



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

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

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

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Folder

373

Case Institute of Technology, 1923-1948.

EDWIN A. STRAUSS
1866 EAST 93RD STREET
CLEVELAND, OHIO

August 7, 1923.

Rabbi Silver,
The Temple,
City.

Dear Rabbi Silver,

I am leaving town this Thursday for Chicago to accept a position there. For this reason, I will be unable to obtain a copy of the application blank of the Cleveland Engineering Society for you. However I do happen to have a copy of the registration card of Case School to which I made reference in our conversation on the way home from our meeting in the office of the Federation last week.

The last line on the registration card is the one which I think is very objectionable.

Sincerely, your friend

Edwin Strauss

August 16th, 1933.

Dr. Chas. S. Howe,
Case School of Applied Science,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Howe,

My attention has been called to the registration card of the Case School. Among the questions asked of the applicant, is whether he is of the Jewish Race. I have been wondering why this particular question is placed on the registration card. No other race is designated. A student's religious and denominational affiliations seem to be covered by two previous questions.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

North Amherst, Mass.
August 25, 1923.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Your note of August 16th has been forwarded
to me at my summer address in Amherst, Mass.

When I first noticed the card, copy of which
you enclose, I asked the Registrar the same question which you
are asking me. I said this question did not seem to be nec-
essary as it was covered by the preceding questions. The
Registrar informs me that we have very many inquiries in regard
to the religious affiliations of students ~~we are asked to place~~;
some government reports require this information also reports
of societies which give money for educational purposes, especially
church organizations. The non-Jewish boys will always answer
these questions. I am told that the Jewish boys never answer the
question so that we can get no information from them as a rule in
regard to their religious affiliations unless we ask the question
directly as given on the card. I do not like that question any
more than you do but I do not see how we can get the information
which we feel that we ought to have in any other way. We would
never have ^{asked} any questions about religious affiliations if it had
not been for demands made upon us by the various organizations.

With very kindest regards, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

Charles S. Howe
President.

Case School of Applied Science.

August 30th, 1933.

Dr. Chas. E. Howe,
Case School of Applied Science,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Howe,

Permit me to thank you for your letter of August 25th. I was very pleased to learn that you do not like the last question on the registration card any more than I do and that you would never *have asked any* questions about the Religious affiliation of a student if it had not been for demands made upon you by various organizations.

I am at a loss to understand however, my dear Dr. Howe, why Case School should feel itself obligated to such agencies and organizations to the extent of placing upon its registration cards questions which are distasteful to you and to many of your students, and which preferably you would not ask. Do you really feel that Case School ought to assume the responsibility of soliciting information of a discriminatory racial and religious character for firms, church organizations and other agencies which ought to do their own soliciting if they are so inclined? From what you say, it is evident that Case School is not at all interested in a student's religious affiliation, then why inquire about it? And if in order to satisfy certain outside agencies you choose to inquire, is it not the privilege of the student to withhold

August 30th, 1923.

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such information? And if he choose to ignore the first two denominational inquiries, may he not also ignore the third? What profit is there then in the last question?

You say that the Non-Jewish boys always answer the religious questions, then surely these church organizations and firms who desire to limit their patronage to Non-Jewish boys have all the data which they require. The non-affiliated and those who do not choose to make known their affiliation ought not to concern them.

Were the last question at least couched in such a manner as to include all races or all nationalities, e.g., Of What Race Are You? it would not be as offensive to the good taste and to the racial sensibilities of people as it undoubtedly is.

With kindest regards, and trusting that you have had a pleasant summer, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

CASE SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
C-51

September 17, 1923

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
E. 55th & Central Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I cannot say very much more about the classification of students than I have done in preceding letters, and yet there are one or two points which perhaps I ought to make. I think we ought to accommodate the agencies and organizations which ask us in regard to the religious affiliations of our students, and Jewish organizations, as well as others, desire this information. The Dean tells me that your own Temple has frequently sent out here for this information. The Menorah Society asks for this information each year, and the two secret fraternities composed of Jewish students always come to us to find out what Jewish students have entered college. If we are to give this information, we must be able to find out what the religious affiliations of students are. There is practically no trouble about this except with the Jews. I cannot understand why they should object to answering questions which all other students answer. It does not seem possible that they are ashamed to have us know that they are Jews, and yet that is the only explanation I can think of. Why should not a Jewish student comply with the rules of the institution, which all other students comply with? I have frequently been asked to do things for Jewish students which I am not obliged to do for others, and whenever this is possible, I have done so. I do not see why we should not secure any information we desire from all classes of students.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

I am writing this with the kindest feelings towards you and all the Jews who are in college. Personally, I have never asked about the religious affiliations of students. A student to me is a student without regard to race or color, and I endeavor to treat all with the same unvarying courtesy. I have spoken very plainly in this note because I think you ought to know how these matters appear to us.

With very sincere regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Charles S. Howe

R

Charles S. Howe, President



September 18th, 1923.

Dr. Chas. S. Howe,
Case School of Applied Science,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Howe,

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of September 17th. I regret exceedingly that I cannot see the matter in the same light as you do. I still believe that the last question on your registration card "Are you a Hebrew?" is utterly uncalled for. I believe Case School is the only non-sectarian college in the United States that asks this question. I suggested in my last letter to you the form of a question which would solicit the information which you desire, but which would at the same time not be offensive. I should like to have your opinion on that.

It is indeed regrettable that some Jewish students do not answer the religious questions. I still believe that a man's religion is a man's private concern and no non-sectarian school ought to assume to coax such information out of a man who is not desirous of volunteering it. The Jewish organizations which you mention in your letter are content to receive the names of those Jewish boys who wish their religious affiliations known and who gladly answer your first two questions. They are not concerned with those, who as you say, seem to be ashamed to make their Jewish affiliation known.

-2-

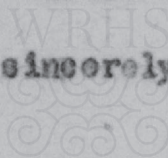
September 18th, 1923.

It is the racially proud and conscious Jew in your institution who most resents the last question.

I wish you to know, my dear Dr. Howe, that if I had not the highest regard for you and your institution, and for your spirit of fairness and broad mindedness, I would not have taken the trouble to write to you.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



October 19th, 1923

I made representation to Dr. Charles Howe, President of Case School of Applied Science, two months ago, requesting that this discriminating^{or} question be stricken from the registration card. Dr. Howe replied that he did not like the question any more than I did, but that he did not see how they could get the information which they wanted in any other way. I pointed out to him that the registration card as it is already contains two questions concerning the student's religion and his denomination^{al} of affiliation, and I could not see why the third question "Are you of the Jewish race" was required. Dr. Howe replied, that some Jewish students refused to answer the first two questions. I told Dr. Howe that it is a student's privilege, in a non-sectarian institution, to volunteer such information or to withhold it, and that those who did not answer the first two questions would probably not answer the last.

I furthermore suggested, in view of the position taken by Dr. Howe - that the last question was inserted in order to accommodate Jewish agencies and organizations who desire such information - that such organizations are not concerned with those who do not wish to make their religion known.

Dean Focke's statement reported in the newspapers, that the question - "Are you of the Jewish race" - was the same as "Are you an Episcopalian" or "Are you a Methodist" - is clearly not true to the facts. There is no such question on the Case School registration card - "Are you an Episcopalian" or "Are you a Methodist", but there is the question - "Are you of the Jewish race".

I suggested to Dr. Howe, that if he insists upon soliciting information concerning a man's race, (a question which no other non-sectarian college in America asks) that the question be couched in such a manner as not to offend good taste and the racial sensibilities of people, as for example - "Of what race are you?" This suggestion was left unnoticed.

[1923]

EDWIN A. STRAUSS
1642 EAST 53RD STREET
CHICAGO, ILL.

November 5th

Dear Rabbi Silver —

My brother has sent us a
clipping from one of the Cleveland
Newspapers which informs us of
your marked success in your
recent discussion with Case School
officials.

Your replies to them as recorded
in the article were clever and

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EDWIN A. STRAUSS
1642 EAST 53RD STREET
CHICAGO, ILL.

convincing and you certainly
have home your point.

As much as it was I who
called your attention to this
matter, I consider it my privilege
to thank you heartily on behalf
of every Jewish student, past,
present, or future, of Case School
of Applied Science.
You have won a wonderful

3.

EDWIN A. STRAUSS
1642 EAST 53RD STREET
CHICAGO, ILL.

victory and we are proud of
you and your success.

I am told that you are
scheduled to speak here at the
W. H. Hirsch Center some time this
month. I am also told that it
will be very difficult to get a
seat on that night. It would be
terrible to have you here and not
see you and speak to you so
I'll do my very best to

4.

EDWIN A. STRAUSS
1642 EAST 53RD STREET
CHICAGO, ILL.

convince the "powers that be"
that they should allow us a
seat on that night.

My kindest regards to yourself
and remember me to the Admin
members when you see them - (that
will keep you busy for a while, I

guess!) ~ Edwin A. Strauss.
P.S. If I can't get in that night, I'll
meet you at the stage entrance!!!!!!

CASE SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

June 19, 1928

Mr. Arthur Friedman,
Chemical Rubber Co.,
W. 112th St. & Locust Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Friedman:

I am writing you to solicit your cooperation in an endeavor to solve a problem which has been troubling me for a number of years. Briefly stated, the facts are these.-

Each year we have a number of Hebrew boys graduating from the Chemical Engineering course. In many instances these men stand in the upper part of the graduating class from a scholarship standpoint. We are naturally interested in placing all of our graduates in positions warranted by their ability.

For years we have been confronted by the fact that many of the larger manufacturing concerns will not employ these men simply on the ground that they are Hebrew. A few years ago, I endeavored to place one of the best men in the graduating class of that year with a Cleveland firm which is owned and operated by Hebrew people, and very much to my surprise, found that they would not employ this particular man simply because he was a Hebrew.

It is rather disappointing to spend four years in training a group of boys, especially when the boys perform their part satisfactorily, and then find that even their own people will not employ these graduates. I have been strongly tempted at times to advise these men not to take an engineering course at all, but have refrained from doing so because of the likelihood that someone would charge me with racial prejudice, which you know would be entirely false.

If these men are to continue preparing themselves for engineering work, then some outlet for their services should be discovered. I have sent quite a number of men, during the past eight or ten years, into government service at Washington, chiefly in the Patent Office Division, but a great many do not care for this type of work. Any suggestion that you may offer will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

W. R. Veazey

W. R. Veazey

WRV:EO

THE CHEMICAL RUBBER COMPANY

LABORATORY APPARATUS · CHEMICALS · RUBBER GOODS
HANDBOOK OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

WEST 112TH ST. AND LOCUST AVENUE
CLEVELAND, O.

June 27th, 1928.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
City.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am attaching a letter which I believe is quite self-explanatory.

It seems to me that this letter outlines certain features which may have more or less of a national bearing. It occurred to me the information embodied in this letter may disclose some of the reasons for the Eastern College situation.

In view of this assumption I thought possibly you might desire to take this up with the Hebrew Union College, as a subject for their analysis and constructive comments. I am referring this letter to you, as I thought that possibly you might be able to assist me in giving Dr. Veazey some constructive suggestions, which would be of great value to all parties concerned.

Trusting you will favor me with your views and thanking you in advance for your consideration, I am,

Yours very truly,

THE CHEMICAL RUBBER COMPANY.

AF:FB

BY

Arthur Friedman
B

July 9th, 1928.

Mr. Arthur Friedman,
The Chemical Rubber Co.,
W. 112th & Locust Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Friedman:-

Permit me to thank you for your kindness in sending me the letter of Mr. Veazey of the Case School of Applied Science.

This matter had been brought to my attention before. I shall take occasion this summer to bring it to the notice of some of our people.

With kindest regards, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
CINCINNATI, OHIO

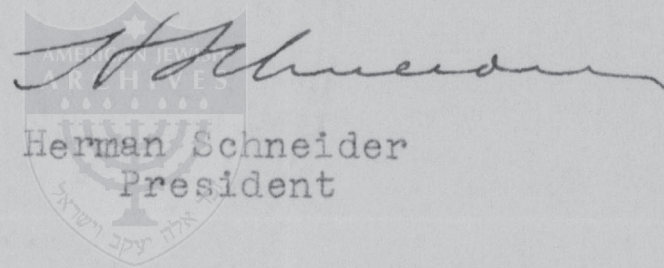
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 7, 1930

My dear Dr. Silver:

We have received an invitation from the Trustees and Faculty of the Case School of Applied Science to be represented at the Semi-Centennial of Case School and the inauguration of William Elgin Wickenden as President, on Friday, April 11. Would it be possible for you to represent the University of Cincinnati on that occasion? We should appreciate it very much indeed.

Cordially yours,



Herman Schneider
President

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

March 10th, 1930

Dr. Herman Schneider,
President, University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Schneider:-

Permit me to thank you for your
kind letter of March 7th.

I shall be very happy to represent
the University of Cincinnati on the occasion of the Semi-
Centennial Celebration of the Case School of Applied
Science and the inauguration of Dr. Wickenden as its
President on Friday, April 11th.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

card ✓

Case Inst.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
CINCINNATI, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT


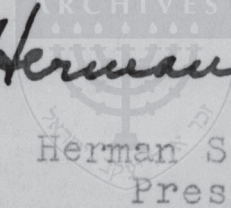
March 12, 1930

My dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you very much for your letter of
March 10.

It is most gracious of you to act as
our representative on the occasion of the Semi-
centennial celebration of the Case School of
Applied Science and the inauguration of President
Wickenden, on Friday, April 11. I am sending
your name to them today.

Cordially yours,

 
Herman Schneider
Herman Schneider
President

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

THE CASE SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCE
SEMI-CENTENNIAL AND
INAUGURATION
APRIL 11, 1930



Guests assemble, Administration Building,
Case Campus 9:45 a. m.
Academic Procession 10:15 a. m.
Principal Exercises,
John Hay Auditorium 10:30 a. m.
Luncheon to Delegates and Guests . .
Wade Park Manor 12:30 p. m.



*On Saturday, April 12th, Case School will
hold its annual Open House.*



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE FACULTY
OF

CASE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE

AT THE CEREMONIES ATTENDING

THE INAUGURATION OF

T. KEITH GLENNAN

AS FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

MAY THE TWENTIETH AND THE TWENTY-FIRST

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT

AT CLEVELAND

IN THE STATE OF OHIO

May 21, 1948

Dr. T. Keith Glennan
Case Institute of Technology
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Glennan:

I regret that I have been unable to attend the inauguration ceremonies in connection with your assumption of the duties of President of Case Institute of Technology. I wish to extend to you my warmest felicitations and best wishes for success in the leadership of this great college which has meant so much to the life of our community and of the nation.

I trust that I may have the pleasure of paying my respects to you in person at an early opportunity.

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er