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Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1930-1931.

A MESSAGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

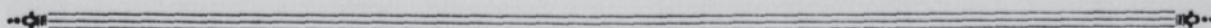
TISHRI, 5691 - - SEPTEMBER, 1930



ISSUED BY THE
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
OF THE
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS



*(Additional copies of this statement can be procured by applying to the
chairman of the Commission, Rabbi Edward L. Israel, Har Sinai
Congregation, Bolton and Wilson Streets, Baltimore, Md.)*



A MESSAGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. TISHRI 5691.

The cycle of religious calendar now drawing to a close has been, on its material side, one of recession. Our vaunted prosperity has forsaken us. On the proverbial wheel of fortune, we have been in the descent. We trusted in our house, but it stood not; we laid hold of it but it endured not.

In these circumstances, as on all kindred occasions, the poor have suffered acutely. Unemployment and destitution have become widespread, devastating homes and blighting human lives. The wealthy have likewise suffered. Great possessions have vanished in great losses. Dismal have been the results in anguish, despair, mental breakdown and suicide.

From lack of material means, many a worthy project has been abandoned. Grievous especially has been the curtailing of our benevolences precisely at a time when the need for benevolence is keenest.

Much has been said and written about the cause and the cure of these ills, yet thus far without much avail. The wisest have been as without knowledge and the men of understanding without discernment.

We yearn for the speedy dawn of a brighter day, when as so often in the past, prosperity will revive. But the present is a day of adversity in which we can but consider.

Our attention should turn in the perplexities of the hour to those factors which belong to the realms of mind and spirit, the realms in which religion holds sway. Want has come upon us not because nature has grown chary or human labor frail. Fears and hesitations in human hearts have retarded the flow of commerce and slackened industry's whirl. It was also the expectations and avidities in those same unseen depths that precipitated the rash speculative dealings whose aftermath we are now reaping. Indeed the very measure of the pain caused by our reverses is determined not by those reverses themselves, but by the extent to which we are spiritually prepared or unprepared to meet them. Profound is the admonition of our sages: "Above all that thou guardest, keep thy heart; for out of it are the issues of life."

Another lesson of religious import to be derived from the present visitation is that of the sacred unity of all human life. Our afflictions have brought home to us the realization of the fact that none can suffer alone. When employers suffer, workers suffer. When consumers suffer, producers suffer. Each class needs the other for wages or for patronage. The riches of the rich are jeopardized by the poverty of the poor as the

hopes of the poor are menaced by the blunders of the rich. We who have so long declared that God is one are now taught by hardship that humanity is one.

Then, the spectacle which has been unfolding before us of the deadly effect of unemployment, not merely upon material possessions but upon all the values of life, raises the struggle against unemployment to a sacred duty. Weighty is the obligation to consider the various expedients deemed helpful; for instance, the steady raising of the age below which children are kept in school and out of industry; mothers' pensions to reduce the number of women and of minors seeking work; old age pensions for those no longer acceptable to a machine industry which rejects age with its fidelity for youth with its vigor; a perfected system of employment exchanges eliminating waste, delays and errors in the linkage of workers needing situations with situations that need workers; unemployment insurance, already tried in foreign lands and in some American industries with good results; prosperity reserves on the part of the governments, and the planning of public construction in such wise as to offer a maximum of public employment when there is a slackness of private employment; such bureaus of economic observations as will issue timely warning against the approach of economic decline, and counsel measures of forestalling it. Add to this ampler educational facilities and institutional care for those temporarily or permanently incapable of work.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis has commended the five day working week which has already been adopted in various industries with success. If our constantly improving machinery with its displacement of human workers is not to produce unemployment before it produces aught else, not only must the number of working days a week be reduced; there must also be a diminution of the number of working hours a day with corresponding increases of wage rates, enabling all workers to earn sufficiently.

Corollary to this is sympathy with the cause of organized labor, perhaps the most potent of all forces for securing hours and wages requisite for neutralizing unemployment and for the civic and spiritual development of the worker. The issue of organized labor brings to mind the disheartening developments at Elizabethtown, Marion and Gastonia as well as the spirit of social endeavor with which Jewish, Protestant and Catholic religious leaders have, during the past year, joined in applying to the turmoil their common principles of brotherly love. It is our profound hope that these principles may soon be accepted and applied in the southern textile situation and in all industry.

Following in the wake of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Universalists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Unitarians have, of late, resolved upon an intelligent attitude toward birth control. Birth is one of the many forces of nature which like steam, air, gravitation,

electricity and chemical valence, succumb to human control as civilization progresses. Where the intelligent regulation of birth can avert suffering and degradation, the voice of mercy speaks. That voice should not go unheeded. It went not unheeded among the sages of the Jewish past.

The social creed of the Rabbis suggests yet other ways of aiding those who toil. It urges investors to put humanity first, not dividends first, when deciding which industries to favor. Investments should be withheld from enterprises in which reasonable standards of hours, wages and working conditions are ignored and should be directed to those whose standards are high. Attention should also be given the white lists provided for certain industries. By means of the white lists, we can, as consumers, bestow our patronage where humane conditions prevail and divert it from ventures which lack scruple in the matter of overwork, underpay and unhygienic shop conditions.

The days have now arrived on which we supplicate God's mercy. Our sages have said: "As one showeth mercy to God's creatures, one receiveth mercy from on high." Again, without love for humanity, love toward God is an empty phrase. Our economic views may exhibit diversity. Yet, in the conviction that love is supreme, all of us can unite. Those who differ greatly may, in the spirit of love and social justice, take fruitful counsel together. Where that spirit is absent, even small differences eventuate in conflict.

May the New Year be both a happy and a consecrated one. May there be inscribed anew upon our hearts the purpose to live for humanity and by living for humanity to live anew in God.



Sept. 17th, 1930

Rabbi Edward L. Israel,
Har Sinai Temple,
Bolton and Wilson Sts.,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Edward:-

I thought that the enclosed
statement might be of interest to you as Chairman
of the Social Justice Commission of the C. C. A. R.

With kindest regards and best
wishes for a happy New Year, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

*Article
Re: Strikes
enclosed*

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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WILLIAM F. ROSENBLUM
STEPHEN S. WISE

Sept. 26, 1930

Dear Abba:

Many thanks for sending me the clippings and heartiest congratulations on your very commendable stand in the hotel labor dispute. I am hoping to be able to make special mention of your action along this line in the forthcoming issue of the Social Justice Bulletin which I am trying to make in part an organ for disseminating information concerning the splendid role our men are playing in the field of social justice. Your recent activity makes an excellent addition to the record.

Heartiest greetings for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

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Committee on Synagog Music
and Revision of Union Hymnal
Office of the Chairman
615 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

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HARRY H. MAYER
JACOB SINGER
NATHAN STERN

ABRAHAM W. BINDER
MUSICAL EDITOR

September 30, 1930

To the Members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis

Dear Colleagues:

This is to inform you that at the meeting of the Conference in Providence last June, a motion was made that the members be allowed until January 1 to send any suggestions and criticisms of the new Hymnal manuscript, more particularly of the Services in that manuscript, and that the Committee on Hymnal send out a notice to that effect.

Will you, therefore, make a careful study of the manuscript which has already been sent you, and then send to the Chairman whatever comments and suggestions you have to make? Please be assured that every communication will be very carefully considered by the Committee; in fact, the Committee welcomes suggestions of every kind from the members of the Conference. It is our judgment that the members can make such suggestions as will materially improve the book and make it a valuable instrumentality in the life of our congregations and religious schools. Please send these suggestions to the Chairman as soon as possible. Remember that January 1 is the last day on which these suggestions will be received.

After that time the Committee will meet and make a study of your amendments and modifications. We will then submit the manuscript to the printer for final publication.

Fraternally yours,

LW:Y

Louis Wolsey, Chairman
Henry J. Berkowitz
Israel Bettan
Edward N. Calisch
Abraham Cronbach
Solomon B. Freehof
James G. Heller
Abraham Holtzberg
Morris S. Lazon
David Levy
David Marx
Harry H. Mayer
Jacob Singer
Nathan Stern
Sidney E. Unger

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and Revision of Union Hymnal
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JACOB SINGER
NATHAN STERN

ABRAHAM W. BINDER
MUSICAL EDITOR

September 30, 1930

To Members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis
who were not in attendance at the Providence Convention

Dear Colleagues:

You are undoubtedly aware of the fact that the manuscript of the new Union Hymnal was accepted at the Providence Conference, and that a motion of the Conference instructed the Committee to include Hatikvah in the Hymn Book.

It would be of interest to the Committee on Revision of the Hymn Book to know whether the actual majority sentiment of the entire Conference is in favor of the inclusion of Hatikvah in the Hymn Book. Considering the fact that (1) the music is unworthy; that (2) it is inspired by some Slavic or Spanish drinking song; that (3) it is an undevotional and non-religious poem; that (4) its thought specifically reverses every action and commitment of previous Conferences; that (5) it is completely counter to the theology of the Union Prayer Book; that (6) its inclusion definitely commits the American Jew to the singing of two national anthems; that (7) in the 115 answers to the questionnaire sent out by the Committee a year ago, asking for suggestions, not one single member of the Conference suggested Hatikvah; that (8) in the many meetings of the committee, not even Zionist members thereof ever proposed Hatikvah; that (9) many of those who voted at Providence in favor of Hatikvah, did not ever send in any answers to that questionnaire, that (10) the committee was definitely charged by the Conference to prepare a manual of devotional song, and not a songster; that (11) many laymen of the Reform Synagog have already stated that they would not permit the new Union Hymnal to be used by their congregations if Hatikvah is to be included ----- it seems to the Committee both unwise and unjust that this song be incorporated into the Union Hymn Book.

Please, therefore, write the Chairman expressing your view of the matter, or at least fill out the enclosed questionnaire and mail to the Chairman at once. The purpose of this letter is not to secure a vote. Such a proceeding would be illegal. The letter is sent only to those members of the Conference who were not present at Providence. The purpose of this letter is entirely to discover what is the actual sentiment of the Conference in the matter. The Committee will, of course, abide by the decision of the Providence Conference.

Fraternally yours,

Louis Wolsey, Chairman
Henry J. Berkowitz
Israel Bettan
Edward N. Calisch
Abraham Cronbach
Abraham Holtzberg
David Levy
David Marx
Harry H. Mayer
Nathan Stern
Sidney E. Unger

LW:Y

P.S. Rabbis Jacob Singer, Morris Lazaron, James G. Heller and Solomon B. Freehof decline to sign this letter, and demur to its being sent out.

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES



QUESTIONNAIRE

Rabbi Louis Wolsey
615 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.

As to the matter of the inclusion of Hatikvah in the new Union Hymnal,
I would vote

For its inclusion

Against its inclusion

(Signed) Name; _____

Address: _____

Check the affirmative or the negative in accordance with your views.

Copy sent to Rabbi Louis Wolsey, 615 N. Broad St., Phila.
Rabbi Jacob Singer, 1615 Morse Ave., Chicago
Rabbi Morris Lazaron, 1914 Madison Ave., Baltimore
Rabbi James G. Heller, Plum St. Temple, Cincinnati

(COPY)

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, Hotel Aragon, 5401 Cornell
Chicago

WIRE SENT TO
RABBI DAVID LEFKOWITZ
2415 SOUTH BLVD.
DALLAS, TEXAS

OCTOBER 22d, 1930

I REGISTER MY VIGOROUS PROTEST AGAINST THE LETTER CIRCULATED
BY THE COMMITTEE ON SYNAGOGUE MUSIC RELATIVE TO THE INCLUSION
OF HATIKWAH IN THE HYMNAL WHICH WAS VOTED AT THE PROVIDENCE
CONFERENCE. stop THE ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS UNWARRANTED
ILLEGAL AND A CLEAR CHALLENGE TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE
CONVENTION. stop IT SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REPUDIATED BY YOU.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



DAY LETTER

Oct. 24th, 1930

Rabbi David Lefkowitz,
1900 South Blvd.,
Dallas, Texas

I register my vigorous protest against the letter circulated by the committee on Synagogue music relative to the inclusion of "Hatikvah" in the Hymnal which was voted at the Providence Conference. stop The action is unwarranted, illegal and a clear challenge to the sovereignty of the Convention stop It should be immediately repudiated by you.

Abba Hillel Silver

Copies sent to

Louis Wolsey, 615 N. Broad St., Philadelphia
Jacob Singer, 1615 Morse Ave., Chicago, Ill
Morris S. Lazaron, 1914 Madison Ave., Baltimore, Md.
James G. Heller, Plum St. Temple, Cincinnati, O.
S. B. Freehof, Hotel Aragon, 5401 Cornell Ave.,
Chicago



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JACOB SINGER, Chicago, Illinois

October,
Twenty-fourth,
1930.

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

Dear Friend :-

I have your telegram of protest against the letter circulated by the committee on Synagogue Music. I want you to know that the matter came up at the Executive Board meeting of the Conference last Tuesday, and I was requested to present the objections of the Board to this action of the music committee. I am writing to Wolsey and am placing these objections before him as strongly as possible. As you say, the action of the committee was unwarranted and illegal, and certainly can have no ~~reference to~~ ^{result} the decision of the convention of the Conference at Providence. If you think further steps should be taken, please let me know.

With best wishes, I am cordially and sincerely yours,

DL/ar.

Day Letter

Oct. 25th, 1930

Mr. Jacob Billikopf,
FEDERATION OF JEWISH CHARITIES
330 South Ninth St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

TEMPLE MENS CLUB ARRANGING SYMPOSIUM ON PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION
WEDNESDAY EVENING NOVEMBER TWELFTH STOP PRESIDENT OF CLEVELAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIST FROM MIDLAND BANK WILL PARTICIPATE
STOP UNANIMOUS DESIRE OF COMMITTEE TO HAVE YOU PRESENT THE SUBJECT
OF UNEMPLOYMENT AS THE WORKINGMAN AND THE SOCIAL WORKER SEES IT STOP
MEETING WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CREATE GREAT INTEREST IN COMMUNITY STOP
WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD COME PLEASE WIRE

A. H. SILVER



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JULIUS RAPPAPORT, Kenosha, Wis.
IRVING F. REICHERT, New York City
MAX REICHLER, Brooklyn, N. Y.
JACOB SINGER, Chicago, Illinois

October 27, 1930.

Dear Colleague:-

I am pleased to advise that at the meeting of the Executive Board, you were appointed to serve on the committee noted below. Please advise acceptance on the enclosed card.

Cordially yours,

Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary.

IEM:b

Responsa
Liturgical Literature

RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D.D.

K. A. M. TEMPLE
920 EAST FIFTIETH STREET
CHICAGO

October 27th,
1930.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
c/o The Temple,
East 105th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

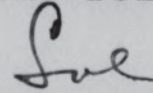
Dear Abba:

I just received your copy of the letter send to Lefkowitz with regard to the Hatikvo matter. Yesterday I saw the letter which the Committee sent out for the first time. Possibly mine was lost in the mail.

You will notice on the second page of the letter the statement that I was among those who protested against the issuance of this questionnaire. I presented my arguments as strongly as I could to the Chairman of the Committee and had hoped that I had convinced him, but evidently I had not. My own attitude on the matter was this: I was not anxious to have the Hatikvo in the hymnal but since the Conference voted it in, and since the Jewish Press took it as a fine symbol of an increasing unity in Israel, it would calamitous, I thought, to reopen the matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



SBF.k

MORRIS S. LAZARON
1914 MADISON AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MD.

October 29, 1930.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

We have your letter and though we are all grievously disappointed that you cannot be with us Sunday night, we understand the situation. We would have postponed the meeting so that we could have had you, as we wanted you, but for the fact of the Balfour Declaration anniversary occurring on that date and that the coming week is filled with other appointments of a communal nature. Likewise, it was felt better to have the meeting as soon as possible.

I have, too, a copy of your wire to Lefkowitz on Wolsey's letter re Hatikvah. His conduct is unwarranted, without precedent, and ill becomes a former president of the Central Conference. I have written him again in protest.

I learned from Heller that the matter was brought up at the last Executive Board meeting of the Conference and the Board expressed its wish that the letter not be sent out. Wolsey was probably moved by his inordinate hatred for our Zionist cause and by his desire to get the book out so soon as possible. As a matter of fact, it cannot be gotten out without the Hatikvah before the next conference because only another conference can rescind the decision of a previous conference.

I am very much disturbed about the whole

proceedings. We Zionists will be put in the position of threatening a split. Naturally, we can deny and say it is not we who threaten the split but you antis, and the issue of Hatikvah in the Hymnal is hardly big enough. I for one believe that the matter must come to a head, but I would much prefer that it come to a head on a more important issue, the fundamental issue as to the compatibility of Reform and nationalism, and not on some such item as this. Let me hear from you.

Polly joins me in love to Jinks, you and the boys.



Faithfully,

Morris



PLUM STREET TEMPLE

K.K.B'nai Yeshurun

CINCINNATI

OFFICE

ISAAC M. WISE CENTER

READING ROAD & NORTH CRESCENT AVE.

AVONDALE

PHONES AVON 334 AND 335

Rabbi James G. Heller

October 30, 1930.

Dr. Abba H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abe:

I was glad that you wired a protest to Lefkowitz. When Wolsey made the proposal, I wrote him a strong letter characterizing the action as unconstitutional and ill advised. I have sent both of the letters that I wrote to him to Morris Lazaron, who is forwarding the entire correspondence to David Lefkowitz. I have gone farther than that. I brought the matter up at the meeting last week of the Executive Board of the Conference. I believe that the opinion of practically all present was that it was an unwarranted step. Lefkowitz is to look into it and take appropriate action.

In general, Wolsey has a very definite persecution mania in regard to Zionism. You would be interested in reading a voluminous letter he wrote me recently on the subject.

With friendly greetings, I am

Yours sincerely,

JGH:M

Jim

Oct. 31st, 1930

Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron,
1914 Madison Ave.,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Morris:-

Thank you for your letter of October 29th.

By this time you probably have received a copy of the letter which Rabbi Lefkowitz sent to me. I do not know whether this closes the incident or not.

I should very much hate to see a raging controversy this year between Zionist and non-Zionist Rabbis. We have an implacable enemy to face and we ought not to be compelled to dissipate our energies in fighting apponents within the Jewish camp.

The Wolseys, Philipsons, etc. who were dragged into the Agency by Marshall and the influential laymen of New York who alone have the power to intimidate these Rabbis, now think that the whole project is about to sink and like the proverbial rats are scurrying away from the ship. The old die-hards have gone back to their sermon barrels and have fetched out again their old, stale anti-Zionist diatribes. They had been cowed for a time but have now raised their heads again.

It seems that a battle is inevitable and if it must come the Hatikwah might as well serve for a battle-field as anything else.

As far as tactics are concerned, we must not take the offensive. The Convention voted to include the Hatikwah in the Hymnal. The will of the Convention is sovereign. The action can be reversed only by another convention. Let the anti-Zionists bring the matter up again, if they want, at the next convention of the Conference. They will be licked again.

Virginia joins me in sending love to you, Polly and the children.

As ever yours,

AHS/IR

CCAR
"Hatikvah"
Hymnal Committee

October 31st, 1930

Rabbi David Lefkowitz,
1900 South Blvd.,
Dallas, Tex.

My dear Lefkowitz:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter
of October 24th.

I was pleased to know that your sentiments
coincide with mine and that the Executive Board took action
in consonance with the sentiment contained in my telegram
and in your letter. I do not know that anything further
needs to be done at this time.

In order to clarify the position of the
Conference, it might perhaps be desirable that you should
send a letter to those who were circularized by the Hymnal
Committee informing them that the action of the Hymnal
Committee was unauthorized.

With kindest regards and best wishes, permit
me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

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November 10, 1930

Dear Colleague:

COMMITTEE ON SOLICITATION

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SAMUEL THURMAN
MARTIN ZIELONKA

The Committee on Solicitation of Funds of the Central Conference of American Rabbis is again inviting your assistance and cooperation in assuring the success of its annual appeal. Owing to the many local and national appeals that claim the attention of the community in the course of the year, we are making every effort at this time to urge our members to solicit contributions in behalf of this Fund before the other campaigns get under way.

Through past appeals, our people have become aware of the purpose of these annual solicitations. They already know that their generous contributions help to provide relief to our deserving incapacitated colleagues, to Jewish scholars in distress, and to destitute widows and orphans of Rabbis. All that is needed from year to year, is to re-emphasize the urgency and the need. If the Rabbi will stress the importance of this particular philanthropy, I have no doubt, that the community will respond most generously. May we not, once again, expect you to participate in this deserving work with your old time earnestness and sympathy?

There are various ways in which members may cooperate:

1. Give some space to the cause in your bulletin.
2. Urge the Congregation and its auxiliaries to contribute from their treasuries.
3. Ask the individual members of the Congregation through personal letters, pulpit announcements, etc., to subscribe to this worthy endeavor.

The Committee will be pleased to provide you with form letters over your personal signature to be sent to the members of your Congregation. If you prefer to use these, please fill out the enclosed card and return promptly. If you would rather send your own letters, you may do so. In any event, let us have your support. Send all contributions to the above address. Every contribution will be acknowledged from this office.

Trusting that you will give this matter your prompt attention, with warmest personal greetings, I am

Cordially yours,

Harry S. Margolis

HSM:MS

Chairman

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Cincinnati, Ohio

Copy



Office of President
1900 South Boulevard
Dallas, Texas

Rabbi Louis Wolsey, chairman Hymnal Revision Com.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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November,
Twenty-fourth,
1930.

Dear Colleague :-

I have read over carefully your various letters and those of your colleagues on the Hymnal committee, in which strong objection was made against a letter of mine to you, dated Oct. 29th, in which I informed you of the fact that a letter sent out by a majority of the Hymnal Committee on Committee stationery, calling for a straw vote from those Conference members who had not been present at the Providence convention on a certain action of the Conference, had been brought to the attention of the Executive Board and that as the letter was not before them the Executive Board requested me to investigate and take appropriate action. You and a number of your colleagues on the committee have to my deep regret tendered their resignation from the Hymnal Committee, because of my letters and the stand I took.

I find that your objection and that of your colleagues on the committee centers about the two words, "illegal" and "unwarranted", as a description of the Committee's circular. Those two words I do not find in any letter of mine to you, though I do find them in a letter to Rabbi Silver in answer to a telegram of his in which he used those words. Rabbi Silver evidently sent on my letter to you. The words I used in that letter I find now do not properly characterize the circular of the committee, and I unreservedly withdraw them as a hasty judgment made in answer to a telegram, and never made in my communications with you. However unwise I may think the letter was, it certainly was not illegal and unwarranted.

I am not only sending this letter to you, but a copy of it to every member of your committee and to those other members of the Conference with whom I have been in correspondence on this matter, namely Rabbis Philipson, Newfield, Franklin and Silver.

May I hope that you and those members of your committee who resigned with you, in view of this withdrawal of a hasty judgment and a loose use of words, may reconsider your resignations and continue to carry to its completion the important work of the revision of the Union Hymnal?

Hoping to hear favorably from you and those other members of the committee whose resignations are in my hand, and assuring you that, though I made a mistake in using certain words in a private letter, my action in all this matter has been prompted by an ardent desire to promote the welfare of our Conference and those things for which it stands, I am very

Cordially and fraternally yours,

David Lefkowitz

CCAR
"Hatekwa"

Nov. 28th, 1930

Rabbi David Lefkowitz,
1900 South Blvd.,
Dallas, Texas.

My dear Rabbi Lefkowitz:-

I received a copy of the letter which you sent to Rabbi Wolsey, Chairman of the Hymnal Revision Committee, in which you retracted your former characterization of the action of some members of that committee as illegal and unwarranted.

I would appreciate very much if you would let me know definitely what action the Executive Board at its last meeting actually did take in this matter and what "appropriate action" you took at its request.

I am so thoroughly convinced that the action of the committee was both illegal and unwarranted and a challenge to the sovereignty of the Conference that if the action of the Executive Board is not sufficiently thorough-going, I shall take this matter up at the next convention of the C. C. A. R. and urge a public repudiation of the action of the committee. It seems to me that the members of the Hymnal Committee who did not wish to abide by the decision of the Conference did the logical thing in resigning and I can not understand your retraction for the sake of persuading them to re-consider their resignations.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

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1900 South Boulevard
Dallas, Texas

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December,
Second,
1930.

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

My dear Silver :-

I have your letter of November 28th and regret that you do not agree with my retraction to the Hymnal Revision Committee of my statement that appeared in my letter to you that the action of some members of that committee was "illegal" and "unwarranted". This phrase, you will remember, I used only in my letter to you and was suggested by your use of it in your telegram to me.

As I studied the letter sent out by some of the members of the Hymnal Revision Committee, I discovered that a very clear statement towards the end of the circular letter assured those members of the Conference to whom the letter was sent, that there was no attempt made to change the decision of the Conference Convention at Providence in the matter of Hatikvah. Therefore, I felt that it could not be called an "illegal action", now in view of the fact that decisions of the Conference should always be of interest to the membership, could it be called "unwarranted". I still think and so told the committee, that I considered the action "unwise", in view of the fact that it would raise in the minds of some members that there was an attempt being made by the committee of the Conference to change the will of the Conference as expressed at annual conventions.

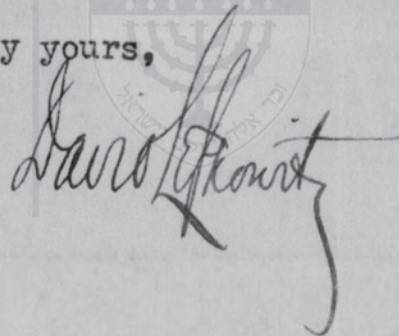
You ask what action the Executive Board took at its last meeting on this matter? The Executive Board, not having the circular letter before it, requested the President to investigate the matter and take appropriate action. I have come to the conclusion that the only action that

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.....

can be taken in the premises is an explanation on the part of the President of the unwisdom of the circular letter. Of course, there will be opportunity on the part of any member of the Conference to question the whole matter; to request the Conference to decide whether the Executive Board or the President acted in a sufficiently thoroughgoing manner in this connection; but the thing to remember is that the decision of the last Conference on the matter of Hatikvah, as in all matters that were decided, stands.

Assuring you that I am fully anxious, as any one of the Conference, to maintain the dignity of the Conference in convention assembled, and that I am striving to facilitate the business of the Conference in the best way that I can, even if it requires a retraction of words hastily used, and with very kindest greetings, I am sincerely and

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Greenglass", is written over a faint circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "NEW YORK" and "JAN 17 1941".

DL/ar.



PLUM STREET TEMPLE

K.K.B'nai Yeshurun

CINCINNATI

OFFICE

ISAAC M. WISE CENTER
READING ROAD & NORTH CRESCENT AVE.
AVONDALE
PHONES AVON 334 AND 335

Rabbi James G. Heller

December 16, 1930.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abe:

You remember the plan which Wise was working on ~~the~~ last year, namely, to call a conference of likeminded men of the Conservative and Reform wings, to consider getting together a group, which would formulate a united program of liberal religion and Zionism. For various reasons Wise did not carry it through. In my opinion, it has become more necessary than ever. I am writing to yourself, Mordecai M. Kaplan, Goldman, Brickner, ~~Newman~~ and Wise, suggesting that the seven of us meet in Cleveland on February 5th, as a most central place, and devote the day to formulating a program and make plans for calling together the larger group.

Will you let me know whether it will be possible for you to attend this meeting?

With friendly greetings, I am

Yours sincerely,

JGH:M



CCAR

Dec. 23d, 1930

Rabbi James G. Heller,
Plum Street Temple,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Heller:-

Thank you for your letter of December 16th.

I am not in favor of organizing Zionist members in the Conservative and Reform wings as a unit. I believe it is poor tactics to say the least. Our objective should be not to divide the American Rabbinate into two sharply distinguished and opposite groups, but in winning control over all existing Rabbinical organizations for Zionist purposes.

That can be done now with comparative ease as was indicated at the last C. C. A. R. Conference in Providence.

Furthermore, the organization of Zionist Rabbis at this time would mean the organization of the anti-Zionist Rabbis who are at the present moment unorganized. This would be followed by a revival of the Zionist controversy which would be distinctly detrimental at this serious juncture in Zionist affairs.

We must assume that the organization of the Jewish Agency has, on the surface at least, united American Israel in behalf of Palestine. This is the central thought we must hammer away at. Let the onus of breaking the truce be upon the shoulders of those anti-Zionist Rabbis who found it advisable to remain quiet while Marshall was in control of the situation and while Palestinian affairs seemed to prosper and who now feel that their hour has again come.

We must not at this time confuse the mind of the Jewish laity with a recrudescence of polemics and ideologic conflicts.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, D. D.

KEHILATH ANSHE MAYRIV

DREXEL BLVD. AT 50TH ST.

CHICAGO

December 24,
1930.

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

Dear friend:

The Conference decided that we should send a complete questionnaire to the members of the Conference with regard to the Union Prayerbook. Enclosed you will find a copy of the questionnaire which I propose to send.

Will you please go over it carefully, make whatever suggestions you desire, and send them to me so that I can draw up the questionnaire that will express the opinions of the committee.

Our object must be to elicit from the membership every possible opinion with regard to the prayerbook.

Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

SBF.k

Sincerely yours,

Solomon B. Freehof

22.50
15.00
22.00
40.12

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, D. D.

KEHILATH ANSHE MAYRIV

DREXEL BLVD. AT 50TH ST.

CHICAGO

March 3rd,
1 9 3 1.

Dear friend:

Some time ago I sent each member of the Liturgy Committee a copy of a proposed questionnaire asking for suggested improvements or corrections. I have received a number of suggestions which I have embodied in the questionnaire. If you have no objections, I will now send the questionnaire to Rabbi Marcuson to be printed and sent to the members of the Conference. If I do not hear from you within a week I shall send the questionnaire to Marcuson.

Sincerely yours,

SBF.k

Solomon B. Freehof



CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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Office of the Chairman
Har Sinai Temple
Bolton and Wilson Sts.
Baltimore, Md.

A P R I L
1 9 5 1

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SAMUEL S. MAYERBERG
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STEPHEN S. WISE

Dear Abba:

May I ask your assistance in a unique venture of our Social Justice Commission in cooperation with the similar body of the U. A. H. C.?

For the first time in our history we are going to conduct an industrial seminar under our own auspices. Heretofore, we have done this work only jointly with the national Catholic and Protestant parties. We have selected Cincinnati as the place for the initial meeting and Thursday, May 7th as the date. I enclose a copy of our program which, as you see, constitutes a very fine introduction the whole problem of industrial relations from a social point of view.

Will you send immediately by return mail a list of about fifty laymen of your community, preferably Jewish, although not necessarily only Jews, to whom we could send an announcement of this seminar and an invitation to attend? Our time is very brief and we need this list at once.

Secondly, will you personally see whether you can attend and bring with you a group of your own laymen? We are intensely interested in the success of this program because, if it goes over well, it will be the first of a series which we hope to hold in other communities throughout the country.

We realize full well that it is impossible to get this meeting across unless we can get the proper publicity. For this we need your help.

Heartiest personal greetings.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple, Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Silver', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

P. S. If you would like to have some of these programs for distribution broadcast among the members of your congregation, and if you will notify me of the number that you wish, I will send them to you so that they can be enclosed in your temple bulletin. This, of course, does not interfere with the list of fifty prominent laymen of your community to whom we want to send personal invitations.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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April 22, 1931

Dear Abba:

The program which you received yesterday had a serious mistake in it, due to a bad blunder by the printer after the proof had been read correctly. I wish you would use your influence to get us some good publicity in the local press, both Jewish and general.

Sincerely,

P. S. If you haven't yet sent me the list for which I ask in my former letter, will you please do it immediately, special delivery? Many thanks.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple, Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

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Liturgical Committee
Aragon Hotel, 5401 Cornell Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

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JACOB SINGER, Chicago, Illinois

May 6th, 1931.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LITURGY COMMITTEE:

You will undoubtedly remember that a meeting was held in Philadelphia by various Rabbis who were interested in the Sunday Services, and as a result of that Committee, the Executive Board authorized us to write a new Sunday Service. In writing this service, I should like to have the close cooperation of those who conduct a Sunday Service and hence are most interested in the task. I would like to send the enclosed letter to them, but shall not do so unless you approve. If I do not hear from you within a week, I shall take the liberty of assuming that you do approve.

Secondly, as to our report to the Conference this year. We have received a most encouraging response to our questionnaire. Forty-two of our members (eleven fully, ten detailed, and twenty-one briefly) have responded, which is a fine result. However, many of the important members and officers of the Conference have not yet responded. It seems to me that we are justified in the hope that with a little more urging at this coming Convention of the Conference we shall be able to get many more important responses. We will be better prepared for our work than any preceding revision committee if we get considered opinions of the majority of the Conference. I would, therefore, like to have our report to the Conference this year consist merely of a statement of how many responses we have gotten and how encouraging the results are and a plea to the rest of the Conference to give us an hour or two of their time in answering the questionnaire. We might also include a list of those who have already responded. It seems to me that it is worthwhile making an effort to get a fairly complete response, especially since we have done so well thus far.

Let me hear from you with regard to this matter as soon as possible because the Executive Board likes to have all reports in early.

Would you be good enough to write this week? I shall appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

Solomon B. Freedman
Chairman, Liturgy Committee.

SBF.lsk

SOME ASPECTS
of
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



A
Symposium

Under the joint auspices of the
COMMISSIONS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
of the
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
and the
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS



HOTEL SINTON-ST. NICHOLAS, CINCINNATI, OHIO

THURSDAY, MAY SEVENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY ONE

The public is cordially invited to all sessions. No registration fee.

MORNING SESSION

10 o'clock

Collective Bargaining

DR. I. M. RUBINOW, *Presiding*

The Employer and Collective Bargaining

MR. ALBERT HARMAN, *Nash Tailoring Company*

The American Federation of Labor

MR. JAMES WILSON, *Pres., International Brotherhood of Pattern Makers*

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America

MR. JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG, *Genl. Secy-Treas., A. C. W.*

Discussion

AFTERNOON SESSION

2 o'clock

Unemployment

MR. SAMUEL ACH, *Presiding*

Stabilization of Industry

MR. R. R. DEUPREE, *Pres., The Proctor & Gamble Company*

Public Works

MR. DARWIN J. MESEROLE, *Pres., Natl. Unemployment League*

Unemployment Insurance

DR. ISADOR LUBIN, *Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Discussion

EVENING SESSION

8 o'clock

The Social Philosophy of Judaism

JUDGE ROBERT MARKS, *Presiding*

Introductory Statement.....RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL, *Chairman, Commission on Social Justice, C. C. A. R.*

The Rabbi and Social Justice.....DR. ABRAHAM CRONBACH, *Prof. of Social Studies, Hebrew Union College*

The Jewish Layman and Social Justice.....MR. MILFORD STERN, *Chairman, Commission on Social Justice, U. A. H. C.*

. . . COMMITTEES . . .

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of the
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COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

MR. ROBERT P. GOLDMAN, CHAIRMAN

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May 12th,
1931.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LITURGY COMMITTEE:

Dear Colleague:

I am enclosing a suggested draft for the report of our Committee to the Conference this year. Will you be good enough to give me your opinion of it? If it satisfies you as it stands, will you please simply sign your name to it and return the signed copy to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope?

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Solomon B. Freehof

Chairman, Liturgy Committee.

SBF.lsk

9:05am - 12/4/0

CENTRAL CONFERENCE of AMERICAN RABBIS

DAVID LEFKOWITZ, President

MORRIS NEWFIELD, Vice-President

FELIX A. LEVY, Treasurer

JAMES G. HELLER, Corresponding Secretary

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Recording Secretary

- BULLETIN -

Volume VI.

May 15, 1931

No. 2.

TIME AND PLACE OF CONVENTION

As you were previously notified the next convention of the Conference will be held at Wawasee, Indiana, June 17-21, 1931. Wawasee is on the B. & O. Railway, twenty miles from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Men coming from the East or West will go directly to Wawasee on the B. & O. Those from the South will find it most convenient to come through Fort Wayne. From Cincinnati the Pennsylvania leaves at 9:00 A. M. arriving at Fort Wayne at 2:05 P. M. Central Standard Time. There are several other trains from Cincinnati. Arrangements have been made to transport the members from Fort Wayne to Wawasee. Rabbi Markowitz will be in charge of this transportation and requests that the members let him know when they will arrive in Fort Wayne.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Executive Board at the Spink—Wawasee Hotel beginning Tuesday, June the 16th at 9:00 A. M.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN NOTICE

The Executive Board has decided that all committee reports shall be presented to the Convention in printed form. In order to accomplish this reports must be in the hands of the yearbook editor before June 1st. Please send your report to your committee so that it may be signed by at least half of the members or it cannot be presented to the Convention. Please note this carefully so as to avoid unpleasantness. All reports which are not submitted in time shall not be read at the Convention.

REVISION OF THE UNION PRAYER BOOK

Have you filled out and returned the questionnaire submitted by the Liturgical Committee on the Revision of the Union Prayer Book. Less than fifty replies have been received. The Committee cannot carry out the will of the members unless these questionnaires are returned. Please do so promptly.

COMMITTEE ON SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

The President urges that every member cooperate with Rabbi Margolis in gathering funds for the relief of colleagues and scholars. Are you doing your best to increase this fund?

MEMBERS ATTENDING THE CONVENTION

Letters have been sent to all presidents of congregations urging that the expense of the rabbi in attending the convention shall be met by the congregation. It is earnestly hoped that this will make possible the largest meeting that the conference has ever had.

PROGRAM OF CONVENTION

A tentative program of the convention is included herewith. Please note the interesting items which will be presented.

QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE WORLD UNION

A questionnaire of the World Union is enclosed. Please fill out one yourself and urge the members of your congregation to fill out the other copies.

HOTEL FOLDER

A folder of the Spink-Wawasee Hotel is also enclosed. The hotel is making a flat rate of \$8.00 a day, American plan for the period of the Convention. This rate will apply whether there be one or two in the room. As the number of single rooms is limited, try to arrange to share a room with some friend.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

A list of applications for membership is also enclosed. Please study these names carefully and if you have objections, please notify the Recording Secretary so that the matter may be presented to the Executive Board. I am sure it is not necessary to assure you that your communication will be considered confidential.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Your attention is called to the fact that action will be taken on the amendments to Article III, Sections 1 and 2 relating to membership which was considered in a resolution which was presented at the last convention.

GRAMMAR BABYLONIAN ARAMAIC

Attention is called to a grammar Babylonian Aramaic by Caspar Levia, indispensable to the study of the structure of the Babylonian Talmud, issued under the auspices of the Alexander Kohut Foundation and published by the Bloch Publishing Company. (Price \$3.50)

GROUP INSURANCE

The Special Committee of the Executive Board that has been studying Group Insurance for the members of the Conference, will present a plan of \$2,500.00 insurance available to all members of the Conference under the age of sixty-six. This Group Insurance with low premium should appeal to all members of the Conference. Be prepared to consider the plan seriously at the forthcoming Conference at Wawasee.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following names will be presented to the Executive Board for Membership.

Name	Training	Position Held
Solomon Frank	LLB University of Buffalo, M. A. U. of Manitoba	Asst. Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo. Rabbi Temple Beth David, Buffalo, 1925-26. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Winnipeg, Canada, since 1926
Ferdinand K. Hirsch	Hebrew Union College 1902-06	Bessemer, Ala. Athens, Ga. Sumter, S. C. Monroe, La.
Shalom B. Maximon		Registrar Hebrew Union College

Graduates of Class of 1931, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, who may apply.

If you have any objection to the election of these applicants kindly inform the secretary. Any information furnished will of course be considered strictly confidential.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON

Recording Secretary

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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Liturgical Committee
Aragon Hotel, 5401 Cornell Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

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JACOB SINGER, Chicago, Illinois

May 25th,
1931.

Dear colleague:

I am adding the following sentence to the
Liturgy Committee report:

"The task of preparing a Sunday Service
Ritual has been referred to this committee,
and the committee will go to work immediately
in the fall after consulting the members of
the Conference who conduct a Sunday Service".

If I do not hear from you to the contrary, I
shall append this sentence to our report.

Sincerely yours,

Solomon B. Freehof

Chairman, Liturgy Committee.

SBF.k

[undated]

Dear friend:

You were present at a meeting in Philadelphia in January to discuss the question of a new ritual for Sunday Services. As a result of that meeting the Executive Board directed the Prayerbook Committee of the Conference, of which I have the honor to be chairman, to take steps towards the preparation of a new Sunday Service.

In order that an adequate Sunday Service be provided, I should like to keep in touch with all of you who were present at that meeting.

Will you please tell me what, in your opinion, such a service should be like, what it should contain, and which part of its present contents in the Union Prayerbook Services it is not necessary to retain, also, are you willing to write some part of the services if called upon? It is a little too late to prepare a suitable service this season but if we get sufficient suggestions and help from those most interested, it will be possible to have the services ready in the fall.

Sincerely yours,

Signed Solomon B. Freehof,
Chairman, Liturgy Committee.

SBF.k

[undated]

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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Office of Recording Secretary
204 Buford Place
Macon, Ga.

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STEPHEN S. WISE

Dear Colleague:

After a thorough investigation, the Conference Committee on Insurance is convinced that the Union Pension Plan is most feasible and advantageous. By its terms, the members are assured of a fixed income in old age. Toward the payments of the annual premium, the Union agrees to contribute the sum of ten dollars per year for every year's service in the ministry from the time of graduation to the year 1927, an annual contribution of no inconsiderable amount.

In respect to the year when this annuity shall begin, the original Plan suggested the age of 68. As a matter of fact, the annuity may commence AT ANY AGE the applicant desires, it being clearly understood that the earlier the age when the annuity shall begin, the proportionately less annuity will be paid to the individual.

Should any members feel that they are unable personally to carry their share of the premium, at least for the purchase of a minimum annuity of \$2400, an arrangement might be made to reduce the present minimum by one half, to an annuity of \$1200. Of course, the annuity is available in LARGER AMOUNTS and may be had, in units of \$100, at the same rate of cost.

We are anxious to see this Pension Plan put into early operation. To this end, we are circularizing the members so as to draw up a definite report of our position for presentation to the Union, at the forthcoming Philadelphia Convention.

Will you please co-operate with the Committee by answering the questions on the enclosed card and mailing the same promptly?

Cordially,

SAMUEL M. GUP,
Chairman.

SOME ASPECTS
of
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



A
Symposium

Under the joint auspices of the
COMMISSIONS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
of the
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
and the
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS



HOTEL SINTON-ST. NICHOLAS, CINCINNATI, OHIO

THURSDAY, MAY SEVENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY ONE

The public is cordially invited to all sessions. No registration fee.

MORNING SESSION

10 o'clock

Collective Bargaining

DR. I. M. RUBINOW, *Presiding*

The Employer and Collective Bargaining

MR. ALBERT HARMAN, *Nash Tailoring Company*

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America

MR. JAMES WILSON, *Pres., International Brotherhood of Pattern Makers*

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America

MR. JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG, *Genl. Secy-Treas., A. C. W.*

Discussion

AFTERNOON SESSION

2 o'clock

Unemployment

MR. SAMUEL ACH, *Presiding*

Stabilization of Industry

MR. R. R. DEUPREE, *Pres., The Proctor & Gamble Company*

Public Works

MR. DARWIN J. MESEROLE, *Pres., Natl. Unemployment League*

Unemployment Insurance

DR. ISADOR LUBIN, *Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Discussion

EVENING SESSION

8 o'clock

The Social Philosophy of Judaism

JUDGE ROBERT MARKS, *Presiding*

Introductory Statement.....RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL, *Chairman, Commission on Social Justice, C. C. A. R.*

The Rabbi and Social Justice.....DR. ABRAHAM CRONBACH, *Prof. of Social Studies, Hebrew Union College*

The Jewish Layman and Social Justice.....MR. MILFORD STERN, *Chairman, Commission on Social Justice, U. A. H. C.*

. . . COMMITTEES . . .

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of the
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