



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel
19

Box
7

Folder
417

Central Conference of American Rabbis, "K" and "L", 1945-1946.

DR. JOSHUA LOTH LIEBMAN
TEMPLE ISRAEL
BOSTON 15, MASS.

STUDY OF THE RABBI
LONGWOOD AVE. AT PLYMOUTH ST.

June
29th
1945

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

Dear Friend:

I want to add my word of congratulation to those of your multitude of friends and admirers upon your election to the Presidency of the CCAR. I know that under your dynamic and courageous leadership our Conference will grow from strength to strength and if there is any way in which I can be of help to you during your administration, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

It was a joy for us to see Danny a few times this year although I could not see him as often as we wanted to partly because of his own highly crowded schedule and partly also in the last few weeks because of the great bereavement that Fan and I suffered in the loss of our beloved father, Mr. Otto Loth, who had lived with us since our marriage sixteen years ago. Fan and I do look forward to seeing your wonderful boy a great deal during the coming years while he is at Harvard and you know that any assistance that we can ~~render~~ ^{give} to you and yours ~~it~~ ^{will} be a privilege for us so to do.

With most affectionate greetings to you, Mrs. Silver and the boys in which Fan joins, I remain -

Most cordially yours,

Josh

JLL:brb

P.S. I do not believe that I will be free enough to give time to the Canra and so I think it would be fairer for me to resign from the Canra Committee and allow you to appoint a colleague of ours who would attend the meetings in New York regularly.

DR. JOSHUA LOTH LIEBMAN

TEMPLE ISRAEL

BOSTON 15, MASS.

STUDY OF THE RABBI
LONGWOOD AVE. AT PLYMOUTH ST.

July
Third
1945

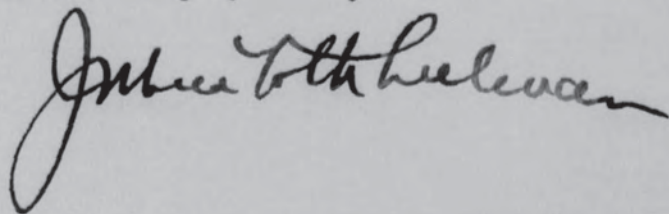
Mr. Daniel Silver,
Lowell House 1 - 13
Harvard College,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Danny:

I was indeed happy to receive your very lovely note. I am so glad that we were able to get together during this past winter but I do wish that it might have been more often. I did want to see you within the last several weeks but Mrs. Liebman lost her beloved father and since he had been living with us ever since our marriage sixteen years ago, you can just imagine how much his loss has affected both of us. Under the circumstances you can understand why we did not continue our social activities.

I am, however, looking forward to seeing you often this coming season, but in the meantime Mrs. Liebman and I hope you will have a fine summer in every way. With our fondest greetings to you and your dear parents, I remain -

Most cordially yours,



JLL:brb

July 23, 1945

Dr. Joshua Loth Liebman
Temple Israel
Boston 15, Mass.

My dear Josh:

I was very happy to receive your letter and your word of congratulation upon my election to the presidency of the C.C.A.R. I hope that I may be able to do a fairly decent job in that position.

I am sorry that you feel constrained to resign from the Conra Committee because of your inability to attend its meetings regularly. I shall try to find somebody to take your place, and will probably ask Rabbi Louis Eglson, who has been acting as an alternate on the Committee, and who has rendered, I understand, very excellent service.

My family is spending the summer here at the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth. Danny has frequently spoken to me of the pleasure he had in meeting you and Fan. I hope he will get to know you better during the coming year.

I am leaving for England in the next few days to attend the Zionist conference in London. I hope that some good will come out of it.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

CENTER
~~SECTION~~
U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION
SAN DIEGO, 33, CALIFORNIA



14 September 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

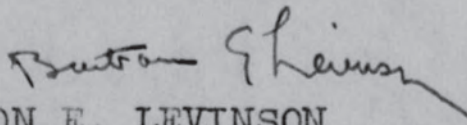
The enclosed letter which I have written to Dr. Brieckner is self-explanatory, and describes, I believe, a situation which our Conference ought to deal with vigorously in the very near future.

There are a great number of us in the Chaplaincy who believe that the Chaplaincy and the policies covering their work should not have been in the hands of a group connected with a lay organization consisting of social workers who, in their own methods and techniques, have been anti-synagogue and anti-religious. It is our feeling that the Chaplaincy and its related problems should have been in the hands of religious forces alone.

We believe, also, that National JWB has been seizing opportunities given to her as a result of the war to further its own secular ends.

With all best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,


BURTON E. LEVINSON
Chaplain, USNR

BEL/bn

Enclosure

CENTER
XXXXXX

14 September 1945

Dr. Barnett R. Brickner
Euclid Avenue Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Barney:

Sometime ago in our correspondence, you mentioned that a meeting was being held by the CANRA in the offices of JWB to discuss future relationships between the JWB Center and the Synagogue. I am wondering what the results of that meeting have been.

The reason I am writing you at this time is that we here have been witnessing the carrying out of a policy on the part of JWB and its workers which is anti-religious and anti-synagogue. Our experience in San Diego is the second one that I have had involving this question within the past year. Other chaplains whose names I could give you that would fill a page, can tell you the same story. Briefly, for example, this is what has happened here:

Sometime within the last months, the JWB worker in town who is connected with the JWB U.S.O. has been promoting and furthering the formation and the building of a JWB Center. It is my conviction, as well as the other chaplains of this locality and the Rabbi of the Temple, that this community does not need a center of the kind that is being envisioned now by JWB. JWB has been called in to make an "objective survey" to determine the need; a survey which will justify the establishment of their kind of a secular center, to the detriment of the synagogues in the Community. The attitude is not a surprising one because their workers are anti-religious and anti-synagogue. We have been asking ourselves the questions, "What is going to be the end of all this? Where are we heading? Did we enter the Chaplaincy to have our field of work usurped by anti-synagogue workers?" I think you will begin to understand why some of us feel that there has been an insincerity and an inconsistency on the part of National JWB. On the one hand they have been publishing volumes of publicity of what they have been doing for the religious life of our men in the service. On the other hand, they are trying to create new institutions which would destroy the centrality of the synagogue in Jewish life. This may help you to understand why many of us feel that our religious work must have no

14 September 1945

connection with JWB. This is a serious situation. Their workers are using their positions in these communities where they are purporting to be serving our military and religious needs, to build these new institutions so that they may be furnished with post-war comfortable positions. I know that this is a serious accusation but we can prove it. If you ask why we did not complain of this before, may I say that this was brought to the attention of both Phil Bernstein and Rabinowitz telling them that such workers ought to be removed--nothing was ever done.

There are some other questions about which we are concerned. We would like to know what will be the relationship between CANRA and our post-war religious picture. We notice first, for example, that JWB is appointing hospital social workers. Why hospital social workers--why not rabbis? I think CANRA ought to be reminded that whenever possible, the hospital workers appointed ought to be rabbis, particularly those who served in the Chaplaincy, since there are now men mustering out of the service. We are also concerned about the selection of the civilian chaplains who will be appointed. Since Reform provided 50 per cent of the Chaplains in military life, do we not have the same right to expect that, if possible, this will continue in the civilian appointments?

Sydney Lefkowitz just came through here and in our exchange of experiences, and the chaplains that he had met in the Army, the experience was the same as the one which I have pictured above. I think it is a situation which needs to be dealt with vigorously. It must be said that JWB and its community and the Jewish Centers which it is now organizing, is not fair to the purpose of the synagogue. Please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

BURTON E. LEVINSON
Chaplain, USNR

BEL/bn

September 21, 1945

Chaplain Burton E. Levinson, USNR
U. S. Naval Training Center
San Diego 33, California

My dear Chaplain Levinson:

Thank you so much for your letter of September 14 which I read with a great deal of interest. I shall bring it to the attention of the Board of the C.C.A.R. when it meets early next month.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

CENTER
U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION
SAN DIEGO, 33, CALIFORNIA



2 October 1945

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you very much for your recent letter with reference to my letter to Dr. Brickner. I thought that perhaps you might want to have some additional information on this problem viewed from the standpoint of the Chaplains who have been in the field. The sentiments I express are not only my own, but I think I can say that they are shared by a great many of my fellow chaplains. I have been in the Navy for almost three years and have been stationed in areas through which there have passed a great many chaplains, both Army and Navy. In addition, we had opportunity to express and exchange these thoughts at the various Chaplains' conferences which were sponsored by JWB.

1) Ecclesiastical endorsement. While we could understand that it was necessary to have some sort of an ecclesiastical endorsing body, we do not, and cannot conceive of why a lay organization should endorse Rabbis for the Chaplaincy. To add to this, and as has already happened, and Rabbis will testify to this, chaplains who did not wish to "toe the line" were threatened with a withdrawal of endorsement by CANRA. It is our earnest conviction now that the war is over that some thought ought to be given toward the creation of a religious body that will be completely divorced from JWB.

2) Procurement. One of the most mishandled jobs of the war, CANRA in its zealousness seemed more interested in large numbers than in whether the men who were in the Chaplaincy, were serving effectively. Duplication-overlapping were all too frequent. No one of us regrets his time spent in service. It was tragic that not enough thought was given to the state of the communities who some times were left completely bereft of Rabbinical leadership. A great number of the men could tell you stories of duplication and waste of Rabbinical manpower in the Chaplaincy. The Navy Chaplains could provide similar data. To give an instance: When Brickner and Lev came back from their European tour, they came back with stories of the dirth of Jewish Chaplains needed at the front, and immediately embarked on an additional Chaplaincy procurement program, and shifted Chaplains to the European theater. Three days before Passover--ten Jewish Chaplains were pulled out of camps where there were thousands of Jewish men in large concentrations. They were shipped urgently to ports of embarkation.

2 October 1945

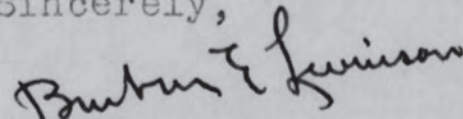
There they sat for six weeks. They arrived in England and spent more time waiting. Finally they were shipped to France and arrived at the front when the war was over. When they reported to their commanding officer, the comment was, "Oh yes, I believe I did say I would use a Jewish chaplain, but I really don't need one." I knew CANRA's reply would be that there were many places where there were no Jewish chaplains. True, but instead of redistributing our manpower, they kept on procuring. Another matter which we cannot understand. Certain men were "protected" as being indispensable. Phil Bernstein's assistant for example. Isaac Toubin, who, being Rabinowitz's brother-in-law, did not volunteer for the Chaplaincy. With the war over, he now rushed as a member of the JWB staff to see Europe. Those are to us some of the unanswered questions.

What is past is past. What we wish to know now is--Will CANRA with reference to Veterans' hospital appointments, play its old game of favoritism for the favored few? Will this ecclesiastical endorsement still rest in the hands of a lay organization? We suggest several things--a possible withdrawal of the conference from CANRA; or at least a housecleaning of CANRA and replacing the present civilian members with men who served in the Chaplaincy, and men who are willing to speak up on behalf of the interests of the Rabbinate and the Synagogue.

I am writing you this letter in confidence, because I feel that the information may be pertinent to future course of action which the conference may wish to take. I would not care to be quoted unless I could be present to answer. I suggest further that the Conference invite at the very earliest opportunity its own chaplains to appear before it. I think the Conference will receive an interesting story.

I am also enclosing a letter from Frank Weil and my answer to him which is on the subject of Synagogue-Center relationships.

Sincerely,



BURTON E. LEVINSON
Chaplain, USNR

C O P Y

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

September 24, 1945

Chaplain Burton E. Levinson
U. S. Naval Training Center
San Diego, 33, California

Dear Chaplain Levinson:

I have read a copy of your letter to Rabbi Brickner, and have made inquiries regarding the situation in San Diego.

I am informed that the Jewish community of San Diego has for some time considered the need for a Jewish Community Center, and that currently the Jewish Welfare Fund of San Diego has requested the Jewish Welfare Board and the National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to undertake a joint study to determine whether such a Center is needed and all other pertinent information which would help the community to make a decision. We have assigned our field secretary for Jewish Center work, Mr. George Hallowitz, to collaborate in the making of this study along with the field secretary of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. A representative committee will receive the report, consider the recommendations and make the decision.

Our national policy is entirely opposed to favoring a Community Center as against a Synagogue. We regard both institutions as necessary and as complementary to each other in providing a full opportunity for Jewish cultural, social and religious activity. A Jewish Center is always stronger where there is an adequate Synagogue program. The reverse is also true. The Jewish Center, when properly conducted and when it offers a program of Jewish value, is an excellent training ground for Jewish leadership and for Jewish participation in all worthwhile Jewish activities including, of course, the Synagogue. Where there is more than one Synagogue or Temple, and where there are other Jewish groups of varying philosophy and purpose, the Jewish Center serves the additional function of providing a common meeting place for all elements of the community.

It will interest you to know that we now have a Joint Consultative Committee of the Synagogue Council of America and the National Jewish Welfare Board for the very specific purpose of developing better understanding of our respective aims in Jewish Center work, and providing for close cooperation and collaboration in many areas of Jewish activity. It is also a matter of interest that quite a substantial number of Synagogues and Synagogue Centers are affiliated with the JWB as associate members, and receive the same kind of service and assistance as do the Jewish Community Centers. This does not mean that we are engaged officially in the establishment of Synagogues, although we have frequently urged the establishment of Synagogue Centers in small,

Chaplain Burton E. Levinson

September 24, 1945

-2-

homogeneous communities. However, we cooperate freely with any Synagogue or Synagogue Center that asks for assistance of a technical nature.

The director of USO-JWB activities in San Diego is an experienced Jewish Center worker, and it is probably natural that he should be called in to give information about Jewish Center work. We do not know whether he has any personal interest in a possible position in San Diego. It would appear to me that this possibility is somewhat remote. In the first place, the community has no Center and is not likely to have one for some time. In the second place, we encourage all Jewish Centers to consult our national Personnel Department for likely candidates, and we review each situation separately, trying to select those people best qualified for the particular position.

As to the question of hospital workers, we have tried and have actually appointed rabbis for full time positions and part time positions wherever we could locate qualified men. We have given preference to rabbis because of the nature of the work. There is a limit to the number of positions as you can readily understand, and there is also a definite limit to the number of chaplaincies in veterans hospitals, but it is our policy to engage rabbis for this work. We employ laymen only where capable rabbis are not available.

I should be very glad to hear from you further.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ FRANK L. WEIL

1 October 1945

Mr. Frank L. Weil
National Jewish Welfare Board
145 East 32nd Street
New York, 16, New York

Dear Mr. Weil:

I am in receipt of your letter of September 24 which I have read with careful interest. I wish that I might have the opportunity of sitting down with you and thus be able to give you the whole background of my experiences and correspondence on this entire subject of Synagogue and Center relationships during the past two and one-half years. The San Diego picture was just one of a number of experiences which I, and hundreds of my colleagues, have had. This has been borne out in our exchange of views and experiences during recent Chaplains' conferences.

I was glad to note that George Hallowitz will be coming here for the survey. I should appreciate his dropping in on me and the picture could be submitted to him in greater length than I could tell you in a letter. I wish to say however, that the facts as you have received them with reference to the situation locally are not correct other than the fact that officially the Jewish Welfare Fund has requested a survey. There are other facts leading up to that survey which indicate that the primary organization was both stimulated and instigated by Jewish Welfare Board lay and professional representatives in this territory. I do not wish to say more about this at this time but when I have the opportunity of seeing you, perhaps after my return from service, I can give you some of this background.

I want you to know, also, that neither I, nor other of my colleagues, oppose the Jewish Center as you outlined its purpose and as it is stated in the national policy of JWB. However, there seems to be a discrepancy between the stated national policy and the manner in which it is employed in the communities throughout the country and the techniques and methods employed to advance this program. I think it could be further said, and I base this on a very close connection with the situation in my own community, that the field workers when asked to determine needs do not give a fair appraisal of the position of the synagogue and what it can do in rendering service. It is my conviction that the first question that ought to be investigated in conducting a survey is, "To what extent can and do the synagogues of the community fulfill these community needs?" and secondly, "Can the present institutions

Mr. Weil

-2-

1 October 1945

in the community with slight expansion fulfill these needs?" Somehow, the field representatives always seem to evade this question. In the survey which was conducted last year in Duluth, the result was a ~~departure~~^{assumption} of whatever unity we had had in the community because the survey was not fair in its analysis of the position of the Temple in the community with the result that the Temple did not give any support officially to the establishment of the Center.

I am writing this because I believe that certain of our own national representatives in the synagogue council may not have this picture from a point of view of the small communities. For some years, I have been closely associated with professional Jewish social work before my entering the Rabbinate so that I believe that I can say that I have some firsthand knowledge of the program. It is the hope and the earnest conviction of many of us now serving in the Chaplaincy that the whole matter will be discussed frankly and candidly very soon. The feelings of many of us are very strong on the subject as Rabbi Bernstein can attest on the basis of his experiences at the Los Angeles Chaplains' Convention.

I should be glad to hear from you further.

Sincerely,

BURTON E. LEVINSON
Chaplain, USNR

BEL/bn

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NBJ 119 DL PD 3 EXTRA-NEWARK NJ VIA CLEVELAND OHIO 19

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER-

COMMODORE HOTEL-

IN VIEW OF FASTER FLOW OF MEN FROM ACTIVE SERVICE INTO
CIVILIAN LIFE DO YOU THINK IT ADVISABLE TO POSTPONE PRESSURE
ON OFFICE OF CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS FOR INDUCTION OF YOUNGER
MEN TO REPLACE OLDER CHAPLAINS GORDIS AND LOOKSTEIN FAVOR-
LOOKSTEIN FAVOR TEMPORARY POSTPONEMENT OF COMMITTEE VISIT
TO WASHINGTON PLEASE ADVISE YOUR VIEWPOINT-

LOUIS M LEVITSKY.

(CPM 10/24) AHS Phoned left + message
he agreed Gordis + Lookstein

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Please Return
to Dr. A. H. Silver

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

November 13, 1945

COPY

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

I want to call your attention to the action of the Committee on Committees of the Conference with reference to the Committee on Chaplains, which I think is a mistake.

I trust that I need not assure you that in calling this to your attention I am not concerned because it involves me personally. I have been on the Reform Group of the Committee on Chaplains for two or three years and I was put on there because of the necessity of recruiting a number of men from the Southern Region. I made special trips for this purpose and contacted at least 13 or 14 men in their own communities.

I was also one of a panel of three who gave ecclesiastical approval to a number of prospective Chaplains in the Southern and Southeastern Regions.

Now that the work of the Committee on Chaplains is coming to a close I have not been reappointed on the Committee, nor has any one from the South been appointed. Consequently there is no one who knows the mental and spiritual state under which these men entered the Chaplaincy. I think you will agree with me that this situation should be corrected.

Again let me assure you that I have no personal peeve in the matter at all. I am thinking of the welfare of a number of men who may need the friendship, sympathy and understanding of one who knows them and their communities.

You will, I am sure, let me hear from you what you think of this mild complaint.

Trusting that all goes well with you and yours, I remain

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Emil W. Leipziger

ewl;jlg

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)



FRANK L. WEIL, President
LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, IRVING EDISON, Mrs. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr.,
DONALD OBERDORFER, WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Mrs. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents
MAX WILNER, Treasurer; MERWIN R. HASKEL, Assistant Treasurer
JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary; RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Assistant Secretary
LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director

145 EAST 32nd STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

LExington 2-4949

Cable Address:
JEWELBO New York

December 14, 1945

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Merchants Building
34 West 6th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Freehof:

The National Jewish Welfare Board is planning its first annual meeting since 1942 in May 1946, and you will receive complete information regarding the time and place. We look forward to having full participation by our national affiliates who have cooperated with us in such outstanding fashion during the war.

Enclosed is a duplicate list of the names of your representatives who serve on our National Council, Board of Directors, National Army and Navy Committee and Advisory Committee of the Bureau of War Records. Please note that your organization is entitled to three representatives on the National Council and one representative on the other Committees. Would you be good enough to return to me promptly one copy of the enclosed list, indicating thereon if the representatives will continue for the year 1946 or if you wish to make any changes. The representatives will be invited to the convention.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Louis Kraft
LOUIS KRAFT

Enclosure

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)



FRANK L. WEIL, President
LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, IRVING EDISON, Mrs. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr.,
DONALD OBERDORFER, WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Mrs. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents
MAX WILNER, Treasurer; MERWIN R. HASKEL, Assistant Treasurer
JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary; RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Assistant Secretary
LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director

145 EAST 32nd STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

LExington 2-4949

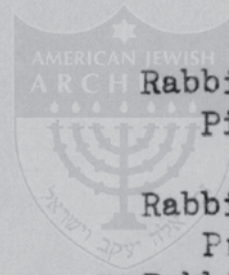
Cable Address:
JEWELBO New York

December 14, 1945

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Representatives on JWB Committees

Board of Directors:



Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof .
Pittsburgh, Pa.

National Council:

Rabbi William Braude
Providence, R. I.
Rabbi James G. Heller .
Cincinnati, Ohio
Rabbi Jonah B. Wise
New York City

National Army and
Navy Committee:

Rabbi William F. Rosenblum
New York City

Advisory Committee of the
Bureau of War Records:

Rabbi Isaac Landman
Brooklyn, N. Y.

see Louis Kraft - Dec. 20

Sq A, 4121st AAFBU
Bldg. 105, Box 173
Kelly Field, Texas

20 December 1945

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

Dear Dr. Silver,

For your information I am enclsing a copy of a letter I have just sent to Dr. Isaac E. Marcuson. I felt the contents of this letter would be of interest to you.

I know that the time remaining in which to fix the date and place of the next meeting of the Conference is comparatively short, but that it still might be possible to complete the arrangements I have suggested.

You will recall that a precedent for my suggestion was set when the Conference and the Assembly met at the same time in New York City in 1943, and two joint sessions of the Conference and the Assembly were arranged at that time.

.

Before concluding this letter I should like to offer my congratulations on your recent election to the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America. The election represents a deserved tribute to your forthrightness and statesmanship and will be productive of good for Jewry and for Palestine. May the good Lord bless all your endeavors.

With warm regards and good wishes to you and yours and an added "Mazel Tov."

Respectfully yours,

Albert M. Lewis

ALBERT M. LEWIS

Sq A, 4121st AAFBU
Bldg. 105, Box 173
Kelly Field, Texas

20 December 1945

Dr, Isaac E. Marcuson, Sec'y.
Central Conference of American Rabbis
204 Buford Place
Macon, Ga.

Dear Dr. Marcuson,

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 an harmony and accord that we have not previously known in our civilian ministries.

I have discussed this 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,

ALBERT M. LEWIS

December 20, 1945

Mr. Louis Kraft, Executive Director
National Jewish Welfare Board
145 E. 32nd St.
New York 16, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Kraft:

The letter which you addressed to Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof on December 14 was forwarded to me by Dr. Freehof inasmuch as I am now the President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

I should like to make the following changes in the representation of the Central Conference of American Rabbis on the Jewish Welfare Board Committees:

As representing the Conference on the Board of ^{Directors} ~~Governors~~, please substitute my name for that of Rabbi Freehof. I assume that it is the practise to have the President represent the Conference on the Board of Directors. I would also request you to substitute the name of Rabbi Freehof for that of Rabbi James G. Heller on the National Council. The other representatives remain the same.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)



FRANK L. WEIL, President
LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, IRVING EDISON, Mrs. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr.,
DONALD OBERDORFER, WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Mrs. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents
MAX WILNER, Treasurer; MERWIN R. HASKEL, Assistant Treasurer
JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary; RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Assistant Secretary
LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director

145 EAST 32nd STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

LExington 2-4949

December 26, 1945

Cable Address:
JEWELBO New York

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Merchants Building
34 West 6th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio

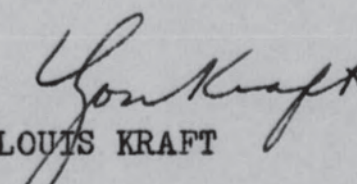
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of December 20th,
and regret the error in forwarding my previous letter to
Rabbi Freehof. We are changing all our records regarding
the new president of the Central Conference of American
Rabbis.

We are noting on our records the fact that you will
serve on the Board of Directors in place of Rabbi Freehof,
and that Rabbi Freehof will serve on the National Council in
place of Rabbi Heller.

With many thanks and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


LOUIS KRAFT

Letter

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

December 28, 1945

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

On November 13th I wrote you a letter in regard to the Committee on
Chaplains.

I wonder if I may not have your reaction to it.

Fraternally,

Emil W. Leipziger
Emil W. Leipziger

ewl;jlg

January 4, 1946

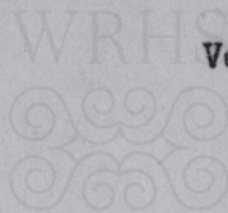
Chaplain Albert M. Lewis
Sq A, 4121st AAFBU
Bldg. 105, Box 173
Kelly Field, Texas

Thank you for your letter of December 20. Your recommendation has merit. I will bring it to the attention of the Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



January 4, 1946

Dr. Emil W. Leipziger
Touro Synagogue
New Orleans 15, La.

My dear Dr. Leipziger:

I am enclosing herewith the correspondence of Mr. J. M. Ruby, President of Sinai Temple, Michigan City, Indiana with reference to Rabbi Stephen Sherman. Do you believe that the matter should be presented to the Arbitration Committee of the C.C.A.R.? Perhaps as a first step, you might wish to write to Rabbi Sherman and get his side of the story.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER

TOURO SYNAGOGUE

NEW ORLEANS 15

January 9, 1946

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

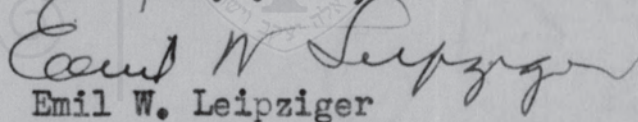
Dear Colleague:

I have before me your letter of January 4th and the correspondence which took place between Mr. J. M. Ruby, President of Sinai Temple, Michigan City, Indiana, Rabbi Stephen Sherman, et.al.

I awaited word from you as to whether the matter should be considered by the Arbitration Committee or not. I think it should be. I agree with you that as the first step I should write Rabbi Sherman and get his side of the story. Although you did not expressly state it that way I assume that it meets with your approval that I do so write.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Rabbi Sherman.

Fraternaly yours,


Emil W. Leipziger

ewl;jlg
enclosure

January 9, 1946

AIR MAIL

Rabbi Stephen Sherman,
Beth Hillel,
Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Dear Colleague:

As Chairman of the Arbitration Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I am addressing you on a matter which may be presented to the Committee as a whole, but before that is done, I am writing to you regarding certain charges of unethical conduct which have been made against you by a Mr. J.M. Ruby, President of Sinai Temple, Michigan City, Indiana.

His charges are supported by letters which passed between you and him in the middle of October, 1945 and between him and a certain resident of South Bend, Indiana--a Mr. M. J. Brooks.

Mr. Ruby brought this correspondence first to the attention of Dr. Morris Eisendrath of the Union, who in turn referred it to me as Chairman of the CCAR Arbitration Committee. I in turn referred the correspondence to our President, because it has not been the custom for the Arbitration Committee to initiate any action. I now have the suggestion from Dr. Silver that I write you to get your side of the story.

Perhaps the best way to present the matter to you is to write excerpts of Mr. Ruby's letter of November 23, 1945 to Rabbi Eisendrath; He writes:

November 23, 1945

"The sum and substance of these letters is that Sinai Congregation entered into a definite verbal agreement with Rabbi Sherman, late of Beth-El Congregation of South Bend, Indiana. As the letters indicate, the formal contract was to be signed on a given date, but definite verbal commitments on both sides had been made!

Despite these facts, Rabbi Sherman saw fit to enter and conclude negotiations with another congregation in Kenosha, Wisconsin. However, it appears that he would have been willing to ignore even this commitment if Sinai Temple were to meet the same financial terms.

It is our opinion that, to say, the least, the Rabbi's action is highly unethical and we feel that you, as U.A.H.C. Director, should be apprised of this."

The underlining is Mr. Ruby's.

May I not ask you to write me freely and fully what happened with reference to your negotiations with Sinai Temple of Michigan City, Indiana and the Congregation at Kenosha, Wisconsin? I shall hope to find in your statement information which will show Mr. Ruby's indignation to be the result of a misunderstanding. Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

ewl;jlg

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

Yours fraternally,

Emil W. Leipziger
Chairman, Arbitration Committee

January 10, 1946

Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger
Touro Synagogue
New Orleans, 15, La.

My dear Rabbi Leipziger:

I have tried to trace down your letter of November 13 to which you refer. I have been unable to locate it. It probably reached me during my absence in Palestine. Will you please send me a copy of your letter so that I can answer it?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

January 14, 1946

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

In accordance with your request of January 10th addressed to Rabbi Leipzig, I am enclosing a copy of his letter to you of November 13, 1945.

With very best wishes from Rabbi Leipzig to you and yours, I remain

Cordially,

Justine Louise Griffith
(Miss) Justine Louise Griffith
Secretary to
Rabbi Emil W. Leipzig

jl
enclosure

January 20, 1946

Rabbi Emil William Leipziger
4238 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, La.

My dear Dr. Leipziger:

In reply to your kind letter, permit me to say that it was my impression that you were on the Conference Committee on Chaplains. That is also the information which I have just received from Rabbi Marcuson. We are delighted to have you on the Committee, knowing of the fine service which you have rendered in that capacity.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

January 25, 1946

Dr. David Lefkowitz
Temple Emanu-El
1900 South Boulevard
Dallas, Texas

My dear Dr. Lefkowitz:

The Central Conference of American Rabbis would be greatly indebted to you if you would write the Memorial Resolution on the passing of Dr. Jacob Raisin, of Charleston, So. Carolina, who was a classmate of yours at the Hebrew Union College.

Under a new ruling, memorial resolutions are not read at the Convention, but appear in full in the C.C.A.R. Yearbook. The President of the Conference, in his annual message, mentions the names of those who passed away during the year.

I should be very grateful to you if you would accept this assignment so that through you our Conference may pay tribute to one of its distinguished members.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's, and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)

FRANK L. WEIL, President

Mrs. ALFRED R. BACHRACH, LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, IRVING EDISON,
Mrs. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr., DONALD OBERDORFER,
WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Mrs. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents
MAX WILNER, Treasurer; MERWIN R. HASKEL, Assistant Treasurer
JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary; RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Assistant Secretary
LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director



145 EAST 32nd STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

LExington 2-4949

Cable Address:
JEWELBO New York

ARMY and NAVY COMMITTEE

WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Chairman; COL. MAX R. WAINER, Vice-Chairman;
JOHN S. SILLS, Director

January 25, 1946

Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities

Rabbi David de Sola Pool, Chairman
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,
Administrative Chairman
Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, Vice-Chairman
and Chairman, Executive Committee
Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Vice-Chairman
Chaplain Max A. Braude
Rabbi Max D. Davidson
Rabbi William Drazin
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof
Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, USNR
Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
Rabbi Robert Gordis
Rabbi Abram M. Granison
Rabbi James G. Heller
Rabbi Leo Jung
Rabbi Simon G. Kramer
Rabbi Leon S. Lang
Chaplain Aryeh Lev
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin
Rabbi Elias Margolis
Lt. Col. A. A. Melniker
Chaplain Emanuel Rackman
Chaplain Bernard Segal
Lt. Col. Morton A. Seidenfeld
Chaplain Charles E. Shulman, USNR
Rabbi Milton Steinberg
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein
Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
East 105th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland 6, Ohio

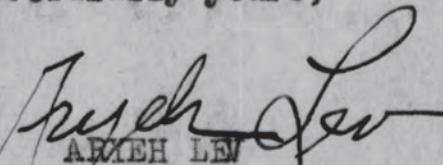
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I take pleasure in inviting you to a dinner which will be held at the Henry Hudson Hotel, 353 W. 57th St., New York City, Wednesday evening, February 6th, at 6:30. The dinner will be the culmination of the Northeastern Regional Chaplains Conference, to be held at the same hotel from February 4th to 6th, and will also serve as a testimonial dinner to Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, retiring Executive Director of CANRA.

Rabbi Bernstein, who has directed our religious program for the past three years, is returning to his congregation in Rochester. The JWB wishes to express appreciation for his outstanding service and we feel that it would be appropriate for you to be present at this testimonial. You would also be cordially welcomed at any of the Chaplains Conference sessions which your schedule would permit you to attend.

Please let me know if it will be possible for you to attend any part of the Chaplains Conference and the banquet honoring Rabbi Bernstein.

Cordially yours,


ARYEH LEV
Asst. Executive Director

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's, and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)

FRANK L. WEIL, President

Mrs. ALFRED R. BACHRACH, LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, IRVING EDISON,

Mrs. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr., DONALD OBERDORFER,

WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Mrs. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents

MAX WILNER, Treasurer; MERWIN R. HASKEL, Assistant Treasurer

JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary; RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Assistant Secretary

LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director



145 EAST 32nd STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

LExington 2-4949

Cable Address:

JEWELBO New York

ARMY and NAVY COMMITTEE

WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Chairman; COL. MAX R. WAINER, Vice-Chairman;
JOHN S. SILLS, Director

Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities

Rabbi David de Sola Pool, Chairman

Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,

Administrative Chairman

Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, Vice-Chairman

and Chairman, Executive Committee

Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Vice-Chairman

Chaplain Max A. Braude

Rabbi Max D. Davidson

Rabbi William Drazin

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof

Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, USNR

Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

Rabbi Robert Gordis

Rabbi Abram M. Granison

Rabbi James G. Heller

Rabbi Leo Jung

Rabbi Simon G. Kramer

Rabbi Leon S. Lang

Chaplain Aryeh Lev

Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman

Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin

Rabbi Elias Margolis

Lt. Col. A. A. Melniker

Chaplain Emanuel Rackman

Chaplain Bernard Segal

Lt. Col. Morton A. Seidenfeld

Chaplain Charles E. Shulman, USNR

Rabbi Milton Steinberg

Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein

Executive Director

January 28, 1946

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

The enclosed letter is self explanatory.
I imagine it is too late to make any
change for the 1946 meeting, but it might
be given consideration in connection with
1947.

Sincerely,

ARYEH LEV

Assistant Executive Director

January 16, 1946

Rabbi Aryeh Lev
National Jewish Welfare Board
145 E. 32nd Street,
New York 16, New York

Dear Rabbi Lev:

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 the 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 Chaplain 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. Congratulations and best wishes on your new position as Executive Director of CANRA. Please be assured of my cooperation. If I can be of any help to you, please don't hesitate to call upon me, even though I am now a civilian rabbi and far distant from the East.

Good luck and best wishes, and Isabel joins me in fond greetings to you and Hazel.

Always,

January 28, 1946

Chaplain Aryeh Lev, Asst. Executive Director
National Jewish Welfare Board
145 E. 32nd St.
New York 16, N.Y.

My dear Chaplain Aryeh Lev:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of January 25 and for your invitation to attend a dinner on February 6 to honor Rabbi Bernstein. I should have been delighted to attend if I could get away from Cleveland because I should like to join with you in paying tribute to the extraordinary service which Rabbi Bernstein rendered to his people and to his country. Unfortunately congregational duties compel me to remain in Cleveland on that day. Two weddings, long scheduled, of Temple members make it obligatory for me to remain here. I will, however, send a message to the meeting.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

January 28, 1946

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld
c/o Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

I received the minutes of the meeting held on January 15 in the office of Mr. Frank Weil where the request of the American Friends' Service Committee for a financial subsidy to take care of the money which it laid out for Jewish conscientious objectors was discussed. I note that Mr. Weil offered to under-write \$5000 of the \$20,000 "debt" and requested that the various civic protective agencies should under-write their share.

Who will follow up this matter? And how quickly can this matter be disposed of? Mr. Vogel of the American Friends' Service Committee is very anxious to have the matter disposed of.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

GEORGE BACKER
PRESIDENT

JACOB LANDAU
SECRETARY & MANAGING
DIRECTOR

BORIS SMOLAR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PARIS
LONDON
JERUSALEM
WASHINGTON

JACOB BLAUSTEIN
CHAIRMAN

DAVID L. PODELL
VICE-PRESIDENT

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

106 EAST 41ST STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

JANUARY 29, 1946

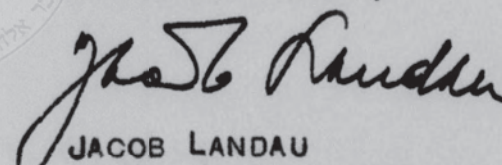
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER
THE TEMPLE
105 ST. & ANSEL RD.
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEAR DR. SILVER:

OUR LONDON OFFICE WIRES AS FOLLOWS:

"BAECK DESIROUS OF RETURNING TO USA, BUT PLANS ARE NOT
YET DEFINITE. WILL INFORM ME OF ANY ARRANGEMENTS."

SINCERELY YOURS,


JACOB LANDAU
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Seattle, Washington
February 13, 1946

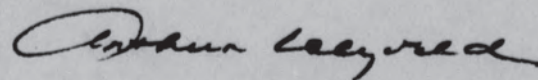
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have spoken to Mr. Henry Monsky in regard to Mr. Frank Weil's commitment of the Jewish Welfare Board to a contribution of \$5000 toward the reimbursement of the American Friends' Service Committee. He assured me that he would attempt to secure a comparable contribution from B'nai B'rith, and I am now expecting word from him with regard to the result of some conversations he was planning to have on this matter. Rabbi Hoffman, as treasurer of our joint Rabbinical Committee and I, as secretary of the Committee, have been working together on the matter. I have undertaken to speak to Rabbi Miller with regard to the American Jewish Congress' share in this matter. The Congress has already taken an unfavorable stand, but I feel that after B'nai B'rith acts favorably as the Jewish Welfare Board already has, they may be prompted to reconsider their decision. We are also keeping in touch with Mr. Vogel on this matter.

My very cordial greetings,

Sincerely,



Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld

AJL:PP

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)

FRANK L. WEIL, President • IRVING LEHMAN, Honorary President • LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, MRS. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr., DONALD OBERDORFER, WALTER ROTHSCHILD, MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents • MAX WILNER, Treasurer • MERWIN R. HASKEL, Ass't. Treasurer • JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Ass't. Secretary • LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director •



145 EAST 32nd STREET
NEW YORK, 16, N. Y.
LExington 2-4949

ARMY and NAVY COMMITTEE

WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Chairman; COL. MAX R. WAINER, Vice-Chairman;
BENJAMIN RABINOWITZ, Director

Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities

Rabbi David de Sola Pool, Chairman
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,
Administrative Chairman
Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, Vice-Chairman
and Chairman, Executive Committee
Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Vice-Chairman
Chaplain Max A. Braude
Rabbi Max D. Davidson
Rabbi William Drazin
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof
Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, USNR
Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
Rabbi Robert Gordis
Rabbi Abram M. Granison
Rabbi James G. Heller
Rabbi Leo Jung
Rabbi Simon G. Kramer
Rabbi Leon S. Lang
Chaplain Aryeh Lev
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin
Rabbi Elias Margolis
Lt. Col. A. A. Melniker
Chaplain Emanuel Rackman
Chaplain Bernard Segal
Lt. Col. Morton A. Seidenfeld
Chaplain Charles E. Shulman, USNR
Rabbi Milton Steinberg
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein
Executive Director

February 27, 1946

Dr. Louis Finkelstein
Jewish Theological Seminary
of America
122nd Street & Broadway
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Finkelstein:

The following statement is an excerpt
from the "New York Times" of Tuesday, February
26th 1946, attributed to you:

"Declaring that the stream of conversion
of Jews to other faiths 'has become a river'-
particularly in the case of 'boys who have
been overseas, all very sensitive'-
Dr. Finkelstein attributed the situation of
American Judaism to 'a general breakdown in
the structure of the inspiration and edu-
cation of the young'."

To the best of my knowledge, and at dis-
cussions at chaplains' conferences held in the past
four years, we have not heard that Jews in the Armed
Forces were being converted. I should like to have
the source or sources of your information and the
extent of the cases involved in order that we may
look into this matter and take the proper action through
the War and Navy Departments.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) ARYEH LEV

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA
NORTHEAST CORNER, BROADWAY AND 122ND STREET
NEW YORK 27, N.Y.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 7, 1946

Dear Rabbi Lev:

Will you permit me to avail myself of the old Jewish prerogative of answering your question with another? When you say, "To the best of my knowledge, and at discussions at chaplains' conferences held in the past four years, we have not heard that Jews in the Armed Forces were being converted", do you mean that you have not heard (a) of the vast number of intermarriages which have occurred in the Armed Forces, many of them solemnized by Christian ministers; (b) of the considerable number of Jews who have apostatized, without the stimulus of intermarriage? How many Jews must marry Christians, and how many must adopt Christian religions, such as Christian Science, Catholicism, Anglicanism, etc. before we admit that the stream of assimilation has become a river of apostasy?

You have asked me a question which I think I ought to answer in detail, and to do so I must mention names and give facts. I therefore ask that you consider this letter strictly confidential.

I am sure that you must know that Christian Science today is virtually a Jewish sect. I am informed that in Barnard College it was officially directed some time ago that girls who are Ethical Culturists should be listed as Jews, so large is the percentage of Jews in that non-Jewish group. Of the Jewish members of university faculties, a large proportion are intermarried, including, for example, the daughter of the late Judge Brandeis, Mortimer Adler, Viner (who was just called from Chicago to Princeton), etc. When we were seeking a curator for our new Museum almost all the candidates suggested were either converts or married to Christians.

Some years ago when I visited Doctor Whitehead at Harvard, he--although a Christian--warned me of the impending collapse of Judaism among the intellectuals of the country, and specifically asked my assistance in preventing one famous Jewish professor from leaving Judaism for Catholicism. I did the best I could, and in this particular case was successful. But it was a mere accident that Doctor Whitehead knew of this man, that he was interested enough in Judaism to care about a possible conversion, and knew me well enough to talk to me about it. During the past year, I have spent a good deal of time winning Jews, who were about to be converted for lack of a Jewish education and because they were hungry for religion, back to Judaism. It happens that there was

no instance in which I failed, which suggests to me that one of the main troubles is that we do not have enough rabbis and teachers to give our people what they need.

How can the situation be otherwise when there are only about 1700-2000 rabbis of any kind in this country, and almost 5,000,000 Jewish laymen? The 5,000,000 Presbyterians are served by 9,000 ministers; the 8,000,000 Methodists by 22,000 ministers; the 25,000,000 Catholics by 25,000 priests. Their job is not being too well done; but how can we expect to keep our people within the ranks of Judaism, with less than one rabbi for every 3,000 people, with a catastrophic dearth of teachers, and with hardly any native trained scholars?

As for the situation in the Armed Forces, I do not think it is a matter for action on the part of the army and navy authorities. The situation about which I learned from our chaplains, as well as from men under arms, is due to no missionary activity, but to lack of Jewish education. Of course, the closer contact with Judaism which the chaplains provided so many of our men helped a good deal. For the first time in our history in America, Jews had one rabbi for about every thousand laymen. The result was that though many of the boys went into the Armed Forces ready for assimilation, without any knowledge of the meaning and value of Judaism, a good number of them were reclaimed. On the other hand, in many assimilation had proceeded so far, and the conditions under which they lived far from home, lonely, exposed to various temptations, were so dire that there were, as you must know, widespread cases of intermarriage and even outright apostasy from the attraction which Christian religion had for men who had no religious upbringing in Judaism and were hungry for a faith.

I wonder that the evil has not been greater, and the fact that it has not been greater is due to the truly remarkable work done by you and your colleagues on CANRA, and the various religious organizations in Judaism. But there is no use closing one's eyes to the facts that, despite all our efforts, Judaism is today moving downhill; and something must be done to strengthen it, and to draw as many of our best people as possible into Jewish work, to give them adequate training, if our children are to come to love their faith as they should.

With warmest regards,

Cordially, as ever,

(signed) LOUIS FINKELSTEIN

Rabbi Aryeh Lev
Jewish Welfare Board
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, N.Y.

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)

FRANK L. WEIL, President • IRVING LEHMAN, Honorary President • LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, MRS. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr., DONALD OBERDORFER, WALTER ROTHSCHILD, MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents • MAX WILNER, Treasurer • MERWIN R. HASKEL, Ass't. Treasurer • JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Ass't. Secretary • LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director •



145 EAST 32nd STREET
NEW YORK, 16, N. Y.
LExington 2-4949

ARMY and NAVY COMMITTEE

WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Chairman; COL. MAX R. WAINER, Vice-Chairman;
BENJAMIN RABINOWITZ, Director

Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities

Rabbi David de Sola Pool, Chairman
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,
Administrative Chairman
Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, Vice-Chairman
and Chairman, Executive Committee
Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Vice-Chairman
Chaplain Max A. Braude
Rabbi Max D. Davidson
Rabbi William Drazin
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof
Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, USNR
Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
Rabbi Robert Gordis
Rabbi Abram M. Granison
Rabbi James G. Heller
Rabbi Leo Jung
Rabbi Simon G. Kramer
Rabbi Leon S. Lang
Chaplain Aryeh Lev
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin
Rabbi Elias Margolis
Lt. Col. A. A. Melniker
Chaplain Emanuel Rackman
Chaplain Bernard Segal
Lt. Col. Morton A. Seidenfeld
Chaplain Charles E. Shulman, USNR
Rabbi Milton Steinberg
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger
Rabbi Phillip S. Bernstein
Executive Director

March 11, 1946

Dr. Louis Finkelstein
Jewish Theological Seminary
1 2nd Street & Broadway
New York 27, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Finkelstein:

I have your letter of March 7, 1946 and want to express my appreciation for your kindness and consideration in writing a full page letter in reply to my inquiry of February 27.

However, my letter was not written as an individual, but rather as Executive Director of CANRA. It was written with the knowledge of the members of CANRA and a number of chaplains who phoned me about the excerpt in the Times and asked for some action to be taken. In your reply you stated that because you must mention names and give facts, that you want your reply to be considered strictly confidential. I have thus far respected your wish. In doing so however, I cannot fulfill my obligation both to CANRA and to the chaplains who want to hear an explanation.

I believe that inasmuch as the paragraph to which I made reference dealt with "particularly in the case of boys who have been overseas", I think that only the last two or three paragraphs of your letter covered the subject of my inquiry. I should therefore appreciate a reply along those lines which I can communicate to CANRA and the chaplains.

As ever,

(signed) ARYEH LEV

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA
NORTHEAST CORNER, BROADWAY AND 122ND STREET
NEW YORK 27, N.Y.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 14, 1946

Dear Chaplain Lev:

I have no objection whatever to your reading my letter to your colleagues, provided it is understood that this material is not for publication. I do not think that the time has come for material of this type to be widely published, though it is important that the community know how grave the situation with regard to Judaism is so that the Jewish people will awaken to the peril that confronts them.

I am also considering the preparation of an extended article on the subject in Hebrew. It would be published in the Hadoar. Of course I should be very glad to have you circulate that article among anyone who might be interested, again with the understanding that this material is intended for Hebrew readers. Anyone circulating it in the general press does so on his own responsibility.

I wonder whether you could let me have the records regarding attendance of services by the Jewish boys in the Army? The impression I gathered from discussions at Chaplains' meetings and at private discussions with Chaplains, as well as what I saw with my own eyes, was that about a third of the Jewish boys in the Army attended services more or less regularly, and about a third more came into contact with the Chaplain on occasions outside the weekly services. This is, of course, a much larger proportion than would come in contact with a rabbi in civilian life, and undoubtedly this fact has had a great deal to do with the strengthening of Jewish faith in those Jewish soldiers on whom the Chaplains could exert an influence.

There remains, however, the one-third of Jewish enlisted men and the larger proportion of officers on whom the Jewish Chaplains could exert no influence because they never came in contact with them. I imagine the vast majority of intermarriages and conversions are occurring among this group, which includes those who are by temperament and because of lack of training least sympathetic to Judaism. Perhaps the question which has arisen in the minds of some of the Chaplains regarding the accuracy of my remarks has its roots in the fact that they are thinking of the Jewish boys they met, and I am thinking of the Jewish boys as a whole.

We had some experiences along these lines at the Seminary in regard to the Midshipmen at Columbia during the War. We had several Seder Services here and several Yom Kippur Services. I was surprised at each of these to notice that the vast majority of

the boys knew Hebrew very well and followed the services without difficulty. I was congratulating myself on the fact that the general assumption that Jewish boys do not have Jewish education was apparently unfounded. However, I took occasion to discuss the matter with the boys themselves, and they gave me an entirely different explanation of the phenomenon. They said that the reason for this was that the many Jewish boys who did not know Hebrew simply did not come to the services. Perhaps you can tell me whether the experiences of your Chaplains elsewhere were or were not similar to our own here.

Believe me, with all good wishes,

Faithfully, as ever,

(signed) LOUIS FINKELSTEIN

Chaplain Aryeh Lev
Jewish Welfare Board
145 East 32 Street
New York, N.Y.



NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
MEMBER OF THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)

FRANK L. WEIL, President • IRVING LEHMAN, Honorary President • LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, MRS. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr., DONALD OBERDORFER, WALTER ROTHSCHILD, MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, Vice-Presidents • MAX WILNER, Treasurer • MERWIN R. HASKEL, Ass't. Treasurer • JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Ass't. Secretary • LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director •



145 EAST 32nd STREET
NEW YORK, 16, N. Y.
LExington 2-4949

ARMY and NAVY COMMITTEE

WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Chairman; COL. MAX R. WAINER, Vice-Chairman;
BENJAMIN RABINOWITZ, Director

Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities

Rabbi David de Sola Pool, Chairman
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,
Administrative Chairman
Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, Vice-Chairman
and Chairman, Executive Committee
Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Vice-Chairman
Chaplain Max A. Braude
Rabbi Max D. Davidson
Rabbi William Drazin
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof
Chaplain Joshua L. Goldberg, USNR
Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
Rabbi Robert Gordis
Rabbi Abram M. Granison
Rabbi James G. Heller
Rabbi Leo Jung
Rabbi Simon G. Kramer
Rabbi Leon S. Lang
Chaplain Aryeh Lev
Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin
Rabbi Elias Margolis
Lt. Col. A. A. Melniker
Chaplain Emanuel Rackman
Chaplain Bernard Segal
Lt. Col. Morton A. Seidenfeld
Chaplain Charles E. Shulman, USNR
Rabbi Milton Steinberg
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein
Executive Director

Rabbi Aryeh Lev

FROM WAR TO PEACE

March 18, 1946

Dear Chaplain:

No doubt you like myself had an unfavorable reaction to the report in the New York Times of February 27th. Under the headline "Judaism declines in U.S., Rabbis Say", and the sub-headline "Conservative group will seek \$15,000,000 for program of 'spiritual rehabilitation'", Dr. Finkelstein is reported as having stated that "Judaism in this country had degenerated to a point where in another generation or two it will cease to have any significance".

One paragraph in particular speaks about the conversion of men in the armed forces, especially those returned from overseas. I felt it was my responsibility to write to Dr. Finkelstein specifically pertaining to that paragraph. The attached is correspondence which I have had in connection with that report and is forwarded to you for your information and guidance.

You will note in the last letter of March 14th that Dr. Finkelstein states that this material is not for publication and that anyone circulating it in the general press does so on his own responsibility.

Sincerely,

Aryeh Lev
ARYEH LEV

SAT., EVE., MAY 4th thru MON. EVE., MAY 6th - WASHINGTON, D. C.

Office of
THE DIRECTOR

Department of Commerce

Bureau of the Census

Washington 25

March 20, 1946

Dear Mr. Lazrus:

I am writing following Dr. Linfield's conversation with Dr. Hauser concerning some of the problems relating to the enumeration of Jewish Congregations in the forthcoming Census of Religious Bodies. As you know, at this writing we are not yet assured of appropriations for this census. If the appropriations are received, we shall, of course, begin our work on this census early in the coming fiscal year.

I am informed that Dr. Linfield, Director of the Jewish Statistical Bureau, served as special agent in connection with the Census of Religious Bodies in 1926 and 1936 and materials collected through him are incorporated in the reports of these censuses.

We shall very much appreciate receiving from the Jewish religious organizations that are represented by your Bureau a statement indicating whether there is need for appointing a special agent to enumerate Jewish Congregations in the 1946 Census of Religious Bodies. As you know, special agents have been discontinued in connection with the enumeration of a number of other denominations and we should like to know whether in your judgment a special agent is necessary in order to insure a complete and accurate canvass of Jewish religious bodies.

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. C. Capt
Director

Mr. S. Ralph Lazrus, Chairman
Administrative Committee
National Council for Statistics of Jews
320 Broadway
New York 7, N. Y.

*Copy of joint resolution
sent to Senate and to
Director of Census*

RESOLUTION
ON
UNITED STATES CENSUS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES

The census of American religious bodies, begun in 1850, provides the only general statistics of organized religion, gathered simultaneously, and its uniform reports spread mutual understanding of the work of all faiths, in our country. We therefore record our opinion that there is a continuing need for the census of religious bodies and that the United States Census Bureau should conduct this census for the year 1946, as in the past decades.

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

Adolph Rosenberg, President

October 17, 1944

UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS

Samuel Nirenstein, President

September 8, 1944

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

Samuel Rothstein, President

December 6, 1944

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Solomon B. Freehof, President

August 29, 1944

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

Robert Gordis, President

September 5, 1944

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

William Drazin, President

October 25, 1944

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Louis Seltzer, Executive Director

September 25, 1944

Congregation Beth El
Woodward at Gladstone
Detroit 2, Michigan

IRVING I. KATZ
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 20, 1946

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

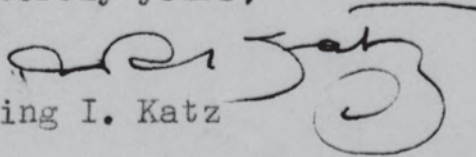
May I take this opportunity to express to you the sincere appreciation of the National Association of Temple Secretaries, for giving to our delegation a few minutes of your busy time at the Convention in Cincinnati, and for the graciousness and warmth that permeated our Conference.

The Secretaries have also asked me to convey to you and the members of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, our gratitude for allotting us half an hour on the Program of the coming Convention of the C.C.A.R. for an address by one of our colleagues.

The Secretaries have conferred this honor upon me and the subject of my paper will be "The Function of the Executive Secretary in the Modern Synagogue".

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Irving I. Katz

iik/da

JEWISH
STATISTICAL BUREAU

AUSPICES OF
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STATISTICS OF JEWS

320 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

TEL. BEEKMAN 3-4239

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE COUNCIL

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS
UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA
RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

OFFICERS

AND

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

S. RALPH LAZRUS, *Chairman*
WILLIAM B. HERLANDS, *Treasurer*
HON. MORTON BAUM
BERNARD L. BERZON
STEPHEN M. DRYFOOS
SYLVAN GOTSHAL
HENRY ITTLESON
CHARLES P. KRAMER
FRED LEVINthal
ARTHUR S. MEYER
MAXIMILIAN MOSS
SOL MUTTERPERL
SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
NATHAN A. PERILMAN
HON. SIMON H. RIFKIND
MICHAEL SCHAAP
WILLIAM WEISS
JOSEPH ZEITLIN

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ROGER W. STRAUS, *Chairman*

NATIONAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

L. M. FRANKLIN, *Hon. Chairman*
S. H. MARKOWITZ, *Chairman*
HON. SAMUEL DICKSTEIN
SAMUEL H. GOLDENSON
MAURICE B. HEXTER
LEO JUNG
JOSEPH J. KLEIN
BENJAMIN LAZRUS
ISRAEL H. LEVINthal
KASSEL LEWIS
ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER
JONAH B. WISE
ROBERT AXEL
ALBANY, N. Y.
JOSEPH L. BARON
MILWAUKEE, WIS.
JACOB BILLIKOPF
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
BARNETT R. BRICKNER
CLEVELAND, O.
HENRY COHEN
GALVESTON, TEX.
LOUIS M. EPSTEIN
BROOKLINE, MASS.
MORDECAI EZEKIEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JULIAN B. FEIBELMAN
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
SOLOMON B. FREEHOF
PITTSBURGH, PA.
SOLOMON GOLDMAN
CHICAGO, ILL.
MORRIS S. LAZARON
BALTIMORE, MD.
B. Z. LINFIELD
UNIVERSITY, VA.
LOUIS L. MANN
CHICAGO, ILL.
HENRY MONSKY
OMAHA, NEB.
JULIAN MORGENSTERN
CINCINNATI, O.
ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
DAVID PHILIPSON
CINCINNATI, O.
IRVING F. REICHERT
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
ABBA HILLEL SILVER
CLEVELAND, O.
HON. HORACE STERN
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
DAVID H. WICE
NEWARK, N. J.

March 22, 1946

H. S. LINFIELD, PH.D.
Director

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
E. 103 St. & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

May I send you herewith a copy of the letter we received from the director of the United States Bureau of the Census. The important matter he touches requires our immediate attention.

Both in 1926 and in 1936, the Jewish Statistical Bureau acted as the government's agent for the collection of the statistics of Jews for the United States census of religious groups, and the material we collected was incorporated in the official reports, and the government praised our work. Since then, it has been the policy of the government to cut down on special agents wherever feasible. Hence the government's inquiry as to whether it is our judgment that a Jewish agent is needed for the forthcoming United States Census of Religious Bodies.

Now, what is involved is the following: in the last census we received reports from 4,700 cities and villages with Jewish inhabitants (1,600 of these were previously entirely unknown), totaling over 4,500,000 Jews (an increase of 13% in ten years), and we enumerated nearly 4,000 congregations (an increase of 19%). Without a special agent and the expenditure of private funds, it is generally agreed that the census of Jews will be incomplete and inaccurate and it may give rise to false and harmful accusations of a decline of religion among Jews, etc.

Will you therefore kindly sign the enclosed statement, and return it to us promptly, so that we may give the Director of the Census the opinion of all the national Jewish religious organizations similar to the resolution we previously sent to the government (a copy is herewith attached).

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

H. S. Linfield
H. S. LINFIELD, Director

HSL:sh
Encl.

JEWISH
STATISTICAL BUREAU

AUSPICES OF
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STATISTICS OF JEWS

320 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

TEL. BEEKMAN 3-4239

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE COUNCIL

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS
UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA
RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

OFFICERS
AND
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

S. RALPH LAZRUS, *Chairman*
WILLIAM B. HERLANDS, *Treasurer*
HON. MORTON BAUM
BERNARD L. BERZON
STEPHEN M. DRYFOOS
SYLVAN GOTSHAL
HENRY ITTLESON
CHARLES P. KRAMER
FRED LEVINthal
ARTHUR S. MEYER
MAXIMILIAN MOSS
SOL MUTTERPERL
SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
NATHAN A. PERILMAN
HON. SIMON H. RIFKIND
MICHAEL SCHAAP
WILLIAM WEISS
JOSEPH ZEITLIN

H. S. LINFIELD, PH.D.
Director

March 26, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Central Conference of American Rabbis
East 103rd Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Silver:

I just received a statement signed by you.

Thanks very much. Please disregard the letter I sent
you this morning.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Hay
H. S. LINFIELD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ROGER W. STRAUS, *Chairman*

NATIONAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

L. M. FRANKLIN, *Hon. Chairman*
S. H. MARKOWITZ, *Chairman*
HON. SAMUEL DICKSTEIN
SAMUEL H. GOLDENSON
MAURICE B. HEXTER
LEO JUNG
JOSEPH J. KLEIN
BENJAMIN LAZRUS
ISRAEL H. LEVINthal
KASSEL LEWIS
ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER
JONAH B. WISE
ROBERT AXEL
ALBANY, N. Y.
JOSEPH L. BARON
MILWAUKEE, WIS.
JACOB BILLIKOPF
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
WILLIAM G. BRAUDE
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
BARNETT R. BRICKNER
CLEVELAND, O.
HENRY COHEN
GALVESTON, TEX.
LOUIS M. EPSTEIN
BROOKLINE, MASS.
MORDECAI EZEKIEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JULIAN B. FEIBELMAN
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
SOLOMON B. FREEHOF
PITTSBURGH, PA.
SOLOMON GOLDMAN
CHICAGO, ILL.
MORRIS S. LAZARON
BALTIMORE, MD.
B. Z. LINFIELD
UNIVERSITY, VA.
LOUIS L. MANN
CHICAGO, ILL.
HENRY MONSKY
OMAHA, NEB.
JULIAN MORGENSTERN
CINCINNATI, O.
ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
DAVID PHILIPSON
CINCINNATI, O.
IRVING F. REICHERT
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
ABBA HILLEL SILVER
CLEVELAND, O.
HON. HORACE STERN
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
DAVID H. WICE
NEWARK, N. J.

Levy

May 10, 1946

Rabbi Stephen Sherman,
Beth Millel Temple,
Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Dear Colleague:

I have before me the whole file with reference to the Arbitration matter involving you and the Sinai Congregation of Michigan City.

I am handling it as Chairman and I am not submitting it to my Committee. Perhaps we shall never need to refer it to the Committee of fourteen men scattered all over the country. Dr. Silver, President of the Conference, suggested that I might handle it personally unless some objection comes up later.

One of the difficulties in this particular matter rises out of the gaps existing in the evidence, such as telephone conversations and the numerous letters of various datelines.

I read the correspondence very carefully and I am giving particular attention to your own letter of January 11, 1946 in answer to my inquiry of January 9, 1946. I pointed out to you then that Sinai Congregation, thru Mr. Ruby, charged you with entering and concluding negotiations with another Congregation at Kenosha, Wisconsin after definite verbal commitments had been made by you and by the Michigan City Congregation. You do not deny this charge but you say in your letter of January 11th "I did not consider a verbal agreement binding, particularly after a very unpleasant experience with the Board of a congregation in Michigan, etc. etc." As Chairman of this Committee I must say what you yourself intimated that your unpleasant experience with the Board of another Congregation in Michigan has nothing to do with this case, but what has a great deal to do with it is your ethical conception that a verbal agreement is not binding.

I wish to call attention also to the rather incredible statement that when you telephoned to Mr. Ruby of your decision, you did not make yourself absolutely clear that you had already accepted the Kenosha pulpit. Since the purpose of your telephone call was undoubtedly to inform Mr. Ruby of the real situation I find it difficult to understand why you did not make it clear that you had already accepted another pulpit. That it seems to me should have been the very purpose of your conversation.

You say in your letter of January 11th "But mainly, I believe, that I have acted according to the ethics of our profession in informing the Board of Sinai Congregation in Michigan City of my negotiations with the Board in Kenosha, and I cannot see any reason for a charge of unethical conduct". Section II of the Code of Ethics, Yearbook Volume L (1940) says:

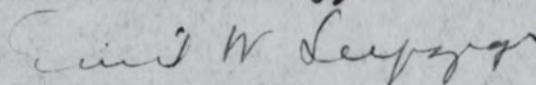
"The bonds between a Rabbi and his congregation are of a character somewhat different from and on a level higher than those of the ordinary contractual relations of the business world. Rabbis and members of a congregation are responsible partners in a joint concern, viz. the welfare of a Jewish congregation with all the sacredness, reverence and aspiration connected with the service of God, Israel and mankind. Therefore the relationship between Rabbi and Congregation must be one of mutual confidence and esteem, expressing itself in friendly and joyous cooperation".

It seems to me your contention that a verbal contract mutually made is not binding represents a level of ethical action not consonant with the ideas and ideals of the Code. Therefore it seems to me that this must be reported to the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

However, before I do this, I would want your personal reaction to me, the Chairman, as to my decision. If you feel that I have put the wrong construction upon the matter or have come to an unfair decision, I should like to hear from you very frankly about it. I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Silver, but I will not present it to the Board until I have heard from you, so that you might set forth any circumstances which you think are extenuating. Perhaps it would be to your interest, if you agree with my decision in the matter, to come before the Conference Board. We shall meet in Chicago, which is not so far from Kenosha. At any rate, let me hear from you fully and frankly as to your reaction.

Looking forward to your letter, I remain

Yours fraternally,



Emil W. Leipziger

ewl;jlg

*The underscoring is mine, not yours.

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, 6, Ohio



May 17, 1946

Dr. Joshua Loth Liebman
Temple Israel
Longwood Ave. at Plymouth
Boston 15, Mass.

My dear Joshua:

Thank you so much for your kindness in sending me a copy of your book "Peace of Mind." I was delighted to receive it.

When I get a moment's leisure I shall re-read it, for I recall with pleasure my first reading of it in proof sheets.

It must be deeply gratifying to you that your book has had such a marvelous reception in the country. More power to you!

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:GR

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

HENRY W. LEVY, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

THREE EAST SIXTY-FIFTH STREET, NEW YORK 21, N. Y. • Phone: REGENT 4-3659

June 12, 1946

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

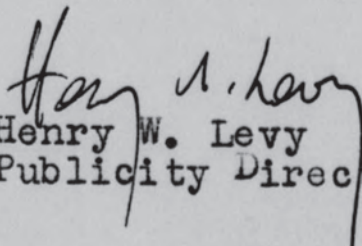
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing the following:

1. Copy of the story sent to the English -Jewish papers on the Central Conference Convention.
2. Copy of the Union News Service Bulletin sent to all congregational rabbis and secretaries which leads off with the story on the Central Conference Convention.

I expect to be in Chicago this weekend on Union business at which time I will go over with Rabbi Smoller of the Chicago Federation plans for secretarial help at the Convention. I spoke to him on the 'phone the other day and he suggested that I wait untill I see him in Chicago.

Cordially yours,


Henry W. Levy
Publicity Director

HWL/eh
enc.

RABBI ISAAC LANDMAN, D. D.
CONGREGATION BETH ELOHIM
EIGHTH AVENUE AND GARFIELD PLACE
BROOKLYN 15, N. Y.

June 13, 1946

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

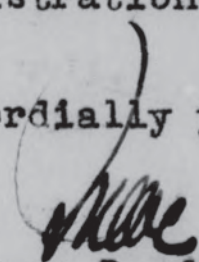
Dear Abba:

Last night, I was elected President of the Synagogue Council of America and Ahron Opher was reelected Assistant to the President.

May I make a request, both as a matter of public service and personal, that you reappoint Opher among the delegates to the Synagogue Council beginning next year. It is not necessary for him to be a delegate in order to be Assistant to the President but it would help my administration immensely if he could speak authoritatively with the other members of the Conference. If you want, I can obtain and send you the record of attendance on the part of the delegates of the Conference to the Council which will indicate to you that there are sufficient reasons for dropping several of them and for reinstating Opher among the delegates.

I am sorry I won't be at the Conference the week after next. Do accept my congratulations on your reelection in advance and my best wishes for your continued successful administration of our affairs.

Cordially yours,



Isaac Landman

IL:gg

ccab

June 16, 1946

Mr. Henry W. Levy, Publicity Director
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
3 East 65th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Levy:

I received the copies of the release on the CCAR Convention which you sent me. Both of them are sent out from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which is all right.

Why don't you send out immediately some announcements from and in the name of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. I don't believe that you ought to wait until the Conference opens. Preliminary announcements to the English Press are in order.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

OFFICERS

ADOLPH ROSENBERG
President

JACOB ARONSON
FREDERICK F. GREENMAN
DR. S. S. HOLLENDER
JACOB W. MACK
EUGENE B. STRASSBURGER
Vice-Presidents

DAVID F. KAHN
Treasurer

RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
Director

☆

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Honorary Members

Marcus Aaron, *Pittsburgh*
Simeon M. Johnson, *Cincinnati*
Henry Morgenthau, *New York*
Herbert C. Oettinger, *Cincinnati*
Henry Oppenheimer, *Baltimore*
A. L. Saltzstein, *Milwaukee*
Herman Wile, *Buffalo*
Isidore Wise, *Hartford*

Gilbert S. Ades, *Louisville*
Lester D. Alexander, *Toledo*
D. J. Apte, *Tampa*
Jacob Aronson, *New York*
Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner, *Cleveland*
Jesse Cohen, *Brooklyn*
Mrs. Hugo Dalsheimer, *Baltimore*
Aaron W. Davis, *New Rochelle*
Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel, *San Francisco*
Gustave A. Efroymson, *Indianapolis*
S. Mason Ehrman, *Portland*
Solomon Elsner, *Hartford*
Irvin Fane, *Kansas City*
Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman, *Hartford*
Fred F. Florence, *Dallas*
Lee M. Friedman, *Boston*
Robert P. Goldman, *Cincinnati*
I. E. Goldstein, *St. Louis*
Harry N. Gottlieb, *Chicago*
Edgar N. Greenebaum, *Chicago*
Frederick F. Greenman, *New York*
Harry C. Grossman, *Detroit*
Rabbi Samuel M. Gup, *Columbus*
Rabbi James G. Heller, *Cincinnati*
Dr. S. S. Hollender, *Chicago*
Lester A. Jaffe, *Cincinnati*
David F. Kahn, *Cincinnati*
Louis L. Kaufman, *Cincinnati*
Haskell W. Kramer, *Los Angeles*
Eldon S. Lazarus, *New Orleans*
Oscar M. Lazrus, *New York*
Stuart G. Levy, *Louisville*
Jacob W. Mack, *Cincinnati*
James L. Magrish, *Cincinnati*
Rabbi Louis L. Mann, *Chicago*
Irving S. Metzler, *Los Angeles*
Philip Meyers, *Cincinnati*
James H. Miller, *Cleveland*
Henry Monsky, *Omaha*
Rabbi Julian Morgenstern, *Cincinnati*
Theodore D. Peyser, *Washington, D. C.*
Adolph Rosenberg, *Cincinnati*
Mrs. Louis A. Rosett, *New Rochelle*
Gilbert Sanders, *Trinidad, Colo.*
Max R. Schrayner, *Chicago*
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, *Cleveland*
Archibald Silverman, *Providence*
Laurie T. Simonsky, *Toronto*
Leonard H. Spring, *New York*
Harry I. Stern, *Philadelphia*
Eugene B. Strassburger, *Pittsburgh*
Roger W. Straus, *New York*
Lewis L. Strauss, *New York*
Israel N. Thurman, *New York*
Frank L. Weil, *New York*
H. Hiram Weisberg, *Syracuse*
Dr. Hiram B. Weiss, *Cincinnati*
Sidney N. Weitz, *Cleveland*
Melville S. Welt, *Detroit*
Abe Wurzburg, *Memphis*

☆

RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

RABBI GEORGE ZEPIN
Honorary Secretary

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI 2, OHIO · PHONE Parkway 7345

June 19, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Temple Tifereth Israel
Cleveland, Ohio

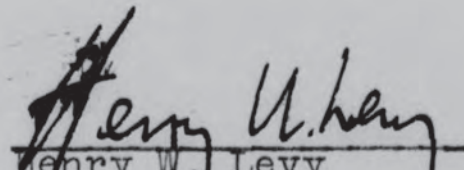
Dear Dr. Silver:

I have just come to Cincinnati from Chicago where I made preliminary contact with the Daily Press and I am enclosing a proof of a two column mat sent to all the English Jewish newspapers for release this week end.

I have been trying to get you on the phone today in Cleveland, and will continue trying. If I don't contact you, what I wanted to ask for is a copy of your Presidential Address. It will be most helpful if you could get a copy to me by Friday, special delivery, addressed to the Union office in Cincinnati. As then, I can get the Union office to do the mimeographing work on it which will be a great help.

Looking forward to seeing you in Chicago,
I am

Cordially yours,


Henry W. Levy
Publicity Director

HWL;lm

June 20, 1946

Mr. Henry Levy
Netherland-Plaza Hotel
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Mr. Levy:

I am enclosing herewith my Presidential Message to the Central Conference of American Rabbis. I have indicated in red pencil the paragraphs which you may wish to use in your press releases.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.