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Central Conference of American Rabbis, "I" and "J", 1945-1946.

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DR. LEO JUNG
Rabbi

July 10, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th Street & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Rabbi Opher informs me that I have been appointed chairman of the committee to prepare this year's Synagogue Council statement on Rosh Hashanah, and that you and Rabbi Milton Steinberg are the other members of the committee.

May I suggest that we exchange drafts, or if you prefer, that I send you mine, you annotate it, and as soon as we have come to an agreement we submit it to the Synagogue Council.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Leo Jung
Rabbi Leo Jung

LJ:MP

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August 3rd, 1945.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105 Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

Jimmy Wax who has been serving as secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission and who happened to be in Baltimore talked to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and secured a hearing for the Conference in connection with the United Nations' Charter. I had instructed Jimmy to contact you to see if you could present the conference statement. Under the present travel restrictions it would have been impossible for me to come from northern Wisconsin to Washington, especially in view of the uncertainty of the exact date of the hearing and the day on which the conference representative would be called, if he was to be called at all.

Jimmy Wax went there and read the statement which I had drawn up - a statement which was in keeping with previous conference declarations. Wax has told me that he was in touch with you and that he sent you a copy of the statement. I sent a copy of the statement to Marcuson to be incorporated in the year book.

At Atlantic City a meeting of the administrative committee of the Justice and Peace Commission decided to have an Institute on Judaism and Race Relations in New York City, perhaps at the Jewish Institute of Religion. I took this matter up in New York at a luncheon attended by as many of our colleagues as I could gather. They were all sympathetic.

Our proposal is to hold the Institute some time in the early

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Page 2 - August 3, 1945.
Rabbi Silver

Fall in New York City. There are enough of our colleagues in the metropolitan area to come to New York without violating ODT regulations so that we could get a representative gathering.

Our intent is to follow the techniques of the Institute on Judaism. While in New York I conferred with Dr. Gene Wellfish of Columbia who has been very helpful in drawing up the program. Our intentions are to hold the meetings on a Sunday and Monday beginning Sunday morning and perhaps have dinner Sunday evening or Monday evening. All the sessions will be limited to invited individuals who will share in the deliberations and help draw up the final statement except those at the dinner meeting.

As in Cincinnati the statement drawn up will be the statement of the group and will commit those present and no one else. The dinner if it can be arranged would be the one public meeting. If possible, we should have it addressed by a Supreme Court justice, like Wiley Rutledge, whom I know personally and who is a fine liberal statesman, by some prominent clergyman, such as Reinhold Niebuhr, and we hope by you as President of the conference.

Arthur Lelyveld who is chairman of Race Relations Committee of the Commission is in New York and I hope he will look after the details of the arrangements. I should like to be invited to the next meeting of the Executive Board to discuss with the Board the future reports of the commission, the matter of a permanent secretary, and our relationship with the Union.

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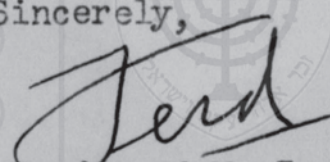
August 3rd, 1945.

Rabbi Silver
Page 3 - August 3

I presume that you are in London. Upon your return
I hope to have a reply to this letter.

With all good wishes, I remain -

Sincerely,



Ferdinand M. Isserman, Chairman
COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE

fmi/frb

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September 19, 1945

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

I wrote you in the summer months about the Institute on Judaism and Race Relations which the Justice and Peace Commission plans to hold in New York City parallel to ~~your~~ Institute on Judaism ~~and~~ a Just and Enduring Peace in which you participated. Because the former Institute was held at the Hebrew Union College, the latter is to be held at the Jewish Institute of Religion, Sunday and Monday, November 18 & 19. Round tables on various aspects of the race problems of the world will be held, out of whose discussion will come a statement of principles. Participating in the Institute will be invited laymen, members of our Conference and other selected Rabbis. On Sunday evening, we are planning a dinner. This will be the only public function of the Institute. To that dinner we hope to have speakers, a Justice of the Supreme Court, (I have already invited my friend Justice Wiley Rutledge of the Supreme Court), a nationally known Negro and a distinguished Christian. We should also like to have you, as president of the Conference, as a speaker that night.

I have written and asked to be invited to attend the meeting of the Conference Executive Board in order that there might be a full discussion of the Justice and Peace Commission. That, I think might obviate some of the difficulties that come up at the Conference in connection with the annual reports. I should also like to find out if to promote the Institute on Judaism and Race Relations we could not draw on the Horace Wolf Memorial funds which was established to further some social justice project. You may recall that the last Institute was financed by the Edward Israel Memorial Fund.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Ferd

Chairman, Commission on Justice and Peace

FMI:bh

"And the work of JUSTICE shall be PEACE." Isaiah 32-17

Temple Israel

Saint Louis

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, RABBI

OFFICE OF THE RABBI
KINGSHIGHWAY AND WASHINGTON
SAINT LOUIS (8)

October 2, 1945

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

Wire me if you want me to come to the
Board Meeting in Cleveland on October 9th to
discuss the Justice and Peace Commission with
the Board.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Ferd

FMI/mh

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Dr. F. M. S. Serman
St. Louis, Mo.

I should like you to come to Board meeting
in Cincy on Oct. 9th. Kindest regards.
A. H. S. Serman

WRHS



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October 12, 1945

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

I regret very much that it was physically impossible for me to get any reservations out of St. Louis to Cincinnati, either by train or plane, and what was more important, from Cincinnati back to St. Louis, when I applied. Under the circumstances I could not come.

Not being certain where the Conference was to meet, I telephoned Jake Marcus and suggested to him what I wanted to bring up. However, he apparently did not get my message very clearly. The extra money that I asked for was for the Institute on Judaism and Race Relations, which would be held in New York, and about which I have written you. The Horace Wolff money could be used to publish the findings of that Institute.

The holding of this Institute was decided on at a meeting in Atlantic City by those members of the Justice and Peace Commission who were present. Subsequently I wrote to the members of the entire Commission asking their opinions and their suggestions. I received no unfavorable replies. Those who took the trouble to answer were most favorable.

Because the dates originally selected conflicted with a meeting of the Zion Organization in Atlantic City, the date was changed. The Institute will be held at the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City on Sunday and Monday, November 25th and 26th. The Institute Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 25th. Will you be available to address it?

Page 2
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
October 11, 1945

Thus far, Dr. Weltfish of Columbia University, Bruno Lasker of the Institute of Pacific Relations, and Edward Bernays, Public Relations leader, have agreed to head round tables. Walter White of the N.A.A.C.P. has agreed to speak at the dinner.

I had hoped to be present in Cincinnati to aid in the appointment of the Commission for next year. I could have told the board those men who really were concerned, who answered letters, and showed an interest, and those who have been valueless to the Commission. Among the administrative group, Leon Fram was most helpful and most cooperative, and if any promotions were to be made his name should have been given consideration.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Jerd

Chairman, Justice & Peace Commission

FMI/mh



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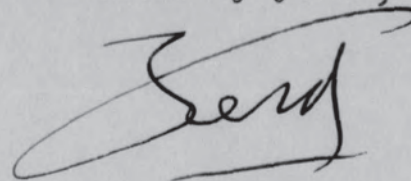
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The Temple
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter which has just gone out to our Conference members. I hope it will be possible for you to be a speaker at the Institute dinner on Sunday, November 25th. For that dinner, we already have the acceptance of Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Peoples.

With all good wishes, and hoping to hear from you at once relative to the 25th, I remain

Sincerely yours,



FMI/mh
enc.

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October 15, 1945

DEAR COLLEAGUE:

The Commission on Justice and Peace is holding an *Institute on "Judaism and Race Relations"* in New York City at the Jewish Institute of Religion on Sunday and Monday, November 25th and 26th. This Institute will be conducted along the lines of the Institute on "Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace" held at the Hebrew Union College in 1942. Its aim will be to gather the finest Jewish spirits in the American scene and to have them apply prophetic teachings to the problems of race relations in the modern world. At the conclusion of the Institute, it is hoped to issue a printed statement and to give that statement the type of publicity that was given to "Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace."

Dr. Gene Weltfish of Columbia University, co-author of the pamphlet "The Races of Mankind," Mr. Edward L. Bernays, noted Public Relations Council, and Bruno Lasker of the Institute of Pacific Relations have agreed to prepare preliminary statements for round table discussion. The Institute will divide into five or six round tables. To each round table will be assigned a statement prepared by the round table leader. These statements will be sent in advance to *individuals who agree* to participate in the Institute. When any round table has agreed on any statement it will be submitted to all participants in the Institute for approval. The statement finally issued will represent the point of view of the Institute.

All members of the Conference are invited to participate to help prepare the statement. Admission to the Institute will be by invitation. I hope that you will make every effort to attend it. Will you also send me one or two names of men in your community or congregation to whom invitations should be sent, who would have something to contribute to the Institute. Will Rabbis living in the area of New York City please send in five names. The Institute is not limited to reform Jews. Please send me your names at once in order that final invitations may be sent to them.

An Institute Dinner will be held on Sunday evening, November 26th. The program for that has not as yet been determined.

Anticipating your cooperation, and with all good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

FERD ISSERMAN

Chairman, Justice & Peace Commission

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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER:

EAST 105TH ST & ANSEL RD CLEVELAND

1245 OCT 25 PM 4 27

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

MAY I EXPECT YOU AS SPEAKER AT DINNER INSTITUTE JUDAISM AND
RACE RELATIONS AT JEWISH INSTITUTE RELIGION NEW YORK CITY
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25=

FERDINAND ISSERMAN.

25.

DN 1090 res

RD 550P V S mar

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

October 25, 1945

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Ferd:

I regret that you could not attend the meeting of the Executive Committee of the CCAR in Cincinnati, but I understand the circumstances.

Your request for a grant of \$500 to defray the expenses of the Institute on Judaism and Race Relations was presented to the Committee, and it was voted that I take the matter up with you and learn the details of what the money is to be used for. Is the amount which has been budgeted for the Committee on Justice and Peace not adequate to meet also the financial needs of this Institute? I should be very pleased to hear from you in regard this matter. I have been authorized to allow this additional grant if I am convinced that the funds at the disposal of the Commission are inadequate.

I should like to attend the Institute on November 25, but it will be quite impossible for me to get away. As it is, I have been overwhelmed with work in connection with the new emergency which has arisen with reference to Palestine.

At the meeting of the Executive, it was also voted that the President shall appoint a committee to meet with a similar committee of the U.A.H.C. to study the advisability of a joint committee on Social Justice. I recall that we had such a commission in the past and for some reason it was discontinued. I should like to have your thought in the matter and also suggestions for appointments to this committee.

A committee will also be appointed soon, at the instruction of the Executive, to make a study of all the commissions and committees of the Conference and their functions, and to report to the Executive Board. The Commission on Justice and Peace will also come under review by this committee. You may recall that there was considerable discussion about

the functions of this Commission at the last Conference in Atlantic City.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

November 7, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th St. At Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

I am grievously disappointed that you cannot attend the Institute, and that you cannot be a speaker at the Institute Dinner, Sunday evening. You will be missed. I trust that you will find it possible to reconsider.

Abe Feldman will bring the greetings of the Conference at the opening session in the morning.

I need additional funds to publicize and circularize the statement on Judaism and Race Relations, which will be produced at the Institute. I should like to use the Horace Wolf Memorial Funds for that purpose. For the statement on Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace, we used the Edward Israel Memorial Funds.

It is impossible to run such an Institute without additional expenses. I have put on a full-time secretary, whose salary is \$150.00 a month. She does nothing but Institute work. 3000 invitations have been sent out and more may be sent out later. We are trying to get a professional public relations man in New York City to handle the publicity. If necessary, we shall pay him.

We are anxious that the statement shall receive the same dignified attention that was received by the one on Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace.

By enlarging the size of the Administrative Committee, you have added to the expenses of the Commission, as we pay the traveling expenses of members of the Administrative Committee to meetings.

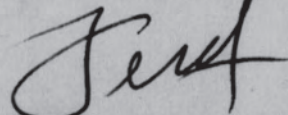
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th St. At Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

November 7, 1945
page 2

I therefore, would greatly appreciate it if you would place \$500.00 as additional funds for the Institute. If the money is not spent, it will remain in the Conference Treasury.

I enclose herein, an invitation. With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Ferdinand M. Isserman, Chairman
Commission on Justice and Peace

gem
enc.



November 8, 1945

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
5017 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 8, Mo.

My dear Ferd:

I have requested Regner to send on to you \$200 as an additional advance from the Conference to the work of the Institute on Judaism and Race Relations, which you requested.

The Horace Wolf Memorial Fund is earmarked for scholarships at the College and cannot be used for any other purpose. If any additional expenses are to be incurred, please let me know.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Temple Israel

Saint Louis

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, RABBI

OFFICE OF THE RABBI
KINGSHIGHWAY AND WASHINGTON
SAINT LOUIS (8)

November 8, 1945

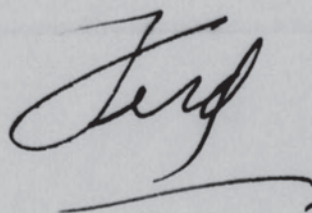
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

After Burton was elevated to the Supreme Court and the Governor of Ohio was fumbling around for a successor, I wired him suggesting that he appoint you to the Senate. Apparently I have no pull in Ohio. In Missouri it might have been different.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



FMI/mh

*I suppose that you meant \$200 above
regular
the budget.*

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

November 13, 1945

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE AND
PEACE COMMISSION, CENTRAL CONFERENCE
OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Dear Colleague:

I shall call a meeting of the Justice and Peace Com-
mission on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

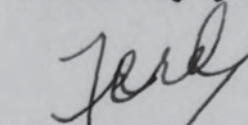
at the Jewish Institute of Religion, 38 West 68th St.,
New York City, at 8:00 PM.

The following important matters are to be discussed:

- A. The work for the year
- B. Our attitude to universal military training
- C. The atomic bomb
- D. Appointment of committees
- E. Details about the Institute on Judaism and
Race Relations

Please indicate on the enclosed card whether you will
be able to attend this meeting.

Sincerely yours,



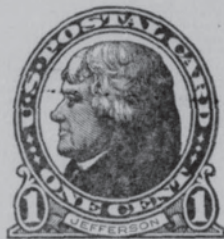
Chairman,

Commission on Justice and Peace

gem
enclosure

P.S. On universal military training, the wire vote was as
follows: 8 opposed; 6 in favor; and 3 undecided. This was
inconclusive. I understand that the Rabbinical Assembly
is opposed to it and is going to be heard in Washington.
If any of you have changed your mind, please let me know.

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



WRHS



F.M. Isserman
5017 Washington
St. Louis 8, Mo.

DATE _____

RABBI F.M. ISSERMAN:

I _____ plan to attend the meeting of the
Justice and Peace Commission at the Jewish In-
stitute of Religion, 38 West 68th St., New York,
on November 24.

Signed _____

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January 11, 1946

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

The Institute on Judaism and Race Relations held in New York City produced a very fine statement, a copy of which I enclose. It also called forth editorial comment in the Christian Century and in the Reconstruction Magazine.

We had more lay participation in New York than we had in Cincinnati and the laymen were exceptionally able. I think the section on Law and Race Relations is the finest part of our statement.

I have just had 10,000 copies printed and am ordering plates in case there is a demand for more. I am sending a copy to Dr. Judah Magnes to Palestine to ascertain whether he will think it worthwhile to have the statement translated into Hebrew and circulated in Palestine. This, as you know, was done on the statement on Judaism and a Just Peace.

The Institute was much more expensive than I had anticipated due in part to high costs in New York and in part to some administrative errors. The total cost of the Institute according to present figures is \$1762.58. Unless you make some allowance for Conference funds, the Commission on Justice and Peace will not have a cent left to operate for the rest of the year.

I shall send out the statement to the members of the Conference with a letter covering details at the end of this week. It is possible that the sale of pamphlets may bring in some money but there will be no funds left for meetings of the Administrative Committee or any

other activity which involves expense.

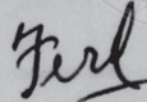
I received an invitation to go to Washington D.C. on January 23rd to take part in a national demonstration for the passage of FEPC by Congress. I feel that I should attend as I believe the Conference should have representation for this significant occasion. That, too, will involve expenses. I paid my own expenses to the Institute in New York and it cost me personally \$200. I was glad to pay it. I do not feel, however, that I, personally, should pay my expenses to this Washington meeting. I trust that you will ok this.

I have given a good deal of thought to a joint commission of the Union and Conference and favor it for two reasons. First, our laymen should be brought into the work and second, the Union would have ample resources so that the Commission's activities could be carried on effectively. I, however, believe that if there is to be a joint commission, the Conference Commission should not be abolished. Perhaps before or after the Union Convention in Cincinnati, this matter may be more fully discussed. Let me hear your thoughts on it.

I have been ill with flu for three weeks and out of my pulpit. I went out too soon and had a relapse. This is the second day that I am at my desk.

Do let me hear from you about some of these matters. With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Ferdinand M. Isserman

fmi/sje

P.S. Please wire me about my going to Washington for FEPC.

January 15, 1946

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
Temple Israel
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Ferd:

From the letter which you sent to the members of the Conference, I learned that you have been circularizing the members of the CCAR asking them whether they favor or do not favor compulsory universal training in times of peace.

In my judgment, you should have first received the authorization from the executive of the Conference for such a poll. No commission on its own is authorized to take polls of the membership of the entire Conference.

This applies, too, to your poll on whether the members of the Conference favor or do not favor a joint committee of the Union and the Conference.

Inasmuch as you are already taking these polls, may I request you not to give any publicity to them until after the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis has acted in the matter.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:GR

January 16, 1946

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
Temple Israel
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Ferd:

The last meeting of the Synagogue Council of America authorized a proposed joint conference of representatives of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish religious leaders who have taken an active part in the religious end of social problems. Consequently, a conference was scheduled for February 18th and 19th at the Hotel Commodore in New York City to be sponsored by the Social Action Commissions of the Federal Council of Churches, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the Synagogue Council of America.

The conference will be limited to 30 invited representatives of each of the three religious bodies. It will be a closed conference with a view to arriving at findings, which findings however will not be published until they are approved by the three official bodies.

In order to be sure that we have good representation of the three groups within the Synagogue Council, I am writing to ask you for a list of ten of the members of the Commission on Justice and Peace or others in the Central Conference and the Union who have been close to this picture. As we have so little time for the planning of this conference, will you be good enough to send me this list as soon as possible so that we may give the men long enough notice to make their reservations. It might be helpful to have a few laymen included in the list.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Ahron Opher

AO:bf

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January 21, 1946

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

I enclose herein a summary of expenses on the Institute of Judaism and Race Relations. The expenses were much higher than I had anticipated especially as I had not figured on any loss on dinners and luncheons. For the Institute on Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace, we had use of the Ed Israel Memorial Fund. For this, no such fund was available. We were compelled to make a guarantee for the dinner--100 plates at \$4 per plate. We had a number of guests but only 42 paid reservations. Then too, we had to furnish the tip. At any rate, this is what the Institute costs. I trust that you will make some additional allowance to the Justice and Peace Commission. In no one year have we spent our full budget. In making allowances, please take this into consideration. We sent out 3000 invitations to orthodox, reform, and conservative rabbis and leaders. Over 1500 went to New York City itself. Approximately 100 people attended of whom 1/3 were members of our conference.

With reference to your letter about a ballot by mail on the issue of Conscription in Times of Peace, In previous years, the Commission on Justice and Peace had taken such mail ballots. In fact, last year we took such a ballot on the same issue. No one objected at that time at the taking of such a ballot. This year, there has been a lot of pressure on the Commission to make some utterance on the subject of Universal Military Training in Times of Peace. At a meeting of the Commission held in New York City on Saturday evening, November 26th, it

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-2-

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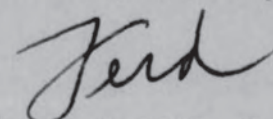
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was recognized that the issue had changed since last year and therefore, the members of the Conference should be polled. In response to this action, the ballot was sent out. In other words, our action has been in keeping with the precedence of the Justice and Peace Commission about which there was no objection from the Executive Board. However, I recognize that the Executive Board is supreme and the Justice and Peace Commission will take no action without its authority. In as much as the Board will not meet until next June and in as much as the issue of compulsory military training is to be decided soon, may I suggest that you poll the Board of the Conference as soon as possible ascertaining whether they want to give the Commission on Justice and Peace the right to make public the result of the poll. Up to date, we have received about 120 ballots and the Conference is three to one opposed to compulsory military training.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Ferdinand M. Isserman

fmi/sje

P.S. The sale of pamphlets will bring in some but not much money.

The poll on the joint commission of the Union and Conference need not be made public but will be helpful in guiding the representatives of the Conference when they meet with the Union.

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES OF INSTITUTE ON JUDAISM AND RACE RELATIONS

Telephone	\$ 113.70
Telegrams	105.20
Stationery & Postage	191.26
Printing(includes 10,000 pamphlets)	335.15
Salaries(clerical work, N.Y. \$70.00)	310.09
Public Relations	371.00
Janitor Service (N.Y.)	45.00
Loss on Luncheons	45.23
Loss on Dinner	247.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,763 .53



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1206-

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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

1-22-46

4. M. Lsserman

5017 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

WANT A REPLY?

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

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE PLEASED TO PAY YOUR EXPENSES TO GO TO WASHINGTON IN
CONNECTION WITH FEPC. KINDEST REGARDS.

SILVER

January 24, 1946

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
Temple Israel
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 8, Mo.

My dear Isserman:

This will acknowledge your letters of January 11 and 21. I cannot without further authorization from the Executive Board allow the Commission additional funds, and I must request the Commission not to incur any debts until authorized by the Executive. Because of the urgency of your visit to Washington in connection with action on FEPC, I wired you yesterday authorizing you to incur the expense involved in your trip to Washington.

I am wondering whether the response in attendance and press comment on the Institute on Judaism and Race Relations warranted the expenditure which was incurred. The Commission sent out 3000 invitations and less than 100 people attended. You guaranteed 100 plates, at \$4.00 per plate, and there were only 42 paid reservations. It is possible to issue impressive statements on the part of the Conference on such subject as "Race Relations" without going to the expense and effort of holding an Institute. The entire subject should be further considered by the Executive Board at this next meeting.

With reference to the polls which you have taken, I shall inquire of the members of the Board whether they wish to make it public and will let you know. As a matter of procedure however in the future, it would be highly desirable that the Commission apprise the President of the Conference of its desire to hold a poll, thus giving the President an opportunity to consult his Executive Board as to the desirability, from the point of view of the Conference as a whole, of conducting such a poll.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

cc: Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson, Macon, Ga.
Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman, Hartford, Conn.

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

January 29, 1946

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

Dear Abba:

The Institute in Cincinnati was not as costly and it received better results. The deficit on the banquet was due to circumstances in New York over which I had no control. My understanding was that 100 plates would be easily covered. To get a good press, we hired a public relations man. With his expenses and his fee of \$200, he cost about \$400. For the Cincinnati meeting, this whole thing cost \$35 and the Cincinnati meeting made a full page in the New York Times. I know now that I could have done much better through personal communication with Sulzberger. I, however, was guided by the man in New York. I do not blame them. I followed their advice and I accept the blame.

The attendance was not disappointing as a bigger group would have become unwieldy and could have done no work. I have received communications indicating that this is the best statement on Race Relations issued by any religious body. The section on Law and Race Relations was exceptionally good. We did have many more laymen contributing than we had in Cincinnati.

I regret very much that I did not keep you informed of the meeting in New York and the decision of the Commission to take a poll of the Conference. At the time of the meeting, you were out of the country and when you returned, I was ill for three weeks and hardly in touch with my office. It has always been my practice to send a copy of the minutes to the president of the Conference and consult him about everything. The minutes were taken by Ed Klein in New York. He has lost them or he has been sick because I have not heard from

'And the work of JUSTICE shall be PEACE.' Isaiah 32-17

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him after five letters asking for the minutes.

Is it possible to have a joint meeting of the Union and Conference about a joint commission at the convention to be held in Cincinnati? Do let me know if anything is to be done about that. Eisendrath is anxious to make a recommendation to the Union urging the establishment of such a commission. The poll of the members indicate that they are in favor of the idea providing the Conference Commission is not dissolved. At an Atlantic City convention when Ed Israel was still alive, the Conference voted for a joint Commission. The poll on Compulsory Military Training in Times of Peace is 128 against it, 55 for it, and 8 undecided.

I did not go to Washington for the FEPC. James Wax was in Baltimore and I asked him to represent the Commission.

Orders for the statement on Judaism and Race Relations are thus far over 1500 and that will bring in a little money. I shall have no meeting of the Administrative Committee and shall do nothing but answer correspondence.

Senator Briggs of Missouri inserted our statement in the Congressional Record of January 17th. In doing so, he gave me and not the Commission credit, to my regret. The same day, Senator Chavez of New Mexico moved to present the FEPC bill before the Senate.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Ferd (S.J.E.)

Ferdinand M. Isserman

P.S. I am enclosing a copy of the minutes which came after Rabbi Isserman left the city.

Sylvia Esterin, Secy.

fmi/sje

'And the work of JUSTICE shall be PEACE.' Isaiah 32-17

DOPY

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE

November 24, 1945

at

Jewish Institute of Religion

PRESENT:- Goldstein, Goodman, Lelyveld, Levinger, Lefkowitz, Bernstein, Klein, and Isserman, presiding.

It was decided that the President or Vice-President of the Conference be asked that promotions on the Commission to post of Vice-Chairman or to the Administrative Committee, be made after consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.

It was urged, in a discussion of the length of the Commission's reports, that a repetition of pronouncements from year to year, be avoided.

It was felt advisable to continue the merger of the Commissions on Justice and Peace.

It was decided to recommend the appointment of a Special Committee on Veterans with Albert Goldstein as Chairman and Teitelbaum and Mark as members.

The Chairman announced the following Chairmanships:-

Agriculture--Teitelbaum
Race Relations--Julius Mark
Inter-national Affairs--Leon Fram
Industrial Relations--Leon Feuer
Consumer Protection--Lee Levinger

It was decided to draft a statement on compulsory military training and then poll the Conference on it.

It was also decided to condemn the appointment of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine and poll the Conference on it.

Rabbi Feldman is to be asked if the Executive Committee of the Conference will approve these resolutions without a poll.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward E. Klein

February 4, 1946

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
Temple Israel
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Rabbi Isserman:

I had inquired of Regner, our financial secretary, about the finances of the CCAR in connection with your request for additional funds for the Justice and Peace Commission. I am afraid that we will not be able to allow the Commission any additional money for this fiscal year other than that which the Commission will require for stenographic expenses and postage in connection with its annual report. We will not be able to cover the expenses of any additional meetings of its administrative committee. I would suggest that you carry on the work of the committee by mail. This may be somewhat difficult, but the Conference simply hasn't the funds.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

February 14, 1946

To the members of the Justice and Peace Commission:

There will be a meeting of the Justice and Peace
Commission sometime during the convention of the Union.
It will be announced at the Union session. Please let
me know whether you plan to be on hand for the
convention.

Sincerely,

Ferdinand M. Isserman

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ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

February 14, 1946

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

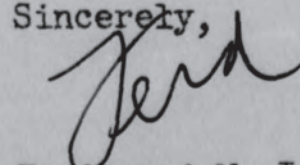
The poll of the Conference on compulsory military training is 144 opposed to the passage by Congress, 71 in favor, and 11 noncommittal. Inasmuch as this issue is going to be decided soon, I should like to get your consent to present the views of our members on this subject before the proper Congressional leaders.

The vote of our members on a joint commission of the Union and Conference was 170 in favor of it provided our Commission is not disbanded, 43 opposed and 13 noncommittal.

Would you suggest that any meeting be held with the Union before or at the Union convention? Do let me hear from you.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Ferdinand M. Isserman

fmi:sje

February 20, 1946

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
Temple Israel
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Ferd:

Thank you for your letter of February 14.
I assume that you will attend the meeting of the Union
in Cincinnati. There will also be a meeting of the
Executive Board of the C.C.A.R. sometime during that
period. I will then take up the question raised in your
letter.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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February 20, 1946

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

I have received your letter of February 4th with
reference to the finances of the Justice and Peace
Commission and shall be guided accordingly.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Ferd
Ferdinand M. Isserman

fmi/sje

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

March 11, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
El05th & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Abba:

Immediately upon my return to St. Louis, I had my Secretary check the results of the poll on conscription. It is as follows: 151 opposed to the passage by Congress, 74 in favor, and 11 noncommittal.

The vote of our members on a joint commission of the Union and Conference was 177 in favor of it provided our Commission is not disbanded, 45 opposed and 14 noncommittal.

This coincides with the figures I gave you at the Executive Board meeting. Last year's mail ballot was about the same.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Ferd

Ferdinand M. Isserman

fmi/sje

P.S. The Executive Committee of the Federal Council of Churches in November, 1945, went on record opposed to the passage by Congress now of legislation establishing peace time military conscription. The Catholic House of Bishops has also done that.

March 26, 1946

Dr. Ferdinand M. Isserman
Temple Israel
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Dr. Isserman:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped. Is this something in which your Committee should be interested?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



Temple Israel

Saint Louis

FERDINAND M. ISSERMAN, RABBI

OFFICE OF THE RABBI
KINGSHIGHWAY AND WASHINGTON
SAINT LOUIS 8, MO.

April 8, 1946

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

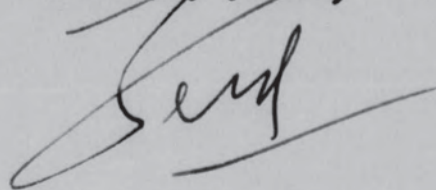
I have just received a letter from Eisendrath suggesting that the Conference join with the Union in the formation of a committee on Social Actions. As I recall, ~~the~~ committee was to be appointed to confer with the Union. If you want to appoint a special committee or if you want ^{me} to appoint a committee of three from the Justice and Peace Commission, I shall be glad to do so.

I think it would be a good thing if we were to meet with the committee of the Union and have some reports ready in time for action by the Conference at the June meeting.

The mail ballot indicated that the Conference favored a joint commission provided our commission was not discarded.

With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



fmi/sje

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
5017 WASHINGTON AVE.
ST. LOUIS, (8) MO.

April 15, 1946

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

Dear Abba Hillel:

I have just heard again from Eisendrath who is very anxious that a committee of the Conference and Union meet to discuss the cooperation of the Conference with the newly authorized Social Actions Commission of the Union. Do let me hear from you about this as soon as possible.

With Passover greetings, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Ferd
Ferdinand M. Isserman

fmi/sje

Happy Passover!

April 17, 1946

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 8, Mo.

My dear Ferd:

In reply to your letter of April 15: - Please select a committee from among the members of the Commission on Justice and Peace and arrange with Eisendrath for a meeting. I would suggest that your committee be made up of your officers.

It should be understood that the work of the Committee is of an exploratory nature, that no decisions reached are binding on the CCAR until the Executive Board will have approved it.

With all good wishes for a happy Passover, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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OF
AMERICAN RABBIS

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April 23, 1946

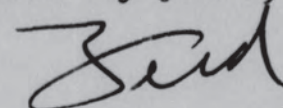
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E 105th & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Abba Hillel:

I accordance with your letter, I have appointed Julius Mark, and Abe Goodman, and myself as the three representatives of the Conference to negotiate with the Union about a combined Social Actions program. All negotiations, of course, will be subject to the approval of the executive board of the Conference. I have appointed Mark and Goodman because they are vice-chairmen. Should the Union organize a committee of five, I shall add Leon Feuer and Leon Fram who are next in line.

"ith all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Ferdinand M. Isserman

fmi/sje

May 27, 1946

Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman
5017 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Ferd:

In preparing the final report of the Commission on Justice and Peace to be submitted to the Conference, will you not bear in mind the requests often made that the report be reasonably short and that the recommendations, calling for action on the part of the CCAR, be limited to a few very important and outstanding matters.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR