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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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Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1933-1934.

June 30, 1933

Taking a very definite stand on certain critical social issues, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, meeting at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 23rd, unanimously approved the report of its Social Justice Commission, presented by the chairman, Rabbi Edward L. Israel, Har Sinai Congregation, Baltimore.

With a frankness tragically unique among religious denominations, the Conference singled out members of its own faith for condemnation. It denounced sweat shop conditions in general, apropos the widespread breakdown of what little remains of industrial standards, but it specifically turned its attention to members of the Jewish group who were guilty of these reprehensible labor practices. It said: "In addition to our general denunciation of all sweat shop employers, we especially condemn such employers of this type as may be Jews and declare that in our judgment they represent an element unworthy of membership in a group which has held for thousands of years the social ideals of Israel.

There has been much discussion concerning the case of Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein of Montgomery, Alabama, whose difficulties with his congregation came to a climax when he was ordered to desist all activities in the Scottsboro and Tallapoosa cases. Rabbi Goldstein, refusing, was told that he could not be reelected. The Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis was asked by certain leaders of the Montgomery community to make an impartial investigation before it passed final judgment on the merits of the case between rabbi and congregation. Such an investigation has been ordered. However, against the background of these difficulties the Central Conference issued a declaration in which it expressed "condemnation of conditions existing in several sections of our land which seem to offer evidence of the inability of the Negro to secure economic or civil justice." It urged the support of those who fought against these conditions, especially by religious groups and added: "Regardless of the reactionary pressure of environment, such social action is the only course consistent with a high standard of social and religious idealism." Along the same line, the Conference reiterated certain definite principles concerning the freedom of the pulpit in these unmistakable terms:

SOCIAL JUSTICE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, JUNE 1933.

I. One of the most horrible aspects of the present economic crisis is the manner in which unscrupulous employers are breaking down what little standards remain in the field of labor. Impartial investigations have established the fact that in many places throughout the land, and especially in certain textile industries in the Eastern industrial states, sweat shop conditions of an almost unbelievable type are increasing. Labor exploitation of the vilest sort is practiced.

We unalterably condemn these practices and urge that every assistance be given government officials, fair employers and labor leaders in their efforts to destroy these conditions. In addition to our general denunciation of all sweat shop employers, we especially condemn such employers of this type as may be Jews and declare that in our judgment they represent an element unworthy of membership in a group which has held for thousands of years the social ideals of Israel.

II. We view with great regret the widespread failure of state legislatures during the past few months to cope effectively with problems of child labor, old age pensions, unemployment insurance and other aspects of social legislation. Particularly do we deplore the repeated defeats of unemployment insurance bills in various states. It would seem as though those in control of present political and economic society were unwilling to take the most conservative step in any program of social reconstruction. We commend our federal government for the contrasting social attitude it has shown in many instances and urge that such constitutional measures be adopted as will facilitate the spread of these social measures among the individual states. We feel that we live in a critical period in which only intelligent legislative action along progressive social lines will avoid the outbreak of a less orderly and intelligent struggle for justice.

III. We, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, express our deep concern with and condemnation of conditions existing in several sections of our land which seem to offer evidence of the inability of the Negro to secure economic or civil justice. We urge that in the interest of true religious idealism and sound American democracy these injustices be abolished. We heartily commend those who are laboring in this spirit to bring about true justice.

The demands of social justice are almost inevitably unpopular among reactionary forces of bigotry and economic exploitation. We call especially upon congregations of all faiths to resist the pressure of these anti-social forces to the extent of supporting their leaders in their activities in behalf of a persecuted race. Regardless of the reactionary pressure of environment, such social action is the only course consistent with a high standard of social and religious idealism.

We, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, reiterate that portion of our Social Justice Program which proclaims not only the right but the duty of a free pulpit. Congregations in Israel must understand that the social conscience of Judaism is very often directly incompatible with widespread accepted prejudices and private interests. The pulpit may not be frustrated by intimidation in its honest expression of these frequently unpopular points of view. The Jewish pulpit must not be made an echo of the comfortable prejudices and conventional bigotries of the day. Moreover, the freedom of the pulpit extends to all activities of the rabbi in the community. Here by his actions, as well as in the pulpit by his words, he must follow the sound dictates of the spiritual and social ideals of Judaism if we are to continue as a positive religious force in the world.

IV. A situation has arisen in Montgomery Alabama where an issue of race prejudice and the rights of rabbinical expression in such matters appear to be involved. A careful preliminary examination has disclosed a very complex condition. The Montgomery congregation has asked our Conference, should our body desire to consider the ethics of the matter, to make a detailed investigation. This Conference, actuated by the twofold motive of fairness to the congregation and a deep zeal for the freedom of the rabbinate, accepts the invitation of Congregation Beth Or of Montgomery. The Executive Committee of the Conference is hereby authorized to appoint a committee representing the Social Justice Commission and the Executive Board to make such an investigation and to publish its findings under the joint authority of those two bodies.

"Congregations in Israel must understand that the social conscience of Judaism is very often directly incompatible with widespread accepted prejudices and private interests. The pulpit may not be frustrated by intimidation in its honest expression of these frequently unpopular points of view. The Jewish pulpit must not be made an echo of the comfortable prejudices and conventional bigotries of the day.

With regard to the "New Deal" as expressed in the Industrial Recovery Act, the rabbis gave voice to their commendation of the forward looking policies of the Administration. They pointed out the fact, however, that the Industrial Recovery Act is decidedly vague and can easily fall into the hands of reactionary trade organizations. The essence of the real spirit of the Act, according to the rabbis, lies in the protection of labor and the actual participation of organized labor in the regulation and control of industry. Long time ago in their Social Justice Program, the Central Conference of American Rabbis laid down the principle that the man who invests his life in an industry through toil has at least equal rights in that industry with the man who invests his money. With specific reference to the Industrial Recovery legislation, the rabbis said: "We believe in such legislation as will effectively manage production and distribution. We also believe that such a program places upon government a responsibility which cannot be delegated to secure adequate living wages, definite labor representation in the management of industry, and a proper social control of our present profit system."

The excuses given in the various states for the failure to accede to the drive for unemployment insurance in particular and other social legislation in general this past winter appear to the rabbis a particularly obnoxious form of ethical mendacity. Commercial organizations have fought social insurance in the state legislatures on the grounds that it would raise competitive difficulties for the states adopting these laws. The ethical mendacity is obvious in the fact that these same forces have opposed these laws when they were fought for nationally, applying equally to all states. The Central Conference of American Rabbis made this statement in part: "It would seem that those in control of present political and economical society were unwilling to take the most conservative step in any program of social reconstruction. We commend our federal government for the contrasting social attitude it has shown in many instances and urge that such constitutional measures be adopted as will facilitate the spread of these social measures among the individual states. We feel that we live in a critical period in which only intelligent legislative action along progressive social lines will avoid the outbreak of a less orderly and intelligent struggle for justice.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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August 22, 1933

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Even though, as you state, you are no longer a member of the Executive Board of the C.C.A.R., I am glad you received a copy of our proposed Message. While I do not entirely agree with your criticisms, I find them extremely valuable and shall certainly take them into account in formulating the final statement of the Message.

Cordial personal greetings.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Israel



g.
Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums
Das Lehrerkollegium

BERLIN N 24, den 18. September 1933
Artillerie-Straße 14

Guttmann
Herrn

Dr. Abba Silver

The Temple

E. 105 Street and
Anselroad

Cleveland
=====

Sehr geehrter Herr Doktor Silver !

Mit dem Dank für die freundliche Uebersendung des Buches, dass ich mit grosser Freude gelesen habe, habe ich bis zu Ihrer Rückkehr aus Europa gewartet. Ich nehme an, dass Sie jetzt wieder zu Hause eingetroffen sind und verbinde mit meinem herzlichen Dank die besten Wünsche für das neue Jahr. Ich benutze die Gelegenheit um mich in einer wichtigen Angelegenheit an Sie zu wenden.

Heute erhalte ich die aufregende Nachricht, dass die C.C.A.R. beschlossen haben soll, vier Subventionen von je \$ 2500,- für jüdische Gelehrte aus Deutschland zu zahlen, und dass Baron die Leute auswählen soll. Ich kann mir nicht denken, dass das stimmt. Wenn die C C A R Geld übrig hat und ausgeben will, werden ihr doch in erster Reihe die Rabbinerbildungsanstalten am Herzen liegen, die heute alle vor dem Untergang stehen. 1933 hat die jüdische Gemeinde Berlin sie gerettet, aber in Zukunft kann die Gemeinde diese Opfer nicht bringen, und wir wissen alle nicht, was aus den Anstalten und den Menschen, die an ihnen tätig sind, werden soll. Hier wäre die C C A R in erster Reihe berufen zu helfen, die Erhaltung der jüdischen Wissenschaft und jüdischen Theologie bildet doch ihr primäres Interesse. Wenn bis Ende 1933 für die Hochschule der Betrag von

von \$ 2500,- in drei Raten einginge, würde das Defizit gerade gedeckt werden können. ~~An~~ das Jahr 1934 wagen wir noch garnicht zu denken.

Ich weiss nicht, ob die C C A R auch für das orthodoxe Seminar eintreten wird, sie könnte den Rabbinerverband, der United Synagoges heranziehen und denen die Sorge für die Orthodoxen überlassen, selbst für die Nichtorthodoxen sorgen.

Und noch eins. Die Verteilung könnte die C C A R uns hier anvertrauen; wenn sie selbst uns, die wir daran interessiert sind, ausschliessen will, könnten Männer, wie Baeck, Seligmann und Vogelstein die Gewähr der Unparteilichkeit bieten. Jemand, der nur gelegentlich hereinschaut, kann die Verhältnisse nicht übersehen.

Herzliche Grüsse auch von meiner Frau

der Ihre



October 2, 1933.

Dr. Samuel Goldenson,
Congregation Rodef Shalom,
4905 5th Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Dr. Goldenson:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from Dr. Guttman of the Hochschule fur die Wissenschaft des Judentums, in Berlin. I think there is considerable merit in what he says. You might wish to bring this matter up before the executives of the Conference.

With all good wishes for a very happy new year, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:EK
Enc.

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October 4, 1933.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street At Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Answering your letter of October 2, let me say that I am forwarding Dr. Guttman's letter to Rabbi Newfield, who is especially conversant with this matter and then will discuss it at the Executive Board meeting in a few weeks.

With personal greetings and best wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

SHG:AS

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October 9, 1933.

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing herewith Rabbi Newfield's answer to my letter. This will give you the correct information which you may transmit to Dr. Guttman, whose letter I am returning.

With personal greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

S. H. Goldenson

SHG:AS

October 11, 1933.

Dr. Guttman,
Hochschule for die Wissenschaft des Judentums,
Berlin, Germany.

My dear Dr. Guttman:

I was very happy to receive your letter of September 18th and to know that you and your dear wife are well.

I took up the matter to which you refer with Dr. Goldenson, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He, in turn, corresponded with Rabbi Newfield who was his immediate predecessor in office. I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter which Rabbi Newfield sent to Dr. Goldenson which explains the position of the Central Conference in the matter.

I hope that in these trying times that you are well and strong. Please convey my best wishes to Mrs. Guttman as well as to the faculty of the Hochschule.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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November 2nd 1933

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St and Ansel Rd
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abe:

The program committee would like a discussion of the Pittsburgh platform as part of the proceedings of the next Conference and extends to you a cordial invitation to lead such discussion in company with Philipson and Saml Shulman. I trust you will be able to accept this assignment and will so inform me at your earliest opportunity.

With kindest greetings from house to house, I remain,

Cordially,

Felix

FAL:JD

November 6, 1933.

Dr. Felix A. Levy,
Central Conference of American Rabbis,
445 Melrose Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Felix:

Thank you for your kind letter of November 2nd and for the invitation which you extend to me on behalf of the program committee of the C. C. A. R. to participate in the program of the forthcoming Conference. I should like very much to accept but I am not at all certain whether I will be able to attend the Conference next year.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

February
Thirteenth
1934

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Under separate cover I am sending you Volume I of "The Sources for the Religious Life of the Early Hebrews" which I mentioned when I spoke with you in Cleveland.

It occurred to me that selected portions of it might be placed into the hands of students registered in courses on the Bible in your Institute. A glance over the general index for Volume I (pages 1-12) will indicate that not all the material contained therein is suitable for the purpose. However, sections 13-24, 45-68, and 75-141 appear to be valuable material and ought to make interesting and instructive reading.

If, after examining this material, you think it can be of service to you in your work, it may be made available in mimeographed form, depending upon the number of copies you and other Rabbis will order.

This Volume is one of 12, embracing the entire ideology of the Bible.

Cordially yours,

H. L. Comins

Director,
Youth Activities

HLC:mk

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- BULLETIN -

Volume IX.

April, 1934

No. 2.

TIME AND PLACE OF CONVENTION

The next convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis will be held at South Mountain Manor, Wernersville, Pennsylvania, June 14 to 18. Being at a resort, away from the distractions of the city, the convention promises a good time and opportunity for fine fellowship. Make your plans to attend.

HOTEL RATES

The following rates have been fixed for the convention (American Plan:)

Single Room, running water \$5.00 per day each.

Double Room, running water \$4.00 & \$4.50 per person.

Single Room, private bath \$6.00 each.

Double Room, private bath \$5.50 & \$6.00 daily per person.

Suites—2 double rooms with bath between \$5.00 to \$5.50 daily per person.

Remember these rates are American Plan including room and board. Make your reservations direct to the hotel, South Mountain Manor, Wernersville, Pa.

GOLF—TENNIS—BATHING—HORSEBACK RIDING—GOOD MUSIC

PROGRAM

The Program Committee has prepared an exceptionally interesting program allowing time for recreation and discussion.

Buber and Neo-Mysticism—John J. Tepfer

New Discoveries in Karaism—Professor Jacob Mann

The Philosophic, Social and Religious Implications of the Newer Anti-Semitism in Germany—Martin Friedman

Conference Lecture—William Rosenau

Conference Sermon—Abraham J. Feldman

On Saturday afternoon, Professor Lauterbach will conduct a Kallah reading and discussing a page of the Talmud.

An exceedingly interesting Educational Day Program has been prepared by Abraham J. Feldman, Chairman.

COMMITTEES

Committee Chairmen are urged to round up their season's work and submit their reports to the full committee for approval so that a signed report can be in the hands of the secretary two weeks before the convention.

REVISION OF THE UNION PRAYERBOOK

Have you sent in your criticisms or suggestions of the Sunday Morning Services, a copy of which was sent you sometime back? The committee needs your help in ascertaining what type of service will best satisfy the wants of the congregation. Have you ordered your copies? 10c each.

WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

An International Conference will be held in London, England, July 6-10. If you plan to be in London at this time, please notify the president or secretary should you care to be appointed a delegate.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following applications for membership have been received. If you have any objections, kindly notify the secretary with the assurance that your information will be considered confidential.

Abraham N. Franzblau, Associate Professor Jewish Religious
Education, H. U. C.

1934 Graduates, H. U. C. and J. I. R.

DUPLICATES OF YEARBOOKS

Many requests come to the secretary for back numbers of the yearbooks which are out of print. If you have duplicates, won't you notify the secretary and give them to members who miss certain volumes?

SUMMER SEMINAR ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, in cooperation with the Social Justice Commissions of the Rabbinical Assembly, representing the Conservative group, and the Rabbinical Council, representing the Orthodox group, is arranging to conduct a Seminar for Rabbis this summer on the subject of Social Justice. The Seminar will be held in New York City for a period of ten days or two weeks, beginning Monday, July 9th. The joint committee has agreed upon four Seminar courses, a program of field work, and a series of conferences with leaders in religious and social life.

The four courses to be given are as follows:

1. Social Attitudes in Jewish Tradition: A background course that will discuss the development of Jewish thought concerning problems of charity, labor, rights of property, authority of Government, and War and Peace.
2. Judaism and Current Social Philosophies: A consideration of the compatibility of Judaism with the social systems of Capitalism, Socialism, Fascism, Communism and Democracy.
3. Problems of Marriage and the Family: A discussion of the changes that are taking place in the foundation, structure, organization and function of the Jewish family in America.
4. The Synagogue and Social Action: A study in social technique for the Rabbi and the Congregation based upon case work.

Cordially yours,

Samuel H. Goldenson, President

Isaac E. Marcuson, Recording Secretary

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Honorary Presidents: DAVID PHILIPSON, Cincinnati, Ohio; SAMUEL SCHULMAN, New York; JOSEPH STOLZ, Chicago, Ill.

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STEPHEN S. WISE, New York City

April 14, 1934

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

Dear Abe:

I am tremendously disappointed at not having heard from you in connection with the Central Conference Pension Fund Appeal.

The date of the Conference is drawing near. Once more the Executive Committee will have to deal with a great many requests for assistance to indigent rabbis, scholars, and other unfortunates. Many of these deserving requests will have to be denied unless our rabbis show more interest in the Solicitation Committee's work.

Will you not circularize your membership on behalf of this cause? I will be happy to have made for you any number of letters similar to the enclosed, or if you wish, you may write your own appeal letter. But please do something--at once!

May I not hear from you?

With cordial greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

IFR:S
Encl.

April 30, 1934.

Rabbi Irving F. Reichert,
Temple Emanuel,
Arguello Blvd. and Lake St.,
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Irving:

Please do not feel disappointed in not having heard from me in connection with the Central Conference Pension Fund Appeal. I had hoped to give you a favorable report. Unfortunately we have just circularized our membership in behalf of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and it is quite impossible to send out another schnorring letter at this time. I would like you to have a good report at the Conference and I know how important the Pension Fund is but I am afraid that our solicitation will have to be postponed until next season.

With all good wishes to you and your dear ones, and hoping to see you at the Conference, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Honorary Presidents: DAVID PHILIPSON, Cincinnati, Ohio; SAMUEL SCHULMAN, New York; JOSEPH STOLZ, Chicago, Ill.

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Office of the Chairman
40 West 68th St.
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May 4, 1934.

Dear Friend:

I enclose herewith a summary of the points and paragraphs of the Report of the Social Justice Commission that we must present at the Conference in June. You will understand, of course, that the points I include are tentative and the paragraphs only abstracts.

Would you be kind enough to study these points carefully and let me have your comments and your criticisms within a few days. You will discover, no doubt, that every point is merely an expansion or development of some article in the program that the Conference adopted in 1928, or of some statement subsequently approved by the members of the Conference.

We must have our Report, as you know, in the hands of the members of the Conference two weeks in advance of the Conference itself, that is, by June 1st. I should, therefore, greatly appreciate it if you would let me have your reply by not later than May 15th.

With kind greetings, believe me

Yours cordially

Sidney E. Goldstein

COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

DAVID PHILIPSON, *Cincinnati,*
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ABRAM SIMON, *Washington*
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DAVID PHILIPSON
Elementary Education
WILLIAM ROSENAU
Youth Education
SAMUEL SCHULMAN
Adult and University Education
H. G. ENELOW
Teacher Training
ABRAM SIMON
Pre-School Education and Home Training
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Assistant Director
Synagogue and School Extension
EMANUEL GAMORAN
Educational Director
HARRY L. COMINS
Director, Youth Activities

JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

May
Seventh
1934

Dr. Abba H. Silver
East 105th & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am calling a meeting of the Commission on Jewish Education to be held at the South Mountain Manor, Wernersville, Pa., June 12th, two days before the meeting of the C.C.A.R.

I am setting this date because meetings hitherto called on the day preceding the Conference meeting have been poorly attended for the reason that some of the members of the Commission also serve on the Executive Board of the Conference, which always holds its meetings on the day preceding the Conference.

The Union is not in the position to pay the travelling expenses of the members of the Commission but the hotel expenses for the two days preceding the Conference will be paid.

I am requesting the chairman of each Committee to prepare a report dealing with the accomplishments of the year and setting forth any plans for the ensuing season.

Chairmen of Committees are requested to address themselves to the preparation of their reports. The Secretary of the Board, together with the Directors Gamoran and Comins, have been requested to gather the material bearing on the work of each Committee for the year ending in June, 1934.

The meeting would be greatly shortened and business expedited if these could be handed in before June 1st so that copies may be struck off and sent in advance to all members of the Commission.

Dr. Abba H. Silver, Page 2.

Please advise me on the enclosed care if we
can expect you.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting
and with kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

David Philipson

Chairman.

DP:JMc



(Form of appeal letter - to be multigraphed on Conference Letterhead.)

Dear Friend:

In the name of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I am writing to ask your assistance for a most urgent and deserving cause.

There are in America today a great many rabbis grown old and infirm in the services of our people and no longer able to continue the active duties of the ministry. There are many unemployed rabbis with honorable records who are unplaced simply because many small congregations can no longer afford to retain a minister. A great many widows and orphans of rabbis are utterly without means of support. Moreover, in European centers of Jewish learning, particularly Germany, there are scholars and sages who have lost their livelihoods and possessions and are facing privation and suffering.

These unfortunate people must be helped. Men who have spent their lives in loyal service to Jewry, and bereaved dependents of such men, have a just and solemn claim upon us for assistance in their hour of need.

The Pension Fund of the Central Conference of American Rabbis is the only existing agency to give aid in a dignified manner to these deserving people. Each year the members of the Conference are called upon to appeal to their communities to support this work. This year, because of the widespread distress at home and abroad, our Pension Fund is called upon to meet an unprecedented need.

May I urge you to send a contribution for this worthy work. Your gift whether small or large will be gratefully received. Please make your check payable to the Central Conference Pension Fund.

Sincerely yours,

IFR:S

May 9, 1934.

Rabbi Sidney E. Goldstein,
40 West 68th St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Goldstein:

I approve of the report of the Social Justice Commission which you sent me. There are one or two suggestions that I would like to offer for the consideration of the Commission.

(1) The paragraph on minority groups does not in my judgment belong to this report but rather to the Commission on Peace or some other commission of the Conference.

(2) I am not entirely persuaded that the Conference ought to go on record at this time as favoring the outlawing of the Company Union. We have in recent years insisted on the right of labor to organize and to bargain collectively. That the Company Union is altogether unjustified in the presence of the only other alternative -- the A.F.L. will be questioned even by some of those who believe in organized labor.

The last sentence in that same paragraph says so little because it says too much. Is the Conference ready to go on record as favoring the reorganization of our economic system so as to eliminate competition and private profit? That, of course, means Socialism. Why not say it? And if we do not wish to say it, why use "weasel" words just to make ourselves feel good?

(3) Do we wish to urge a system of price control by our Federal Government? I am not at all clear in my own mind as to the advisability of having the Federal Government control prices in all fields of economic activity unless again we favor an outright system of State Socialism. In that case we should say so. I think the use of the term "socialized democracy" is ingenious but not quite candid.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

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JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

May
Twenty-three
1934

Dr. Abba H. Silver
East 105th & Ansel Road
Cleveland, O.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I take pleasure in sending you a copy of the report of the Commission on Jewish Education to the Central Conference of American Rabbis. This report is usually approved by the Commission before it is presented to the Conference.

Looking forward to seeing you in Wernersville, with kindest regards,

Sincerely,

George Zepin
Secretary

GZ:JS

ABSTRACT OF REPORT
of
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

June 1934

PART I

I
STATE REPRESENTATIVES

In order to enlist the interest of a larger number of men in the work of the Social Justice Commission it seems desirable to have one Rabbi in each State serve as a representative. This man would be expected to study social conditions in his own State and keep us posted upon the problems that develop and the progress of Legislation in which we are interested. We in turn could function through him in the development of our program in his State. There is a precedent for this plan in the State representatives in the Commission on Church and State of the Central Conference.

II
SYNAGOGUE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

In every Congregation there should be a Committee on Social Justice, as there is a Committee on Education. This Committee should be composed of representatives of the Synagogue, the Sisterhood and the Brotherhood. Where such a Committee is formed we should be able to address the members of the Committee as well as the Rabbi and through them spread the message of social justice and secure action in support of the program of the Social Justice Commission. This plan, of course, must be worked out in cooperation with the Social Justice Commission of the Union and the Officers of the National Brotherhood and Sisterhood groups.

III
REGIONAL MEETINGS

In order to interest the members of our Congregations and the members of the Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods in the Social Justice Program it seems desirable to arrange for a series of Regional Meetings to which representatives of the Organizations in each district could be invited. These Regional Conferences could be held in conjunction with the Regional Conferences of the Union on Education, or independently. It would be inadvisable, it seems, to hold more than three of these Conferences within the next year: One in the Middle West, one in the East, and one in the South. Through these Conferences it would be possible to discuss the major social problems in the light of Jewish experience and teachings and social ideals and build up sentiment and support for the Social Justice Program.

IV
SEMINAR FOR RABBIS

In view of the fact that so many of our men are now interested in the relation of the Synagogue to the problems of the social order, it would be advisable to arrange for a Seminar at which these problems could be discussed by experts. The Seminar could be held in the summer immediately after the Meeting of the Central Conference and extend over a period of perhaps three weeks during which time a number of courses could be given and an opportunity afforded for full and thorough discussion. This project is one in which we have invited the cooperation of the Social Justice Commission of the Rabbinical Assembly, representing the Conservative Rabbis, and the Rabbinical Council, representing the Orthodox Rabbis.

PART II

I

ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE RABBI

In many communities the Rabbi has suffered greatly as a result of the economic collapse. Salaries have been reduced below a reasonable level and in some cases have not been paid for months. In other instances Rabbis have been dismissed and a large number of able and competent men are now without opportunities for service. In many instances brought to the attention of the members of the Commission the Congregation seems to feel under constant obligation to pay the interest on the mortgage and other debts, but under no obligation whatever to maintain a Rabbi. On the other hand there are many large Congregations in the country still paying large salaries. It seems that this whole problem should be carefully studied and some program worked out which will be equitable and just. We recommend the appointment of a joint Committee composed of representatives of the Social Justice Commissions of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly and the Rabbinical Council to study this problem and to present a report at the next meeting of the Conference.

II

PROBLEMS OF THE FAMILY

The subject of marriage and the family is rapidly coming into the foreground of social thought and discussion. This is due to the tremendous changes that are taking place in the foundation, structure, organization and function of the family. The breakdowns that occur at the present time as evidenced by the increasing number of divorces, separations and estrangements must constitute a challenge to every man in the Ministry. The family is the oldest social institution, and the family in Israel has always been a source of pride and strength. The Rabbi is in a strategic position in regard to marriage and the family; but he is frequently unable to be of service because of lack of training, experience and program of work. We recommend that the Central Conference of American Rabbis devote one or more of its sessions next year to the problem of marriage and the family and the development of a program of service through the Synagogue and the Rabbi.

III

ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

The fundamental Changes taking place in our economic system today and the seriousness and acuteness of social problems as a result of the changing social order compel the members of the Conference to restudy and restate their position in regard to the relation of economic organization to the principles and ideals of social justice.

- 1 UNEMPLOYMENT. Unemployment continues to be the most acute problem in our economic life. The latest and most reliable statistics indicate that there are at least 10,000,000 men and women in America out of work whole time, and 5,000,000 families destitute and dependent upon public aid. The grave danger is not only that relief will be inadequate, but that America will develop a Relief Program as an answer to the problem of unemployment and create an enormous Relief Agency to meet the needs of those out of work. The members of the Conference believe that relief is necessary as a temporary measure but must not become a permanent program and is no answer to the problem of unemployment and insecurity. In order to solve the problem of unemployment it is necessary, in the judgment of this Commission, to reduce the hours of labor to not more than thirty hours per week; to eliminate children and the aged from the field of work; to establish unemployment insurance in every State and with the aid of the Federal Government. But the most important item in the solution lies in work itself. What the unemployed want and what they must have is work and wages. Work and wages can come only through private or public enterprise. If private enterprise cannot provide employment public enterprise, Municipal, State and Federal, must undertake the task. We urge among other things the development and im-

mediate advancement of the Construction Program. This includes not only roads and bridges and tunnels, but hospitals and schools, and more especially housing on a National scale. Hospitals are overcrowded to the point of indecency; schools need to be rebuilt and new schools constructed in every community. In every city fully one-third of the population is improperly housed. The Housing Program alone on a National scale would do three things: It would wipe out the slum districts; provide homes for the working classes at a reasonable rental; and put to work a larger number of men and women directly and indirectly than any other project thus far conceived.

- 2 DISTRIBUTION OF THE NATIONAL INCOME. The National income of the country even today is large enough to insure every individual and family a decent and normal level of life. The trouble is that the total income of the country is unjustly and inequitably distributed. Some groups, such as the farmers, factory workers, miners, and even trainmen have incomes so low that it is utterly impossible for them to maintain themselves in decency and self-respect. The least that is demanded is a minimum wage high enough to make a decent standard of living possible. But it must be recognized that the minimum wage can never be high enough to be just until the maximum income is low enough to make justice possible. In order that the total National income may be wisely and justly distributed, we urge a system of taxation on incomes, estates, inheritances, gifts, corporation surpluses, and tax exempt securities that will in turn redistribute the income of the country. In addition to this system of taxation we urge a system of control over prices so that the increase in wages may not be constantly outrun by the increase in the cost of living.
- 3 SOCIALIZATION OF BASIC ENTERPRISES. Investigations and studies extending over a long period of time prove beyond any doubt that it is not safe for society to leave the basic social enterprises in the control of private groups that operate these enterprises for private profit instead of for service to the community. The members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis believe that the time has come to socialize the basic enterprises of society and especially the following:
 - (1) THE BANKING SYSTEM OF THE U.S. It is perfectly clear that no amount of credit poured into private banking organizations will filter down to those who need it most and transform itself into purchasing power. Legislation now before Congress creates an agency that is in fact a banking system to loan money to small industries that the bankers will not serve.
 - (2) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND COMMUNICATIONS. The Federal Coordinator of Railroads after a careful study has recommended that the transportation system of the country be taken over by the Federal Government. This program should not be postponed but should be put into effect at once.
 - (3) THE POWER PLANTS. Our modern economic machine is dependent upon such sources of energy as coal, oil, water power and electricity. These sources of energy should no longer remain in the hands of private groups who exploit them in their own interest. The Federal Government has in fact begun to socialize the sources of energy on a large scale in the development of Muscle Shoals, Boulder Dam, and the St. Lawrence project. This program should be extended to include all power plants and sources of energy, and the Government should exercise its right of eminent domain in taking possession of the natural resources whose title of ownership and control should rest in the people and not in private groups.
- 4 N.R.A. The members of the Conference commend the present Administration and its counselors for their earnest efforts to achieve recovery through the program known as the National Recovery Act. A careful study of the content and

operation and consequences of the Codes, however, convinces the members that there are many weaknesses and defects which uncorrected will invalidate the program as a whole. The hours of work in most of the codes are too long; the minimum wage in almost every industry is too low. In addition to this, the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, while guaranteed in the National Recovery Act, has been greatly weakened through the interpretation placed upon the Act itself. The Codes also assume the principle of competition and production for profit. The members of the Conference are strongly of the opinion that the hours of labor should be limited to not more than thirty hours per week; that the minimum wage should be high enough in every section of the country to maintain a normal life; that the right to organize and bargain collectively should be protected and the Company Union controlled by the employer unequivocally outlawed. The members of the Conference also are convinced that the economic life of America should be reorganized not in accordance with the principles of competition and private profit, but in accordance with the principles of cooperation and service.

IV POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

I IMMIGRATION

The Immigration Laws of the United States are now so written and applied that they result in discrimination and unjust decisions. These laws are based like the Immigration Laws of most countries upon a narrow conception of Nationalism and are designed chiefly for purposes of exclusion. The Immigration Laws should be completely revised not upon artificial racial qualifications, but solely upon the ability of the individual and his family to maintain themselves under the Government of the United States and the ability of the economic organization of the United States to offer them the opportunity for maintenance.

II MINORITY GROUPS

One of the acute problems in political life today is the status and rights of minorities in the modern state. The status and rights of racial, religious and National minorities must be granted and guaranteed without distinction or discrimination. The members of the Conference agree to no compromise in the matter of minority rights and believe that the governing principle in the matter of minorities should be the principle formulated by the League of Nations and now incorporated in the body of International Law, namely, that minorities must enjoy rights that are not a matter of domestic concern but that constitute International obligations to be guaranteed by each Nation separately and all the Nations together.

III FORM OF ORGANIZATION

At the present time America is facing three trends of development in political organization: Communism on the extreme left; Fascism on the extreme right; and a socialized Democracy in the center. The members of the Conference believe that there is only one way in which the American people can escape the dictatorship and tyranny of Communism on the one hand, and the tyranny and dictatorship of Fascism on the other, and that is by establishing a thoroughly socialized Democracy. The members of the Conference strongly urge upon the citizens of America a program that would socialize our Democracy, thoroughly and completely. This can be achieved, the members are convinced, without force and violence and catastrophe and through the orderly methods of democratic procedure.

ABSTRACT OF REPORT
of
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

June 1934

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1. **UNEMPLOYMENT.** Unemployment continues to be the most acute problem in our economic life. The latest and most reliable statistics indicate that there are at least 10,000,000 men and women in America out of work whole time, and 5,000,000 families destitute and dependent upon public aid. The

grave danger is not only that relief will be inadequate, but that America will develop a Relief Program as an answer to the problem of unemployment and create an enormous Relief Agency to meet the needs of those out of work. The members of the Conference believe that relief is necessary as a temporary measure but must not become a permanent program and is no answer to the problem of unemployment and insecurity. In order to solve the problem of unemployment it is necessary, in the judgment of this Commission, to reduce the hours of labor to not more than thirty hours ✓ per week; to eliminate children and the aged from the field of work; to establish unemployment insurance in every State and with the aid of the Federal Government. But the most important item in the solution lies in work itself. What the unemployed want and what they must have is work and wages. Work and wages can come only through private or public enterprise. If private enterprise cannot provide employment public enterprise, Municipal, State and Federal, must undertake the task. We urge among other things the development and immediate advancement of the Construction Program. This includes not only roads and bridges and tunnels, but hospitals and schools, and more especially housing on a National scale. Hospitals are overcrowded to the point of indecency; schools need to be rebuilt and new schools constructed in every community. In every city fully one-third of the population is improperly housed. The Housing Program alone on a National scale would do three things: It would wipe out the slum districts; provide homes for the working classes at a reasonable rental; and put to work a larger number of men and women directly and indirectly than any other project thus far conceived.

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- 3 SOCIALIZATION OF BASIC ENTERPRISES. Investigations and studies extending over a long period of time prove beyond any doubt that it is not safe for society to leave the

basic social enterprises in the control of private groups that operate these enterprises for private profit instead of for the service to the community. The members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis believe that the time has come to socialize the basic enterprises of society and especially the following:

- (1) THE BANKING SYSTEM OF THE U.S. It is perfectly clear that no amount of credit poured into private banking organizations will filter down to those who need it most and transform itself into purchasing power. Legislation now before Congress creates an agency that is in fact a banking system to loan money to small industries that the bankers will not serve.
- (2) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. The Federal Coordinator of Railroads after a careful study has recommended that the transportation system of the country be taken over by the Federal Government. This program should not be postponed but should be put into effect at once.
- (3) THE POWER PLANTS. Our modern economic machine is dependent upon such sources of energy as coal, oil, water power and electricity. These sources of energy should no longer remain in the hands of private groups who exploit them in their own interest. The Federal Government has in fact begun to socialize the sources of energy on a large scale in the development of Muscle Shoals, Boulder Dam, and the St. Lawrence project. This program should be extended to include all power plants and sources of energy, and the Government should exercise its right of eminent domain in taking possession of the natural resources whose title of ownership and control should rest in the people and not in private groups.
- (4) N.R.A. The members of the Conference commend the present Administration and its counselors for their earnest efforts to achieve recovery through the program known as the National Recovery Act. A careful study of the content and operation and consequences of the Codes, however, convinces the members that there are many weaknesses and defects which uncorrected will invalidate the program as a whole. The hours of work in most of the Codes are too long; the minimum wage in almost every industry is too low. In addition to this, the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, while guaranteed in the National Recovery Act, has been greatly weakened through the interpretation placed upon the Act itself. The Codes also assume the principle of competition

*Confidential
Cooperation*

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IV

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

- 1 MINORITY GROUPS. One of the acute problems in political life today is the status and rights of minorities in the modern state. The status and rights of racial, religious and National minorities must be granted and guaranteed without distinction or discrimination. The members of the Conference agree to no compromise in the matter of minority rights and believe that the governing principle in the matter of minorities should be the principle formulated by the League of Nations and now incorporated in the body of International Law, namely, that minorities must enjoy rights that are not a matter of domestic concern but that constitute International obligations to be guaranteed by each Nation separately and all the Nations together.
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Cincinnati, Ohio
June 1, 1934

REPORT OF COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

To the Central Conference of American Rabbis:

Gentlemen:

We take pleasure in reporting on the progress which your Commission on Jewish Education has made since the last meeting of the Conference. The Commission held its annual meeting June 20, 1933. The various committees of the Commission and the members of the staff have been continuously at work and much has been achieved in the preparation of manuscripts for publication. The number of volumes published has not been as great as usual, because of the present unfortunate economic situation. In this connection I am pleased to report that the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods generously came to our assistance. At the suggestion of Dr. Emanuel Gamoran, our Educational Director, I addressed a communication to the president of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, suggesting that it would be advisable for the present to obtain, if possible, permission of the N.F.T.S. to divert temporarily for publication purposes the \$4500.00 which they used to give us for Fellowships. The Executive Board unanimously voted to approve this step and thus created the Sisterhood Publication Fund. The Fund made it possible for us to publish several books this year which we would otherwise not have been in a position to publish for lack of funds.

MANUSCRIPTS PUBLISHED

The following manuscripts have been published under the auspices of the Commission on Jewish Education:

1. "When the Jewish People Was Young," by Mordecai I. Soloff. This is a Jewish history for children in the fourth grade, stressing the social and the religious life of the early Hebrews. The period covered is from the beginning up to 536 B.C.E. The language is simple and concrete, and the supervised study method is used throughout. The book has been beautifully illustrated by Mr. Reuben Leaf. A teacher's guide for the above is in preparation.
2. The Pupil's Work Book for the above has also been published. It follows the method of supervised study. The same contains questions for discussion, homework assignments, suggestions for further reading, and tests.
3. "Bible Stories for Little Children," by Lenora Cohen. This is the first of a series of story books for Grades 1 and 2. It contains selected stories from the Bible, emphasizing the religious

ideal underlying each story. The stories which are told simply and in vivid language lend themselves to dramatization. The book has been appropriately illustrated by Penina Kishor.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PRESS

4. "Gilenu - The Play-Way to Hebrew," Book II, by Dr. Emanuel Gamoran and Abraham H. Friedland. The book is a continuation of Volume I bearing the same title. Like its predecessor, it contains simple stories, games, and motivated exercises related to child life and activity. The vocabulary is 94 per cent Biblical. Both volumes aim to prepare the children for the study of selections from Genesis in the original.

5. The Pupil's Exercise Book for Volume II enables pupils to do individual work and helps them in the mastery of the lessons in the textbook.

MANUSCRIPTS READY FOR THE PRESS

1. "In the Days of the First Temple," A Pupil's Work Book, by Edward A. Nudelman for text book of same title by Dr. J. S. Golub previously published and described in a former report.

2. "A History of the Jews," by Dr. Cecil Roth. This is a one volume history projected by our Adult Committee, of which Dr. Enelow, of blessed memory, was the chairman. He was exceedingly interested in furthering the cause of adult Jewish education in this country and practically one of the last acts of his life was to examine Dr. Roth's manuscript and to write a series of appreciative comments on the text. We hope to put this to press as soon as possible.

3. "The Status of the Jews in Germany," by Dr. Jacob R. Marcus. In view of the present German situation it was felt that men and women in our congregations would be especially interested in the study of this subject. Dr. Marcus, in response to our invitation, has prepared a splendid manuscript, the "History of the Jews in Germany," and sets forth their economic, cultural, and spiritual contributions to German and Jewish life. This leads up to the present situation and the Nazi accusations. Suggested readings and topics for discussion are included both for leaders and members of study groups. We hope to publish this book as soon as possible.

MANUSCRIPTS IN THE HANDS OF COMMITTEES

For Elementary Department

1. "Stories from American Jewish History," by B. W. Blandford.

2. "Life of the Early Hebrews," by Dr. Harry L. Comins.

For Teacher Training Department

1. "The Teaching of the Prophets," by Dr. Harry L. Comins.
2. "Into the Promised Land," Teacher's Book, by Israel L. Eisenberg.
3. "A Course on the Synagogue for Intermediate Grades," by T. K. Kurzband.

For High School Department

1. "A Course in Post-Biblical Literature," by Rabbi Leon Feuer,
2. "Projects About Religious Ideas and Customs," by Dr. Ben M. Edidin.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

1. "The Jewish Community."
2. "A Trip Around the World."
3. "Gilenu - The Play-Way to Hebrew," Volume III.
4. "Stories of Jewish Customs and Ceremonies."
5. "Projects on Jewish Customs and Ceremonies."
6. "In the Land of Kings and Prophets," Teacher's Book.
7. "Jewish History in Medieval Times."

YOUTH WORK

Since the last meeting of the Conference, our work in the Youth Department has developed in several directions. Individual clubs and State federations have been organized; literature for club use and direction have been prepared.

1. "Arts and Crafts for the Jewish Club" by Dr. Harry L. Comins and Mr. Reuben Leaf, reported on last year, is now in press.
2. "A Manual for Debates for the Jewish Club," by Mr. Adolph Feinberg of the Hebrew Union College, has been read and approved by our Reading Committee.
3. "The Youth Leader," a mimeographed monthly magazine, edited by Dr. Comins, has been continued. Eight issues appeared during the present school year. The magazine has been found very helpful by clubs in various parts of the country. We now have four hundred subscriptions. We also issued fourteen booklets of reprints from "The Youth Leader." Of these 737 copies were sold during the current year.

4. "War and Peace," a manuscript prepared by Dr. Abraham Cronbach, includes discussions of the problems of peace, arranged for our young people and gives appropriate quotations, subjects for debates, and bibliography, has likewise been approved by our Reading Committee.

5. "Choosing Your Vocation," a manuscript prepared by Dr. Joseph Zubin, is now in the hands of the author for revision. This should form an excellent project for many of our Youth groups. The book considers not only the general factors entering into the choice of vocations, but especially some of the Jewish problems involved.

There are also in preparation three manuscripts, one on "Religious Evenings," one on "Marionette Plays in the Jewish Club," and one on "Holiday Projects for the Jewish Club."

6. Dr. Comins prepared a pamphlet on "Jewish Youth Day - Plans and Programs." This was sent to Rabbis, congregational and sisterhood officers as well as to club officers, with a view to stimulating the holding of Youth Conferences in the local communities on May 6th. A list of communities that arranged such gatherings is now being compiled.

Our Department of Youth Education participated in forming the following State organizations of young people: the Pennsylvania Union of Jewish Youth, the New Jersey Union of Jewish Youth, the Indiana Union of Jewish Youth, and the South Carolina Union of Jewish Youth.

The Director of Youth Activities addressed the following meetings: in Cleveland, the Young People's Societies of The Temple and of the Euclid Avenue Temple, the Young People's Art Clubs, and the teachers of both Temples; in Baltimore, the Executive Boards of the Young People's Societies of the three Reform Congregations; in Detroit, the Young People's Society of Temple Beth El, the leaders of Temple Beth El in Arts and Crafts, and the teachers. He addressed a meeting of the youth leaders and congregational presidents in New York City, as well as the State Convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sisterhoods. In connection with the Detroit meetings, an exhibit of arts and crafts for young people was arranged. Dr. Comins also continued his class in Arts and Crafts for students at the Hebrew Union College, with a view to preparing them to lead such groups in the future. He has also begun work on a book entitled "Problems of a Jewish Youth Club" and is personally engaged in making a traveling exhibit of Jewish ceremonials to stimulate Jewish activities in our youth societies. Twenty such objects have been made to date.

During the year we have corresponded with 182 clubs in 32 States and in Canada, regarding programs for clubs.

ADULT EDUCATION

In this department we have made progress this year. As previously explained, the work by Dr. Roth, sample material of which had been read last year, has been completed and approved by our Reading Committee. The new manuscript on "The Status of the Jews in Germany," previously referred to, prepared by Dr. Marcus, is also under the auspices of our Adult Committee. Other books and syllabi are in preparation on "Jewish Customs and Ceremonies," on "Jewish Religion," and on "Modern Jewish Literature." In this connection, it may be well to call the attention of the members of the Conference to the following experiment initiated by Dr. Gamoran, our Educational Director.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

From time to time, we have received requests from unorganized communities for correspondence courses. Our present material does not lend itself to such uses. Last year Dr. Gamoran assigned to one of our fellows in pedagogy the preparation of a correspondence course on biblical literature. This course is now ready and will be experimented with during the coming year in several ways. It will be tried out with one or two individuals and in a modified form with a group under the leadership of a layman, and with still another group under the leadership of a rabbi. On the basis of this experimentation, the course will be modified and will then be made generally available as a correspondence course on Biblical literature.

TEACHER TRAINING

Our work in the field of teacher training has continued through the distribution of our books and syllabi related to the subject. We use two types of literature in this field:

- a. Monographs and syllabi dealing with various phases of psychology and methods of teaching.
- b. Special teachers' books accompanying our pupils' text books and containing concrete suggestions on how to teach various subjects in the curriculum of our religious schools.

Our mimeographed publication, "The Jewish Teacher," edited by Dr. Gamoran, has met with a favorable response. Though modest in form and necessarily limited in scope because of present financial conditions, it is a very helpful medium for improving the work of the teachers in our religious schools. When financial conditions improve, we hope to change this from a quarterly to a monthly and to issue it in more permanent form.

We continued to cooperate with the Teachers Associations, most of which we have organized. We helped them plan their programs and we usually send our lecturers. Since the last sessions of the Conference we have participated in the deliberations

of the following associations, Dr. Gamoran being present at each:

1. September Connecticut Conference of Jewish Teachers, New Haven - The subject of his address was, "How Shall We Teach the Bible?"
2. October Led panel discussion in Cincinnati - "What Kind of Jewish Education Do We Need for the Survival of the Jew in America?"
3. November Led discussion groups at three sessions of the Ohio-Michigan-Indiana Convention on various problems of the Jewish religious school.
4. December Addressed Temple Rodef Shalom Parent-Teachers Association in Pittsburgh on "Jewish Parents as Teachers."
5. January Addressed Parent-Teachers meeting of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation on "What Parents Can do to Help in the Jewish Education of Their Children."
6. March Addressed Buffalo Conference of Jewish Teachers on "Qualifications of the Jewish Teacher."
7. April 6 and 7 Addressed Great Lakes Teachers Association in Rochester on "The Meaning of Jewish Education," "How to Teach Jewish Customs and Ceremonies," and "How to Teach Hebrew."
8. April 29 Addressed Metropolitan Conference of Jewish Religious School Teachers on "How to Teach Palestine in the Religious School." At the invitation of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, 250 Christian religious school teachers also came to this conference.
9. A project organized by the North East Region of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and following in the footsteps of previous experimentation under the auspices of our Commission on Jewish Education, is the Teachers Institute that was held in Syracuse from July 6-20. It was attended by fifty-five people. All local synagogues, including the Jewish Community Center under the direction of Mr. George M. Hyman, participated. The teachers received a full two weeks' course in "Methods of Teaching Jewish History," given by Dr. Emanuel Gamoran, four lectures on "Classroom Organization and Management" by Rabbi Jacob B. Pollak, and several lectures by a number of other instructors not connected with our staff. The Institute in Syracuse enjoyed the cooperation of the Syracuse University which extended to students and lecturers

the privilege of the dormitory and the library and all other extra-curricular facilities. All present were enthusiastic about the undertaking, and it is planned to repeat the Institute this year.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

The annual meeting of the Commission on Jewish Education was held in Chicago on Tuesday, June 20th. The meeting was devoted largely to a discussion of the problem of religious services. A special Reading Committee was appointed to examine sample services submitted to Dr. Gamoran. It was likewise voted to appoint a Committee on Worship to consider the entire subject of worship in the religious school.

It was voted that our Committee on Pre-School Education will henceforth be known as a Committee on Pre-School Education and Home Training. The chairman was requested to confer with the president of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods with a view to interesting the Sisterhoods in the use of such pre-school and home training material, as we shall publish.

In final summary of the work of the Commission, we beg to state that we are planning and publishing books for children and teachers, developing interesting material for young people and adults, and conducting educational experiments. We have more books than funds wherewith to publish them. Our Commission is the joint organ of both the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. It is understood that the one party to this joint organ, namely, our Conference, furnishes the educational and literary material and the other, the Union, provides the funds wherewith this material is published and given to the world. But the Union requires the assistance of the Rabbis in the effort to obtain the necessary funds for the furtherance of this great task. The past few years have been extremely difficult for the Union. The work of the Commission, like all other enterprises, has been greatly hampered. May we, therefore, in closing this report make an appeal to you, the individual members of the Conference, to do what in your power lies to obtain in your various communities such added moral and financial support for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations as shall enable that organization to supply the Commission on Jewish Education with more ample funds to carry out our various enterprises. It goes without saying that we shall be pleased to receive from you any suggestions for the carrying out of the work in which we, as Rabbis and religious educators, are vitally concerned and interested.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID PHILIPSON

Chairman.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Honorary Presidents: DAVID PHILIPSON, Cincinnati, Ohio; SAMUEL SCHULMAN, New York; JOSEPH STOLZ, Chicago, Ill.

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STEPHEN S. WISE

June 1, 1934.

Dear Friend:

The rules of the Conference require the Social Justice Commission to send to our members two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting a copy of the Report we plan to present. I am, therefore, forwarding you herewith a summary of the points and paragraphs of the Report as approved by the majority of the members of the Social Justice Commission.

You will note that the Report is composed of two parts. Part I covers a program of action that we have developed this year. Part II deals with the principles of social justice and their application to a number of current social problems. We know that you will study these points carefully and be prepared to discuss them when the Report is presented.

With kind greetings, believe me

Yours cordially,

Sidney E. Goldstein

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June 7, 1934

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

Dear Colleague:

I am herewith enclosing a copy of Testimonial to Dr. Jacob Z. Lauterbach, which you will be kind enough to read and approve. If I do not hear from you by Wednesday of next week, I will take it that you are satisfied to have your name appear on the resolutions as a member of the Alumni Association *Committee*.

With warmest greetings and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Margolis

HSM:MK

June 11, 1934.

Rabbi Harry S. Margolis,
1290 Goodrich Street,
Saint Paul, Minn.

My dear Rabbi Margolis:

I shall be pleased to serve on the Alumni Association Committee to draft the testimonial resolution to Dr. Jacob Z. Lauterbach. I shall gladly sign the resolution, a copy of which you sent me.

I would suggest a slight correction in the first sentence of the second paragraph. The word beneficiaries should be beneficiary.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. JACOB Z. LAUTERBACH

By the Alumni Association of the Hebrew Union College
On His Retirement as Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics.

On the occasion of the retirement of our friend and teacher, Professor Jacob Z. Lauterbach from active service at the Hebrew Union College, the Alumni Association wishes to record its sense of profound appreciation and gratitude for his devoted efforts in behalf of our beloved Alma Mater and his prodigious labors in the field of Jewish scholarship.

X A generation of disciples has been the privileged beneficiaries of his inspired teaching and wise guidance. With sympathy, consideration, and humility, he brought to his students the rich, ripe fruits of rabbinic lore and wisdom. A master of the Talmud, he sought to transmit the heritage of the teachers of the past to the teachers of the future. His ministry of teaching was a reconciliation between age-hallowed tradition and the moving spirit of the present.

Not only through the gifts of mind, but likewise through a friendly personality, he became a companion to those whom he taught.

With deep regret, we note Dr. Jacob Z. Lauterbach's retirement from the faculty of the Hebrew Union College. With him go our sincere wishes for many years of life, strength, and continued labor in the field that he has already enriched. Upon him, we invoke God's blessing and may the years fulfill for him the ideal of our sages:

זקני תורה כל זמן שמזקינין דעתן כחישבת עליהן.

For the Alumni Association of the Hebrew Union College.

G. George Fox, President.

Harry S. Margolis, Chairman.
Abram J. Feldman
Joshua L. Liebman
Albert G. Minda
Victor E. Reichert
Abba H. Silver

June 16, 1934.

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JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

June
Twenty-Second
1 9 3 4

Dr. Abba H. Silver
E. 105th at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Following our usual custom, we are sending to the members of the Commission, complimentary copies of our new publications.

Two books are being forwarded to you under separate cover:

WHEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE WAS YOUNG
by Mordecai I. Soloff

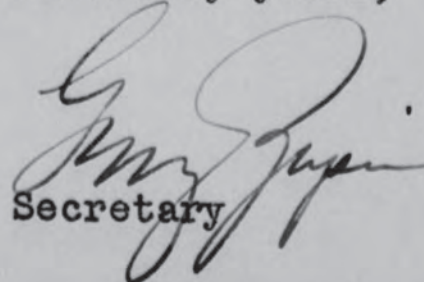
BIBLE TALES FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN
by Lenore Cohen

The first book is intended for children in the fourth grade of the Religious School and covers the history of the Jewish people from the beginning to 536 B.C.E. The second book is a selection of Bible tales to be read by mothers and teachers to the children who have not yet learned to read. We hope that on perusal of these books you will introduce them in your school.

I plan to have the Minutes of the last meeting of the Commission in your hands during the course of a week or so.

With kind greetings and best wishes for a pleasant summer,

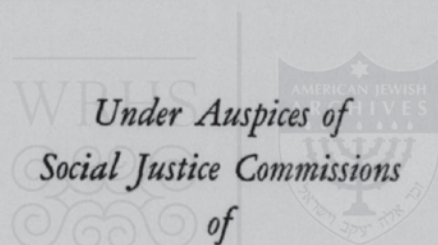
Sincerely yours,


Secretary

GZ: mk

SUMMER SEMINAR ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Two Weeks
July 9th ~ July 20th
1934



CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA
RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF UNION OF ORTHODOX
JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA



40 WEST 68TH STREET • NEW YORK

THE Seminar on Social Justice to be conducted during the summer of 1934 under the joint auspices of the Social Service Commissions of the three Rabbinical Organizations has been organized to serve the Rabbis of the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform groups. Every man in the ministry realizes the fundamental changes that are taking place in the structure and organization of social life and is concerned with the problems that are developing out of the changing social order. The Committee is convinced many men in the Rabbinate will welcome this Seminar that will deal primarily with the relationship of religion, the Synagogue and the Rabbi to the dominant social questions of the day.

Program of Seminar

COURSES.—Four courses will be given during the two weeks of the Seminar. Each course will consist of five sessions of one and a half hours each and will allow time for both lecture work and discussion. A bibliography and syllabus will be prepared for each course.

FIELD WORK.—An opportunity will be offered those who enroll for the Seminar to study social problems in New York City and to visit social agencies and institutions. This field work will be done under supervision and guidance.

CONFERENCES.—A series of conferences with leaders in religion and the social field will be arranged for the members of the Seminar. These conferences will be held at a time convenient for the leaders, that is, in the afternoon or evening.

CONSULTATION SERVICE.—An opportunity will be given every member of the Seminar to consult with experts concerning problems that arise in the community served by the Rabbi.

FEES.—No fee will be charged for tuition. An enrollment fee of \$5 will be charged each member to cover part of the cost of the Seminar.

PLACE.—New York has been chosen for the Seminar because this city constitutes a vast social laboratory with unequalled clinical material and the most modern methods of study and experimentation. In New York also is found the largest Jewish community in the world as well as the principal national and international social agencies of the Jewish people.

ACCOMMODATIONS.—A list of accommodations will be on file for those who desire to observe the dietary laws.

COURSES

First Session—10 to 11:30

Second Session—11:30 to 1

I.

SOCIAL ATTITUDES IN JEWISH TRADITION

ABRAHAM CRONBACH

*Professor, Department of Social Studies
Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio*

A background course that will discuss the development of Jewish thought concerning problems of charity, labor, rights of property, authority of Government, and war and peace.

II.

PROBLEMS OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

LEO JUNG

"The Traditional Jewish Family"

LOUIS M. EPSTEIN

"Problems of the Traditional Jewish Family"

SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN

Professor, Social Service, Jewish Institute of Religion

"The Changing Family"

A discussion of the changes that are taking place in the foundation, structure, organization and function of the family in America. This course will be based upon case studies of typical families and problems in family life.

Symposium on Birth Control

LEO JUNG, ROBERT GORDIS, SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN

III.

JUDAISM AND CURRENT SOCIAL PHILOSOPHIES

DAVID DE SOLA POOL

"Judaism and Fascism"

EUGENE KOHN

"Judaism and Socialism"

BEN ZION BOKSER

"Judaism and Communism"

EDWARD ISRAEL

"The Synagogue and Social Action"

A study in social technique for the Rabbi and the congregation based upon case work studies. This course will consider the procedure of the Rabbi and the congregation when social problems arise that challenge the Synagogue and religion.

IV.

SOCIAL INSECURITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

ABRAHAM EPSTEIN

*Executive Secretary, American Association
for Social Security*

This course will deal with the insecurity of different groups in America and the forms of social insurance, including Unemployment Insurance, Old Age and Invalidity Pensions, Workmen's Compensations and Subsidies for Mothers and Children.

Abraham Epstein is the author of a number of important works in the field of social science, the latest published in 1933 entitled "Insecurity—A Challenge to America." He is recognized both in America and abroad as one of the foremost authorities in the field of social legislation. His grasp of principles, his mastery of procedures and his passion for social justice will make this course of utmost service to men in the ministry.

COMMITTEE ON SEMINAR

Representing

Social Justice Commissions of

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS:

Sidney E. Goldstein, Edward Israel, William F. Rosenblum

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY:

Milton Steinberg, Eugene Kohn, Ira Eisenstein

THE RABBINICAL COUNCIL:

Leo Jung, David de Sola Pool, Joseph Lookstein

For further information and enrollment use the following form and mail to

SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN, 40 West 68th St., New York City, *or*

MILTON STEINBERG, 50 East 87th St., New York City, *or*

LEO JUNG, 131 West 86th St., New York City.

☐ *I* desire further information concerning the Summer Seminar on Social Justice.

☐ *I* desire to enroll for the Seminar on Social Justice.

Name

Address

.....

[undated]



The
UNION OF AMERICAN
HEBREW
CONGREGATIONS



ITS PLACE AND FUNCTION IN
AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE



THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

*T*HE Union of American Hebrew Congregations was organized in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873 by Isaac Mayer Wise. Dr. Wise believed that Judaism was compatible with modern thought and American life. He felt the need of a centralized organization which should have clearly in view the purpose of keeping Judaism alive and growing in America.

The Union has in many ways achieved some of the hopes of its founder. It has produced spiritual leaders; it has promoted Jewish education; it has established individual and state units of Jewish religious organizations. It has united the synagogues of the various cities of the United States, and it has established Women's and Men's Federations.

Today the Union is composed of 281 congregations. It carries on its work through the Hebrew Union College, the Department of Synagogue and School Extension, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods. Each department, embracing many subdivisions, functions as a separate unit, but all are under the control of the Executive Board of the Union.

The Hebrew Union College

The first creation of the Union, The Hebrew Union College, was established by Dr. Wise in 1875 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The College is now housed in five beautiful buildings in a suburb of Cincinnati — an Administration Building, a Gymnasium, the new Library, and the old Library, to be converted into a Jewish Museum, and a Dormitory.

Today, in the second half century of its existence, its faculty consists of fifteen professors, four special instructors and one teaching fellow. It has graduated 349 rabbis, many of whom are the leaders of congregations in all parts of the United States; several of its graduates occupy pulpits in Canada and England, one is in Australia, and one in Panama.

The Hebrew Union College Library comprises over 85,000 volumes. It contains the largest Spinoza collection in America. It has 2,500 Hebrew manuscripts, 2,200 paintings, 2,000 ceremonial objects gathered from every part of the world, and a unique collection consisting of more than six thousand items of Jewish music.

A new Library Building was recently erected at a cost of \$265,000. The Union Museum, containing a large collection of Jewish antiquities, ceremonial objects, rare manuscripts and historical documents, will soon move into the old Library Building.

Synagogue and School Extension

Another department of the Union — that of the Synagogue and School Extension, deals with the production of Jewish literature and the organization of new Jewish units. This department is under the direction of the Board of Managers of Synagogue and School Extension and this Board appoints, with the Central Conference of American Rabbis, two advisory commissions. Its educational work is carried on under the advice of the Commission on Jewish Education, which has adopted a curriculum for American Jewish Religious Schools. The Commission handles the problems of Elementary Education, Youth, Adult and University Education, and Teacher Training, and has now added a department of Surveys and Research.

The Commission has established a new Department of Youth Work, which studies the needs of Jewish Youth. *THE YOUTH LEADER*, a monthly magazine, is sent to leaders of Youth organizations. A much needed body of literature in the form of group-discussion material is being prepared. The Commission also publishes *THE JEWISH TEACHER*, a quarterly for religious school teachers.

The Department publishes text-books and teachers' helps, has distributed over one million items and has an exhibit of educational material for teachers. It publishes *YOUNG ISRAEL*, a monthly magazine for children.

A Bureau of Synagogue activities has been

recently established which studies the activities and needs of congregations so that all may benefit through the sharing of experiences which have been tabulated and studied.

The Tract Commission has published twenty-one tracts, which are distributed to a mailing list of educators, judges, legislators, state executives, libraries, editors and ministers. The purpose of these tracts is to bring to the general public a proper conception of the Jew and a more enlightened understanding of Jewish ideals. The Tract Commission publishes annually a pamphlet of Holyday Sermons for communities without religious leaders, and issues descriptions of the holidays as these recur, for the use of the daily papers.

The Department has organized Congregations, Religious Schools, State Teachers' Associations, and Normal Classes. It undertakes to educate its own educators in the principles of pedagogy, and maintains (with the aid of the N. F. T. S.) as many as six fellowships leading to doctorate degrees in Pedagogy at Teachers' College, Columbia University.

The Department of Synagogue and School Extension has another purpose — that of stimulating Jewish activities in organized centers. It employs at present three regional rabbis who travel in the North Central, Southeastern, and Northeastern states and who aid in organizing Jews living in small towns. Many of the resident rabbis co-operate in visiting isolated districts. Two regional unions

have been established, one in the Southeast region and one in the Northeast region.

The Department aids in bringing the message of Judaism to Jews living on farms, in correctional institutions and hospitals unaffiliated with synagogues, at summer resorts, etc.

The Department is similarly serving Jewish students in many colleges and universities.

Federation of Sisterhoods

Another group allied with the Union is the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, which was organized in 1913, and which now has a membership of 346 Sisterhoods. Its primary interest is in religious and congregational life; philanthropic and civic interest have a secondary place in its programs.

The Federation's most outstanding activity was the completion of the Hebrew Union College Dormitory which it erected and equipped at a cost of \$340,000, secured by voluntary gifts from its members. The Gymnasium was the gift of Mrs. J. Walter Freiberg, a former President of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, and was given in honor of her husband, a former president of the Union. The Sisterhoods are continuing to maintain the Dormitory and they also provide annually a large number of scholarships for students at the Hebrew Union College.

The Sisterhoods are contributing \$15,000 to the educational work of the Department of

Synagogue and School Extension and are maintaining three of the six Jewish fellowships in pedagogy at Columbia College.

The Sisterhoods undertake many tasks in congregational life, such as organization of Bible and Child Study Classes, and encouragement of observance of Jewish holidays in the home. They publish an annual Jewish Art Calendar, interest themselves in student activities, distribute Uniongrams, and participate in many other religious projects.

Federation of Brotherhoods

The National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods is the newest branch of the Union. Although but eight years in existence, it has a membership of 120 Brotherhoods. It aims to promote religious interests of men, to advance Jewish culture through study, and to intensify social life under Temple auspices. Its watchword is "Man-power for the Temple."

The Brotherhoods interest themselves in religious propaganda, social service, student activities, open forums, Synagogue attendance, and adult education. Their publication, *THE JEWISH LAYMAN*, contains cultural and educational articles.

The Brotherhoods conducted a National Survey of the religious attitudes and practices of the Jewish laity. The results of this survey are published under the title, *The Voice of the Jewish Laity*. They also plan programs and activities for their Temple Clubs, conduct adult study classes, aid in increasing the at-

tendance at religious services, and in assisting in local and national Jewish movements where personal service is needed to achieve results.

The above are some of the varied activities of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. There is an additional phase of its activities which consists of contacts with international and national agencies in the pursuit of tasks in which the Union represents its allied bodies and the congregations that belong to it. Such is co-operation with the World Union for Progressive Judaism, with the Committee on Good Will between Jews and Christians, and with the Central Conference of American Rabbis in the work of the Commission on Social Justice. Many additional tasks await the strengthening of its financial resources.

The officers of the Union are: Charles Shohl, Honorary President; Ludwig Vogelstein, Chairman of the Executive Board; Jacob W. Mack, Marcus Rauh, and Maurice D. Rosenberg, Vice-Presidents; N. Henry Beckman, Treasurer and George Zepin, Secretary. David A. Brown is Chairman of the Board of Finance; Alfred M. Cohen, Chairman of the Board of Governors, of the Hebrew Union College; Julius W. Freiberg, Chairman of the Board of Managers of Synagogue and School Extension; Mrs. Maurice Steinfeld, President of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, and Charles P. Kramer, President of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

In order to correct an impression which may have been created by the press reports of the proceedings of the Central Conference of American Rabbis on June 14th, the Conference desires to put itself on record to the following effect.

The Conference
~~It~~ joins with all the enlightened forces of mankind in resisting to the uttermost the attacks which are being made by the Hitler Government upon civilization and upon all the moral and spiritual values which we cherish.

Our resistance is not prompted by any illwill or hatred of the German people, but by an inescapable moral compulsion to defend the indispensable values of free, creative human life.

We believe in and proclaim anew, the right of every human being to live everywhere in the world and to be recognized as of equal dignity in the national body politic of any country irrespective of the blood in his veins or the faith of his soul.

We believe in and proclaim anew the right of every individual to have perfect liberty of conscience and freedom of utterance in all matters of religious, social, economic and political import, and we protest with all our might against the oppression of any individual on these grounds as contrary to the great Judaeo-Christian heritage of our civilization.

We are deeply grateful for the many evidences of understanding and sympathy which Christian leaders have manifested and for the outspoken opposition to the Hitler terrorism on the part of all the truly liberal forces of the world.

As rabbis in Israel we glory in the courage which has been manifested by leaders of the Christian churches in the Nazi Reich who are seeking to resist every attempt to paganize the religion of their people.

While the Conference as an official body which cannot speak for the whole of Israel does not advocate any particular type of resistance, it believes that moral persuasion should be supplemented by every manner of non-violent resistance calculated to bring to an end the regime of inequity and enslavement which today obtains in Nazi Germany. As Americans we call upon our fellow Americans to rally with us in defense of those American humane and democratic principles which are being violated by the Nazi Government.

for the-----

Central Conference of American Rabbis

Dr. Samuel H. Goldenson, President
Dr. Morris Newfield
Dr. David Philipson
Dr. Samuel Schulman
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Dr. Stephen S. Wise

----- Committee

1. 19 gets an in. *Rosa rubra*

2. Apocryphic - Chass.
Messance - Person.

3. Heron - back to dictating
Stalin etc. ^{Heller} Zalutsky

4. Prunella - sandstone
reaction Race

Heine 18