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

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B'nai B'rith, 1931-1933.

An Organization Devoted to Cultural, Religious and Social Work Among Jewish Students at the University

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

DR. A. L. SACHAR
Director

LEWIS R. SUTIN
Director of Student Activities

625 East Green Street
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

September 14, 1931

ALBERT HUTLER
President Student Council

ADOLPH ROTHBARDT
Vice President Student Council

GLADYS CHULOCK
Secretary Student Council

ELLIOTT KOHN
Treasurer Student Council

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS



UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN



OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN



UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA



WEST VIRGINIA
UNIVERSITY



CORNELL
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS

Miss Irene Rothenberg
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Rothenberg:

I am enclosing, herewith, two glossy
photographs which you have requested for use
in your publicity in connection with my address
before your Temple Women's Association.

With all good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

A. L. Sachar

ALS: R
Encl .

B'NAI B'RITH WIDER SCOPE COMMITTEE

70 ELECTRIC BUILDING

I. M. RUBINOW, National Director
ISIDOR KADIS, National Field Director

CINCINNATI, OHIO

September 22, 1931.

**B'NAI B'RITH
WIDER SCOPE**

includes

**B'NAI B'RITH
HILLEL FOUNDATIONS**

at

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF W. VIRGINIA

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

This is a letter written separately because I didn't want to mix our Jewish business with the big unemployment problem.

**THE
ANTI-DEFAMATION
LEAGUE**

For the defense of the Jewish name wherever assailed, and fostering good-will relations through speakers' bureau, educational work and B'nai B'rith Magazine.

**YOUTH WORK
ALEPH ZADIK ALEPH**

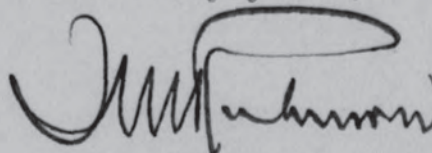
Junior B'nai B'rith Auxiliary reaches over 4,000 boys with a program of cultural and social activities assuring the future by training the present generation.

**THE
B'NAI B'RITH PALESTINE
HOUSE BUILDING FUND**

I notice that Cleveland is actively preparing for a new Jewish Welfare Drive. You remember the discussion of last year, the promises made to us and the final failure of those promises on the basis that this was our fifth year and, therefore, we were not entitled to participation in the United Drive. That argument automatically falls away. May we feel assured that we will be included this year? My enthusiasm for the principle of joint drives has not abated. Perhaps you have seen my brief article "Let's Organize" in the September issue of the B'nai B'rith Magazine. If not, I am enclosing two or three reprints.

I don't want to be caught unawares. Can you tell me when the final decisions of the Budget Committee will be taken? I shall want to run up and discuss the matter with the powers that be.

Sincerely yours,



National Director.

IMR:S

1931	JULY						7th Mo.
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						1 2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
COMMUNITY							
CHEST							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
TALMUD TORAH							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
JEWISH FED.							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
ERATION ♦							
31							

1931	AUGUST						8th Mo.
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
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27	28	29	30	31			

CHALUZIM
HEBREW UNI
VERSITY
ALLIED JEW-
ISH CAMPAIGN

1931	SEPTEMBER						9th Mo.
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
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28	29	30					
HADASSAH							

LET'S ORGANIZE

By
I.M. RUBINOW



FEW weeks ago the leaders of the Allied Jewish Campaign appointed a national board of directors of 250 members. Of these, 130, or 52 per cent, are members of B'nai B'rith.

Excluding the State of New York, that maelstrom of Jewish life in which the bewildering array of organizations has somewhat submerged our great Order, 140 men were appointed throughout the country. Of these, 112, or exactly 80 per cent, are B'nai B'rith.

These figures are evidently significant. They show that even though only some 2 per cent of the male Jewish population of the country are within our organization, four-fifths of the leadership of American Jewry outside of the State of New York are within the fold. That is a matter to be justly proud of, but it also imposes a serious obligation and responsibility. One need not apologize, therefore, in bringing the problem of better organization of Jewish communal life to the attention of the readers of this magazine.

During the last eighteen months the economic depression throughout the country has been critical for philanthropy and social work throughout the country, but the problems that have been created in Jewish communal life have been doubly great. It isn't only the widows, orphans, the sick, or even the unemployed which the Jewish community is called upon to take care of. There are a great many Jewish communal needs which the community must meet through voluntary efforts while similar needs of the country at large may be taken care of by the State or the City. This is true of the entire field of Jewish education.

While it is true that a large proportion of American Jewry lives in

fairly concentrated groups in the large cities, nevertheless there are a few hundred thousand scattered throughout the rest of the country in such small groups that they are altogether unable to organize their philanthropic and communal work along local lines. As a result, national Jewish philanthropic institutions have developed.

And last, but not least, the extension of the economic crisis to other countries has affected millions of Jews throughout the world, and has put an additional burden upon American Jewry. Hundreds of causes thus appeal and compete for the generosity of American Jewry at the time when its giving capacity has been materially impaired. But the Jewish community cannot expect to shift the burden of its own communal needs upon the country at large. These represent a purely group responsibility which it must continue to face. Nor does the Jewish community by and large desire to avoid its responsibility.

And right there is the problem. Through many years of painstaking work institutions have been built up, organizations have developed, important undertakings financed. How can all these necessary expressions of Jewish communal life be preserved in face of the economic pressure of the last eighteen months which is likely to continue for some time?

There is, of course, an obvious answer which presents itself to those responsible for every one of these institutions and undertakings, whether it be a hospital, tuberculosis sanatorium, old folks home, a center, a seminary, or a Hillel Foundation. Because the funds are more difficult to raise, extreme economy must be exercised.

Jewish communal life indeed is complicated. Each problem requires

an organization and each organization requires a budget and each budget requires a campaign. And so Jewish life in many a community has become a continuous succession of one campaign after another.

And the result is chaos.

The writer speaks feelingly on the subject because, frankly, he, too, is a factor in the chaos. It is his responsibility to marshal Jewish forces in support of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and other important activities joined in the Wider Scope campaign. It is unnecessary to argue that the Hillel Foundations are important, that the A. Z. A. is important, that the Anti-Defamation League is important. There is no dearth of recognition of the importance of these projects. They should be doubly important to every Ben B'rith because through them the spirit of service to Jewish life which governs the Order is most eloquently expressed. Yet with one campaign after another taking place in most communities, the difficulties are enormous.

"Of course, the Wider Scope budgets must be met," says the local leader and Ben B'rith of considerable standing, "but you see, we just got through with a campaign for building a temple, or paying off a mortgage, or for the cemetery, and last month there was the Jewish Federation Drive, and just now we have a campaign on for East European Relief, and next week it's the Talmud Torah, and the week after that we are going to have an entirely new drive for Palestine, etc., etc., *ad infinitum*. Let's look at the calendar. Oh, yes, there seems to be one week in August free from all campaigns. Maybe then we can start the campaign for the Wider Scope. Of course, there won't be anybody in town, but we'll see what we can do." And this, strange as it may seem, is

LET'S ORGANIZE

not at all an exaggeration or caricature. It is a true picture in most communities throughout the country.

The tremendous amount of effort that must be wasted in an organization in getting together any banquets, any luncheons, any meetings, is of itself a very heavy burden. But the waste is not one of effort only. Campaigns cannot be run without expense.

And last, but not least, there is the sense of irritation that overcomes the community and which sometimes may become so strong as to result in repudiation of all appeals irrespective of their importance.

The situation, of course, is not altogether new, but it has become very much aggravated within the last few years, particularly as a result of the depression.

What can be done about it?

The sum total of the Jewish needs for philanthropic and communal purposes, or at least the sum total of amounts available for such needs, is probably not excessive—not beyond the paying capacity of American Jewry. Can't some order be established out of the chaos so that the available funds be made available with a minimum expenditure and cost and with maximum consideration of comparative values of various projects?

Any effort to organize Jewish communities into legal entities with powers of taxation is inevitably bound to fail because it is entirely out of harmony with conditions of life in America. Much careful thought was put in the efforts of a group of community leaders as well as professional social workers connected with the National Conference of Jewish Social Service through the organization of the National Appeals Information Service (the famous, but not particularly successful N. A. I. S.). The underlying thought of this organization, headed by Mr. William Shroder of Cincinnati, is a very logical one indeed. It is an effort to organize the contributions of American Jewish communities to all purposes which are national rather than local in their scope. Its hope was that one comprehensive national campaign could be conducted throughout the country once a year on lines somewhat similar to the annual drives of the J. D. C. or the U. P. A., that the amounts to be assigned to each institution should not be determined in a haphazard fashion, that the success of such institutions should not depend upon the comparative consistency or ability of its campaigning staff, that a central organization should be created which would critically examine both the needs and the achievements of each

organization which desires to appeal to all of American Jewry.

Several years of effort have gone by, many interesting and careful studies of various institutions were made, but, unfortunately, as yet practically no progress has been made towards the ideal of such a national campaign. It is not important to place the blame of its unfortunate failure.

As a matter of fact, while the efforts towards one joint national campaign for all national and international purposes made comparatively little headway during the last five or six years, the movement for joint drives in various cities during the same years grew by leaps and bounds. It is not difficult to understand the difference. It should be easier to achieve such a union of various groups in one city than for the country as a whole.

It may be somewhat difficult to decide in which particular city the idea of a joint drive first arose—whether it was San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, or any other city. In each of these cities the Jewish Federation of Charities is a member of the Community Chest, but specific Jewish needs, such as Jewish education, etc., necessarily remained outside of the general Community Chest. This necessitated a special Jewish drive for several purposes in addition to the Jewish participation in the Community Chest drive. Thus arose the idea of what has been nicknamed a "double-barreled" Jewish Federation—"one barrel representing philanthropic work and receiving its resources from the Community Chest, and the other a union of local culture with many national and international objects." The success of this plan proved to be instantaneous. San Francisco, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Detroit, Columbus, and more recently Cleveland, Cincinnati, and many other cities, large and small, rapidly followed, and the plan is being discussed in dozens of Jewish communities. Not all of them are big enough to require either a double-barreled Federation or two separate drives. In smaller communities it is just as easy to organize only one annual drive combining in one grand effort all needs and obligations, local, national, and foreign, philanthropic, cultural and recreational.

To make a long story short, the advantages of such a plan must be obvious to all interests involved. One earnest effort and then the community is free for some time. The cost in money and labor is immediately cut at least into half and sometimes much less than that. The individual giver can make up his mind as to what he can contribute. The community at large gradually learns to

distribute its voluntary generosity in accordance with some thought-out plan rather than leave it to the comparative efficiency and good salesmanship of an army of solicitors. There can be no question but that that represents a tremendous advance in the organization of Jewish community life.

Perhaps these local unions may eventually lead to one even bigger nationally organized effort. But whether it does in the near future or not, all the advantages can substantially be achieved by local agreement.

All of which leads us to a moral of very practical character to every faithful Ben B'rith. We, too, necessarily must appeal for funds if we are to continue our work. No active Ben B'rith can avoid his responsibility both in giving and in asking for this program.

But it isn't altogether from a selfish point of view that our brethren must give their support to this rising movement for communal co-operation. To come back to the starting point of this very practical sermon, the leadership of the Jewish communal life does, to a very large extent, lie in the hands of B'nai B'rith. By supporting this movement for joint campaigns we will render a very great service to all American Jewry and to all causes dear to American Jewry.

It was in recognition of these principles that the Wider Scope Commission of B'nai B'rith, at its last meeting in September, 1930, passed the following two interesting resolutions:

1. "That the B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Commission place itself on record as favoring inclusion of the B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Campaigns in the general Welfare Fund Campaigns for non-local Jewish needs in such communities as operate such Funds.
2. "That the Wider Scope Commission urge B'nai B'rith leaders in all communities which have as yet no such Welfare Funds in operation, to use their influence in the creation of such joint efforts wherever feasible."

Occasionally, complaints reach national offices that B'nai B'rith lodges throughout the country suffer because of the lack of a program of useful activity. There are a great many things that a lodge can do, but none is greater in importance than this systematic effort to help the community towards a better form of organization. Of course, it will require education, first of the members and second of the community as a whole. There should be enough work for any group, no matter how energetic.

Let's organize!

B'NAI BRITH HILLEL FOUNDATION

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
625 East Green Street, Champaign, Illinois

B'NAI BRITH MAINTAINS
FOUNDATIONS AT
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

» »
DR. A. L. SACHAR
DIRECTOR
ALBERT HUTLER
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

LEONARD V. FINDER
PRESIDENT STUDENT COUNCIL
ALBERT EPSTEIN
VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT COUNCIL
LOUISE MEYERS
SECRETARY STUDENT COUNCIL
ELLIOTT KOHN
TREASURER STUDENT COUNCIL

October 2, 1931

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

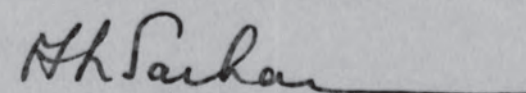
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I need not tell you what a great joy it was for me to come to Cleveland and speak to your group. You were very kind to give up so much of your very busy day, both at lunch, during the meeting itself, and at dinner and all through the evening. I do not know when I have enjoyed an evening so much, especially when you got started on that brilliant field in which you are now working to complete your second volume.

You asked me to send my expense account to you. This includes only my railroad expense and minor personal items. It came to about Thirty-Five Dollars, since I receive clergy privileges.

I am only sorry that we must wait until the middle of April before you come to us on our Forum. You may be sure of a very warm and enthusiastic welcome here on the part of the student body and faculty.

Cordially yours,


A. L. Sachar

ALS:R

Nov. 10th, 1931

Mrs. Marcus Burnstine,
Chairman of Credentials, O.F.T.S.,
Columbus, Ohio.

My dear Mrs. Burnstine:-

Supplementing the postal sent the other day in addition to the reservations for Mrs. Helen Bing, Mrs. Samuel Rosenthal, Mrs. Samuel Vactor and Mrs. Joseph H. Gross, kindly add Mrs. Benjamin Lowenstein and Mrs. Milton K. Einstein both accredited delegates for the Temple Women's Association.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Joseph H. Gross, Pres.

RG/IR

B'NAI B'RITH
CONSTITUTION GRAND LODGE
ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, OHIO

I. M. RUBINOW
SECRETARY

November 13, 1931.

With compliments of the author.

Any additional copies will be cheerfully sent upon request as long as available.

Your comments will be greatly appreciated.

WRHS
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVE
I. M. Rubinow

B'nai B'rith and The Jew

By DR. I. M. RUBINOW International Grand Secretary B'nai B'rith

To confess, a discussion of the subject "The B'nai B'rith and the Jew", which might appear to be so simple, suddenly looms up as a rather formidable task. This notwithstanding 21 months of complete devotion to B'nai B'rith work; or perhaps because of it.

If I may be forgiven the unpardonable sin of becoming personal, I have over thirty years of public work behind me. The last twelve years have been entirely devoted to Jewish communal and social service work. Though my affiliations have inevitably changed, I always had a specific task before me. There would have been no difficulty at any time of discussing that task, its relation to the social problem or specifically to the Jewish problem. But the B'nai B'rith appears to be decidedly different.

Much, of course, has been written on the subject. Much more has been talked on the subject. A B'nai B'rith speech is not an unusual performance. Not only members of the Order, but every Jew who is at all active in Jewish communal endeavor must have heard a good many B'nai B'rith speeches, longer or shorter, for better or for worse.

It would be a very easy matter to grow eloquent about the glorious history of the Order, its 87 years of existence, its growth in number, its geographic spread; but after all, this is not a study prepared for the publications of the Jewish Historical Society, nor have I any claim to qualifications as a historian. I fancy the readers are much more interested in the subject, "The B'nai B'rith and the Jew" as it appears here and now, particularly now.

Perhaps I can do justice to this topic best by discussing it as it appears to me in my daily work, because after all, as Secretary of the Order I cannot help being in continuous contact with its problems.

My official title, to begin with, is much more complicated than that. I have the honor to be the International Grand Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Constitution Grand Lodge of the B'nai B'rith. Now that ought to be a title sufficient for anybody, no matter how great his vanity, but even that does not do justice to my duties.

In the capacity of Secretary I must take care of the internal affairs of the Order; and considering that it has spread throughout 25 countries, that it has 600 lodges and some 75,000 members scattered throughout the world, from Honolulu on the West to Shanghai in the East and continuously expands into new territories, these duties are complicated enough.

But in addition, I am also Managing Editor of the B'nai B'rith Magazine, a monthly publication with by far the largest circulation of any Jewish publication in the world in any language, outside of daily papers. This magazine carries the story of Jewish history, culture, and tradition into sixty odd thousand Jewish families.

I am also Secretary of the Anti-Defamation League, an organization which is much less combative but much more socially constructive than its title might indicate. That organization, some twenty years old, created of and by the B'nai B'rith but for the entire American Jewry, has a dual function of building goodwill between Jew and Christian on one hand, and nevertheless resisting so far as it is humanly possible, every act of injustice and discrimination against the Jew.

I am also Secretary of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission. It is under the auspices of this Commission that the Hillel movement has grown up during the last seven years, a movement for preservation of Jewish values in the midst of our rapidly increasing intelligentsia, through es-

tablishment of cultural centers for Jewish students on the campuses of our largest universities.

And last but not least, I am National Director of the B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Committee, whose function it is to raise necessary funds to conduct these and many other activities—and it is not an easy task at that.

Now this is not told either in levity or in vanity; it is only a simple way of indicating the multiplicity of functions which the B'nai B'rith, to the best of its capacity, is trying to fulfill in influencing Jewish life in America and throughout the world. It is for this reason that a simple definition of functions—an easy matter in regard to any other Jewish agency, whether local or national—becomes so complicated a matter when one speaks of the B'nai B'rith.

In a routine of a day's work the Secretary, on behalf of the Order, is called upon to deal with philanthropic problems such as hospitals, old folks' homes, child caring institutions; social service in prisons or hospitals; with educational problems such as affect the A. Z. A., (the junior Order of the B'nai B'rith) and the student membership of the various Hillel Foundations; with problems of Jewish culture; with problems of relation of the Jew to the non-Jew; with political problems such as regulation of immigration; with international problems such as affect the fate of the Jew in Eastern Europe or in the near or far East. I believe it is no exaggeration to say that there isn't a problem of Jewish life in America or elsewhere which the B'nai B'rith is not called upon, or one might say forced, to take an attitude upon.

Because of this very complexity it is inevitable that every member of the Order cannot all the time be fully aware of all these numerous implica-

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tions. In a simple and isolated Jewish community the faithful member of the Lodge may think of the Order primarily as a necessary center for Jewish contacts; as a bit of social machinery that saves him from the sense of isolation.

An active leader of a district which has created and still supports some important philanthropic institution, may think of the B'nai B'rith as primarily an organization for the furtherance of that philanthropic purpose, whether it be the Cleveland Orphan Home, or the Memphis Home for the Aged, or the National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives, or any other of the numerous institutions created by and still maintained or at least subsidized by the B'nai B'rith through its national, district, or local organizations or the membership individually. The Jewish community at Madison, Wisconsin, or Champaign, Illinois, would inevitably think of the B'nai B'rith as the father of the Hillel movement.

All these institutions, activities, and endeavors create local loyalties as they should. It would be contrary to the principle of harmony underlying the philosophy of the Order to endeavor to draw any invidious comparisons as to the relative importance of these various functions. It is, after all, through these special loyalties that these numerous activities find their support.

And yet, over and above the lodges, from No. 1 in New York City, or 4 in Cincinnati, and lodge No. 1146 in Palm Beach, Florida, or 1147 at Kosice, Czechoslovakia, over District No. 1 covering the Atlantic Seaboard, and District 14 including Palestine, or 15, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Scotland and Ireland—over and above all these, or perhaps embracing all of them, there stands the Order—B'nai B'rith—87 years old.

Just as it is natural and logical for a lodge to seek out a specific local Jewish need to which to apply its energies, so the Order must be thinking in terms of the Jewish problem, or if you do not like the expression, of the problems confronting the Jewish people as a whole.

Now it is quite obvious that there have been many radical changes in the position of the Jew in America as well as the rest of the world dur-

ing the last century or so. Because the Order originated in the United States it is fitting that these changes be discussed primarily in the light of Jewish history in this country.

As the Order spread throughout the world, as lodges sprang up in one country after another, it was the philosophy, the spirit, of the Order, but not necessarily the program of activities that the new branches adopted. Thus the lodges of each country, united as they are in most cases in district grand lodges, have their own problems to face, their own tasks to work for; it is only the sense of unity of the Jewish people throughout the world that holds these numerous national organizations together in a bond of sympathy and mutual understanding.

When the Order arose in the United States in the middle of the 19th century, the entire Jewry of America was only a meager handful—perhaps some 25,000 of them. The problem of a Jewish immigrant was largely the problem of individual isolation, somewhat complicated, of course, by the problem of necessary economic adjustment. I believe it is fair to characterize the fundamental functions of B'nai B'rith in American Jewish life of that period, as the function of creating and holding together a social group with all the religious, cultural, implications which that involves.

When mass immigration began in the early 80's, mass economic problems were created. For most of the immigrants the country did not prove to be a land of milk and honey; the streets were not paved with silver and gold. The individualistic philosophy of the young republic deprived it of effective political machinery for relief, cure, and prevention of material distress. The Order grew into an organization for mutual insurance, for relief of widows and orphans, the aged and the sick. Great credit is due to the Order for having faced and met these grave problems in its early days when there was no other social machinery for meeting them.

The social implications of the early days of the Order created a family pride of continued membership from one generation to another. The philanthropic implications created a just pride in the institutions which the B'nai B'rith created and maintained.

But Jewish life has developed, has changed, has become very much more complex in its organization during the last eighty years. While many simple and isolated communities remain, while the number of such simple communities have rapidly increased, nevertheless they no more represent the bulk of the Jewish life in America.

Powerful communities have developed. There is, of course, to begin with, the gigantic community of New York City—two million Jews within the limits of one settlement, a situation unprecedented in history. But even outside of New York there are dozens of Jewish communities with 300,000, 150,000 or 25,000. The powerful Jewish philanthropic tradition has not failed to manifest itself in all of them.

No more can the B'nai B'rith as a national Jewish organization rest with pride upon its achievements in creating clubs, social centers, hospitals, orphan homes, sanatoriums, or old folks' homes. Great as may be our institutions, there are greater ones, richer ones, many of them created by well-organized Jewish communities during the last 25 years. As a bit of history, our institutions are still there to point to with pride. As justification for a national organization, something more fundamental, more attuned to the needs of today is necessary.

As the Jewish population has grown from a meager quarter of a million to 4½ million, as more and more the American-Jewish community is made up of native born rather than immigrants, American Jewry is being converted to the point of view that sickness and orphanhood and old age or unemployment are not specific Jewish problems, but these are grave social problems and therefore political problems, because every social problem is a political problem. More and more are these problems being met by legislation, by government action, as they should. Were the B'nai B'rith to confine itself stubbornly to the philanthropic idea to the exclusion of other aspects of Jewish life, I believe that the days of the B'nai B'rith would be numbered.

As a matter of fact, the Order has grown and developed during the last decade or two. In 1910 it was less than 23,000 in the United States, in

B'NAI B'RITH AND THE JEW

1920 over 40,000 and in 1930 nearly 55,000. It grew though it has almost altogether abolished its insurance activities, though thousands of local philanthropic institutions have developed. Evidently there must have been a more powerful stimulus to cause its growth.

The B'nai B'rith grew because it represents the idea of Jewish unity. To be sure, this idea of unity is not a new one nor can the B'nai B'rith take credit for having created it. It is the unity that has caused the B'nai B'rith, but it is the B'nai B'rith that perhaps more than any other Jewish organization is conscious of the unity and furthers it.

We speak of this Jewish unity often and with eloquence, but we also recognize, or should, the numerous factors which work against such unity in actual life. We are fully conscious of dissensions, provincialisms, the political factionalism in our midst. There are numerous Jewish organizations, perhaps too numerous, but there is by far not as much harmony between them or even within them. Jewish organizations (not unlike non-Jewish ones, of course) frequently spring up in response to specific purposes and there are many such purposes in Jewish life, whether religious, political, economic, or cultural. All of them may be necessary, but a composite picture of them frequently is not conducive to a concept of Jewish unity.

Among these numerous organizations the B'nai B'rith throughout these years has preserved its unique position as the center of Jewish unity. It has preserved this center not because of obstinate adhesion to specific programs which may become obsolete. On the contrary, its strength and vitality are due to the very fact that, with a unified philosophy, it remained free of the fetters of congealed programs. The purpose, the aims of the B'nai B'rith during any particular phase of Jewish history are, as they should be, framed by the necessities of the historic situation.

This leads us up to some sort of an answer to the question: what is the function of the B'nai B'rith in Jewish life here and now? What are the gravest problems confronting American Jewry as Jewry? Together with the 116,000,000 non-Jews among whom we live, we are subject to all the vicissitudes of American life. We

are faced with the same problems, economic, cultural, political, and social. Jewish unemployment is still unemployment, Jewish tuberculosis is still primarily, tuberculosis.

But the Jew always had the special fortune to be endowed with specific problems. Perhaps that is the meaning of our faith that we are a chosen people. These specific problems are largely due, if not entirely due, to its existence as a cultural minority surrounded by an environment, always different, usually strange and sometimes (unhappily much too often) inimical. It is the problems arising out of this peculiar situation that make what we Jews call—the Jewish problem—and it is in the contribution to this problem in an effort to influence these relations for the good, not only of the Jew but of the world around him, that lies the function and the meaning and the purpose of the B'nai B'rith.

It is not easy to discuss the problem of the American Jew in his relation to the non-Jewish environment in the limited space that is left me. Before taking a bird's eye view of the situation it may be summed up in the following two or three statements:

There is the problem outside of us, the relation of the outside world to us and what it does to us; our relation to the outside world and what that does to us as well as to the outside world.

And then there is the problem—the inside problem, or perhaps one might say, the inside aspect of the same problem—just as if you had a circle—it is convex if you look at it from the outside and concave if you look at it from the inside. The same curve to be sure—everything depending upon where you happen to be.

The outside problem—what does the world do to us. Does it understand us? Is it fair to us? Unfortunately, it would be extremely difficult to give an affirmative answer to this question. Then the reason may be—and there are many of them and they are complicated—there has been a considerable increase in the antagonism of our environment to us. Whose fault is it? That is not an easy question to answer, but the facts are there and the necessity of improving the situation for the good of the entire American people is obviously also there.

Through interpretation, through education, through study, and if necessary, through manly and courageous protest, through a definite stand in defense of Jewish dignity and rights, the B'nai B'rith, through its Anti-Defamation League, through its goodwill work, endeavors to meet and to work with this complicated problem, realizing of course, that no ready, made-to-order, immediate solution is available.

And then finally, there is the inside problem, the problem we ourselves have to face. Of course, the problem of relations of Jews to the non-Jewish world might be solved in one way, by abolishing the Jew. That is not a solution that we welcome, not a solution that the world has a right to expect from us or impose upon us. And yet one cannot avoid the feeling that there may be danger of circumstances bringing such a solution about. Under pressure from outside, Jewish values may crumble. If they be destroyed, not only the Jews might suffer. We have a feeling, though some may consider it irrational, that the entire world too, would be the loser thereby. If a cultural minority wants to preserve its existence, it must work for it, if necessary fight for it, but before all, it must at least be conscious of its own cultural value.

That, too, is a very complex and difficult subject to be handled in a few words. Suffice it to say that it is in the higher cultured groups particularly that the danger of the loss of our Jewish cultural heritage is present. Hence our efforts to preserve knowledge and understanding of what Judaism stands for, among our college youth through Hillel Foundations; hence our similar efforts to work with our youth outside of colleges or the pre-college age, the A. Z. A.; hence our hopes that every lodge will sooner or later become a center of adult Jewish education.

Anti-Defamation League, goodwill movement, Hillel Foundations, A. Z. A.—those are all so many words to indicate imperfectly, as words always do, ideals underlying the efforts of our organization. After all, the B'nai B'rith means nothing more or less than Jews. B'nai B'rith is an organization of Jews, by Jews and for Jews, not only for the Jews of today and tomorrow, but for the principle of preservation of Jewish values in the life of the world.



ALFRED M. COHEN
Editor

I. M. RUBINOW
Managing Editor

EDWARD E. GRUSD
Assistant Editor

B'NAI B'RITH MAGAZINE

The National Jewish Monthly

70 ELECTRIC BLDG.
CINCINNATI, O.

December 9, 1931

Rabbi A.H.Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Rd. at 105th St., E.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

I was talking to Dr. Rubinow this morning and he appeared to be highly gratified at the kind remarks you made about our Magazine when you discussed the matter with him in Columbus yesterday. It occurred to us that if you would write us a letter to that effect which we could print it would be very helpful to our Magazine.

We do not make it a practise to write to individuals requesting them to send us eulogies on the magazine. As it is we get dozens and dozens of letters from people voluntarily. There are many hundreds and perhaps thousands of other people who feel the same way but never go to the trouble of actually offering us documentary evidence of their approval since it is against human nature to overcome this resistance. In your particular case, however, we would be very happy if you would do so since the opinion was entirely voluntary on your part in the first instance.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Edward E. Grusd

Ass't. Editor.

EEG:FS

B'NAI B'RITH

ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, OHIO

ALFRED M. COHEN
PRESIDENT

February 3, 1932.

Dr. Abba H. Silver,
E. 105th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

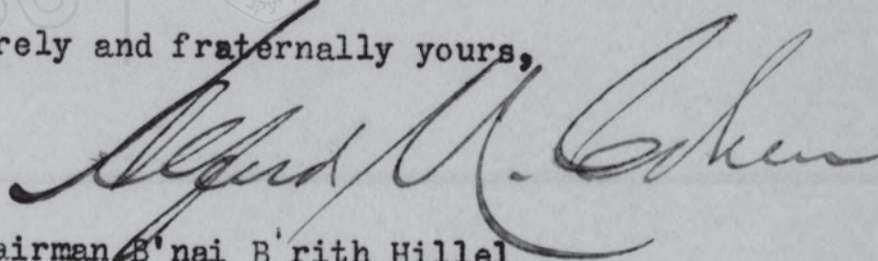
Dear Dr. Silver:

The Executive Committee of the Order at its meeting held in Cincinnati on January 24th last, adopted a resolution, copy of which is herewith sent.

Realizing how difficult and expensive it is to convene the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission, I am submitting the resolution to the members of the Commission under the terms of the fifth paragraph thereof. I ask for your vote thereon at as early date as possible.

With expressions of highest esteem, believe me

Sincerely and fraternally yours,



Chairman B'nai B'rith Hillel
Foundation Commission.

AMC/R

Realizing the tremendous burdens and responsibilities now resting upon our beloved President and our Secretary, because of existing conditions, the result of which has been to create an emergency in the affairs of the Order, making requisite and necessary the assumption of added responsibilities by the members of the Executive Committee, and a more definite separation of special activities from general administrative functions in accordance with the expressed policy of the last Convention of the Constitution Grand Lodge,

BE IT RESOLVED

(1) That there shall be and is hereby created a Committee on Special Activities consisting of the President of the Order and three members of this Committee, viz., Sidney G. Kusworm, Henry Monsky and Archibald A. Marx, which Committee shall select its own chairman.

(2) That the present Director of Membership shall be designated the Director of Special Activities. There shall be delegated to him the responsibility for the execution of the program of the following special activities of the Order, namely, the Anti-Defamation League, A.Z.A. and related activities, carrying out the mandates and directions of the Anti-Defamation League Commission and the Supreme Advisory Council of the A.Z.A. and acting in the interim between meetings of the Executive Committee and the Central Administrative Board under the direction and control of said Committee aforesaid which Committee shall be under the direction of and be responsible to the Executive Committee and the Central Administrative Board.

(3) That the Director of Special Activities shall in addition to the foregoing duties continue to be responsible for the program of the Membership Bureau. The Director of Special Activities as well as the Secretary of the Order, with respect to the activities under their respective jurisdictions (in case of the Secretary, Wider Scope and Hillel Foundations) shall make periodical reports to the members of the Special Activities Committee aforesaid. All matters requiring decision shall be submitted to the members of the said Committee for determination. In the event of a tie vote such matters shall be submitted to regularly elected members of the Executive Committee for a decision, which submission may be done by referendum.

(4) The decision of a majority of this Special Committee shall determine action upon any matter.

(5) This resolution shall be forthwith submitted to the various Commissions involved, for their approval, with the request that unless a meeting can be held within a reasonable time, the opinion of the members of the several Commissions shall be obtained by referendum, and that the resolution shall go into effect immediately, as respects each activity, upon such approval being obtained.

Feb. 11th, 1932

Mr. Alfred M. Cohen,
B'nai B'rith,
Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Cohen:-

In reply to your kind letter of February 3d permit me to say that I am in no position to vote on the resolution submitted as I do not understand what is involved.

With kindest regards and best wishes
permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Feb. 11th, 1932

Mr. Edward E. Grusd,
Editor B'nai B'rith Magazine,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Grusd:-

May I tell you how much I enjoy the B'nai B'rith Magazine. It is one of the most satisfying periodicals of Jewish interest which come to my desk.

It is alive and interesting and constructive. It is free from personal and party strife and from that morbid self-flagellation which is so characteristic of the pseudo intellectual magazines which are fortunately enough disappearing from the Jewish scene one by one.

With kindest regards and best wishes permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

B'NAI B'RITH

ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, OHIO

ALFRED M. COHEN
PRESIDENT

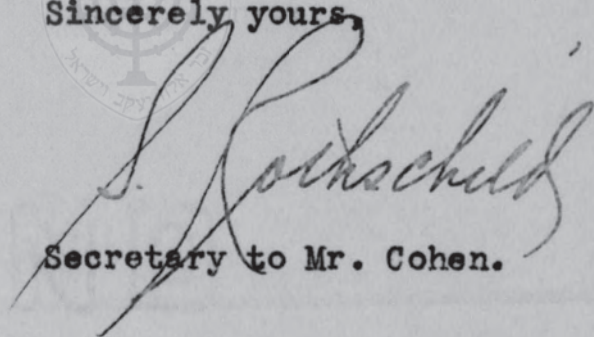
February 12, 1932.

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Your letter of the 11th inst. is received in President Cohen's absence from the city. He and Dr. Rubinow are in Mexico and I shall refer your communication to President Cohen immediately upon his return the week after next.

Sincerely yours,


Secretary to Mr. Cohen.

ISR:FF

ALFRED M. COHEN
Editor

I. M. RUBINOW
Managing Editor

EDWARD E. GRUSD
Assistant Editor

B'NAI B'RITH MAGAZINE

The National Jewish Monthly

70 ELECTRIC BLDG.
CINCINNATI, O.

February 16, 1932

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

Your letter of praise and approbation of the B'nai B'rith Magazine has been received. I assure you that we all treasure this letter as a most significant expression. It is in letters like yours from people like you that the greater reward lies in the life of any journalist. Incidentally, it will be of immeasurable help in our campaign to obtain support for the publication. I wish to thank you very much for your kind cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Edward E. Grusd
Ass't. Editor.

EEG:FS

Cleveland Lodge, No. 16, B'nai B'rith



February 18th, 1932.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
EDWARD S. KLEIN
1013 SOCIETY FOR SAVINGS BLDG.
MAIN 1990

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Road and E. 105th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Brother Samuel Havre, President of Cleveland
Lodge, has appointed you for the year 1932 to the
Americanization Committee, of which Brother Edward J. Schweid
is the chairman.

The President would greatly appreciate
your acceptance of the appointment.

Fraternally yours,

Philip L. Sanzinger

SECRETARY AMERICANIZATION COMMITTEE.

Feb. 23d, 1932

Mr. Philip L. Danzinger,
Secretary Americanization Committee,
Cleveland Lodge No. 16, B'nai B'rith,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Danzinger:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter
and for the information that your President has appointed
me a member of the Americanization Committee.

While I am glad to accept the appointment
I must state that the numerous activities in which I am
already engaged will make it impossible for me to devote
much time to the work of the Committee.

With best wishes, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

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PRESIDENT
OMAHA, NEBR.
JACOB J. LIEBERMAN
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
JULIUS J. COHN
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
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OMAHA, NEBR.



SUPREME ADVISORY COUNCIL
ALEPH ZADIK ALEPH OF THE B'NAI B'RITH

659 OMAHA NATIONAL BANK BLDG.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

March 9, 1932.

ALFRED M. COHEN
CINCINNATI, OHIO
WILFRED B. FEIGA
WORCESTER, MASS.
I. ADRIEL FRIED
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
HYMAN M. GOLDSTEIN
WASHINGTON, D. C.
LEO KAMINSKY
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
HENRY MONSKY
OMAHA, NEBR.
DR. I. M. RUBINOW
CINCINNATI, OHIO
AARON TOLLIN
CHESTER, PA.
NATHAN WAHLBERG
MILWAUKEE, WISC.

Dr. Abba-Hillel Silver,
Temple Tifereth Israel,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Once again I take advantage of an opportunity to call your attention to International A.Z.A. Sabbath which is to be held, this year, on March 25th. As in the past, this marks the culmination of our year-round religious program, emphasizing attendance at services and participation in ceremonials.

You may be acquainted with the fact that the Aleph Zadik Aleph of the B'nai B'rith is composed entirely of young men between the ages of 16 and 21. It professes Judaism from its name to the smallest detail. The Dr. Boris D. Bogen program is the motivating force of our activity. This activity is commonly divided into five branches:

- First. Religious observances.
- Second. Cultural activity.
- Third. Participation in Social Service work.
- Fourth. Social activities.
- Fifth. Athletic activities.

In view of its definite commitment to work of a Jewish character, we feel justified in again asking you, on the occasion of International A.Z.A. Sabbath, to deliver your sermon on some phase of Jewish youth activity, and if possible, upon the Junior B'nai B'rith itself.

It is altogether possible that you will be approached by a chapter of our organization and asked to permit them to assume complete charge of a Sabbath service. If it is at all consistent with the policy of your congregation, please favor them to the fullest extent. I assure you that in doing so, you will be giving these boys the encouragement that is necessary to enable them to carry on an unselfish work.

Sincerely yours,

Philip M. Klutznick
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PK:BCS

RABBI BERNARD HELLER
DIRECTOR

PHILIP BERNSTEIN
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

B'nai B'rith
Hillel Foundation
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Cor. East University and Oakland
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

ELIAS MILLER
PRESIDENT STUDENT COUNCIL

NORMA J. BROWN
VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT COUNCIL

JOSEPHINE H. STERN
SECRETARY STUDENT COUNCIL

March 15, 1932

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

We are arranging in the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Michigan, a collection of photographs of distinguished Jews who have done a great deal in raising the cultural and spiritual level of contemporary Jewish life. I wonder whether you could send us such a photograph of yourself; we would like very much to include it, since without it the collection would be sadly incomplete.

May I assure you that this contribution will be deeply appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

B/

Philip Bernstein

B'NAI B'RITH
40 Electric Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

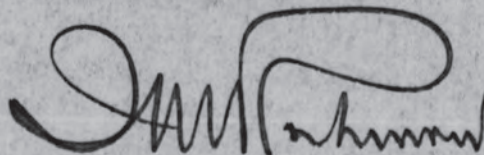
March 30, 1932.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HILLEL COMMISSION:

Dear Brother:

You will be interested to know that very largely through the efforts of Rabbi Max J. Merritt, the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Berkeley, California, has been recognized by the local Berkeley community chest, and that a grant of \$1500 for the year 1932 has been made. The first payment of \$375 for the first quarter was received by Rabbi Merritt a few days ago. This action is extremely important not only because of the amount of money directly involved but because of the recognition given to our work by a non-sectarian organization and the possibility that similar results may be achieved in other university cities which possess city-wide non-denominational community chests.

Cordially yours,



Secretary.

IMR/NS

Berkeley, Calif.
March 28, 1932

Dr. I. M. Rubinow
B'nai B'rith
40 Electric Bldg.
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Dr. Rubinow:

You will be pleased to learn that the Berkeley Community Chest reached its campaign objective in the drive launched in early March. According to our agreement, the Community Chest was to allot Hillel \$1500 for 1932-33, contingent on reaching its objective. I immediately called on the Chest to redeem its promise to Hillel.

I not only have the assurance that we shall be allotted \$125 a month from January 1st, 1932 but I have already received a check for the three months, January, February and March, amounting to \$375 which I have deposited in our current expense account.

You will not need to send us a check for current expenses for April and from the future remittances for current expense you may deduct \$125. I am sure that this will ease the burden that our Foundation imposes on the Order.

With very kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) M. J. Merritt

✓
April 1st, 1932

Mr. Philip Bernstein,
Hillel Foundation,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

My dear Mr. Bernstein:-

Thank you for your kind letter of March
15th.

I am not a distinguished Jew and I do
not know why you ask for one of my photographs, but
being a member of the Hillel Foundation Commission I
feel as though I ought to comply with your request.

With kindest regards and best wishes,
permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AH^s/IR

B'nai B'rith

Hillel Foundation

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Cor. East University and Oakland

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

RABBI BERNARD HELLER
DIRECTOR

PHILIP BERNSTEIN
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ELIAS MILLER
PRESIDENT STUDENT COUNCIL

NORMA J. BROWN
VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT COUNCIL

JOSEPHINE H. STERN
SECRETARY STUDENT COUNCIL

April 19, 1932

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

We have received your photograph and letter of the 1st. May I assure you once more that we deeply appreciate your contribution. That it adds greatly to our collection, there is, of course, no doubt.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Philip Bernstein
Director of Student Activities

PB:TMM

CORA KAHN
EUROPEAN TOURS
514 ODDFELLOWS TEMPLE
CINCINNATI, OHIO

April 23 1932

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I would appreciate it so much if you would
post the enclosed circular and pictures on your
bulletin board.

Hoping that you will grant me this favor

I remain,

Cordially yours,

WRHS

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cora Kahn', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.

B'nai B'rith

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CINCINNATI, O.

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and

PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

April 25, 1932.

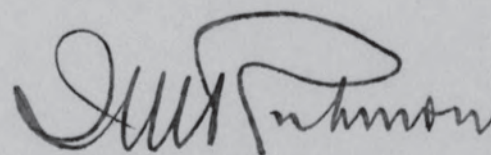
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Road at 105th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I hope that nothing will prevent you from coming to the Hearing in Cincinnati to be held a week from today, namely Tuesday, May 3rd. We missed you last week in Toledo for the Hearing itself was interesting and the public administration added an element of the sensational. We are trying our best to make the Cincinnati Hearing the best held as yet.

And if you do come, can you manage to have dinner with us that night? As we are to hold a meeting next day in Dayton you will not want to leave until the evening. We may find convenient transportation later in the evening by bus even if there should be no train or it would not be difficult to leave for Dayton the next morning. Please let me know whether you are coming and also whether you can take dinner with us.

Sincerely yours,



Secretary.

IMR:FF

April 28th, 1932

Dr. I. M. Rubinow,
Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Rubinow:-

Thank you very much for your letter of
April 25th.

I hope to be able to attend the hearing
in Cincinnati on May 3d, and I shall be glad to have
dinner with you in the evening.

I remain

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

B'NAI B'RITH

ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, OHIO

ALFRED M. COHEN
PRESIDENT

May 11, 1932.

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

With the approaching end of the academic year, the problem of a proper program for Hillel work for next year presents itself and permits of no further delay. The shortage of a Wider Scope income may make very drastic cuts necessary.

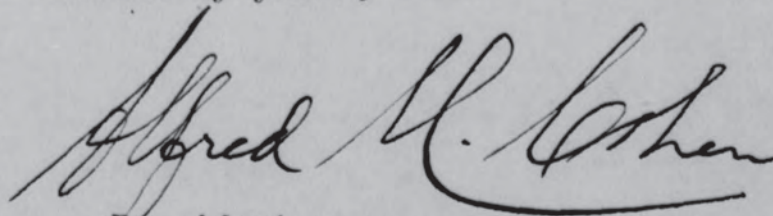
It is important that this matter be carefully considered by the Hillel Commission but I hesitate to call a meeting because of the expense involved. A full meeting of the Commission would require an expenditure of over \$1,000.

It has occurred to me that a meeting of the members of the Commission who live in Cincinnati and the immediate vicinity might present itself as a solution. Such a meeting could bring together eight of the seventeen members of the Commission at a cost of less than \$150. The recommendations of this sub-committee could be submitted to all the members of the Commission for their approval.

Will you kindly reply by return mail whether in view of the financial stringency you approve of this suggestion, instead of calling a meeting of the entire Hillel Commission. This smaller group will have to convene early in June.

The possible saving of some \$800 or \$900 is a matter of considerable importance in the present state of our treasury.

Sincerely yours,


President.

May 12th, 1932

Mr. Alfred M. Cohen,
B'nai B'rith,
Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Cohen:-

I am in complete agreement with the suggestion which you make in your letter of May 11th that a meeting be called of the members who live in and around Cincinnati in order to effect the saving which you indicate.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

B'nai B'rith

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CINCINNATI, O.

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Cincinnati

Executive Committee

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Berlin, Germany
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Vienna, Austria
DR. LEON ADER
Krakau, Poland
DR. DAVID YELLIN
Jerusalem, Palestine
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London, England

and

PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

May 18, 1932.

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

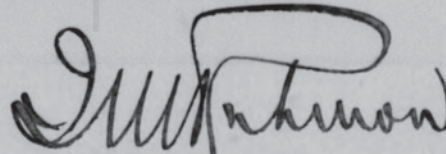
Dear Dr. Silver:

In acknowledging your letter of the 12th inst. in reply to our inquiry concerning a meeting of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Commission, and noting your agreement that the meeting should be limited to those living in Cincinnati or vicinity, may I underscore the fact that of course we think of Cleveland as being in the vicinity of Cincinnati and trust that you will be able to attend.

Our reason for writing as we did was because a few members of the Commission who live at a great distance would involve an expenditure of from \$100 to \$250 if they attended.

With kind personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,


Secretary.

IMR/SR

B'nai B'rith

ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, O.

Officers

ALFRED M. COHEN, *President*
Cincinnati
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New Orleans
JACOB SINGER, *Treasurer*
Philadelphia
DR. I. M. RUBINOW, *Secretary*
Cincinnati

May 23, 1932

Executive Committee

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SIDNEY G. KUSWORM
Dayton
HENRY A. ALEXANDER
Atlanta
HENRY MONSKY
Omaha
DR. LEO BAECK
Berlin, Germany
DR. J. NIEMIROWER
Bucharest, Roumania
DR. JOSEF POPPER
Prague, Czecho-Slovakia
J. NIEGO
Constantinople, Turkey
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DR. SAMUEL DAICHES
London, England

and

PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

Dr. Abba H. Silver
c/o The Temple
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, O.

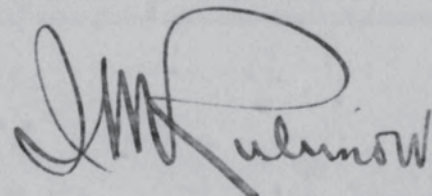
Dear Dr. Silver:

A meeting of members of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission who are within an over-night ride from Cincinnati, will be held at the Cincinnati Club, Cincinnati, Ohio on Sunday, June 12, 1932 at ten o'clock A. M.

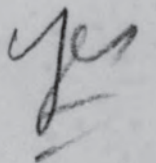
This meeting is of the utmost importance and we trust you will make every effort to attend.

Kindly inform us that we may expect you.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,



Secretary.



IMR:DL

May 24th, 1932

Dr. J. M. Rabinow,
Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Rabinow:-

I shall try my utmost to be with the
B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission on Sunday,
June 12th. I only hope that weddings or funerals will
not interfere with my plans.

With kindest regards and best wishes,
permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

FROM
B'NAI B'RITH
ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, O.

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Cincinnati, Ohio

JACOB SINGER, *Treasurer*
Philadelphia, Pa.

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San Francisco, Cal.

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New Orleans, La.

DR. I. M. RUBINOW, *Secretary*
Cincinnati, Ohio

Members of Executive Committee, Wider Scope Commission, Hillel Foundation
Commission and Anti-Defamation Commission

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HENRY A. ALEXANDER, Atlanta, Ga.
DR. LEO BAECK, Berlin, Germany
ABRAHAM BERKOWITZ, Philadelphia, Pa.
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A. K. COHEN, Boston, Mass.
JUDGE ALBERT COHN, New York, N. Y.
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JOSEPH FROMBERG, Charleston, S. C.
I. M. GOLDEN, San Francisco, Cal.
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DR. J. NIEMIOWER, Bucharest, Roumania
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RABBI ABBA H. SILVER, Cleveland, O.
DR. ABRAM SIMON, Washington, D. C.
WILLIAM SULTAN, Chicago, Ill.
MORRIS WALDMAN, New York, N. Y.
A. L. WOLK, Pittsburgh, Pa.
DR. DAVID YELLIN, Jerusalem, Palestine

5/24/32

PRESIDENT COHEN REPLIES TO RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE

In the May 16th issue of "Opinion" (a Jewish New York weekly) the following appeared over the signature of Stephen S. Wise:

"However short-lived memory ordinarily is, I venture to recall the bitter resentment felt against a handful of us who a few years ago fought against the circulation of the film, 'King of Kings.' It was assumed to be a real triumph that some minor textual alterations were accepted, and that only after the then Rabbi of Temple Emanuel of San Francisco had bravely and tenaciously fought against a scenario, which was nothing more than a film-canonization of the Jewish Christ-killing myth. There was no end of honeyed pleading at the time in the name of peace and unity and harmony to the end that nothing more be said. The cable dispatches of recent days brought us the news from Greece that as a result of the showing of the film, 'The King of Kings,' in a motion-picture theatre in Salonica, the mob was incited to riot against Jews and proceeded to destroy Jewish property - just exactly what a pestilential minority of us expected from a picture made possible by Jewish money, directed by a Jew with the help of the rabbis of Los Angeles and the sanction and blessing of a world-wide Jewish organization, B'nai B'rith. The trouble with minorities is not that they fight but that they do not fight enough. The trouble with minorities is that they begin fighting too late and that they stop fighting too soon."

Alfred M. Cohen, President of B'nai B'rith, has addressed the editor of "Opinion" as follows:

"In his column 'As I See It' in Opinion's issue of May 16, Dr. Stephen S. Wise revives memories of B'nai B'rith's accomplishments in relation to the film 'King of Kings', though his credit to B'nai B'rith is shockingly sparing. However, the distinguished gentleman who has been an active participant in every Jewish movement, whether national or world wide in the intervening four or five years, expressly makes note of a 'short lived memory.' This accounts not only

for the circumstance alluded to, but also for a number of very serious inaccuracies in his article.

"Dr. Wise refers to himself as one of a handful who fought against the circulation of the film.

"He forgets to say that his first word of protest against the film was uttered at the behest of B'nai B'rith.

"He forgets to say that the film had been exhibited in his own home city continuously for several weeks without bringing from him a single sentence of complaint.

"He forgets to say that B'nai B'rith awakened him to knowledge of its presence in his own community.

"He forgets to say that B'nai B'rith fought against the circulation of the film as long as any useful purpose could be served by continuing the fight.

"At my invitation Dr. Wise joined B'nai B'rith's protest. He did so willingly and without hesitation. This was after I had urged without success, the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America to withdraw the film and had secured their consent to alterations in picturization and text calculated to relieve it as far as possible of its ill-will breeding tendencies. Dr. Wise thoroughly understood the situation when he became part of it. He was sufficiently sympathetic and so delightfully hospitable as to make his own home the place of meeting of a noted scenario artist (the President of the Jewish Theatrical Guild) and representatives of the producers, and of B'nai B'rith, for the purpose of discussing the changes to be made. I well remember that Dr. Wise cut short a dinner with an invited guest so as to accommodate the rather large company that came to his home to take the first steps in the alteration of the film. We dispersed at a late hour with the understanding that Dr. Wise and the scenario artist would come together within a few days, when Dr. Wise would make known to the artist just what changes he wished, and the artist would attempt to amend the picture in accordance therewith.

"Dr. Wise preferred to use his voice and pen in denouncing the film, but without avail, rather than proceed as had been agreed in pruning it of its most harmful features - a course thereafter pursued with the valuable assistance of Rev. Dr. David Philipson.

"The file of the 'King of Kings' in the B'nai B'rith office is voluminous. It contains many letters and telegrams from Dr. Wise. His recent article in 'Opinion' is convincing evidence that he has forgotten much that he wrote. Evidently he does not remember that in his letter to Governor C. E. Milliken,

Secretary of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (copy of which was sent me) he said:

'I have stated to you again and again that I have unlimited confidence in the good sense and the good will of Christians in America. Neither Klanism nor Fordism could permanently arouse ill-will against the Jew, or any other racial or religious group. And, therefore, from the beginning, I have not been so much disturbed about the presentation of the King of Kings in this land, as I have been greatly concerned about its inevitable effects in lands of darkness and therefore of ill-will and persecution. I shrink with horror from what I affirm are sure to be the consequences of the presentation of the King of Kings to inflammable groups in East European lands, where the legends or half-truths of religions are acted upon with such bitterness as to lead to bloodshed. I have, therefore, this proposal that, much as I lament, for many reasons, the appearance of the King of Kings in America, I should be satisfied, in accordance with the recommendations of President Cohen, to leave the matter unchallenged at home provided an agreement could be reached, in the interest of decencies and of our common humanity, not to produce the picture in lands in which it is bound to do incalculable hurt, morally to those who will see the picture, and in every way to those who will become the victims of the newly-infuriated avengers of Jesus.

'I have proposed, and I renew my proposal, that the picture be not shown in Central and East European lands. That would include Austria, Hungary, Russia, Poland, Lithuania and Roumania.'

"It will be noted that Greece was not included in the list of countries in which Dr. Wise proposed the picture was to be banned.

"B'nai B'rith obtained from the producers an agreement that the 'King of Kings' should not be exhibited either in its original or amended form in any country where it might fan the fires of prejudice, which agreement so far as we are advised, has been faithfully kept.

"B'nai B'rith obtained substantially all that was requested in the amendment of the picture under the guidance of Dr. Philipson.

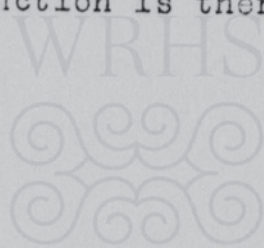
"B'nai B'rith became the counsel of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America in the making of pictures involving a Jewish theme, with the result that the screen since the 'King of Kings' has been almost completely free from anything of which the Jew might reasonably complain.

"Dr. Wise employs one phrase unworthy of his noble soul. I believe he must already have repented it. He says the King of Kings 'has the sanction and blessing of B'nai B'rith.' Nothing could be further from the truth than that.

"In a circular letter sent to hundreds of B'nai B'rith and other Jewish leaders throughout the country, and in response to additional hundreds of queries as to the attitude of B'nai B'rith toward the picture, I have uniformly said:

'From the beginning it has been thoroughly understood between the picture people and the B'nai B'rith that the request for amendments to the picture and compliance therewith, shall not be construed as an approval of the picture when amended, but shall be regarded only as an attempt on our part to remove its most objectionable features.'

"What blessing or sanction is there in these words?"



B'nai B'rith

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and

PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

May 26, 1932

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

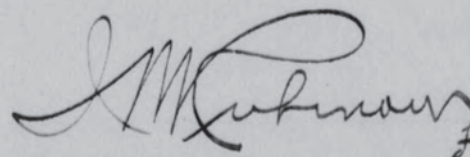
Dear Doctor Silver:

Several members of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission have asked that the forthcoming meeting be changed to Monday, June 13th. We find it necessary to comply with their request and trust that you will be in Cincinnati on June 13th for this meeting, and that this change of date will not inconvenience you.

The meeting will be held at the headquarters of B'nai B'rith, 40 Electric Bldg., at 10:00 o'clock instead of the Cincinnati Club.

Kindly let me hear from you at once.

Sincerely yours,



Secretary.

IMR:FF

May 27th, 1932

Dr. I. M. Rubinow,
The B'nai B'rith,
Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Rubinow:

I shall try to attend the meeting of
the Hillel Foundation, Monday, June 13th.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Wire 6/13/32

Regret that bad cold
keeps me from attending
meeting. Kindest regards
to members.

Art Silver

ALFRED M. COHEN
Editor

I. M. RUBINOW
Managing Editor

EDWARD E. GRUSD
Assistant Editor

B'NAI B'RITH MAGAZINE

The National Jewish Monthly

70 ELECTRIC BLDG.

CINCINNATI, O.

June 9, 1932

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

I have just received from the Bloch Publishing Company a book which we would be very anxious for you to review for the B'nai B'rith Magazine. It is Horace M. Kallen's "Judaism at Bay". We could use from 300 to 500 words on this book and would count it a great favor if you would let us know at your convenience, whether you will be able to undertake the review. If your answer is affirmative, I will send the book to you at once.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Edward E. Grusd
Ass't. Editor.

EEG:FS

June 14th, 1932

Mr. Edward E. Grusd,
B'nai B'rith Magazine,
70 Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Grusd:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind
letter of June 9th.

I should very much like to comply with
your request to review Kallen's book. Frankly I do not
wish to take on any additional work this season. I am
tired out and I want to rest this summer as much as I can,
although I am afraid that I will not have much chance for
that in view of the fact that I must plan next year's
program of the Temple in anticipation of my leaving for a
sabbatical year in October. I trust that you will
understand.

I would suggest that you give the book to
Rabbi Bernard Heller of the Hillel Foundation of Ann Arbor
University or to Rabbi Israel Goldstein of New York.

With kindest regards and best wishes,
permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

B'nai B'rith

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London, England

and

PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

June 20, 1932

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

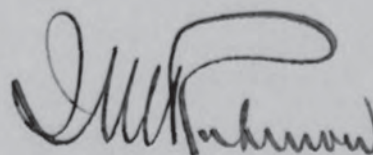
A meeting of the members of the Hillel Commission, who reside within a night's run from Cincinnati, was held in this city last Monday, June 13. There were present, Brothers Alfred M. Cohen, Fred Bernstein, Rabbi James G. Heller, Dr. Louis L. Mann, Dr. I. M. Rubinow, Edwin J. Schanfarber and Philip Seman.

A limitation of the meeting to certain members of the Commission, as above stated, was as you remember, agreed to by the members of the Commission for the purpose of saving the largest part of the cost.

The full minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to you in a few days. At this time I am writing at the request of President Cohen to say that the revision of the budgets was the most important task the meeting had to undertake, as against the only other alternative.

In view of the increasing difficulty in raising funds it became obvious that further savings are absolutely necessary. The budgets of the eight Hillel Foundations, as approved by the Executive Committee last January, amounted to some \$85,000. An estimate of the possible income for the next year is not easy to make but it was felt that at most \$70,000 would be available. As against the only other alternative of closing a few of the Foundations, the Commission felt that it was more desirable to reduce budgets further, with the understanding that the earlier standards will be re-established whenever the income of the Wider Scope will justify it. After considerable effort and painstaking examination of every item the Commission succeeded in adopting a budget of \$70,000 for all the Foundations. We feel certain that you will approve of the reasoning of the meeting and of the action taken.

Cordially yours,



Secretary.

B'nai B'rith

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Constantinople, Turkey
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Vienna, Austria
DR. LEON ADER
Krakau, Poland
DR. DAVID YELLIN
Jerusalem, Palestine
DR. SAMUEL DAICHES
London, England

and

PRESIDENTS OF ALL
AMERICAN DISTRICTS

June 22, 1932.

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

All the members of the Hillel Commission, who were present at the meeting Monday a week ago, were very sorry that you were prevented from coming. I hope that you have entirely recovered from your indisposition.

The Committee worked harmoniously, though the task before it was not a cheerful one. The question reduced itself largely to further cuts in the budget because of financial stringency and because the Commission felt that such cuts were preferable to any policy of reducing the number of Foundations. The task of selecting one or two Foundations for closing would have been even a more unhappy one.

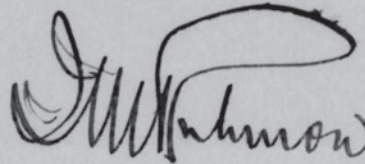
To indicate the extent of the economies, I shall only point out that in 1930 the Foundations cost us some \$120,000; in 1931 the cost was reduced to \$105,000; last January the Executive Committee adopted a budget of approximately \$86,000 and this budget has now been cut to some \$70,000. We are gradually training the horse, as it were, to get along with less and less food, but according to the famous Yiddish story, there is a limit to that.

While the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund has finally taken us in for a very modest amount, which amount because of a partial failure of the Drive will be reduced further to something less than \$2,000, there is still a substantial amount outstanding in Cleveland and besides there must be a few people in Cleveland who would be willing to come to our assistance. At a recent meeting of the Central Administrative Board, held April 17, it was decided to make an effort to collect a special fund from a limited number of people of substantial means throughout the country.

If I were to come to Cleveland next week for two or three days, would you be in a position to help me to the extent of going over a list of possible prospects and perhaps joining me in interviewing a few of such people, to whom a

contribution of a few hundred dollars would not be a hardship? I know that you are interested in the Hillel Foundations, that you would not want to see them perish because of this, let us hope temporary, financial stringency.

Cordially yours,



Secretary.

IMR/NS



June 24th, 1932

Dr. I. M. Rubinow,
c/o 'B'Nai B'rith,
Electric Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Rubinow:-

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of
your kind letter of June 22d.

I would not advise you to come here at the
present time for a special solicitation effort in behalf of
the Hillel Foundation. I had a long session with the
Executive Committee of the Federation last Monday at which
the failure of the last campaign was discussed as well as
plans for the future.

The Bureau of Jewish Education of Cleveland
is even more severely affected by the failure of the campaign
than the Hillel Foundation or any other of the fifteen
beneficiary agencies of the Welfare Fund. We are facing the
prospect of shutting down some of our schools.

The Executive Committee decided to launch a
supplementary campaign in September and to spend the summer
months in planning for it. I am of the opinion that a
substantial sum of money may yet be raised from which the
Hillel Foundation will of course receive its proportionate
share.

With kindest regards and best wishes, permit
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

B'NAI B'RITH WIDER SCOPE COMMITTEE

70 ELECTRIC BUILDING

I. M. RUBINOW, National Director
ISIDOR KADIS, National Field Director

CINCINNATI, OHIO

June 25, 1932.

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Atlanta, Ga.
HARRY LASHKOWITZ, District No. 6
 Fargo, N. D.
SIDNEY STRAUSS, District No. 7
Houston, Texas

B'NAI B'RITH WIDER SCOPE

includes

B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATIONS

at

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
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For the defense of the Jewish name wherever assailed, and fostering good-will relations through speakers' bureau, educational work and B'nai B'rith Magazine.

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Junior B'nai B'rith Auxiliary reaches over 4,000 boys with a program of cultural and social activities assuring the future by training the present generation.

B'NAI B'RITH MEXICAN RELIEF

THE B'NAI B'RITH PALESTINE HOUSE BUILDING FUND

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

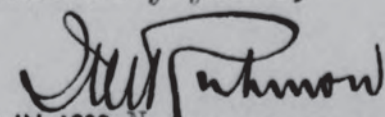
I appreciate your answering my letter so promptly, particularly because on picking up this morning's Jewish Daily Bulletin I read of your address in New York City and so I was rather doubtful whether you had received my letter.

I would have preferred to be able to begin my letter in a conventional way: "I am glad to have yours --" but the conditions were not exactly such as to gladden my heart.

In my effort to raise at least the irreducible minimum of the necessary budget I am confronted with a curious dilemma. If I should go down to a town and drop in on our leaders there without any notice, the reaction is -- "here you are. We are utterly unprepared and we can't rush into anything." If I write, as I did, I have a pretty good chance of receiving a prompt reply -- "Please don't come."


Of course, I fully realize the serious situation of which we are not the only sufferers. Perhaps this is not the time, if there ever is any, to go in for special solicitation of funds, but the fact is that there is still a considerable amount outstanding in Cleveland on old pledges and while a good many of them may have become absolutely uncollectable I don't think that could be said of all of them. I hope you will not resent it if I do come down to Cleveland say by Wednesday to talk over the situation with you and Goldhamer and a few of our B'nai B'rith leaders. We really are up against it and I am sorry that you had to stay away from the last meeting of the Hillel Commission, when the situation was frankly stated. Our requests are very modest. If we can only get in a little of the outstanding pledges throughout the country we would be able to pull through the next year.

Sincerely yours,



\$200,000 ABSOLUTE MINIMUM BUDGET NEEDED TO CARRY ON IN 1932 National Director.

IMR:FF



Cleveland Lodge No. 16, B'nai B'rith

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
EDWARD S. KLEIN
1013 SOCIETY FOR SAVINGS BLDG.
MAIN 1990

August 1, 1932.

Dear Friend:-

On Monday noon, August 8th, 1932, Cleveland Lodge No. 16 B'nai B'rith, acting through a special committee, will formally present to the Cleveland Public Library, a collection of books for its special Jewish Section, in memory of William R. Weidenthal. A brief program has been arranged.

We believe that you, as a friend of the departed, will desire to participate in this tribute by attending the dedication which will be held in the Treasure Room on the third floor and will commence at 12:15 P. M. sharp, continuing for a half hour.

It is our earnest hope that you will arrange to attend.

William R. Weidenthal Committee,

Cleveland Lodge No. 16, B'nai B'rith,

Lewis Drucker, Chairman
Leo Weidenthal
Edward S. Klein
Henry W. Marcuson
Joseph Saslaw

B'NAI B'RITH

ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, OHIO

ALFRED M COHEN
PRESIDENT

November 23, 1932.

Dr. Abba H. Silver,
c/o The Temple,
E. 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

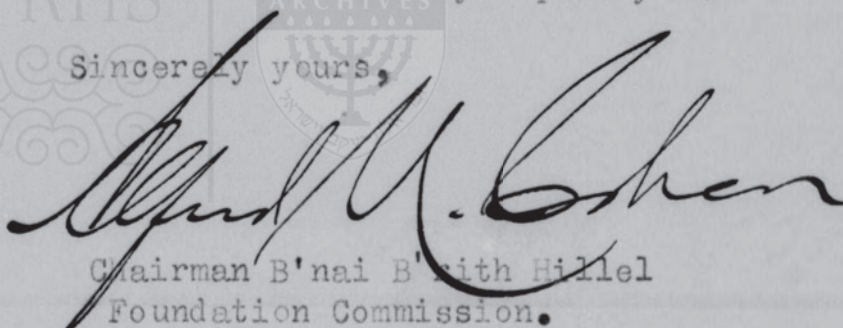
Dear Dr. Silver:

A meeting of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission will be held on Monday, December 26th at ten o'clock A.M. at the Standard Club, Chicago, Ill.

Kindly make every effort to be present as the program of the Hillel work must receive serious consideration because of the financial difficulties confronting the Wider Scope Committee.

Please let me know whether we may expect you.

Sincerely yours,



Chairman B'nai B'rith Hillel
Foundation Commission.

AMC/R

Nov. 25th, 1932.

Mr. Alfred M. Cohen,
Electric Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Cohen:-

I regret to inform you that due to his absence from the city on a sabbatical year, Rabbi Silver will not be able to attend the meeting of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission in Chicago on Monday, December 26th.

Very sincerely yours,

HAL:FS

H. A. LEVY

The B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

96-18th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio
July 26, 1933

Dear Sir:

An increasing number of students at Ohio State University are awakening to the real issues involved in compulsory military training. During the last year, no less than twelve students were excused by the President from participation in the R. O. T. C. because they objected on conscientious grounds. However, we find that a large majority of incoming students do not know that they may be excused in this manner.

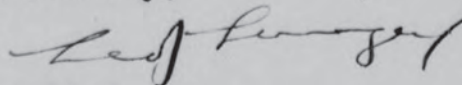
Realizing this and believing that to perpetuate the war system by such means as the R. O. T. C. is an added menace to the peace of the world, a group of students, faculty, and ministers have formed the Ohio State University Committee on Militarism in Education. The purposes of this committee are, to aid students conscientiously opposed to military training to acquire a fair exemption from it and to work for the adoption of substitute courses in international relations.

If we are to invest with life the resolutions on the subject made in the C. C. A. R. and other conferences, we, in full company with other major religious groups in Ohio, should support this student movement to the utmost. Fourteen incoming students have already indicated their determination to renounce military training. It is estimated that many more students will petition the President for such exemption.

All our own boys entering Ohio State this fall should be faced with the issue. Will you help in this? Will you seek out such boys in your community and bring this matter to their attention? Please send our committee a list of such students, indicating those who are interested in enrolling as conscientious objectors.

Time is short and the students will be sending in their schedules soon. Effort now will be well rewarded. Let us remove this blot from Ohio's largest educational institution! May we hear from you soon?

Sincerely,



Rabbi Lee J. Levinger

P. S. The Committee's address is c/o Chas. B. Hart, 83 Chittenden Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

B'NAI B'RITH

ELECTRIC BUILDING
CINCINNATI, OHIO

ALFRED M. COHEN
PRESIDENT

July 27, 1933.

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

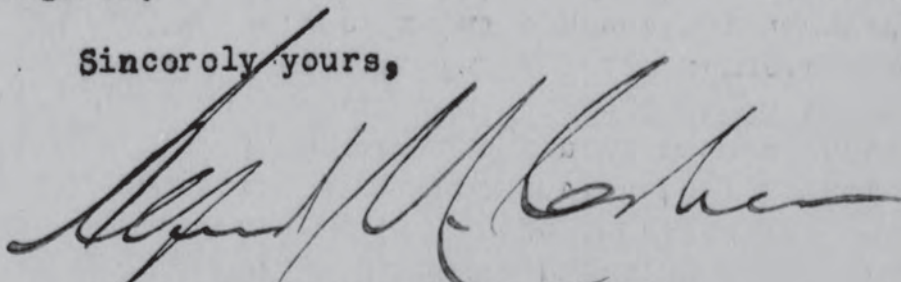
At the meeting of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission held on May 9th last, in connection with the Directorship of the Foundation at Cornell, "It was moved, seconded and duly carried that a committee of three composed of Rabbi Solomon Goldman, Dr. Philip Seman and Dr. Louis L. Mann, be constituted to receive applications for the Directorship at Cornell and to make recommendations to the Commission."

This Committee in active cooperation with Dr. Sachar, National Director, has received applications and unanimously recommends the selection of Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky for the position. Rabbi Pekarsky is a graduate of the class of 1933 of the Jewish Institute of Religion. He was highly recommended to the Committee by many men of eminence. In submitting the Committee's report, Dr. Sachar wrote me: "I hope that you will be able soon to submit the committee's recommendation to the whole Commission so that the official appointment can be made without delay. Rabbi Pekarsky will need about a month in Cornell before the opening of the semester in order to familiarize himself with a rather difficult situation. His official connection, however, will not begin until September 1 when Rabbi Hoffman's appointment expires. The salary, as recommended at the Commission meeting, will be \$1800 and it is understood that the Director will be responsible for raising the entire student budget."

As an early meeting of the Commission is impractical, I ask you to be good enough to cast your vote for or against the selection of Rabbi Pekarsky and transmit it by mail.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Chairman B'nai B'rith Hillel
Foundation Commission.

AMC/R

July 28, 1933.

Alfred M. Cohen,
President, B'nai B'rith,
Electric Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Cohen:

In reply to your letter of July 27th, permit me to say that while I do not know Rabbi Pekarsky, I am ready to vote in the affirmative on the recommendation of the committee. I hope that Rabbi Pekarsky will do well at Cornell.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK