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

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

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

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Central Conference of American Rabbis, "D" and "E", 1946-1947.



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July 9, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing herewith the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Committee on Chaplains and Emergency Placement.

You will be interested to know that, at the meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis in Chicago, the recommendation of our Committee on Emergency Placement that it be discharged was approved by the Conference.

Chaplains now applying for pulpits will be referred to their respective rabbinical seminaries. The rabbinical seminaries will be charged with the duty of giving prior consideration to returning chaplains. The Conference also voted that men who were physically disqualified are to come next in the consideration of the seminaries in placement.

The Conference voted to continue our Committee on Chaplains for the purpose of procurement.

While there were a large number of chaplains present at the Conference, they did not vote as a unit with regard to protecting the rights of the chaplains. There were quite a few of the chaplains who thought, the war now being over, nothing be done to differentiate between rabbis who served as chaplains and those who refused to serve.

With cordial regards and best wishes for the summer, I am

Cordially yours,

*Louis I. Egelson*  
Secretary

LE:JBM



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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

July 25, 1946

Rabbi Abba H. Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As you know, the Biennial Council of the Union unanimously approved the project of an American Jewish Cavalcade. I enclose herewith an excerpt from my report to the Biennial referring to this activity.

I was happy to hear the President of the CCAR, in his presidential message, emphasize the need of a revival of religion in the world at large and among our coreligionists in particular.

We are now planning to launch this effort in a number of cities, and we are seeking the cooperation of a few of our outstanding rabbis.

We would like you to give us one week in November for a visit to two cities. Please let us know which of two weeks in November would be more convenient for you and we will choose one week that fits into our program.

If you do agree to lend us your help, which we are counting on, and if you so desire, we will write to the President of your congregation and ask that you be loaned to the Union for a week's intensive religious activity in our behalf.

Please set aside on your calendar the day of Tuesday, October 22, for a meeting in Cincinnati of all the rabbis who are to participate in the Cavalcade. We have chosen this date because the Executive Board of the CCAR will meet that evening and the following day. Thus extra travel will be spared to those members of the Executive Board who are to be in the Cavalcade.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a pleasant summer, I am

Cordially yours,

*Maurice*  
Maurice N. Eisendrath  
Director

MNE:JA



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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

September 5, 1946

Rabbi Abba H. Silver  
19810 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

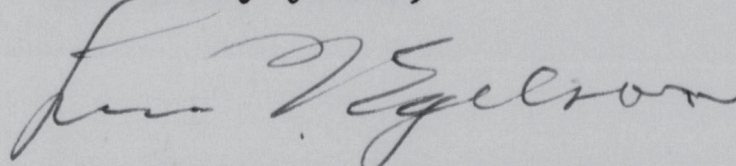
Dear Rabbi Silver:

On July 25 Rabbi Eisendrath wrote to you inviting you to participate in the American Jewish Cavalcade. A copy of his letter is enclosed herewith.

Since we are eager to begin making arrangements for your participation, we would very much like to receive your acceptance.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,



Administrative Secretary

LE:mt  
encl.



September 13, 1946

Rabbi Louis I. Egelson  
34 West Sixth Street  
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Egelson:

Thank you for your letter of September 5.

I have received Rabbi Eisendrath's communication of July 25 with reference to the American Jewish Cavalcade but I did not answer it, not knowing what my program for November would be. I know now that I will have to be in Switzerland during most of November and part of December to attend the World Zionist Congress, and I will therefore not be able to participate in the Cavalcade---a project which appears to me to be very promising and should by all means be tried out.

With all good wishes for a very Happy New Year, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



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September 16, 1946

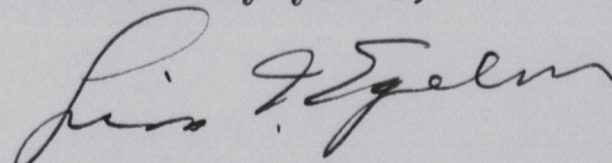
Dr. Abba H. Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Maurice was in the office this morning when your letter of September 13 was brought to me. I showed it to him and we both feel that of course your trip abroad is of the utmost importance. However, if that meeting should be postponed, we would very much like to have a few days of your ~~favorable~~ <sup>valuable</sup> time in November for this very important project.

With cordial regards and very best wishes to you and yours for the New Year, which we hope will be one of achievement and fulfillment, in which I know Rabbi Eisendrath would want to join me, I am

Cordially yours,



Administrative Secretary

LE:MR



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

October 14, 1946

Dr. Abba H. Silver, President  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
19810 Shaker Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

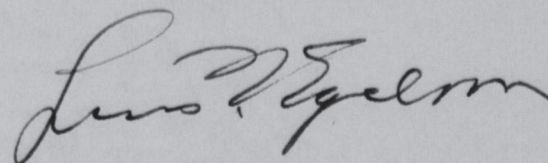
You will recall that a number of months ago at a meeting of the Jewish Welfare Board offices in New York, a committee was appointed, representing the three rabbinical associations, to study the matter of relationship with the JWB and to make report to the Boards of the three rabbinical associations.

The committee consisted of Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky of Newark, representing the Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi Simon G. Kramer of New York, representing the Rabbinical Council of America; and myself, representing the CCAR.

The committee met in New York and subsequently, through correspondence, arrived at certain conclusions which had the unanimous opinion of this committee. I am sending you a copy of the statement herewith for your consideration and possibly for the consideration of the Executive Board. The Executive Board may not be prepared to take any action at its next meeting. You may desire to appoint a special committee of the Executive Board to study this problem in order to make recommendations at a subsequent Executive Board meeting.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Administrative Secretary

Have sent copy  
of this letter  
to Mr. Carson.

LE:MR



January 21, 1947

Mr. Donald Oberdorfer  
210 William Oliver Bldg.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Oberdorfer:

I wish to reciprocate your very kind words concerning my recent visit to Atlanta and to assure you of my delight in having been able to see you again and to have spent at least a little time in personal conversation with you.

I do want to congratulate you first of all upon having been named Chairman of the JDA, to which I know you will bring the full fruitage of your fine energy, enthusiasm and consecration to the cause of Judaism and Israel. I also want to commend you for the initiative which you have taken in seeking to include rabbis on your Executive Committee; for so many of us have long felt that in the process of secularization which is going on in American Jewish life, it is most imperative that understanding and far-seeing laymen such as yourself should enlist the assistance of our American Jewish spiritual leadership.

Of course, I am interested in the matter which you discussed with me, but upon thinking it over very seriously since you first talked with me, I feel that you should address your request, when the time comes, to the Central Conference of American Rabbis which is the official and representative rabbinic body of Reform Jewry.

I am confident that Dr. Silver, our President, will be most sympathetic to your suggestions. Hoping that I may have the pleasure of seeing you when you come north for your forthcoming meeting, I am

Yours most cordially,

Maurice N. Eisendrath

MNE:cs

*cc. Rabbi A.H. Silver ✓*



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# 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

March 17, 1947

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

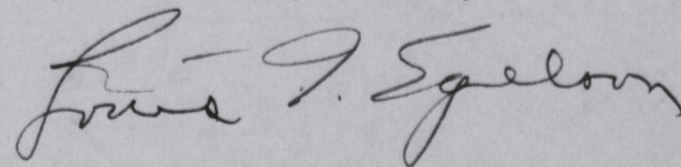
You will recall that, at the last meeting of the Executive Board of the CCAR, you raised the question regarding the term of office of the members of the Committee on Reform Magazine, as well as of the Editorial Advisory Committee.

I told you, at that time, that I would look into the matter and report to you. I am pleased to tell you that I brought up this question at a meeting of our Committee on Reform Magazine, which was held in Cincinnati on February 24, 1947. I am sending you herewith an extract from the Minutes, which indicates the action taken.

I presume that this matter will come to the attention of the CCAR Nominating Committee at the Fall meeting of the Executive Board.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Administrative Secretary

LE:MR

c.c. Rabbi Marcuson



UNION OF AMERICAN

HEBREW CONGREGATIONS ✓ RABBI MAURICE N. EISENDRATH, PRESIDENT

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THIRTY-FOUR WEST SIXTH STREET • CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

March 26, 1947

Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson  
204 Buford Place  
Macon, Ga.

Dear Ike:

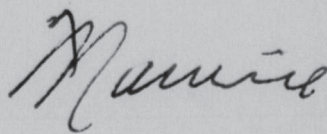
I am enclosing a letter that I have just received from Dr. Israel Mattuck regarding the controversy raised by the application of three Liberal Synagogues to be registered by the President of the Board of Deputies for marriages.

I believe this is a matter that comes much more within the purview of the Central Conference of American Rabbis than the Union.

I think that the statement he is seeking should come from the CCAR and I have so informed Dr. Mattuck. Will you please do the necessary.

With warmest personal greetings, I am,

Yours most sincerely,



MNE:SG



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COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS  
~~EMERGENCY PLACEMENT COMMITTEE~~

IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNION OF  
AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
RABBI BARNETT R. BRICKNER, CHAIRMAN  
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March 28, 1947

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, President  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
19810 Shaker Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio

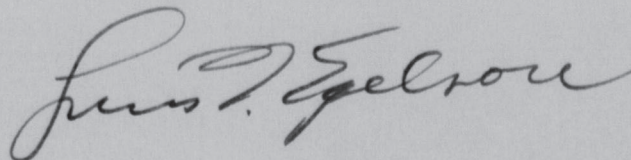
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the call for the  
meeting of the CCAR Committee on Chaplains.

I believe this is a matter of extreme importance in  
connection with the future relationship of the CCAR  
with CANRA. I should like to suggest that you try  
to attend this meeting. It is a matter of high  
policy and your counsel is urgently needed.

With kind greetings, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Secretary

LE:MR

Enc.



COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

March 28, 1947

Mr. Jacob Aronson  
466 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Jacob:

At the last meeting of the Executive Board of the CCAR, the matter of the future of CANRA was brought to the attention of the Board. A tentative report was presented at that time and the Board voted to refer it to our Committee on Chaplains, with the request that the Committee on Chaplains consider the matter and present a report to the next meeting of the Executive Board of the Conference.

The question of chaplaincy procurement needs also to be considered by our Committee.

The Chairman of our Committee, Rabbi Brickner, has asked me to call a meeting of the Committee for Monday, April 28, in Cincinnati. If we begin our deliberations at 9:30 in the morning, we can be finished by afternoon.

Please let me know on the enclosed card whether you will attend.

In the course of the next week or so, I shall send you a copy of the material that is to be considered by our Committee for report to the CCAR Executive Board.

With kind greetings, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary

LE:MR



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# 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 12, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I trust you will not mind my suggesting a subject to be included in your presidential message to the CCAR with reference to the chaplaincy.

We are confronted with a very serious problem of procurement of chaplains. From forty to fifty full-time chaplains are needed now for the Army and Navy. If universal military training is voted by Congress, then our problem of procurement will continue as long as universal military training will be in operation.

The members of this year's graduating classes of the various seminaries who were approached with reference to enlistment as chaplains have not reacted favorably. We all recognize that the glamour of war is not present as the incentive. Had the War Department changed its regulations last year so that the graduating classes of 1946 could have been approached for the chaplaincy, some of those men would have volunteered and the difficulty with the 1947 classes would not have been so great.

Something has to be done about this matter because we cannot lay ourselves open to the charge that we are not providing for the spiritual life of our men in the Armed Forces. Our Committee on Chaplains has suggested that possibly the seminaries may be approached and urged to make a condition with the men who are being enrolled in the seminaries to serve a few years in the chaplaincy on graduation before accepting a pulpit.

All this will be presented in the report of the Committee on Chaplains, but something on that subject in your presidential message would be most helpful in centering attention on this problem.

With kindest regards, and best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

*Louis I. Egelson*  
Administrative Secretary

LE:MR



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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

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

June 12, 1947

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

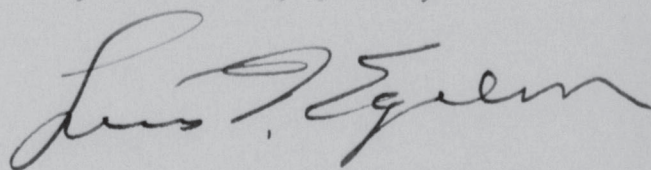
Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am pleased to inform you that all the members of your Committee on Resolutions in Memory of Mr. Henry Monsky have now approved the Resolution which you forwarded to Mr. Aronson under date of May 24.

We are preparing the Resolution in suitable form for transmission to Mrs. Monsky.

With kind greetings, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Administrative Secretary

LE:MR



June 16, 1947

Mrs. Samuel Cohon  
Grand Central Hotel  
34 East 32 Street  
New York City

Dear friend:

I was indeed very much interested in the undertaking which you discussed with me in my office the other day, and I do believe that you are to be commended upon the fine spirit with which you are pursuing this significant enterprise.

Although I am more than happy to lend you my personal support, I do wish to repeat the reservation which I voiced when you were with me, concerning certain preliminary steps which I then felt were imperative for me to take before I could take it upon myself to use the name of the Union officially in this connection. I indicated to you that my one reservation concerning this laudable endeavor grew out of previous differences which we have encountered relative to the Central Conference of American Rabbis' interest in the publication of liturgy and liturgical music. I indicated then that I would like to contact some of the officials of the Central Conference before going ahead in my official capacity on behalf of the Union.

From such preliminary contacts as I have made, I have been counselled to take up this matter with the Central Conference at its Executive Board meeting, which is to be held in Montreal shortly. It is felt that before committing the Union, the ground should at least be cleared with the Central Conference.

Consequently, I am asking the Conference for the opportunity of discussing this matter at its forthcoming Executive Board meeting, and if the action is favorable, I will be more than happy to pursue the course that I indicated would be possible for me to follow.

Trusting that you will understand the situation as outlined above and wishing you further success in this work, I am

Yours most cordially,

MNE:cs

Maurice N. Eisendrath

ccs: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓  
Dr. Abraham Feldman  
Dr. Isaac Marcuson