy, but not before February 1st when the "melancholy days" will have been over. You will then hear from me again. In the meantime, ever so many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Do you get the Forward? If so, read in last Sunday's issue, on the English page, an interesting article by Nathaniel Zalowitz regarding Dr. Wise's speech at Carnegie Hall a few weeks ago in which he spoke of his experiences in Berlin. I should love to have a chat with you regarding the entire situation. X

With best regards to you and yours, As ever,

Yours, . .

Billikopf

Rabbi Abba H. Silver

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THE FEDERATION OF JEWISH CHARITIES OF PHILADELPHIA

330 SOUTH NINTH STREET

December 28, 1931.

Dear Abba:

It occurred to me that you might be interested to see copy of a letter I have addressed to the New York Times and only about two-thirds of which was published. I have had some very favorable comments regarding it from various parts of the country.

As ever,

Yours,

Billie

Rabbi A. H. Silver.



To the Editor,
New York Times.

*Phila
Bullock*

In a recent editorial, The Times rightly congratulated the organizers of the charitable drives throughout the country on their showings to date. As a director of a federation of charities, which benefits by such a campaign; as a member of the Unemployment Relief Committee, which also benefits by it; and as one of the organizers of a United Campaign for \$9,000,000. - that of Philadelphia - I cannot be set down as an outside disparager of their efforts. I have been in it up to my elbows.

Yet any implication that the success of the community chest campaigns in the 144 cities that have thus far reported indicates that the unemployment relief situation is in hand, is not supported by facts. A community chest is a concert of all sorts of welfare agencies - hospitals, homes for the aged, child welfare and family welfare societies, orphanages, Y.M. and Y.W.C.A.s, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. What these 144 campaigns indicate is that 144 exceptionally well organized cities are supporting this whole social welfare structure; with emergent relief work as a new and important unit. For the thousands of other cities, towns and villages of the country the success of the chest campaigns means nothing at all.

For 130 of these 144 cities we have data comparable with last year which shows an increase of 14.3 per cent in funds raised. This and presumably far more than this is for relief purposes. Yet relief demands in every American city shows an increase quite out of proportion to this gain. Philadelphia's relief expenditures during September of this year were 404 per cent above September 1930, Chicago's 267 per cent, New York's 125 per cent, Cleveland's 134 per

cent, St. Louis' 214 per cent. Against the rise in need shown by these September figures the increase of 14.3 per cent in private funds for all welfare purposes in 130 cities is not impressive.

In normal times about 30 per cent of the relief needs of the average city are met by private funds, the rest coming from city and county funds. It is obvious that the great bulk of the increased burden of relief must be met by greatly increased public appropriations. But it is the rare city or town that has yet taken action that even remotely suggests adequacy or even awareness.

The interpretation given by the press generally in headlines and editorial comment to the success of the community chest campaigns this year under the aegis of the President's Committee, is dangerous in its tendency to lull the public into a false security on the whole relief situation throughout the country this winter. In New York there has been a straight drive for money for work relief. But that is not the situation generally. In order to stimulate contributions in a time of stringency, relief and unemployment have been ballyhooed from Washington out of all proportion to their place in the chest budgets. The maintenance of the general structure and service of social work is as important as relief: it is more important than ever in hard times. It is as important as keeping up a fire department at its most effective working pitch at a time of drought: of keeping up hospitals and regular health services in time of epidemic. None the less it is unfortunate that because of these circumstances the newspapers and the public are likely to assume that with the charitable drives out of the way, relief is all attended to and our duty is done.

In the first place we shall not have done our duty in the

situation so long as there is such a wide spread between the relief granted by our emergency set-ups and the relief standards set by our going charitable agencies in normal times based on their studies of what will keep ^a household intact. Here in Philadelphia, for example, and you must remember that I am identified with both organizations - the minimum relief accorded a family of five by the family society of the Federation of Jewish Charities is \$21.97, divided as follows: Food - \$9.25; lunches - 60 cents; rent - \$5.77 (\$25. per month: 5 room house); light and cooking - 69 cents; clothing - \$2.92; household supplies - 35 cents; carfare - 90 cents; incidentals - 64 cents; coal - 85 cents (on a weekly basis throughout the year).

This is not guess work; it is based on the most rigorous studies of what is needed to keep body and soul together; to keep health from being impaired; to conserve what we do not want to see broken down in family life. The relief available and distributed by our Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee, which now has under its care ^{40,000} ~~35,000~~ families, is so far under this standard of adequacy as to be self-evident. It has amounted to \$5.00 per week for a family of five, for food only. No provision is made for any of the other items in the above schedule, with the exception of milk, which is granted only when necessary.

We shall not have done our duty by the situation until the smaller cities and towns and the outlying districts, such as the coal fields, are covered.

We shall not have done our duty until municipal and county appropriations are actually available to supplement the charitable funds in large cities and small, which by no stretch of the imagination can meet the situation. And here there has been no effective

leadership from Washington to elicit forethought, planning and emergent action on the part of local public officials throughout the country.

We shall not have done our duty by the situation until state resources are put behind city funds where these fall short. New York, thanks to Governor Roosevelt, has made the outstanding move in this direction. Pennsylvania, under Pinchot, is in the throes of doing it. But the Pennsylvania Governor has been blocked by constitutional restrictions and other limitations. The Wisconsin legislature, now in special session, has before it a rounded program blocked out by an interim committee. But for the most part the states are as yet inactive and the winter is almost upon us. And there has been no calling of the Governors into conference at Washington to set the wheels going, or kindred challenge to state action.

We shall not have done our duty if hunger walks the streets this winter; and if we fail to tap national resources should state resources and action fall short. So far as I know, there has been no survey by the leaders at Washington of the extent of city and state revenues which can or might be available; without which knowledge Congress cannot act intelligently or intelligently refrain from action.

We shall not have done our duty if in the midst of this depression and its mass unemployment we do not take steps to lay the foundations of a system through which industry shall itself, out of the surplus of normal times, lay by some reserves to give security to the families of the workers it laid off. Unemployment is an industrial risk and there is neither logic nor reason in letting the whole burden come down, as so much of it does now, on

charitable givers, real estate tax payers, and on working class homes. If we turn to the Survey, the journal of the social workers of the country, we find the situation summed up by its editor, Mr. Paul U. Kellogg, as follows:

"That we should be in the mess we are in after a decade of soaring prosperity is all the more a call for new leadership in our industrial civilization. Unemployment relief thrusts a staggering burden upon our social agencies, public and private. It shakes and may shatter our whole scheme of social work - health, recreation, education, case standards, for helping people in the ordinary coils of misfortune. Yet it is driven home to us that charitable giving is not sufficient. The relief budgets embedded in the sums raised by the community drives under the leadership of the President's Committee, won't of themselves last the winter out. They can't make up for the flattening out of pay envelopes everywhere. Social workers who are stewards of these funds know this. We turn to municipal help, but that throws over on to real estate the brunt of an industrial risk at a time when landlords are shy on rents, when business is stalled and when homeowners run the risk of losing their equities. This left handed blow at middle-class incomes gives another twist to the down spiral of purchasing power. Moreover, the resources of hundreds of American municipalities will be cramped for a long time to come because of their relief bills last winter and this.

"Slowly we have begun to realize that local taxation will not afford enough money. In New York Governor Roosevelt has turned to the state income tax to carry a part of the load. His was a courageous, resourceful move, but again it cuts in on current private incomes at a time when they are reduced and are needed for revival. In Rhode Island the state contemplates underwriting the mergent relief bonds of municipalities, but that is mortgaging the time ahead when Rhode Island will be struggling to its feet. The same is true of Governor Pinchot's Prosperity Loan in Pennsylvania: equally courageous and resourceful, but equally an augmented tax on times ahead for an evil that should have been fended against and met in part in times past. There will be a drive for federal relief if hunger stalks this winter. A lot can be said for tapping the one great stream of national income to buoy up what is a national emergency as truly as any war. Not since the Civil War have we known conflict which devastated American homes like this depression.

"But my point is that these are all hectic efforts to close the door after the horse is stolen; to try, out of the shrunken income to hard times, to temper their impact.

"Why shouldn't American industry, as a matter of self-respect and self-dependence, of long-range common sense, set its house in order so that hereafter in good times it will lay by some measure of resources that can be unlimbered at the first turn of that spiral? Is it so hopeless to find a modern counterpart for what Joseph did with his granaries during the seven fat years in Egypt? After all, we are having a pretty thorough awakening from our dreams, too."

Jacob Billikopf
Executive Director, Federation of
Jewish Charities, Philadelphia
Impartial Chairman, Men's Clothing
Industry, City of New York.



JACOB BILLIKOFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE FEDERATION OF
JEWISH CHARITIES OF PHILADELPHIA
330 SOUTH NINTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

January 20, 1932.

Dear Abba:

Yesterday I received a letter from Senator Borah on a matter in which we are mutually interested. But he went out of his way to tell me what he thought of Judge Cardozo, and I think I am privileged to quote this sentence: "In my judgment Cardozo is today the greatest living jurist." Inferentially, I gathered that Borah is prepared to do anything possible to see Cardozo on the bench.

Discussing the matter with Senator Wagner, I told him that in all probabilities our mutual friend, Maurice Maschke, could be serviceable, if deeply interested in seeing Cardozo on the bench. If my memory serves me correctly, when Maschke and I were on a Caribbean Cruise last winter, he spoke glowingly of Cardozo. He, Maschke, might get in touch immediately, by 'phone or otherwise, with Postmaster General Brown, assuming they are great political friends, and have Brown speak to the President.

I am writing this letter to you with the knowledge and strong approval of Senator Wagner. As I am leaving on Friday evening for a two weeks' needed rest, will you not, immediately on receipt of this letter, wire, indicating what, if anything, you propose to do, so that I might inform the Senator?

With fond regards, as ever,

Yours,

Bebe

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

Feb. 9th, 1932

Mr. Jacob Billikopf,
330 S. Ninth St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Billie:-

Please pardon the long delay in answering your kind letter. I have been out of the city a good deal of the time.

I am sorry that I have not been able to do anything in the matter of Judge Cardozo. I have maintained a consistent policy of not asking favors of Mr. Maschke, to whom I am not unfriendly but to whom I would not wish to be obligated.

He is head of the Republican political machine in the state and I would be tying my own hands for the future if I were to request any favors of him. I am sure you will understand.

With kindest regards to you and Ruth in which Virginia joins me, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR