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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, 1940-1941.

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December 31, 1940.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

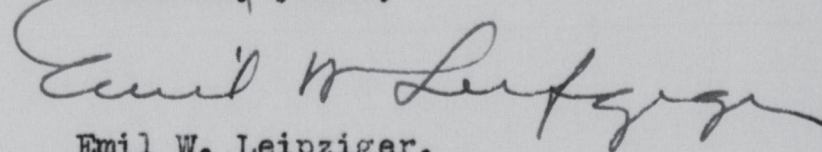
Dear Colleague:

At the recent meeting of the Executive Board of the Union, held in New York, a resolution was adopted calling for the appointment of a Committee on Survey of the Union. The Committee was to consist of 12 members of the Conference appointed to represent the Conference, 8 members representing the Board of Governors and 8 representing the Union.

I quote President Goldman's letter to me when I say this: "While the resolution as adopted deals with the constituency of the committee, the discussion which preceded, indicated that the inquiry to which this committee is to address itself was the place of the Union in the survival of Judaism, and this embraces both the work of the College, the various departments of the Union, and, I should imagine, also the sphere of the CCAR."

As you see, there is proposed a very thorough-going survey of the Union with a view toward revaluation if not reorganization. I am asking you to serve on this Committee as one of the 12 members representing the Conference. I hope I may have your affirmative reply by return letter as this work must go forward at once.

Sincerely yours,



Emil W. Leipziger,
President.

EWL:AB



January 3, 1941

Dr. Emil W. Leipziger, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
7624 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, La.

My dear Friend:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of December 31. I appreciate greatly your thoughtfulness in inviting me to serve on a committee representing the Conference to survey the Union. I wish I were free to accept your kind appointment, but I am so overburdened with work in connection with the United Palestine Appeal, whose national chairman, as you probably know I am, that I can not in justice to myself or to the Committee which you are appointing, take on any additional responsibilities. I will not be able to give it the time and the attention which the work requires. I have been terribly rushed and crowded with work, and many things which I should be doing here at The Temple have had to be postponed. I trust that you will understand.

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

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Morris S. Lazaron
1914 Madison Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland

January 17, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Colleague:

We are concerned about the status of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. We are anxious that the organization shall have the influence and do the work which, at this important juncture in American Jewish affairs, it is called upon to do.

It occurred to us that it might be advisable for a few of us to come together here in Baltimore to discuss the whole situation frankly and, if possible, to arrive at some concert of judgment which might be presented at the Detroit Convention of the Union in the form of a program. The Union, as you know, has been the object of much criticism, justified and unjustified. We believe it will be helpful to hold such a meeting and present our findings.

Would you be willing to come to Baltimore for several days to discuss this important matter? We could set a date convenient for the majority of the group. Please let us hear at your earliest opportunity.

Appreciating your cooperation, we are

Cordially yours,

Morris S. Lazaron
William Foreman

Edward L. Israel

Letter sent to:

Rabbi Joshua L. Liebman
Rabbi Jonah B. Wise
Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Goldenson
Rabbi William F. Rosenblum
Rabbi Louis Wolsey
Dr. William H. Fineshriber
Dr. Edward N. Calisch
Dr. Solomon B. Freehof
Rabbi Louis L. Mann

January 30, 1941

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

My dear Morris:

I should very much like to attend the meeting which you are calling in connection with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, but I do not know whether I will be able to get away. When you finally set the date, please let me know, and if I am free, I shall make every effort to come. As you know, I am compelled to devote practically all my free time (and even such time as is not free) to the work of the United Palestine Appeal.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially,

AHS:BK

Morris S. Lazaron
1914 Madison Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland

February 11, 1941

Dear Colleague:

We have been greatly heartened by the expressions of concern about the Union and interest in it which our letter evoked from you and the few others to whom we wrote. Meanwhile, we understand that a committee has been appointed by the Central Conference of American Rabbis to study and appraise the Union work and to bring in recommendations at the Detroit conference. A number of the men whom we had included in our informal group happen to be members of this committee. It would be a duplication for us, therefore, to proceed further and so we shall, pending the action at the Detroit conference, delay further steps in the matter. We have written to the men who are on the Conference appraisal committee, urging that they bring in definite recommendations at the Detroit conference and that they see to it that those recommendations are acted upon on the floor and are not buried in committee. We trust that you will agree that this was the proper procedure.

Cordially yours,

William Rosenau
Edward L. Israel
Morris S. Lazaron

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

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RABBIS

James G. Heller Samuel Wohl

April 23, 1941

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

Dear Abe:

As I anticipated, Leipziger is kicking up a row about the poll I took at your request, of the Executive Committee of the C. C. A. R. Shetzer sent me a copy of a letter you directed to him. I have no doubt that within a few days I shall hear directly from him myself.

I should be greatly obliged if you would send me a copy of the paragraph in the J.T.A. Bulletin which you saw, over Leipziger's name, when you telegraphed me about the matter. Many thanks for sending me this as promptly as you can.

Friendly greetings.

Sincerely yours,

JGH/AS