



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

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

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

Reel
15

Box
5

Folder
352

Building strike, 1930, undated.

J. P. BLANCHAT
Dry Goods and Notions
LADIES' AND MEN'S FURNISHINGS
8809 LORAIN AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

9/10 1930

Rabbi Silver

10311 Lak St. Bl. Cleveland Ohio
Dear Rabbi;

I am a Catholic
Member of St James Church
Lakewood Ohio. Your
remarks in to days
Plain Dealer on the
Hotel Strike were carefully
read and appreciated very
much. Your kind regards
and love for the under
human bring shows
it's self. No better in your
letters or talks.

Respectfully Yours

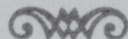
J. P. Blanchat

THE RADEX PRESS

1367 EAST SIXTH STREET

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Fred C. Butler President
Robert B. Mertz Vice President
E. M. Sullivan Secretary



**Premium
Merchandising**

The National Business Builder

**RADIO
INDEX**

The National Broadcasting Magazine

September 10, 1930.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I cannot resist the impulse to voice my appreciation of your statement which appeared in this morning's Plain Dealer. It is forceful, logical and courageous. Fair Play in Cleveland is extremely fortunate in having you for its spokesman.

I think all open-minded observers must have noticed the tolerance of organized labor during the past prosperous years when the advantage lay with them, and it is extremely unfortunate when employers fail to exercise a similar restraint when the economic pendulum swings, for, of course, the other side will be forced to use similar tactics to regain what they have lost when they have the power. This means constant industrial warfare, which many of us had begun to hope was on its way to being at least morally outlawed.

Men must be entirely lacking in a sense of humor when they can issue a public statement which says in effect that our association and our attorneys want to deal with employees individually and not collectively.

With very kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Fred C. Butler



O. H. EGGENSBERGER
CHIEF CLERK TO TRAINMASTER
SECRETARY SAFETY COMMITTEE
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT

LORAIN - OHIO

September 11, 1930.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
"The Temple"
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I write this letter to express my appreciation for the excellent article appearing in the Cleveland Press under date of September 10th, covering your views on the Hotel strike situation in Cleveland, Ohio.

While it is true that whenever a man of prominence takes the side of the working man he is ever subject to severe criticism, never the less the good will of the laboring class is such that it should be coveted.

I trust that you will continue your good work and I want you to know that I too, have your sentiments when it comes to the strike situation.

Very truly yours,

O. H. Eggensberger

O. H. EGGENSBERGER.

Sam. Simmons

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

~~142~~ EAST 80TH STREET

504 Superior Building

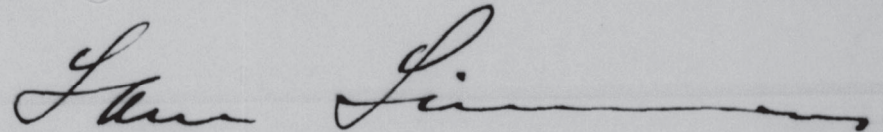
CLEVELAND, OHIO Sept. 11. 1930

Rabbi Abba Silver
Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi

YOUR Comment on the hotel strike in the Press is another splendid proof of your high ideals. Having worked as a waiter at the Cleveland Hotel for eleven years(I waited on you many times) and being of jewish faith myself(Dr. S. P. Nathan of Hamburg, Germ. Rabbi, was my uncle) I am happy to know that we have such a distinguished supporter of our just cause.

Very truly, yours



P. S. Under separate cover please accept a night photo of the Terminal Tower (my copyright)

HOWARD MYERS WELLS
THOMAS HENRY WARNER
MINISTERS

J. W. MERIAM, TREASURER
1894 ROSEMONT ROAD

E. W. HENDERSON
CLERK OF SESSION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EUCLID AT NELA AVENUE

EAST CLEVELAND, OHIO

September 11, 1930.

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:-

I send you this short word to express my appreciation of your statement which appeared in the Plain Dealer yesterday in reference to the hotel waiter strike. I have been away for the summer, but to my knowledge this is the first utterance upon the subject coming with religious prestige that I have seen. It is about time.

Long's reply this morning brought no light to the problem and added, it seems to me, a vilification which is, per se, self-condemnatory.

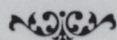
I am wondering what my presbytery and minister's club will do to a resolution to request our Presbyterian organizations to hold their dinner meetings elsewhere as long as the issue remains as it is. I have no doubt that our negro pastors will be in favor of maintaining as long as possible the present lockout.

I am,
Yours truly,

Howard M. Wells.

The Local Joint Executive Board

Waiters 106 Waitresses 107 Cooks 167



2182 EAST NINTH STREET

CLEVELAND, O.



November 25, 1930.

To the Officers and Members, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Beverage Dispensers International Alliance:

Greetings:

Your brothers and sisters in Cleveland are taking a little time out to address you collectively and individually.

To give you, if we can, a sort of a pen picture of just what we are up against in our contest with avarice and greed.

Very often our situation is referred to as a strike. We know you will believe us when we tell you it is not a strike, but a **Lockout**. Everyone of us affected have been discharged for declining to sign a **Yellow Dog** individual contract which denied us our legal and natural rights to bargain collectively.

Our dismissal took place on July 15th, and since that date your Cleveland members have been on the firing line carrying the fight to the enemy as best we can under the circumstances.

We used all the diplomacy we could employ to avoid an open conflict, going as far as to express a willingness to work without a renewal of our agreement if the Hotel Association did not insist upon their **Yellow Dog** individual contract.

They layed down the gage of battle and we had no other alternative but to pick it up, if we were to maintain our self respect as Cooks, Waiters and Waitresses. Since that time we have led an offensive campaign against these Hotels, and we are still the aggressors; that, anyone will vouch for that knows anything about the situation.

We know that a lot of well meaning folks inside and outside our movement feel that when a contest of this character goes over a certain duration, the result is usually defeat for the Unions. That is not so in this contest. The Hotel Association started out to beat us into submission and were confident in their own minds because of the depression they would accomplish it in a short time. We know if they had it to do over again they would not attempt it. Previous to July 15, we were more or less a submissive group without any particular ax to grind, doing the best we could to mind our own business and conducting ourselves in an orderly fashion, avoiding conflict here and there, and sometimes taking the worst of it to avoid an argument. We never for one moment thought that any Hotel Manager, or Managers, would be a party to an attack of this character, as our relations were very cordial and we assumed we enjoyed the confidence and friendship of the Managers. They certainly enjoyed ours.

But this town, unfortunately, like a lot of others, has its racketeer, whose job it is to destroy Unions, good or bad. Under the guise of either the American Plan Association or the Associated Industries these individuals usually operate. They formerly operated as the American Plan Association here but the name became so odious they were compelled to change it about six months ago. The Chief Racketeer of the outfit sold these Hotel Managers and Owners the idea that now was the golden opportunity to put the Culinary Workers' Unions out of business as the depression and unemployment condition would make it less expensive than at any other time. To our surprise, and to the disgust of the public, the Hotel Owners and Managers fell for the bunk, lock, stock and barrel, and attempted to put their program into effect. As a result the Hotel Managers find themselves out on a limb today without the respect or confidence of a single individual in the Community. Every newspaper, every group, every individual of any consequence unanimously expressing sympathy for us, and registering contempt for the Hotel Association. As the Cleveland Press said in an editorial referring to the program of the Hotel Association: "It took little courage to attempt it." Even their scabs who were promised so much at the outset are cussing them out today because not one promise has been kept. Wholesale reduction in wages and lengthening of the hours is the order of the day in the Hotel industry here.

Immediately after the Lockout became effective and the issue clarified the Engineers, Firemen and Musicians quit in sympathy with us. They are still out and will remain out as long as we do. The Local Labor movement, the Railroad Brotherhoods through their national officials, the Newspapers, the Churches, Public Officials are all batting 100% for us. Such moral support that we are receiving, even coming from quarters not anticipated was never equalled in any community. Even the Police Department respect our rights. We have not been a disappointment to our friends. We cannot, or will not, disappoint them. You cannot afford to have us disappoint them. Every officer, every ex-officer, every man and every woman are fighting units within themselves, and as a result of this vicious attack, your Unions in Cleveland are more militant and potential than ever in their history.

The Hotel operations are a total loss. They are a source of worry to the managers, and the capital invested, revenue practically reduced to nothing.

Picketing has been effective, and these hotels are being continually picketed from 7:00 a. m. to 11:00 p. m., men and women cheerfully going out in all kinds of weather doing their bit. Some of the Operators are beginning to realize that the chief Racketeer of the Associated Industries passed the Cleveland Hotel Association a foul ball, and they were foolish enough to pitch it. We have been hopeful from the start that some of them would see the error of their way but to date none of them have seen fit to call it quits, nor can we at this writing predict when any of them will do so.

You would not have US quit would you? No. And we are not thinking of quitting. We are just digging in for the winter. Your Cleveland membership have cheerfully made every sacrifice, even to losing their homes, unable to meet the principal or interest payments. Children are hungry, and are unable to get proper nourishment for their little bodies. The enemy's program is to starve us out. Will you permit it? They won't succeed as long as you say they can't. Our local Treasuries are practically depleted. The International Union has been liberal, and some of our Sister Unions have been extremely liberal.

Cleveland has been generally conceded to be the bulwark of our International Jurisdiction east of the Rockies. If they succeed in defeating us here in Cleveland, you will be next. Hotel Managements and Hotel Employees, organized and unorganized, have their eyes on Cleveland, awaiting the outcome here. Defeat for us will bring joy and comfort to the Managements, but will strike terror to the hearts of the Employees. We must win, and we will win if you will it.

It is estimated that we have 40,000 dues paying members in the United States and Canada. Just think, Brothers and Sisters, ten cents a week from each one of you would finance us indefinitely, and should that news reach the enemy perhaps they would have something to arbitrate in the very near future.

We must have funds to carry on. We are not suggesting how you should give, only trying to impress you with the necessity for giving. The future for the Culinary Workers is none too good even on an organized basis. What will it be if we are not permitted to have our organizations free to bargain collectively? Those of us who have given the best part of our lives to the industry will not be driven back to slavery conditions that prevailed previous to the advent of our organizations making us free men and women.

Won't you leaders and active members get busy and see what you can do in the way of securing a permanent pledge from your members, arrange for the collection of same and send it to the General Secretary. He in turn will remit to us, so that we on the firing line can give all of our attention to the Battle Front secure in the knowledge that the sinews of war are forthcoming.

We were out of training when this contest came upon us but after four and a half months of training, we are in condition to Carry On. We are familiar with hardships that we never imagined we would be called upon to endure and we are ready and willing to absorb more of them. Will you do your part? We think you will; hence this letter supplementing many other appeals sent you by International Officials. Immediate action is necessary. Will you take it?

Fraternally yours,

CLEVELAND LOCKOUT COMMITTEE,

Edward A. Whissemore, President, Local 106

Martin Spiegel, Business Agent, Local 106

John Peters, President, Local 167

Ernest McEachern, Business Agent, Local 167

Anna Farkas, President, Local 107

Kitty Donnelly, Business Agent, Local 107

TSF:Y

(PLEASE POST)

Sept. 15th, 1930

Mr. Sam. Simmons,
504 Superior Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Simmons:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind
note of Sept. 11th and for the photo of the Terminal
Tower which you sent me. I appreciate both very much.

With kindest regards, permit me to
remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Strike

Sept. 15th, 1930

Mr. O. H. Eggenberger,
Chief Clerk to Trainmaster,
Magazine Correspondent,
Baltimore and Ohio R. R.,
Lorain, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Eggenberger:-

Permit me to thank you for your
kind note and for the expressions therein contained.
It is good to know that you understand and sympathize
with the position which I have taken in the matter of
the Hotel Strike.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Sept. 15th, 1930

Rev. Howard M. Wells,
First Presbyterian Church,
East Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rev. Wells:-

Permit me to thank you for your
thoughtfulness in writing to me. I derived great
encouragement from your letter.

It would be of interest to watch
what the Presbyterian organizations would do in the
matter which you suggest.

The men who are on strike are engaged
in a losing fight but I did feel that a word should be
spoken in their behalf and that the true situation should
be presented to the community.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Sept. 15th, 1930

Mr. Thos. B. Smith,
Operative Plasterers'
and Cement Finishers'
International Association.
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Smith:-

Permit me to thank you and through
you the members of the Operative Plasterers and Cement
Finishers' International Association No. 80 for the
resolutions which they adopted. It was fine to receive
word from you.

to remain

With kindest regards, permit me

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Sept. 15th, 1930

Mr. Fred C. Butler,
The Radex Press,
1367 E. 6th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Butler:-

Permit me to thank you for your
kind letter of Sept. 10th. It brought me great
satisfaction and encouragement.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Sept. 15th, 1930

Mr. J. P. Blanchat,
8809 Lorain Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Blanchat:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind note and for the expressions therein contained. It is good to know that you understand and sympathize with the position which I have taken in the matter of the Hotel Strike.

to remain

With kindest regards, permit me

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

WALTER J. SCOTT

SUCCESSOR TO THOMAS SCOTT

BUILDING CONTRACTOR

931 E. 131ST STREET

Rabbi A. H. Silver.

Dear Rabbi

Noting your condemnation of the Hotel Owners Association for their attitude in the present labor trouble I could not refrain expressing my respect for a man who would dare to publicly express his opinion where that opinion does not dovetail with the wishes of the party in a controversy who are the strongest financially, but with their opposition.

Rabbi Silver I am not a radical although I am a union man.

I know that being only humans both capital and labor make many mistakes and at times take unfair advantages one of the other.

WALTER J. SCOTT

SUCCESSOR TO THOMAS SCOTT

BUILDING CONTRACTOR

931 E. 131ST STREET

#2

Still labor as a class is in a position much as the man at the bar of so called justice who has arrayed against him a full complement of the greatest lawyers and many false witness's all telling their story, be it true or false, but with never a chance for rebuttal and with no lawyer or witness in defense. He must be found guilty.

This is the position of any particular branch of labor before their judge, 'the public'.

Their accusers bring the evidence, true or false, before the judge through their controlled witness's, "the newspapers." These same papers refuse to

A3

WALTER J. SCOTT

SUCCESSOR TO THOMAS SCOTT

BUILDING CONTRACTOR

931 E. 131ST STREET

publish the accused labor unions
reply to the charges and to
mention any counter charges against
their accusers.

Therefore labor stands
convicted by the evidence given
whether such has been true or
false.

Labor leaders will confirm
my statement of the papers
refusing to print news helpfull
to labor during such a controversy
as the present Hotel. trouble.

Capital through their
controlled news organs play one
group of workers against the other.
For instance,

In a not so distant issue of
the Cleveland News in an item
given prominent space was an

#5

WALTER J. SCOTT

SUCCESSOR TO THOMAS SCOTT

BUILDING CONTRACTOR

931 E. 131ST STREET

article stating a certain prominent local steel mill to be working one hundred percent capacity.

Two days later my brother-in-law who has been a roller in the same mill for past six years told me he was not working on the day of this publication nor for a week previous and was told there would be no work until the twelfth of the following month.

The cold toll department being entirely closed down throwing many men into a temporary lay off.

This published news of steel operations satisfies the unacquainted classes of workers that there is

WALTER J. SCOTT

SUCCESSOR TO THOMAS SCOTT

BUILDING CONTRACTOR

931 E. 131ST STREET

H4

business in steel which must soon reflect in other lines and this keeps up their hope.

This sort of published untruth keeps a certain amount of stability and contentment among the masses.

Once more Rabbi Silver let me express my admiration and beg you to continue your unbiased opinions on these vital issues for whether it favors one or the other I know it to be just.

Respectfully.

Walter J. Scott.

#5

WALTER J. SCOTT

SUCCESSOR TO THOMAS SCOTT

BUILDING CONTRACTOR

931 E. 131st STREET

article stating a certain prominent local steel mill to be working one hundred percent capacity.

Two days later my brother-in-law who has been a roller in the same mill for past six years told me he was not working on the day of this publication nor for a week previous and was told there would be no work until the twelfth of the following month.

The cold toll department being entirely closed down throwing many men into a temporary lay off.

This published news of steel operations satisfies the unacquainted classes of workers that there is

Sept. 15th, 1930

Mr. Walter J. Scott,
931 E. 131st St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Scott:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter. It is good to know that you understand and sympathize with the position which I have taken in the matter of the Hotel Strike now going on.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

FROM CLEVELAND OHIO

CHOCORTA N.H.

RABBI A. H. SILVER.

AM INFORMED NINETY MINERS AND FAMILIES WILL BE EVICTED IN
WARD WEST VIRGINIA ON MONDAY MORNING FROM PROPERTY OWNED BY J.A.
PAISLEY WALLEY CAMP COAL COMPANY WESTERN RESERVES BUILDING CLEVELAND
OHIO. WOULD CAUSE INTENSE DISTRESS AND ADD TO BITTERNESS ALREADY FELT
BY SUFFERING MINERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WILL YOU PLEAD WITH MR. PAISLEY
IMMEDIATELY NOT TO GO THROUGH WITH THESE EVICTIONS AND ALSO GET OTHERS TO
COMMUNICATE WITH HIM. PLEASE HURRY.

SIGNED

A. J. MUSTE

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE.