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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, "F", 1944-1946.

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# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

1201

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GA298 DL PD=PITTSBURGH PENN 11 100P

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

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THE TEMPLE EAST 105TH ST AND ANSEL RD CLEVE=

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

CONFERENCE AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH UAHC IN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF INTERFAITH INSTITUTES. DETAILED REPORT WILL BE GIVEN AT OUR OCTOBER EXECUTIVE MEETING MEANTIME NECESSARY FOR UNION TO ISSUE SOME PUBLICITY IMMEDIATELY IF YOU DO NOT WIRE OBJECTIONS I WILL GIVER OUR PERMISSION=

SOLOMON B FREEHOF.

UAHC

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My Dear Sol -

I deeply appreciate your kind letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, in which in behalf of the Executive Board of the C. C. A. R. you ask me to act as liaison officer between congregations and returning Chaplains, where adjustments may need to be made. I shall consider it a privilege to accept the appointment and trust that I may be helpful to both congregations and chaplains, where help is required. I take it for granted that in some instances where long travel is involved I may be privileged to work through some rabbi, whose tact and sense of responsibility is beyond question.

We have had a pleasant restful vacation and plan to return home in another week.

With cordial regards from house to house, and trusting that this finds you and your dear ones very well,

Always Sincerely,  
Leo



*Handwritten signature*

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
DELAWARE AVENUE  
BUFFALO, N.Y.

OFFICE OF THE  
RABBI  
JOSEPH L. FINK, PH. D.

July 11, 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Friend:

I was deeply happy to learn of your election to the presidency of the C.C.A.R. Never was wiser judgment exercised by the conference than in your election.

I had hoped to attend the conference myself and had planned to go and made all reservations but at the last moment my son took very sick and I was, of course, unable to leave. I regret exceedingly my absence. May I wish you every success in your administration. I shall be eager to do anything I can to help.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Handwritten signature*



July 15, 1945

Dr. Saul Freenhof  
Centre Lovell  
Maine

My dear Saul:

I trust that you and Lillian are well. We are all well. There are a few things that I should like to ask you in connection with conference affairs: 1. When is the committee on committees to be appointed, at the October meeting or before? How many are to be appointed on the committee? Who were the members last year? Whom would you suggest to be on the committee this year? 2. I had a letter from Brickner informing me that Liebman has resigned from the CANRA. He suggests that Ellison should be formerly appointed as a member of the committee. Do you think that is the best selection? I have been thinking that a return chaplain, such as Unger, would be a better choice. So far, we have no chaplain as our representative on the CANRA.

For what length of time are such appointments made? If I should want to substitute those names with the names of better representatives, when are the substitutions to be made? Brickner's letter suggests that such appointments are made at the expiration of the year when Mr. Wilde, acting upon the recommendations of the presidents of the three councils, formerly appoints the CANRA.

I understand that it is the practice of the conference to have the president of the conference a member of the committee. Do you think that I should follow the practice? You will, of course, remain on the committee. Has Magnia been attending the meetings? I plan a substitute for Heller.

From Isserman's committee report sent to members of the Justice and Peace Committee, I learned that the committee had planned an institute on Judaism and Race Relations in New York City. The institute is to last for 6 days. I assume that this institute has been approved by the conference. Does the conference make an appropriation for the work of this commission? Is the program



Dr. Saul Freehof

Page 2

of such an institute subject to the approval of the president or executive board of the conference? Is there to be, also, another institute on Judaism and Democracy?

Marcoson still refuses to send the Palestine telegram. Inasmuch as the President is now on his way to Europe, there is no particular urgency about it, but I am afraid I shall have to take this up with the executive board at the October meeting. This censorship exercised by the Secretary of the Conference is quite intolerable.

As you have probably learned by this time, peace has been re-established in Zionism and I am again saddled with the work of the Zionist Emergency Council. It looks as though I will have a very heavy schedule for the coming year. I am planning to leave for London before the end of the month to attend a World Zionist Council. I would appreciate it if I could receive your response before I leave.

With all good wishes, in which Virginia joins me most heartily, I remain, as ever,

Cordially yours,

ANS:W



# FARRINGTON'S

*Lake Kezar*

CENTER LOVELL, ME.



July 16, 1945.

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

Dear Abba:

You will recall that at the Steering Committee meeting after the Conference I undertook to write a statement for the graduates of the College to sign. This statement will be issued in connection with the 70th anniversary celebration. I was to send the statement to you but Morgenstern asked that I also send it to him. Here is a copy of it.

Make whatever changes or additions you desire and let me and Dr. Morgenstern know.

I hope you are having a pleasant summer. We have not been able to go fishing at all, there has been no guide; but we have been swimming and having a good rest. Best wishes to Virginia and yourself in which Lillian joins.

As ever,  
*Sol*

SBF.lsf  
Enc. 1

*Situated midst stately pines*





# FARRINGTON'S

*Lake Kezar*

CENTER LOVELL, ME.



July 17, 1945.

Dear Abba:

I just received your letter. I sent you one this morning but not knowing your address in Mass., I sent it to Cleveland to be forwarded to you. The letter contains my draft of the statement which we were to draw up for all the graduates & of the Hebrew Union College to sign in connection with the 70th anniversary.

Now as to your questions:

1) The Committee on Committees is appointed at the October meeting. Three men are enough. Make up your mind whom you want as Chairmen of the various Conference committees. You can inform the Committee on Committees of your choice. Also if you have anybody special that you want as member of any committee. It is all done informally at the Executive Board meeting, but it is your prerogative really to choose the committees for the Executive Board to approve. The Committee on Committees merely assists.

2) With regard to the CANRA. Legally the situation is that Mr. Frank Weil formally approves your selections for the Canra since the Canra is affiliated with the JWB. Egelson would be a wonderful



*Situated midst stately pines*





nomination for the Committee. Hitherto he has been only an alternate, but has done by far the lion's share of the organizational work. Being an alternate he hesitated to ask the Canra to pay his travelling expenses. He needn't have hesitated, but he did. I have long waited for an opportunity to appoint him as a regular member of the committee as he deserves. I hope you will see your way clear to do so. As for yourself, come to one or two meetings, either ex officio or as member. We are entitled to one or two alternates in the Canra (to be present in case a regular member cannot come). You might appoint an ex-chaplain as alternate for the present until you have a better choice of ex-chaplains, then you might appoint one a regular member at the beginning of your second term. Magnin has attended about once a year. You can appoint someone in his place, but he often examines chaplaincy candidates on the Pacific Coast.

3) About the Institutes of the Justice and Peace Committee, I have never been clear on the question as to whether the Committee must have Executive Board or Presidential approval for these Institutes. The Conference, of course, appropriates a sum for the Committee and they use it up in some such way. I am afraid I have been a little lax with Isserman.

4) As for Marcuson, he is a marvelous worker but gets to be cantankerous. He needs management. Every now and then you have to put your foot down. As for the Zionist resolution, you know the Conference stand as well as he does, and your judgment as to whether the statement which you drew up is concordant with that stand and your conscience on the matter also, are both certainly as good as his. Even though he is as straight as a die and there is not the slightest scintilla of deception in him, he is difficult and at times you will have to over-ride him. By the way, ask him to send you the last Year Book; it contains all the Committees in it. If you read it through, you will get a complete picture of the entire Conference business. Lillian joins me in love to Virginia and you. As ever, Sol.



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

August 28, 1945

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

Dear Abba:

First of all, welcome home. I know you had an interesting time and I look forward to seeing you soon and hearing about it. I had a minor sinus operation and Lillian had her tonsils out. I have already recovered, since I had my operation sooner. Lillian is still convalescing.

Every now and then I shall have to send you some material that is sent me by mistake by various organizations which are not yet aware of the change of administration. But this letter is about something else. You will recall that at the last Conference meeting suggestions were made about engaging a paid secretary to help arrange the replacement of returning chaplains. When the subject was taken up at the post-Conference Executive Board meeting I believe it was you who suggested that we ask one of our older retired rabbis to take on this work on a volunteer basis as a service to the Conference and his younger colleagues in the chaplaincy. We all agreed that I was to ask Leo Franklin. I did, and he was kind enough to accept. I am enclosing his letter for your files.

You undoubtedly will write to him. All that you need to do about it further is to inform the Chaplaincy Committee. I, as chairman of the Emergency Placement Committee, will inform the secretary of the Committee, Egelson.

Lillian joins me in best wishes to Virginia and yourself for a happy New Year.

As ever,

Sol

SBF:ls  
Enc.



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

August 21, 1945

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

Dear Abba:

I am sending you, under separate cover, a copy of the Resolution to Mrs. Roosevelt. Yours will be the first signature as President of the Conference, and mine the second as former President. Will you please mail it to Mrs. Roosevelt after you have signed it?

There is another matter which is still my responsibility as a hangover from the last administration, but I want you to know about it, and if you have a contrary opinion please tell me. Marcuson always decides, in consultation with the President, about how much of the debate on certain themes needs to appear in the Yearbook. I believe that there need not be very much of the last debate on elections in the Yearbook and I am going to suggest the briefer statement, compatible with the necessity of showing the facts.

Welcome home. Your journeys to and fro were not unknown to me, because I spent some time with Charles Rosenbloom. If Lillian were present she would join me in love to Virginia and you.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Sol

SBF:ls  
Enc.



August 21, 1945

Dr. Leo M. Franklin  
Temple Beth El  
Woodward at Gladstone  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Leo:

At the post-Conference Executive meeting in Atlantic City a problem came up with regard to which you may be able to be of help to the Conference and to all the chaplains. That is, if the task appeals to you. I, as chairman of the Emergency Placement Committee, have been asked to discuss the matter with you.

The question of the status of returning chaplains -- (a) their claim on the positions they left and (b) their right to new pulpits compared with the right of civilian rabbis -- depends upon personal negotiations with congregations. For example, (as to b) we would like to persuade a congregation which has a newly opened pulpit that it should take a returning chaplain in preference to a civilian, provided, of course, he is suitable for the position. Also, (as to a) with regard to a chaplain's former position, sometimes a congregation does not behave itself and would like to get someone else in place of the chaplain whose position it really is. We need someone with authority and status to explain their duty to the congregations involved.

The Executive Board unanimously felt that if you would be willing to be the liaison officer of the Conference in these delicate negotiations you could do a great service. I know much depends upon your state of health. The task may necessitate an occasional visit or a long-distance telephone call. If you can do it, the Conference and the returning chaplains will be grateful to you. Write and tell me your reaction to the possibilities and of your doing it.

As ever,

(Signed) Solomon B. Freehof



September 5, 1945

Dr. Leo M. Franklin  
Temple Beth El  
Woodward at Gladstone  
Detroit 2, Michigan

My dear Dr. Franklin:

Sol Freehof has informed me that you have consented to act for the C.C.A.R. as liason officer, so to speak, between congregations and the returning chaplains. I am very happy that you could see your way clear to accept this very important assignment. It will be of inestimable service to the chaplains who will soon be returning from their posts of duty and to whom the Conference as well as the whole of American Jewry owe a great debt of gratitude.

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

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



*Congregation Beth El*  
*Woodward at Gladstone*  
*Detroit 2, Michigan*

DR. LEO M. FRANKLIN  
RABBI EMERITUS

September 6, 1945

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for your kind letter of September 5th. While I realize that the position of Liaison Officer between the congregations and the returning chaplains may entail more tact and courage than I possess, I am very glad to accept the assignment and to fulfill the obligations which it entails to the best of my ability.

I imagine that the position may entail some travel and perhaps considerable correspondence. I take it for granted that the Conference will meet any necessary expenses that are involved in this matter.

Assuring you that I shall consider it a privilege to serve you, and through you, the Conference, in any way that is possible, and with all good wishes for the New Year, as always,

Fraternally yours,

*Leo M. Franklin*

LMF/pb



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

September 12, 1945

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

Dear Abba:

I received a visit from Mr. Robert Vogel, who represents the American Friends Service Committee. He would like to see you and I hope you will be able to find time for him. His work concerns the Conference and involves certain promises that we made.

A number of years ago when the problem of the conscientious objector became serious the Federal Government made arrangements for special treatment of these men. Camps, as you know, were established, etc., but no provision was made by the Federal Government to pay for their keep or other expenses. The Pacifist churches (the Quakers, the Mennonites, and the Brethren) took up the burden of supporting these men in the various camps and also the task of directing them and helping them in other ways. Of course, not all the men who were conscientious objectors belonged to these Pacifist churches. Therefore, as the burden grew heavy, the Pacifist churches asked the other churches of America to contribute in proportion roughly to the number of men of their church in these camps. There were a number of Jewish men in these conscientious objector camps and the Conference, about four or five years ago, promised to do its share or raise its share.

Then, at a later time, we suggested that the Jewish Welfare Board should do it for the entire Jewish community. The Jewish Welfare Board turned the work over to the National Community Advisory Council, which recommended to its constituent bodies to share the burden.

This should solve the matter if the constituent bodies will do their part, but meanwhile the Pacifist churches are bearing the burden and are growing, understandably, a little anxious about it. It would seem to me that the Conference owes at least the responsibility of seeing that the matter is not neglected.

At all events, I am giving a copy of this letter to Mr. Vogel, who is a Quaker from Philadelphia and a leader in this work. He will send you a copy of this letter to identify himself and ask for an appointment.

With best wishes, I am

As ever,

Sol



# TEMPLE ISRAEL

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DETROIT 2

September 12, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.,  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

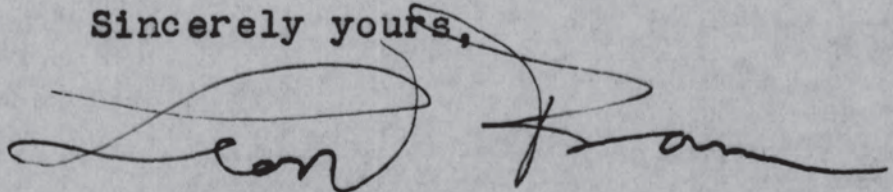
Dear Abba:

I think there was a time when the Rabbis used to receive a necrology to use at the Memorial Service on Yom Kippur. I find myself missing it very much as I make my plans for our Memorial Service this year.

Is there one available? If so, I should like to have it sent to me. If not, I believe the Executive Board of our Conference might very well take up the matter of reviving the custom of making someone responsible for a necrology to reach the Rabbis before Yom Kippur.

With all good wishes for the New Year, I  
am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leon Fram', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

LF:lh

RABBI LEON FRAM



September 18, 1945

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

You may recall that at the last meeting of the Executive of the CCAR, a Committee of three was appointed to consider the proposal of a Union Conference Book Concern. You and Marcuson were put on the committee and I am to appoint the third member. He should be someone who knows something about the book business. Could you recommend one or two names from among the members of the conference?

You will also recall that the Executive adopted the resolution recommending that a meeting of the chairmen of the committees on ceremonies, music and liturgy be held at least once a year to consider the plans which these committees have to consider in order to avoid conflict and duplication. I would suggest that you, as chairman of the Liturgy Committee, arrange for the calling of such a meeting.

I am also going to ask you to serve as a member on the Committee of Committees with Feldman and Aryeh Lev.

With all good wishes to you and Lillian for a happy new year, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK

p.s.

I do not know whether you saw the enclosed item in Sunday's "Times." Finklestein has pulled another fast one.



September 18, 1945

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

I am enclosing herewith a letter of Shusterman which is self-explanatory. He suggests that someone of the CCAR Board make a study of the solicitations program of the Conference and bring in some recommendations to the next Board meeting. I would suggest that you look over his report and compare it with the reports of previous years. Perhaps you will then discover some recommendations to make. You may wish to write for further information to Shusterman, Duke Margolis and Braude.

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

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
THE RUSKIN APARTMENTS  
120 RUSKIN AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

September 19, 1945.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
105 & E. Ansel,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

An important matter has just come up. I presume you know all about it but I would like to make a suggestion, if I may.

The CANRA is going to send three of its members on a final inspection tour of the war theatres. One will go to the China-Burma-India Theatre, one to the Pacific, and one to the European and North African. One of the three emissaries will be representative of the Orthodox members of the Canra, one of the Conservative and one of the Reform. Which representative will go to which theatre is not determined. Each group in Canra will appoint a sub-committee to select its emissary who will, of course, represent all of Canra in the theatre which he visits and will be, ultimately, appointed by Mr. Frank Weil.

A number of names have been suggested for our representative. I have one that I think will appeal to you, namely, Elkan Voorsanger. Elkan has done the hardest work on the Canra. All these war years he travelled by bus and plane and train, inspecting all the American camps. He deserves more than anybody else the fun, to the extent that it is fun, of this trip. Secondly, Elkan has not a pulpit and it will be easier for him to go. Barney will appoint the sub-committee to select our emissary but, of course, you know you are ex officio on every committee.

With best wishes for a happy new year to you and Virginia and the children, in which Lillian joins,

As ever,

Sol.



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

September 20, 1945

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

Dear Abba:

I have your letter of September 18. As a third member of the committee of the Union Conference Book Concern I suggest Samuel Gup, who did a great deal of the investigating of the other book concerns for me before I wrote the Message.

I have made a note to call a meeting of the chairmen of the committees on Ceremonies, Music, and Liturgy. I shall do so as soon as things ease up.

I wrote you a letter about the CANRA's intention to send three more emissaries to visit the various theatres. It was a sort of a private letter to you which I dictated at home, although there is nothing particularly private about it. All I wanted was to give you a little time ahead to think about it so that you would not be taken by surprise if the facts are "sprung" on you.

As ever,

Sol

SBF:ls



SOCIETY OF CONCORD  
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

RABBI  
BENJAMIN FRIEDMAN

TEMPLE STUDY  
910 MADISON STREET

October 9, 1945.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

I just want you to know that I have been doing everything within my power in this part of the country to support your leadership and your attitude on Zionism. I know that you are deep in the problem which faces us but would like to add that you have the confidence of ever growing numbers of our people.

With respect and love.

As ever,

*Ben*

Rabbi Benjamin Friedman

BF:fs



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

October 10, 1945

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

Dear Abba:

It was a grand meeting of the Executive Board. It is remarkable how quickly you mastered the Conference business. Of course, a great deal is the art of presiding, which you amply possess--to the good fortune of all of us.

Aryeh Lev rode home on the train with me and he expressed the desire to serve as one of our representatives on the Synagogue Council. We have, I believe, ten or twelve. If you care to appoint him you still can do it before the Yearbook is printed. Aryeh is very much interested in the Synagogue Council and rather critical of its sudden expansion. As you know, he is living now in New York and is, for the present, connected with the Jewish Welfare Board.

He asked me to write to you about this, and since it wasn't a bad idea, and since I am always glad of an excuse to write to you, I did it.

Looking forward to seeing you next week in Pittsburgh, I am

As ever,

Sol

P. S. I am sorry you can't come earlier. We could have spent part of the day together. But I shall see you at the Banquet. You will receive a Golden Book of the National Fund and I shall present it to you.



October 11, 1945

Rabbi Benjamin Friedman  
Society of Concord  
910 Madison Street  
Syracuse, N.Y.

My dear Ben:

Thank you so much for your kind note. I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in writing to me.

I trust that you and your dear ones are all well.

This morning I wrote to Mr. Weil suggesting your name as an alternate to represent the C.C.A.R. on CANRA.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



C O P P Y

ZA 335      12 - DETROIT, MICH.

Oct. 15, 1945

Rabbi Louis Egelson  
34 West Sixth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio

REGRET MY ILLNESS PREVENTS MY ATTENDANCE SUGGEST  
APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE LIAISON OFFICER.

LEO M. FRANKLIN





October 28, 1945

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from Frank Weil. Have you any suggestions of a name that I can give to Weil?

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK  
Enc.



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

October 30, 1945

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

Dear Abba:

I am really at loss for an answer to the question contained in your letter of October 28. I wish Weil would reconsider about Egelson. The only objection he can have about Egelson is that he has sometimes fought the battle of Reform a little too vigorously at meetings of the CANRA. When Orthodox candidates for ecclesiastical endorsement would come before us, he would ask them "embarrassing" questions - whether they would conduct a Reform service if the boys asked for it, etc. Otherwise, we have really canvassed the entire committee.

Of course Bennie Friedman would be a wonderful choice for the trip if he would consent to go and Weil would confirm his appointment. I believe you appointed him in place of Heller, or at least as an alternate.

With best wishes, I am

As ever,

Sol

SBF:ls

P. S. All Pittsburghers are still speaking of that tremendously powerful address you gave here. I never heard you better, and I have heard you, as you know, hundreds of times.



CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICERS 1945 - 1946

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Cleveland, Ohio

ABRAHAM J. FELDMAN, Vice-President  
Hartford, Conn.

HARRY S. MARGOLIS, Treasurer  
St. Paul, Minn.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary  
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SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary  
Reading, Pa.

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October 31, 1945

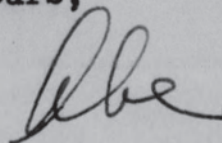
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

I have not as yet written to anyone about participation in the program of the next Conference. I know that you have been very greatly driven by the emergency situation. I shall be glad if at your early convenience you will give me the go ahead sign so that I might write to those who are to participate in the program and let them get started if they choose.

With best wishes, I am as ever,

Yours,



AJF:B



November 1, 1945

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I received word from Dr. Franklin on October 15 that his illness will make it impossible for him to act as our liason officer with congregations. I am very sorry to learn of his illness and of his inability to serve.

I am wondering whether you can suggest one or two other names. Do you think that David Lefkowitz would do, or Max E. Currick?

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK



CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

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With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

*Abba*

AHS:BK

*Dear Abba*  
*Forgive the informality. This is just to save time.*  
*David Lefkowitz & Max Currick are both good. In fact*  
*it might be an advantage to divide the job into 3 parts*  
*or four parts & add Jack & Magnin. I also*  
*would a four-man group of Senior Colleagues to be*  
*the volunteer liason officers with the congregations.*  
*I am sure this would be agreeable to the Emergency Response*  
*Committee - if it is agreeable to you. As ever*  
*Sol.*



November 1, 1945

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
Beth Israel Congregation  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

You may recall that at the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Conference, it was voted that a committee be appointed to make a study of all the existing commissions and committees of the Conference and their functions to ascertain whether some of these committees could be dispensed with or combined, etc. In thinking through the matter it occurs to me that it would be desirable to put on this Committee all the chairmen of the existing committees and commissions (other than those who are on joint commissions with the Union). This would mean about eighteen or twenty men, a committee perhaps a bit large. On the other hand, the chairmen would have to be consulted anyhow before any changes with respect to their committees are made. I should like you to serve as Chairman of this Committee.

In inviting the heads of the various committees and commissions to join you on this study Committee, I would suggest that you request each of them to send you a brief outline showing exactly what the work of their respective committees consist of, whether in their judgment the continuance of the committee is essential, whether it cannot well be merged with some other committee, whether a definition or a re-definition of its functions is not called for.

When you receive their replies, you will wish to study them and correlate them and send a digest to all the members of your Committee. You may then find it desirable to have a meeting with the entire Committee, perhaps a day or two before the Executive Committee of the Conference meets in connection with our forthcoming Convention. The Executive Committee would then be in a position to act upon your recommendations and present those



Rabbi A. J. Feldman

-2-

November 1, 1945

recommendations if necessary for action to the Conference plenum.

You have undoubtedly received from Marcuson by now the list of all the Conference committees and commissions. You will know who the chairmen are.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK





November 6, 1945

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I think your suggestion about having four regional liason officers is excellent. I would suggest that you, as Chairman of the Emergency Placement Committee, write to Lefkowitz, Currick, Magnin and Leipziger.

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK



November 7, 1945

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

If you have not yet notified the members of the Committee on Committees, I would ask you to consider this paragraph from a letter which I received this morning from Marcuson. I think there is a good deal of merit to his observations:

"May I suggest to you that you would make a mistake if you named the present chairmen as a committee to study the Committees and Commissions. When the motion was made a few years ago to combine or abolish certain committees all the chairmen objected to their committee being abolished or interfered with and a few years ago a neutral committee had to be appointed before three committees could be abolished or combined in the Committee on Public Affairs. Leipziger was finally named as chairman and made a good job of it. I would therefore suggest that you give Feldman about four strong well informed members and let them make the study. Some of the committees are dead and haven't functioned for years, others are over-lapping and could well be combined. Think it over."

Perhaps a good committee would consist of Marcuson, Freehof, Currick, Leipziger and Feuer. Think through the matter and let me have your reaction.

With all good wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

AHS:BK



November 7, 1945

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

You will recall that at the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Conference, it was voted to revise the present Rabbi's Manual. It was also decided that Rabbi Cohan, who had been chairman, should be asked to serve on the committee, but not as its chairman. The former members of the committee were Thurman, Feuerlicht, Gerson B. Levy and yourself.

I should very much like you to take over the chairmanship of the committee and to select four or five members of the Conference to assist you. You know the people who have been working with you in Liturgy. In writing to them, you may indicate that they are the appointees of the Conference, and you may also suggest a time for meeting.

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. Please let me know the names of the members of the Committee.



November 8, 1945

Dr. Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

Please proceed with making the arrangements for the program of the next Convention. I wish you would find out for me when Dr. Leo Baeck is planning to come to this country and whether he will be here during the period of our Conference. Somewhere I read that some organization had invited him.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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November 9, 1945

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

My dear Abba:

Replying to your letter of November 7, may I say that I agree with you and Marcuson, that the smaller committee would be more effective. The committee that you name, viz., ~~Marcuson~~ Freehof, Leipziger, Currick and Feuer is an excellent committee.

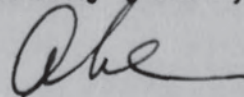
I would make the following suggestion as to procedure.

I like your previous suggestion (in your letter dated November 1) that each present chairman send to me a statement of his conception of the functions and purposes and justification for the continuance of his committee. I might correlate these and then send that to the members of the smaller committee you now name, or call them together at some central point where the whole matter might be discussed and a definite recommendation made, in time for the next meeting of the Executive Board.

If you approve of this procedure, please let me know and I shall proceed at once.

With every good wish, I am,

Faithfully yours,



AJF:B



November 13, 1945

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

In reply to your letter of November 9 - please  
proceed with the work of the Committee as you outlined.

Be sure to notify the members of the Committee of  
their appointment.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK



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November 13, 1945

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

My dear Abba:

I was surprised to receive your letter of November 8 inquiring about Dr. Baeck. The newspapers announced that the B'nai Brith were bringing Dr. Baeck to this country and that Monsky had charge of that. Shortly after the announcement was made, I received a telephone call from Eisendrath asking me as Chairman of the Program Committee of the C.C.A.R. to give him the go-ahead signal to invite Baeck to the Conference. I told him that I understood that the invitation to Baeck would be extended by you and that he should, therefore, communicate with you and receive your OK. I heard nothing more about it. I hope that you and he can get together and will clinch the matter.

I shall proceed now with the arrangements for the program of the Convention. For the present, however, I shall do nothing about that symposium about Reform and the returned veterans. I feel that until I know where in the program we can schedule that symposium it is best not to do it. If all that we had planned comes through, we shall have no time for that symposium.

With every good wish, I am,

Faithfully yours,

*Abbe*

*Abba  
Nov 29*  
AJF:B



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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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11-13-45

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Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington  
Hartford, Conn.

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ABBA HILLEL SILVER



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DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM  
1945 NOV 13 PM 2 50

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER:

=EAST 105 ST AT ANSEL RD CLEVE=

BECAUSE OF SABBATH SERVICES TO WHICH I COULD NOT RETURN  
IN TIME EXCEEDINGLY REGRET INABILITY TO GO TO CONFERENCE  
IN WASHINGTON THIS FRIDAY

=ABRAHAM J FELDMAN.

ABRAHAM

8

ga 0150

No.	To	By	At	Time
	FXB	ZB	328	10:00 a.m.



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DAVID WICE, Newark, N. J.  
LOUIS WITT, Dayton, Ohio  
BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

December 13, 1945  
(Dictated 12-12)

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

While I was in Cincinnati last weekend for the 70th anniversary celebration of H.U.C., several of the men approached me in the matter of the elimination of the name of Freed from the list of beneficiaries of the C.C.A.R. relief funds. The several men urged strongly that he be restored to our rolls.

I took up the matter with Gup. He tells me that to date the Conference spent on Freed the sum of \$3,192.50, that in addition the Conference spent something like \$800.00 for his hospitalization, medical care, etc. over the years.

Gup, Glueck, Heller (who saw Freed when he was in Palestine recently) feel that Freed should be restored to the relief rolls.

I told the men who talked to me that the matter is entirely in your hands and that of the Executive Board, and that I would not undertake to take any stand in the matter until your return to the country and only at your direction.

I imagine that some approaches may be made to you, and I want you to be informed of the approaches that have been made to me.

Faithfully yours,

*Ahe*

AJF:B





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December 13, 1945  
(Dictated 12-12)

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

My dear Abba:

In your absence I received a request from Dr. Stephen S. Wise for relief for Mrs. Aptowitzer. I communicated with Gup, Chairman of the Committee, and asked him what the status of the relief fund was. The enclosed copy of my letter to Dr. Wise is a summary of Gup's reply.

You may wish to take the matter up further with Dr. Wise, or he may communicate with you, and I am sending this data to you for your information.

I hope you had a profitable visit in Eretz Yisroel, and that you are well after the strenuous days you have gone through.

Faithfully yours,

*Abe*

AJF:B  
Enc.





C  
O  
P  
Y

CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

Emergency Placement Committee  
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, Chairman  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

December 26, 1945

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

Dear Abba:

Welcome home. I hope that the trip to Palestine was satisfactory to you and that you came back in good health and strength. The one or two Conference tasks which you assigned to me I shall get around to doing as soon as possible, but there is one urgent matter that I should like you to decide now. If you decide it now it will save us all a lot of difficulty later.

The matter concerns the chaplaincy placement. As you know, the Committee of which I am chairman, the Emergency Placement Committee, is concerned with placing the returning chaplains in new positions as they need them. The Chaplaincy Committee, of which Brickner is Chairman, still has some work left. It is Brickner's Committee which has compiled and kept the list of those rabbis who have and have not applied for the Chaplaincy, and those rabbis who have and have not been rejected for physical reasons, etc. In the terminology of the Chaplaincy Committee, they have the list of those who have "clearance" from the Chaplaincy Committee to take a new position.

Now a question has come up which requires your decision. (1) The Ohabei Shalom Congregation in Boston wanted a certain rabbi and inquired of Brickner whether this rabbi has clearance from the Committee. Brickner asked me whether he should inform the congregation or not. (2) Some chaplain wanted to know whether Perilman of Temple Emanuel has clearance from the Chaplaincy Committee. Perilman is not applying for any congregation. He may be elevated in status by Temple Emanuel, but no one officially, except a chaplain, has asked us about his "clearance." (3) Egelson, who is Secretary of the Emergency Placement Committee and does most of the work, sends me of course copies of all the correspondence, and I notice that he sent a letter to a man in New York (evidently an officer of a congregation) with regard to one of the rabbis who is being considered for that congregation, and told this officer that the rabbi has no "clearance." I believe that this opinion of Egelson's was entirely unsolicited by the congregation, though I shall inquire.



Page Two

During your absence Barney asked me what he should do about the wire that he received from the Boston congregation asking him concerning the chaplaincy status of this applicant. I said that the Conference will have to decide what to do with these records. It may decide now, or after a year or two or three, to let by-gones be by-gones, or it may decide otherwise; but in the meantime the President of the Conference must decide. Since you were not available, and since it was urgent, I said to him that I am willing to give him my own opinion but that it is entirely personal and not official, namely, that he should certainly give the information to those congregations which ask, but not to give unasked for information to anybody unless the President of the Conference decides that that should be done.

So, Abba, would you please decide this matter: (1) Shall this information be given in response to official requests by congregations? (2) Shall it be given to colleagues who want to know? (3) Shall it be given to anybody unsolicited?

This matter is full of dynamite, but it has to be settled. Would you have your office send Barney, as Chairman of the Chaplaincy Committee which has the information, a copy or a communication on this matter?

As ever,

(Signed) Sol



2 copies  
letter

# CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

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EMERGENCY PLACEMENT COMMITTEE  
RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, CHAIRMAN  
4905 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, 13, PA.

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As ever,

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December 27, 1945

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

My dear Abba:

Just a reminder to you about Rabbi Leo Baeck,  
whom you were to contact about his addressing the Convention of  
the C.C.A.R. on the night of Thursday, June 27.

I imagine that he can be reached through the  
B'nai B'rith office in Washington.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Abbe*

AJF:B

Three Score and Ten

1875 • 1945



The HEBREW UNION COLLEGE



Dear Abba:

I hate to bother you. I hope you will have time to make a decision on this delicate and rather urgent matter.

S. B. F.

January 2, 1946

Rabbi Louis I. Egelson  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Merchants Building  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Louis:

I have copies of all the letters that you sent me and I cannot help thanking you again for the terrific amount of work that you are doing.

With regard to the matter of giving out information as to a candidate's "clearance" in the lists of the Chaplaincy Committee, I urge you to be very careful, because it is full of dynamite and there are chances of doing an injustice. As I told you before, the principle involved must ultimately be decided by the Conference, but between conferences the president of the Conference will have to decide. Until Rabbi Silver makes his decision on the matter it is my responsibility as chairman of the Emergency Placement Committee to decide our principle of action.

Therefore, let me direct you as follows, so the responsibility will be not yours but mine: (a) Whichever congregation inquires as to the Chaplaincy status of a candidate for its pulpit, give them the full information as to whether the man has clearance from the Chaplaincy Committee or not. (b) If no inquiry is directed to you on this question please do not volunteer any information.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbi Silver for him to make the final decision of Conference policy on this delicate matter.

As ever,

Solomon B. Freehof

P. S. If you would like to come to Pittsburgh to clear up accumulated problems of the Committee, wait a few weeks until travel eases up.



January 4, 1946

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I have just recovered from a siege of grippe. This is my first day back at my desk. I am answering your letter of December 26.

I have just had a talk with Brickner about the subject. The final disposition of the matter must of course be left to the Executive of the CCAR, but inasmuch as the Executive will not meet before next June, it is our thought that the two committees -- the Emergency Placement Committee and the Chaplaincy Committee of the CCAR -- should meet at the earliest opportunity and agree on an ad interim arrangement and also bring in recommendations to the Executive for a permanent arrangement. It would also be desirable for these two committees, when they meet, to define their proper functions and future activities.

Until the committees meet, it is my judgment that no information on clearance be given to anyone but to the official representative of a congregation who solicits it in the name of the congregation. Will you please notify Rabbi Egelson of this understand?

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:NK



January 4, 1946

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe.

I have written to Dr. Leo Baeck and invited him to  
address the CCAR Convention.

The presidents of the three Rabbinic bodies represented  
on CANRA have before them the proposal of providing financial  
aid to chaplains returning from service who may for a time be in  
financial need. The details in connection with the degree of  
relief, the length of the period of relief, etc. will be worked out  
by this committee and are to be submitted for consideration to the  
Jewish Welfare Board.

I should like you to represent me on this committee.  
Rabbi Egelson will probably call a meeting of this committee in  
the near future.

With all good wishes, and trusting that you are  
well, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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January 8, 1946

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

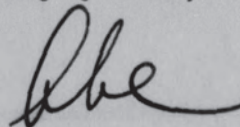
My dear Abba:

I shall be glad to hear from you when you have a reply from Dr. Baeck on whether he can address the C.C.A.R. conference.

Of course I shall be glad to represent you at the meetings of CANRA.

With every good wish from house to house, I am,

Faithfully yours,



AJF:B





# Congregation B'nai Jehudah

TELEPHONE LINWOOD 7844



LINWOOD BLVD. AND FLORA AVE.

*Kansas City, Missouri*

January 16, 1946

Rev. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th and Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

As a member of the Central Conference and as a Chaplain, I should like to ask the Executive Committee of the Conference to consider the possibility of holding our Annual Conference at the same time and in the same city as the meetings of the Rabbinical Assembly and the Rabbinical Council.

This request is prompted by a desire on my part to continue and further the association and fellowship I have had with members of the Assembly and the Council who have served in the Chaplaincy. We, as Chaplains, have shared a common experience and in many situations have worked together in harmony and accord that we have not previously known in our civilian ministries.

I have discussed the matter with other Chaplains who are members of the several Rabbinical bodies and without exception the suggestion has met with approval. Most of us make a point of attending our respective annual meetings. The expense of attending a separate meeting called for Chaplains only would be prohibitive in my personal case and in the case of many others. Whereas, if the Rabbinical bodies met at the same time and in the same city, we on our part, could arrange joint sessions for the Chaplains either before or after the regular Rabbinical meetings, at a comparatively small expense to ourselves.

I am hopeful that this matter will meet with the approval and interest of the Executive Committee. Let me thank you in advance for your courtesy and attention in this as in other matters.

Respectfully yours,

MORTON C. FIERMAN,  
Rabbi.

*P.S. I have just been elected co-rabbi of  
Congregation B'nai Jehudah. It is good to  
be back in the civilian rabbinate again.*



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

January 18, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

I expect to leave my pulpit before the conclusion of the service on Sunday, January 27, and make the 12:30 P&LE train. Will you have your office reserve a room for me at a hotel and let me know which hotel it is? I presume it will be the Statler Hotel, where you always get me a room, but I shall wait to hear from you.

I shall have to go from Cleveland to Columbus, because Monday afternoon or evening I address the Ohio Council of Churches.

About the American Jewish Conference, if I am not mistaken the delegates are still Heller and myself. I see no reason why the same delegates should be kept year in and year out. I expect to travel around a great deal for the College, and will in all likelihood find it impossible to attend the session. Would it not be advantageous for you to appoint two new delegates, say Feldman for one, and some other one?

As ever,

Sol

*Wade Park Manor*

SBF:ls



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January 18, 1946

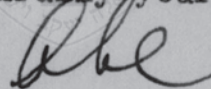
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Abba:

The enclosed clipping is from yesterday's New York Post.  
Does that mean that Dr. Baeck will not be here for the Biennial and  
for the C.C.A.R. Convention? If so, I shall have to hustle to fill in  
the program for the convention for the time that had been reserved for  
him. I shall be grateful for information from you on this score.

With warm personal greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,



AJF:B

Enc.

Three Score and Ten

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6

SDAY, JANUARY 17, 1946

## THIS IS YEAR OF DECISION FOR JEWS, SAYS DR. BAECK

Dr. Leo Baeck, 72, former Chief Rabbi of Berlin, who today was en route to London, said upon his departure from LaGuardia Field that this year will be "decisive and irrevocable for the 1,400,000 Jews" remaining in Europe.

Dr. Baeck, who spent 28 months in a Nazi concentration camp, said new hope had been given the refugees by the United Jewish Appeal for \$100,000,000 for their relief.

"The Jews of America are confronted with a staggering responsibility," he said. "But the American Jews are inspired by the American genius, by the American strength."

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, NAT'L PRES CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS=THE TEMPLE CLEVE=

NEED YOUR HELP ON FILIBUSTER. WRITE OR WIRE PRESIDENT TRUMAN  
AND ROBERT HANNEGAN APPLAUDING SENATE MOVE THAT BROUGHT FEPC  
TO FLOOR. URGE THEY USE ALL ADMINISTRATION STRENGTH TO SECURE  
PASSAGE OF BILL. SEND STATEMENTS TO PRESS ALONG SAME LINES,  
DECRYING FILIBUSTER AND CALLING FOR OPPORTUNITY FOR SENATE TO  
VOTE ON FEPC WHICH IS ONLY PIECE OF MUST LEGISLATION NOW  
READY FOR FLOOR ACTION. SEND US COPIES OF STATEMENTS

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR A PERMANENT FEPC ANNA ARNOLD  
HEDGEMAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

(DAA3T-V-8)

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January 20, 1946

Rabbi Morton C. Fierman  
Congregation B'Nai Jehudah  
Linwood Blvd. and Flora Ave.  
Kansas City, Missouri

My dear Morton:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of January 16, and to learn that you have been elected as co-rabbi of Congregation Jehudah to serve with my old friend Rabbi Mayerberg. Let me congratulate you most heartily. You will have rich opportunities for service, and I am sure that you will measure up in every way to the responsibilities. All good luck.

We have been considering the possibility of holding our Annual Conference at the same time and in the same city with the other Rabbinical bodies. Such a request has come to us from one or two other chaplains. Our Committee has not yet made its final report.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



January 21, 1946  
(Dictated 1-18)

Rabbi Morton C. Fierman  
Linwood Blvd. and Flora Ave.  
Kansas City, Mo.

My dear Rabbi Fierman:

Replying to your letter of January 16, may I say that so far as this year's meeting of the Central Conference is concerned, your suggestion comes too late, inasmuch as arrangements are already completed to hold it in Atlantic City June 25 to 30. The matter might be brought to the attention of the Executive Board at the Pre-Conference meeting in June, and I would suggest that you write to Dr. Silver or to Dr. Marcuson to put it on the agenda for that meeting.

If I may give you a personal reaction, it would be negative on several grounds:

1. We had such a meeting in New York several years ago and on the whole it was not successful. That meeting was held at the instance of the C.C.A.R. and at the joint session that was held, the spokesmen for the Rabbinical Assembly informed us that if we would do things their way, things would be all right, but those were their terms.
2. The Rabbinical Council at that time rejected the invitation that was extended to them to have a joint meeting with us.
3. Because of the dietary requirements of the other two bodies, even assuming that they would want to join at the same time, we would be restricted necessarily to meeting in larger cities.
4. It is my impression that the Rabbinical Assembly usually meets during the period of Sephirah when normally they have no marriages to perform. In the case of our men, that period is exceedingly difficult because we are all preoccupied with preparations for Confirmation.

This is a personal reaction to the suggestion which you make. You may feel free, of course, to communicate with the Executive Board through the channels indicated above, where you may have the benefit of the whole Board's opinion on this subject.

With every good wish I am,

Sincerely yours,



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

January 21, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

The College Drive is crowding me more and more. It looks as if I shall be in Dallas, Texas, at or near the time of the meeting of the American Jewish Conference in Cleveland. That would leave only one delegate from the Conference, Rabbi Heller.

Don't you think the time has come to appoint two new delegates, Feldman and someone else? Or, if you think it is all right for me to serve even though I am not present, then you can just let things go as they are. I shall be guided by your wishes.

As ever,

*Sol*

SBF:ls



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LOUIS WITT, Dayton, Ohio  
BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

January 21, 1946  
(Dictated 1-18)

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

My dear Abba:

I have received a letter from Rabbi Morton C. Fierman, a Chaplain who it seems is now assistant to Sam Mayerberg, in which he suggests that the Executive Board of the C.C.A.R. consider the possibility of holding our annual conference at the same time and in the same city as the meetings of the Rabbinical Assembly and Rabbinical Council. He states that he has discussed the matter with other Chaplains who would like to utilize the occasion of the respective annual meetings for a get-together of the Chaplains without additional expense to themselves, to attend special reunions for Chaplains. He asked that the matter be laid before the Executive Board.

I wrote to him as per the enclosed copy of my letter. I am sending this to you for your information.

With kindest regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

*Abe*

AJF:B





RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

January 21, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

I am putting this on a separate sheet for the convenience of your files. I apologize for neglecting the matter of the Rabbi's Manual. As I understand the matter, the present edition is exhausted and before making a new edition we should consider the fact that some members of the Conference have complained about the Rabbi's Manual, and therefore we should have a committee look it over and see whether it requires any serious change.

Unless you correct me, I believe we were not given a mandate to revise the Manual, but really to decide whether it requires serious revision. If only verbal revision, we can make it easily and have a new edition printed. If serious revision is needed it will take some time to look over the Manual.

In accordance with your letter, I appoint with your approval Cohon, the former editor, and Feldman, and Frederick Doppelt, who has never served on a Conference committee. Unless I hear from you to the contrary I shall write to these men and ask them to look over the Manual, and if there is much to discuss we shall arrange a meeting some time in the future.

As ever,

Sol

SBF:ls



January 22, 1946

Br. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

We have made reservations for you at the Wade Park Manor. It will be easier for you to get from there to the Oakwood Club, where the dinner will be held, than from the Statler. It is also a better hotel.

Some time ago I wrote to the American Jewish Conference and appointed Rabbi Feldman in place of Heller. I have left you as a delegate.

We are looking forward eagerly to your coming here on Sunday. With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:BK



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January 22, 1946

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

My dear Abba:

I read in some periodical that Dr. Sukenik of the Hebrew University is about to arrive in this country and had the following thought: If Dr. Baeck will not be here for the meeting of the C.C.A.R. might it not be well to ask Dr. Sukenik to speak?

Moreover, at the same time may I remind you of your thought which was approved by the Executive Board that in the event that Dr. Baeck was not available we might invite someone like Sumner Welles or Dr. John Foster Dulles to address us at that time. Inasmuch as you are personally acquainted with all of these men, I imagine that it would be most helpful if you extended the invitation to any one of those that you deem it wise to ask. Will you let me know what your thought is so that I may keep the record on the program clear and up to date?

With best wishes I am,

Faithfully yours,

*Abbe*

AJF:B





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January 23, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

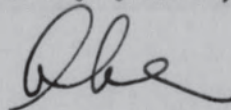
My dear Abba:

I have just been informed by the American Jewish Conference that on January 3 your office informed them that Freehof and I were designated as representatives of the C.C.A.R. to the Third Session of the Conference which is being held in Cleveland from February 17 to 19.

I write to verify this and then will proceed to write to make arrangements to get to Cleveland on February 17. It happens that I am preaching at one of the churches here that morning (Brotherhood Week) and if I can get a plane out of Hartford I shall arrive in Cleveland somewhere around 8:00 o'clock.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



AJF:B





January 25, 1946

Dr. Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

In reply to your kind letter of January 23, I have appointed you to help the C.C.A.R. at the Third Session of the American Jewish Conference. I shall look forward with pleasure to seeing you in Cleveland.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



January 28, 1946

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

I enquired from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about the possibility of Dr. Baeck returning from Europe. I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from Mr. Landau.

I don't think that we should count on Baeck. As far as Welles is concerned, I am afraid that we would have to pay him a substantial honorarium. However, I shall give the matter a little more thought.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK  
Enc.

P.S. I think your suggestion to invite Dr. Sukenik is an excellent one. Please follow through.



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BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

January 30, 1946

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

My dear Abba:

As I wrote you, I plan to be in Cleveland for the meeting of the American Jewish Conference. I hope that it will be possible for you and me to get together for a half hour or so to recheck on the program of the next Conference, to make certain that we have provided for all the places on the program that have to be taken care of.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Abe*

AJF:B





RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

January 30, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

I sent you yesterday the book by Dinehard to add to your library. I am sure you will enjoy reading it.

It is always a special pleasure to me to be in Cleveland when you and I can get some time to talk. Cleveland was the first city on the H. U. C. Drive, and you have made it successful, and it encouraged me very much. I am grateful, too, for your advice about seeing New Yorkers, and I have written to Morgenstern about it.

I am enclosing a mimeographed letter which Maurice Eisendrath sent out to the Union and CCAR representatives on the Synagogue Council. It makes no difference whether or not the particular thing he is complaining about is something that can be justly objected to. The Synagogue Council now has an executive director and they are seeking to expand the work of the Council; and, as I suggested in my last presidential message, it may be that we have to rethink the whole effort of the Synagogue Council to extend itself from the coordinating organization which we intended it to be, to an active functional organization which its constituent members are.

I wonder whether we should not have that committee, which I believe you appointed, look into the matter of the Synagogue Council and be sure that it is going to bring in a report.

As ever,

Sol

SBF:ls  
Enc.

P. S. I was appalled at what you told me was spent by the Commission on Justice and Peace. I am afraid you will have constant difficulty.



THE HEBREW SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY  
OF PHILADELPHIA

1011 Chestnut St., Suite 324

February 1, 1946

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Merchants Building  
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Gentlemen:

Dr. Azriel Eisenberg tells us that you are considering the publication of a religious school songster by Coopersmith. We would like to know whether or not this is true. If true, we would like to know the particulars.

The reason for our interest is that we ourselves are considering working with several other groups to publish a religious school songster, a piano edition to sell for around two dollars and a pupils' edition with melodic line to sell for about 60 cents.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention.

Very truly yours,

ALFRED HENRY FRIEDMAN  
Executive Director

AHF/dl



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# WESTERN UNION

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DR SOLOMON B NREEHOF:

=CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

4905 FIFTH AVE PGH=

CABINET CONSIDERING FEBRUARY 5 IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO PROVIDE OUR NATIONS SHARE FOOD FOR FOREIGN RELIEF. WIRE TO PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ANDERSON TODAY FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION OR YOU AS INDIVIDUAL MOST HELPFUL.

URGENT PRESIDENT HAVE EVIDENCE PUBLIC SUPPORT CARRY OUT OUR OBLIGATIONS EVEN IF MEANS RETURN TO SOME WARTIME CONTROLS= FOOD FOR FREEDOM.

5.

No.



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

February 4, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

I received the following Day Letter, which  
is meant for you:

Cabinet considering February 5 important  
administrative measures to provide our nation share  
food for foreign relief. Wire to president and  
secretary Anderson today from your organization or  
you as individual most helpful. Urgent president  
have evidence public support carry out our obligation  
even if means return to some wartime control.

Food for Freedom,  
Washington, D. C.

As ever,

*Sal*

SBF:ls



February 7, 1946

Mr. Solomon B. Freehof  
Congregation Rodef Shalom  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.



My dear Sol:

Did you as President send out a letter to the members of the Conference calling their attention to "Hebrew Month", sponsored by the Histadruth Ivrit? If so, would you send me a copy of it.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



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OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

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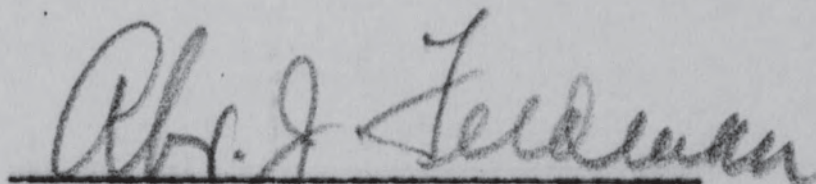
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February 8, 1946

Dr. Gordis, President of the Rabbinical Assembly, and Dr. Feldman, representing President Silver of the Central Conference of American Rabbis met jointly with Rabbi Louis I. Egelson and Rabbi Aryeh Lev to discuss the matter of unemployment relief to returning Chaplains. The meeting was held at the Henry Hudson Hotel on Wednesday, February 6.

It was agreed by all present that on the basis of present experiences, the matter of temporary unemployment relief for returning Chaplains is a problem which does not exist. It was felt that, also on the basis of the present outlook, there is no reason to anticipate any need for such unemployment relief. Since, however, future trends cannot be foretold now with complete accuracy, this committee decides to leave the matter pending, to reopen it if and when the problem arises. It may then be reopened at the call of any one of the Presidents of the three rabbinical bodies.

  
Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman, D.D.

AJF:B



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

February 11, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

I am afraid I shan't be able to come to the American Jewish Conference meeting this time. I had crowded a number of important engagements during the time when I would not be traveling for the College, and they are of the kind that I must keep. Please appoint an alternate for me.

With best wishes, I am

As ever,

Sol

SBF:ls

P. S. I was in Kansas City for the College and I think we shall do well there. I can't tell yet about Dallas, where I am going next week.

P. P. S. I did not send out a letter to the members on "Hebrew Month." For many of these campaigns the simplest thing to do is to have the Secretary include a paragraph in the bulletin which he issues every now and then. Did you receive Tselem Behechol?



February 14, 1946

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
Rodef Shalom Temple  
Fifth and Morewood Avenues  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I received the "Tselem Behechol" which I read  
with keen interest.

I also received from Mayerberg of Kansas City  
a lovely set of Roedelheim Machzorim, due to your  
helpful suggestion. You are certainly doing much  
to build up my library.

I am sorry that you will not be able to attend the  
session of the American Jewish Conference here in  
Cleveland. I believe the meeting will be an interest-  
ing one.

With all good wishes, I remain as ever,

Yours,

AHS:GR



**MEMO FROM**  
**RABBI ABRAHAM J. FELDMAN, D.D.**  
**701 Farmington Avenue**  
**Hartford 7, Connecticut**

March 11, 1946  
(Dictated 3-8)

My dear Abba:

Just a reminder that you have  
to invite someone to preach on Saturday  
morning at the C.C.A.R. session next  
June.

*Abbe*

AJF:B





99 Myrtle Avenue  
Hamilton, Ont. Canada  
March 12th, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, President  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Temple Tifereth Israel  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum which I am sending to Rabbi Eisendrath. I am doing this because (i) I am not sure whether the matters discussed in it are not in the domain of the CCAR rather than that of the UAHC, and (ii) because I know that in your capacity as President of the CCAR you will be interested in the matters put forth anyway.

I can hardly hope that you will have the time to let me know your reaction to the views I tried to put down. But I would ask anyway, that ~~if~~ something be done to deal with the problems, even though my proposed methods of dealing with them may be rejected in favor of such as may seem more suitable.

Wishing you every success in your new office which entails such a heavy responsibility,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Emil L. Fackenheim*

Emil L. Fackenheim, Ph.D.  
Rabbi, Anshe Sholom Congregation,  
Hamilton, Ont. Canada



Rabbi Emil L. Fackenheim, Ph.D.  
Anshe Sholom Congregation  
Hamilton, Ont. Canada  
March 12th, 1946.

MEMORANDUM

to: Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Director  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
34 West 6th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

1. At the recent biennial convention of the UAHC magnificent work was done along the lines of advancing Reform Judaism in America in matters pertaining to organization, the clarification of future organizational projects and the methods of achieving them.
2. However, problems pertaining to the inner force and the inner raison d'etre of the reform movement remained either untackled or, where tackled, were left in an unsatisfactory state where no adequate clarification was achieved. As to the former, I am referring to the general sessions; the problems of the methods to be used to attract ex-servicemen as well as the general Jewish public to the reform movement were satisfactorily dealt with, but the content of the faith of reform Judaism, and the fundamental problems that faith must meet were in most cases not even tackled. - As to the latter I am referring especially to the session on education; what we should teach, in terms of faith, ideology and theology, was left in a state of unclarity.
3. ✱ This is stated not as a criticism of the convention, for very possibly it is not feasible to tackle these matters on such an occasion. It is pointed out in order to show that here there is a basic need so far not adequately attended to.
4. To exhibit this need as a real one I beg to submit the following points:
  - (a) EDUCATION. In discussions on education it was freely admitted to me that it seemed impossible to proceed beyond the discussion of the proper methods of teaching to a discussion of the ultimate end of all Jewish religious teaching, in terms of faith and theology, because the rabbinate differed so greatly among themselves in their attitude to the doctrines of God, creation, the function of Israel, the position of the Bible, the problem of evil etc. - It must be stressed most strongly, however, that if this is so all Jewish religious teaching must be futile in the end. On such a basis of theological vacuum, it may be possible to posit as the end and aim of Jewish education "Jewish survival" or "Judaism as a religious civilization" -- whatever the hazy terms in which "religious" here be defined. But the educational program deriving from such aims would be national not religious, though this nationalism might be sublimated through cultural or religious concepts. - ~~xxxxxx~~ x If our education is to be basically religious, forthright answers must be given whenever direct religious questions come up in the classroom, such as "Is God a mere idea or a reality", "Is Jewish survival for the sake of religion (i.e. God), or is Jewish religion for the sake of Jewish survival". It must be possible in these situations to say: "This is the position of Reform Judaism". And Reform Judaism must be able to deal with all the philosophical and ideological problems arising from its standpoint. - To tell the pupil that he is to be taught merely how to think not what to think may be a position possible for education in general; in religious education, and especially in Jewish religious education it is an absurdity. For all methodology of thinking is general, the same for all thinking men, and with no specific faith started out from, we can never arrive



at the specific importance of what Judaism has to say. Therefore, unless a stand is made in what reform Jews believe, none of the basic questions inherent in being a Jew (religiously understood) will be ultimately answered to the pupils. The pupil may be led to be a Jew because of pride in the contribution of his people to civilization, or because of some vague emotional attachment, or because he realizes that he cannot help being a Jew, but never because of a clear ideological stand; -- or at least that possibility is left to the hazards of chance experience or chance reading. As far as education is concerned, its failure to take a clear stand adequate to all the bewildering problems of modernity might even give rise to the suspicion on the part of the pupil, that here there is no answer, and evasion. Therefore, it is the contention of the writer that while the methods of Jewish teaching are of great importance, and while magnificent work has been achieved along those lines, the fundamental question of all religious Jewish education is its content, in terms of a faith. Theology and philosophy are prior to education; we must first acquire intellectual clarity as to what we believe and can believe before we can tackle in a real sense the question of what we should teach and how to teach it. 7

(b) REFORM DOCTRINE.

(i) While there is a great amount of organizational unity in the reform movement, it would seem that there is a wide divergence among the rabbinic and laity as to doctrine. In the all-important question of God --all-important if Reform Judaism is to be a religious movement-- there are those to whom God is merely an idea, interpreted idealistically or pragmatically, and their very counterpart to whom God is the end realissimum and the creator of the world. In their interpretation of the Jewish people, reform Jews are divided into cultural nationalists, denominationalists, people believing in a mission of Israel --these again divided into liberals and fundamentalists--, and those who merely strive for survival. No in any way uniform attitude is taken toward such all-important questions as creation, the moral and ceremonial law, sin, evil, immortality. Above all, for the orthodox revelation-basis of the Jewish religion, almost universally discarded in that form, reform Jews have substituted not any one basis, but as divergent doctrines as Kantianism, idealism, pragmatism, positivism and perhaps even neo-scholasticism.

(ii) While there would be a divergence of religious view in any case and while to avoid this completely would be both impossible and undesirable, this divergence would not be so great were it not for the gigantic experiences of our time. But for these, the great theological work done by the founders of the reform movement would probably vouchsafe some basic unity. But the catastrophic experiences of our time force us to subject all the doctrines of the founders to a radical re-examination, especially their concepts of progress and progressive revelation, of sin and of the essential goodness of man. It would seem an incontrovertible fact that if liberalism is to survive, it requires a profound re-examination. So far, this task has not even been tackled by our movement in a fashion in any way adequate to the situation. To do so is essential if our outward unity is to be made real through inward unity. The dynamic of our movement must stem not only from the efficiency of our organization, but from its depth of faith. A situation must be combatted where it is possible that a board member of one of the most prominent congregations can be of the opinion that no intelligent person can believe in God, and that certainly the Rabbi does not really believe in Him.

5. It is obvious that this task cannot be tackled by authoritative statements from the top, and even less by an attempt to start an inquisition into the "orthodoxy" of rabbis and laymen. These would be both ineffective and in contrast with the democratic spirit of the reform movement. Nor would it seem



*in order*

advisable merely to have some of our leading thinkers write some volumes thus to persuade, instead of dictating to, rabbis and laymen, be these volumes ever so instructive. Our process of re-examining and re-fortifying reform Judaism must be democratic and all-pervading. An attempt must be made to encourage all rabbis and laymen concerned with these questions and able to participate in their discussion, to think and to voice their thought. This broadness of approach is necessary for two reasons:

- (i) only through broad participation will this thought-process become really effective;
- (ii) the dynamic character of our movement on the one hand, of the ~~evoked~~ events on the other, make it possible that the contribution of the younger and less learned men may be as valuable as that of the older men.

6. The writer, therefore, begs to submit the following suggestions:

A committee should be formed at once for the purpose of putting before all reform rabbis and leading laymen the request to express their considered view on one or several basic ideological questions arising for Reform Judaism in our day, and to do so in a set number of pages. A period of time should be indicated within which the answers are to be returned. The committee should then select a not too small number of valuable contributions and publish them immediately in book-form. This volume should then be sent to all rabbis and wide distribution among the laity should be aimed at. After the publication of this volume, expression of opinion might be solicited from all congregations, brotherhoods, sisterhoods and especially from the Temple Youth.

7. In the opinion of the writer, the set number of pages should be 20, the time allowed should be between three and six months, and the number of contributions included in the volume should be not less than 30, and probably 50 or more. For care must be taken that no voice which carries a message should go unheard. It should be made absolutely clear that the character of the contributions must not be sermonic, or dressed with oratory and stories, but that they must stick to the problem with utmost clarity and forthrightness.

8. Among the topics to be included by the committee should be:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (i) The existence of God  | (ii) The personality of God            |
| (iii) Theodicy  | (iv) The theological problem of prayer |
| (v) The problem of religious certainty (revelation, alternative sources of certainty) | (vi) The religious basis of morality   |
| (vii) The problem of evil   | (viii) The meaning of sin              |
| (ix) Israel as a religious entity   | (x) Israel as a religious entity.      |

Any list of topics, however, should allow room for alternative suggestions on the part of the participants. However, it is necessary to lay down a general policy with regards to topics set.

The writer realizes that a project such as outlined above involves much work and expense. But he urges in all sincerity that it should nevertheless be undertaken immediately, by the proper body, whether this be the UAHC or the CCAR. For he is convinced that such a project would meet a need whose greatness cannot be exaggerated. To tackle that need is necessary if we are to increase the inner strength of the reform movement with which we all are sincerely concerned.

Yours truly,  
*Rabbi David L. Finkelstein, Ph.D.*



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Rabbi A. J. Feldman  
701 Farmington  
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KINDST REGARDS.

SILVER



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Dr. A. J. Feldman  
701 Farmington  
Hartford, Conn.

BENJAMIN FRIEDMAN OF SYRACUSE HAS ACCEPTED TO SPEAK ON SATURDAY MORNING AT THE CONFERENCE. REGARDS.

SILVER

WRHS





March 21, 1946

Dr. A. J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

You will recall that at the last meeting of the CCAR Board in Cincinnati, we voted to grant the National Association of Temple Secretaries a half hour on the program of our forthcoming Convention. I received word this morning from Mr. Irving I. Katz, who is the Executive Secretary of Congregation Beth El in Detroit, that he has been designated by his organization to represent them. He will speak on the subject "The Function of the Executive Secretary in the Modern Synagogue."

Please place him in an appropriate spot on the program.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



March 25, 1946

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Rabbi Feldman:

Is there any way of getting the Chaplains to indicate their preferences as to who of them should conduct the noon-day services at the CCAR Convention as well as the Sabbath Eve and Sunday Morning services? If there is no way, I wish you would let me have the names of those whom you wish to designate. Please see to it that there is a sufficient number of graduates of the JIR among them. May I suggest that you include Chaplain Malcolm H. Stern, who is at 6531 N. Seventh Street, Philadelphia 26, Pa., on this program.

John F. Dulles regrets his inability to attend our Conference. I shall now try Mr. Welles.

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever,

AHS:BK



March 25, 1946

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof  
4905 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I am enclosing herewith correspondence with Rabbi  
Morton J. Cohn of Niagara Falls. Please let me have your  
judgment in the matter. Is there anything that the CCAR  
can and should do in the matter?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK  
Enc.



March 26, 1946

Dr. Emil L. Fackenheim  
99 Myrtle Avenue  
Hamilton, Ont. Canada

My dear Dr. Fackenheim:

Thank you for your letter of March 12 and for the copy of the memorandum which you sent to Rabbi Eisendrath and which I read with great interest. I shall be very pleased to bring the matter to the attention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis when it convenes in June.

Generally speaking, I am not of the opinion that a theology of Reform Judaism can best be formulated through a referendum. A suggestion was made not so long ago, I believe by Rabbi Wohl that in connection with the seventieth anniversary of the Hebrew Union College, a volume of essays on Reform Judaism be published. I do not know what progress has been made in this matter. You may be interested in writing to Rabbi Samuel Wohl of the Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



March 29, 1946

Mr. Abraham J. Feldman, Vice Pres.  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

Thank you for your letter of March 27. The list of Chaplains seems to be entirely satisfactory. I assume that these Chaplains did not appear on the CCAR program last year, or the year before.

I believe that the paper of Irving I. Katz may well be placed in one of our business sessions. I do not believe that it ought to be put on the same evening that Freehof reads his paper.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

*See Program*



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April 4, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

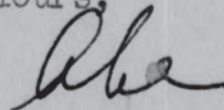
Eisendrath spoke to me the other day when I was in New York and asked that he be given 15 or 20 minutes at the Convention of the C.C.A.R. to speak about the Union. He pointed out that it has been the practice in past years to have the President of the Union speak, and that inasmuch as Rosenberg this year is ill and could not possibly be there, that he would like to make a statement of the hopes and plans of the U.A.H.C.

In accordance with your suggestion, I propose to put Katz in the Friday afternoon business session, and I am inquiring now whether you think it might not be a good thing to let Eisendrath speak for 15 minutes before Freehof's paper on Wednesday evening, or is it your thought that we should have nothing else that evening? I shall be grateful for your guidance.

Dr. Wise finds it impossible to commit himself at this time to be present at the opening session of the Convention, since he is not certain whether he would be back in time from Mexico. I shall, therefore, select some other senior colleague to give the closing prayer at the opening session. Is there anyone that you would like to have in that spot? I was thinking of Max Currick, past President, etc.

With kindest regards, I am as ever,

Yours,



AJF:B



Same sent to Samuel Cohon and Abraham Feldman.

April 10, 1946

Rabbi Frederick A. Doppelt  
Congregation Achduth Vesholom  
500 W. Wayne St.  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Colleague:

Some time ago Isaac Marcuson called the attention of the Executive Board to the fact that the available stock of our Rabbi's Manual is about used up and new copies need to be printed. He therefore suggested that if there are any changes to be made, this would be the time to make them.

The Executive Board asked me to be the chairman of a committee to look into the Manual and see whether (a) it needs drastic change, (b) it needs verbal change, (c) it needs any changing at all, in which <sup>case</sup> a new printing can be ordered. Dr. Silver, the President of the Conference, has approved the appointment of yourself, Sam Cohon and Abe Feldman to this committee.

Please remember that we have no mandate to revise the Manual, and it may well be that we will ask that a new printing of the Manual be made. If there are a few verbal changes, such changes will not delay the reprinting of the Manual. If there are drastic changes, it will take some time.

What I am asking you to do is this: Please be kind enough to look over the Manual in the next few days and tell me what you think we should do. Does it need much change? Does it need any change?

Forgive my hurry, but I confess I have neglected the matter and now the time has come when we must make a decision. I apologize and plead for your early reply.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

(Signed) Solomon B. Freehof

SBF:ls



Dear Abba:

This is for your information. You will get a letter from Rabbi Kronish. I think my suggestion is in line with the Conference decision. It might be necessary to have it discussed on the floor.

Sol

April 15, 1946

Rabbi Leon Kronish  
Temple Beth Sholom  
Chase Avenue at 41st St.  
Miami Beach, Florida

Dear Colleague:

I need not go into the arguments which convinced the Conference not to re-introduce the Kol Nidre as the first printing of the Prayerbook had it. The final conclusion was that copies of various versions of the Kol Nidre should be sent to the members.

Your suggestion that we print two versions of the Union Prayerbook, one with Kol Nidre and one without, is impossible, because it would destroy the order that we have achieved through a uniform Prayerbook. However, it was the intention of the Conference to help those who want the Kol Nidre. Hence, if I am not mistaken, the Conference can provide you with copies of the Kol Nidre.

I see no objection, for example, to that sheet being made exactly the same size as the Union Prayerbook and using the same type. You can buy a thousand sheets and no one will object if you have your binder tip them into the book.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbi Silver, the president of the Conference, for his judgment. I suggest that you write to him. He will get my letter before yours and will, therefore, be able to make a decision.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Solomon B. Freehof

SBF:ls



MEMO FROM  
RABBI ABRAHAM J. FELDMAN, D.D.  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford 7, Connecticut

April 17, 1946

My dear Abba:

Marcuson is pressing me to give him the completed program for the Conference, and I therefore would like to have your thoughts in reply to my letter of April 4.

Hoping that you are having a very happy Pesach, I am,

Very faithfully yours,

*Abe*

AJF:B



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# WESTERN UNION

1206-

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Rabbi G. J. Feldman  
701 Farmington  
Hartford, Conn.

D.L.

4-23-46

## WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"  
or similar phrases may be  
included without charge.

N.Y. Bd. of Ministers holding meeting Thurs. April 25, 10:30 a.m. at Spanish & Portuguese synagogue in N.Y. City to consider subject of rabbinical tenure. Other rabbinical bodies will be represented. Would greatly appreciate if you would attend this meeting. Please notify Rabbi Jeremiah J. Berman in N.Y. City. Kindest regards.

A. H. Silver



April 24, 1946

Dr. Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford 7, Conn.

My dear Abe:

As far as Eisendrath's part in the program is concerned, it is perfectly all right to put him on before Freehof with the clear understanding that he is not to exceed the fifteen minutes allotted to him.

It would entirely satisfactory to invite Rabbi Currick to give the closing prayer at the opening session of the Conference.

Please let me see a draft of the final program before you send it to Marcuson.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
AMERICAN RABBIS

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BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

May 7, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

I have just received a letter from Phil Bernstein asking me whether he is expected to give the Conference Lecture this year. He says, "I have had no written word of any kind. In view of the fact that time is growing short I am writing to inquire whether I am expected to deliver the lecture."

I am writing him today telling him that so far as I know it has been taken for granted that the invitation extended last year was postponed and that he is scheduled to give the address.

However, might I suggest that you send him word that you are expecting him to give the lecture?

I expect to send you within a few days the almost completed program for the Conference. I am having a little difficulty with rounding up the last two Chaplains to take some of the devotional parts in the program. Just as soon as that is clear I will send it to you, and after I have your approval I will send the thing to Marcuson.

With every good wish, I am,

Faithfully yours,

*Abbe*  
P

AJF:B



May 15, 1946

Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
Congregation Beth Israel  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Abe:

I am enclosing a letter which I received from Mr. Rittenberg, Editor of LIBERAL JUDAISM, in which he suggests that a place be found for Chaplain Harry Richmond of Wichita, Kansas on the program of Central Conference. Can you still find a place for him as one of the chaplains who will conduct a brief Devotional Services.

In regard to Phil Bernstein—I just read where he has been appointed by the President to a post in Europe. I would suggest that you telephone him immediately to find out whether he will be at the Conference in June. If not, we shall have to get someone else to give the Conference Lecture this year.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

Enc.



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.  
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE  
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

May 15, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

You will recall that we have had a great deal of difficulty with regard to the Committee on Ceremonies and the occasional overlapping of its work with the work of the Liturgy Committee and the work of the Committee on Music.

Therefore, you directed the chairmen of the three committees to meet and see if they could not carefully delimit the functions of the three committees so that the Conference should not have any more trouble in this regard.

Rabbi Witt, chairman of the Committee on Ceremonies, and Rabbi Singer, chairman of the Committee on Music, met with me (as chairman of the Liturgy Committee) in Pittsburgh, and we arrived at a statement of the functions of the three committees which I think will save the Conference a great deal of trouble in the future. I am enclosing the statement which we drew up.

I presume that this statement will be given as a report to the Executive Board, unless, of course, you also want it read before the Conference, which does not seem necessary.

Lillian joins me in best wishes to Virginia and yourself.

As ever,

*Sol.*

SBF:ls  
Enc.



Agreement reached at Conference between the Chairmen  
of the Committee on Ceremonies, the Committee on  
Synagogue Music and the Committee on Liturgy; held at  
Pittsburgh, May 14, 1946.

- A. The Committee on Ceremonies has the right to experiment with all ceremonies old and new and to publish descriptions of such ceremonies under the following conditions:
1. The Committee on Ceremonies shall not write prayers except in connection with the newly suggested ceremonials. In this task the Committee on Liturgy is available for consultation.
  2. No suggested revision of existing Conference publications may be published by the Committee on Ceremonies. However, the Committee may suggest and publish additions of ceremonial material to the present publications.
  3. The format of the published ceremony texts shall not be identical with that of the Union Prayerbook.
- B. The Committee on Ceremonies may publish musical texts for all new ceremonies or rituals. With regard to these new materials, the Conference Committee on Synagogue Music is available for consultation. But the Committee on Ceremonies shall not publish music in those fields which belong to the Committee on Synagogue Music, namely, music texts for the Prayerbook and hymns for congregation and school singing of this type found in the Hymnal.



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# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

1201

(25)

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

:DLR EAST 105 ST AND ANSEL RD TEMPLE:

=LETTER JUST RECEIVED FROM PHIL BERNSTEIN SAYS HE WILL  
NOT BE AT CONVENTION AND THEREFORE WILL NOT GIVE  
CONFERENCE LECTURE IN VIEW OF SHORTNESS OF TIME I  
SUGGEST AMONG OTHER NAMES YOU MAY CONSIDER THOSE OF  
FELIX LEVY, HARRY ETTELSON, JOSHUA LIEBMAN, PLEASE  
KEEP ME INFORMED. BEST REGARDS=

ABE.



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DAVID POLISH, Waterbury, Conn.  
DAVID WICE, Newark, N. J.  
LOUIS WITT, Dayton, Ohio  
BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

May 17, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
E. 105th St. and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My dear Abba:

I have wired Richmond to accept the Thursday noon assignment. I have an acceptance for the Saturday morning Adoration and Kaddish reading and have wired the two other men who had been invited for the other two vacancies to give me their acceptances by wire today.

May I have your release on this program since Marcuson is pressing me for a copy to have it sent out to the men?

I am returning herewith Rittenberg's letter. I note in this letter that he says something about a publicity man for the Conference. It seems that Marcuson has asked Henry Levy, the publicity man for the U.A.H.C., to handle the publicity.

You will observe by the program that I sent you that I did what has never been done before, viz., I assigned men in advance and received their acceptances for every devotional part of the program. Usually that was done in a spasm at the Pre-Conference Executive Board meeting. I have also tried to make the assignments evenly between J.I.R. and H.U.C. men, but I find that most of the J.I.R. men are not in the habit of coming to conventions of the Conference and I have had a great many declinations. However, I think we have done pretty well in view of those declinations. I have also avoided asking anybody in Chicago to participate in the program because they are the hosts, and I invited men from different parts of the country.

I take it that you were unable to get Welles to address the Conference.

On the whole it looks to me like a pretty good program.

With every good wish, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Abbe*

AJF:B

Enc.

P.S. Harry Richmond declined the invitation. A.J.F.

*I have an acceptance for Sabbath morning reader of service.*



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May 18, 1946

## WANT A REPLY?

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Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman  
701 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn.



HAVE TRIED TO REACH BERNSTEIN TO HAVE HIM SUGGEST A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE CONFERENCE LECTURE WHO SHOULD BE A JIR MAN. I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH HIM. I **would suggest** THAT YOU TRY. IF YOU DO NOT SUCCEED GET IN TOUCH WITH WISE AND HAVE HIM SUGGEST A MAN AND WIRE HIM. REGARDS.

Silver

GR