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

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Central Conference of American Rabbis, "K" and "L", 1946-1947.

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WESTERN UNION (17)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

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LC = Deferred Cable

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DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER, PRESIDENT CENTRAL CONFERENCE

OF AMERICAN RABIS EAST 105 ST AND ANSEL RD=

A WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF REFORM RABIS WAS ORGANIZED AT A MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO JUNE 13 AND 14. WE TRUST THIS ORGANIZATION WILL ENABLE US TO DISCUSS MORE ADEQUATELY OUR REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND HELP TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF REFORM JUDAISM ON THE WEST COAST. WE SEND OUR GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE CCAR LETTER FOLLOWS=

RAPHAEL LEVINE PRESIDENT MORTON BAUMAN
SECRETARY.

13 14 CCAR.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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Rabbi

RAPHAEL H. LEVINE

FIFTEENTH AVENUE
AT EAST UNION ST.
SEATTLE 22, WASHINGTON

Congregation Temple De Hirsch

Seattle 22, Wash.
June 19, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
President Central Conference of American Rabbis,
#E. 105th St. and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

The telegram which you have by now received informed you of the organization of our Western Association of Reform Rabbis at a meeting in San Francisco on June 13th and 14th. The need for such an association has long been felt by all the Rabbis on the West Coast. Because distances are so great and because we are so far removed from the main stream of American Jewish life, many of us have felt our isolation very keenly, and for some time we talked about organizing some kind of an association that would bring us together occasionally to discuss our mutual regional problems, and to help one another in solving them.

These thoughts and feelings became crystallized during the U.A.H.C. Convention in Cincinnati last March, when five of us from the West Coast found ourselves in Cincinnati. We took advantage of this happy coincidence and at a breakfast meeting discussed the possibilities of getting together. The result of this discussion was the meeting in San Francisco on June 13th and 14th at which thirteen Rabbis were present, representing the San Francisco and Central California area, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Arizona, and Seattle, Washington. Letters were also received from ^{many} all the other Rabbis in the Western region expressing their deep interest and wholehearted support of such an association, and regretting only that previous commitments prevented their attending this initial meeting.

The enthusiasm which those who attended expressed, and the undeniable stimulation which this intimate and personal contact brought to every one of us in relation to the practical problems of our ministry, eminently justified the launching of our organization.

In addition, it was felt by all the men that such an association would add considerable strength not only to the influence of the Central Conference of American Rabbis on the West Coast, but would also help us in an organized manner to support the work of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and to advance the cause of Reform Judaism generally throughout this vast region.

It may interest you to know that at this initial meeting a simple constitution was adopted which provided for a President, a Secretary, Treasurer and a committee of five to act as an Executive Board. The Board includes the following:

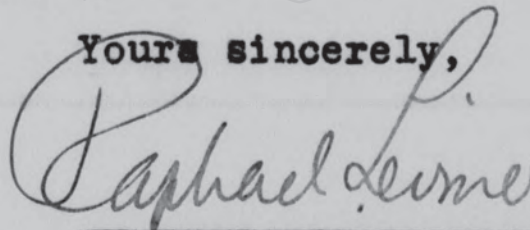
Rabbis Edgar Magnin, Los Angeles, A. Lincoln Krohn, Phoenix, Arizona, Morris Goldstein and Irving Reichert, San Francisco, William Stern, Oakland, Morton Bauman, Hollywood, and Raphael Levine, Seattle.

We shall endeavor to keep the C.C.A.R. fully informed of our activities and programs, and shall look to the Central Conference for guidance and inspiration.

I am indeed sorry that I shall be unable to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Central Conference, but do wish to express on my own behalf and on behalf of our newly formed association our prayerful hopes for the success of the meeting.

With fraternal greetings,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raphael Levine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Raphael Levine
President, Western Association
of Reform Rabbis.

RL/EE

August 16, 1946

Mr. J. M. Ruby, President,
Sinai Temple,
Michigan City, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Ruby:

You will perhaps be surprised that you have not yet heard from me in regard to the arbitration matter involving Rabbi Stephen Sherman and your Congregation. The final judgment in this matter could not be taken until the meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis held in Chicago at the end of June. Since that time I have been on vacation. It is now my purpose to set before you the treatment which the Arbitration Committee and the Executive Board of the Conference have given the charges which your Congregation thru you, had made against Rabbi Sherman, first to the Director of the Union and then to the Conference.

As Chairman of the Arbitration Committee I submitted to the Executive Committee a complete statement of my action with reference to the material which was in my hands; that is copies of all pertinent correspondence over a period of months. My correspondence with Rabbi Sherman extended until June 18th when in a letter he tried to clarify certain points in his former correspondence. I brought all this to the attention of the Executive Board in my report to them and I quote from it as follows:

"Furthermore on June 18th I told Dr. Sherman that I could not comment at the moment on the points in his last letter, but I made an appointment to meet him in Chicago on Monday, June 24th.

I am writing this report before that date and my judgment at this moment should not be final. However, I have a strongest kind of conviction that Rabbi Sherman cannot explain away the dereliction from the Code of Ethics which I have explained in my letter. I should therefore suggest that the Executive Committee of the Conference act upon this information and reprimand Rabbi Sherman for an action which did not regard the 'bonds between a Rabbi and his Congregation as of a character somewhat different from and on a level higher than those of the ordinary contractual relations of the business world'".

I met Rabbi Sherman in Chicago on Monday, June 24th, and had a much better chance to evaluate his attitudes in the terms of his experience and background and I reported to the Board what my reactions were.

After some discussion the Board felt that I was correct in my judgment that Rabbi Sherman's actions were not in accord with our professional Code of Ethics, yet they felt that there were certain extenuating circumstances which should influence them to a decision made on the basis of mercy and generosity. They took into consideration that Rabbi Sherman's career was not rooted in the American scene and he for that reason, unfortunately, was not sensitive to all the nuances of the Congregational

and Rabbinical relationship within American Reform Jewry.

The upshot of the matter was that Rabbi Sherman was told by me of the Executive Committee's belief that he had acted badly toward your Congregation and had escaped official reprimand only because of the Board's inclination toward mercy. It is my feeling and that of the Executive Committee that you and your associates will agree with this judgment weighted with generosity and be satisfied by the assurance that Rabbi Sherman has been set right as to the proper relationship which exists between Congregation and Rabbi.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Maurice Eisendrath and Rabbi Stephen Sherman.

With sincere greetings for a Happy New Year, which I hope you will not consider premature, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

Emil W. Leipziger
Chairman
Arbitration Committee
Central Conference of American Rabbis

ewl;jlg

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President,
Central Conference of American Rabbis,
The Temple,
East 105th St. and Ansel Road,
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dr. Maurice Eisendrath, Director,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
Merchants Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rabbi Stephen Sherman,
Temple Beth Hillel,
Library Square,
Kenosha, Wisconsin

September 3, 1946

Rabbi Phillip S. Bernstein
Temple B'rith Kodesh
117 Gibbs Street
Rochester, New York

Dear Phil:

The day I left Washington for Chicago to spend the High Holidays with my family I came upon your report issued to the press on September 26th. If you were quoted correctly, and in my despair I hoped you were not, I feel a keen obligation to myself, to our friendship and to the masses of Jews who may be affected by your conclusions, to express my shocking disapproval of your report.

I have been debating with myself as to whether I ought to write you of my heartbreak or attack you openly and in print, and I wonder if I am taking the more effective course, for it is my sincere belief that your conclusions will harm the very people you are expected to serve. I decided to call upon a friendship which began sometime ago in the South Pacific and which grew as our paths crossed again and again, for license to speak openly and ask you to deal directly with your conscience. I charge you with being blinded into helping to whitewash our military authorities in Europe, those authorities who have been entrusted with the task of ameliorating the suffering of the handful of displaced Jews who by some queer accident escaped organized massacre.

I am not, as you may know, a total outsider. I have been on the inside for quite sometime, and I ought to be in a good enough position to appraise and estimate both sides of the problem, and the so-called selflessness of those who hold in their hands the destiny of our brethren by virtue of their command status.

I have been the assistant to Mr. Patterson until a short time ago when I went on terminal leave. Aside from the fact that I am intimately familiar with the problems facing military government, I have been in the position to, in the last few months, have access to the most authentic reports and first hand impressions submitted to the highest Washington authorities by men who know what they are talking about. Neither the reports nor the impressions tally with yours.

I have tried desperately to be fair in appraising your report. I have gone so far in my desire to be fair as to consider the need on your part to remain on good terms and create good will in your position with those under whom you are working. Moreover I have considered the advantage to the great cause to practice restraint in protesting against the attitude of the military authorities. I would have understood and accepted silence, but I cannot condone this explosion of enthusiasm in wielding the whitewash brush.

I know that Rabbi Wise who produced, out of the wisdom gathered during a visit of less than a week in Germany, a document no more dependable than your report. He got publicity. Is that what you are after? Of course McNarney will pat you on the back. Of course the War Department will use your report as an antidote against unfavorable criticism. Is that what

C O P Y

you are after? Does it mean nothing to you that those who have been fighting the battle of the unfortunate Jews have been waiting to hear what you had to say in their behalf? Does it not occur to you that your report has virtually disarmed them? For you have impaled them on the horns of a dilemma. They must either agree with you, or, out of respect for your august position and profession, remain silent. If they challenge your findings, they will perforce create an atmosphere of disunity. On the other hand, if they remain silent, they become ineffectual. This is no time to be silent. Was there a need for a "report" at this time before your mission is completed? This much can be said about your report. You have done the War Department a great service, for the Jewish problem and the D.P. issue have not only been a nuisance and annoyance to the military government in Germany, but to those in Washington also. If that was your prime objective, then I and thousands like me have been laboring under a misapprehension.

For the last few months I have spoken to every important person who returned from Germany who was sent there officially by our government. I have read every top secret report and have read the radiograms exchanged between the War Department and McNarney, Clay and Clark.

Of course it remains my duty as an officer to respect the position I hold and that all this information came to me only because I was the assistant to the Secretary of War, and I am therefore bound by the rules of the game not to take advantage of it, but I cannot wipe the knowledge from my mind that you would have been much better off to keep quiet and some day when you return to civilian life, write a true report.

The tragedy of all this is that such whitewash is not necessary. We have a Secretary of War in Judge Patterson who is a man of integrity and who possesses a fanatic sense of justice and decency, and, if shown evidence, a man who will act promptly. As much can be said about Ike Eisenhower, who is not only a great General but also an astute diplomat, able administrator, and talented politician. And the tragedy of it is that in a way you have disarmed them too, for had you shown them the need to champion the cause of the distressed Jew and displaced person, I am convinced they would have acted accordingly. As it is now they see no need to investigate a condition which the Lord knows needs the most meticulous kind of investigation. A thousand echoes call to us saying "Something is rotten in Germany", echoes which should reach the ears of men like Patterson and Eisenhower, but these echoes are now neutralized by your report which denies that there is anything wrong there.

Have you read Edwin W. Pauley's report published in PM? Pauley has no axe to grind. If anything, he should prefer skirting so explosive an issue, but he spent sometime in Europe, visited D.P. camps, talked to men in key positions and came home disturbed by what he had seen and incensed by the failure on the part of those higher up to correct a situation which cries to high heaven for correction.

Before going back you should talk to Pauley, Herbert Hoover, Senator Brewster, Leverich of the State Department, Ochs Adler and Shepard Stone of the New York Times. My brother, Dr. E. L. Klein who accompanied Pauley around the world as his assistant, induced him to take a hand in the Nazi D.P. problem and submit a report to the president.

COPY

Sure the Secretary is thrilled with all the favorable reports he is getting about you from Clark and McHarney. I am glad that you have their confidence, and naturally none of us should in any way influence the opinion the Secretary now has of you. We only would hurt ourselves.

In discussing the D.P. and the De-Nazification problem here with the Secretary a week ago, he of course was pleased to report complete success based on your findings. He was ready to send a mission over as suggested by Monsky to ascertain all facts and make proper recommendations. It was a great step forward as Monsky is supposed to be the head of the American Jewish Conference. This fine plan of the Secretary came to nought when he sought your advice, and you told him that such a mission was not necessary and not advisable. How you can assume such responsibility of discrediting such a fine possibility is beyond me. You should have welcomed such help, especially supported by such a distinguished leader as Monsky, and surely not challenge Monsky's authority or the authority of the American Jewish Conference by instilling into the mind of the Secretary that such a mission is no longer necessary. There was nothing left for me to do but to agree with the Secretary, as I did not want to challenge your wisdom or hurt your standing with him, but you still have to accept the responsibility for it.

Look at G-5 of military government - look at some of the commanders. You are a witness to their action and attitude. At least read that part of the Pauley report which was published. Maybe you can have access to the complete report.

I do not know why you had to issue this report at this time nor where you got your facts and impressions, but somehow I am skeptical about the facts and will continue to be so until I can ascertain beyond a doubt that you have talked these things over with the lowly Jewish GI or with members of your own staff. They know that Nazism is bred anew in Germany. They must wonder that not one responsible Jewish officer is in G-5 or in the military government. These things disturb the little man, and ought to disturb you also, for they are indicative of the unhealthy condition prevailing there.

As we draw close to the day of Atonement, sacred to both of us, I ask you to consider your duty to our brethren, more sacred than the need to white-wash the Army. The Jews need you desperately. The Army will get by without your passport to immaculacy. The Army has been criticised in the past, and will be criticised again in the future, and as often as it will deserve criticism. And bear in mind that I am of that Army and proud of it, but the Army will act and correct if shown how. I always had that experience with Patterson. Go back to Germany and labor with your genius and might to help prevent the recurrence of the horrible nightmares for the ending to which millions have given their lives. You will be serving not only our people, but also the Army which has a tough job and needs good will.

Your report will certainly fail to bring praise and commendation from all the people who have read it. It may be that in drawing criticism you will take the rap for the Military Government in Germany. Do you wish to become a protective shield for those who deserve the punishment of public wrath? Are you that Quixotic? I doubt it.

I speak to you as Jew to Jew, and friend to friend. I happen to know that when you were appointed, the War Department was given the impression, and

erroneous impression that you were the unanimous choice of American Jewry. Though I knew that only a select few had picked you, I went along and helped to get your appointment because I had faith in your wisdom, in your love for fellow beings, in your integrity, and because Monsky was finally induced to go along. I also know that your appointment was being vigorously opposed in high levels in the War Department by some who believed the appointment should not go to a clergyman. I fought that opposition and urged the Secretary to stand by you at the request of Monsky. I hope you find it advisable to prove that it was not I who was wrong, but they who fought against your appointment. And take this advice from a good and sincere friend, before you go back talk with Monsky and a few others, and try to get access to some of the reports in the War and State Departments.

I have the satisfaction of having served our government without compromising and without being a Yes man, and it was because of my stand that won not only Patterson's respect but my own self-respect too, and I was proud to receive from him the voluntary comment that I had served him faithfully and intelligently.

When orders were published to have me go to Germany last spring, I was pleased to accept, but when the orders were changed that I had to report to the theatre commandant and submit my reports to him for approval, the mission was cancelled. I know that your report has to be approved first by the theatre commander, but some day you will have to account to the higher authorities, and you a man of God and a man of integrity and conscience will, I am sure, not shirk that duty. How about starging now? Every day, yes, every minute counts. While others are worrying about World War III, at this time, turn your thoughts to those six million of our faith who were sacrificed and let us at least do our duty before God and our country.

Kindest regards,

(signed) Col. Julius Klein

COPY

FROM: *Aryeh Lev*



TO: *Dr. A. H. Silver.*

*Col. Klein asked me
to forward this to you.*



NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

145 East 32nd Street, New York 16, N. Y.

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

September 4, 1946

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

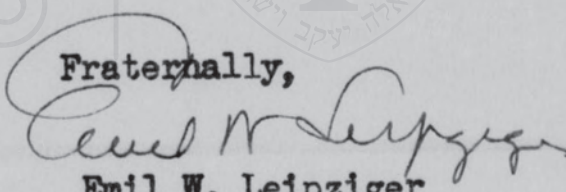
Dear Colleague:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I just received from Mr. J. M. Ruby, President of Sinai Temple, Michigan City, Indiana in response to my letter of August 16th, of which you received a copy and in which I expressed the attitude of the Conference Board toward the Rabbi Sherman matter.

I have written Mr. Ruby thanking him for the way in which he and the members of the Congregation received our report.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Very Happy New Year.

Fraternaly,


Emil W. Leipziger

ewl;jlg
enc.

SINAI TEMPLE
1411 Pine Street
Michigan City, Indiana.

COPY

August 30, 1946

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

Dear Rabbi Leipziger:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 16 with regard to the Rabbi Sherman matter, which I have carefully read.

I want you to know that our Board of Trustees, as well as I, appreciate the time and effort given by your committee to a review of the facts we presented.

I was interested--as I know our Board of Trustees will be when the letter is read to them--in the manner in which your committee has made disposition of the case. It gave us the satisfaction of knowing that your committee agreed with our side of the story and appreciated the predicament in which we were placed at that time by Rabbi Sherman's action.

Since the case is now closed, let me take this means of thanking you and your committee for having gone into the matter so thoroughly, which fact is also appreciated by our Board.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. M. Ruby
President

jmruby:lm

September 6, 1946

Rabbi Raphael H. Levine
Congregation Temple De Hirsch
Fifteenth Avenue at E. Union St.
Seattle 22, Washington

My dear Colleague:

In behalf of the Central Conference of American Rabbis I thank you for your telegram and letter of greeting. You were kind enough to inform us of the creation of your Western Association of Reform Rabbis. The Conference wishes you well.

There was a time in the early history of our Conference when the formation of rabbinical conferences, such as the Eastern Rabbinical Conference and the Southern Rabbinical Conference, was the source of anxiety to the Central Conference itself. These institutions, one at least of which was conceived in a spirit of rivalry, were deemed to be a danger to the newly-won unity of the liberal rabbinate through the Central Conference.

We have no such apprehensions about your organization. We note that you are careful to call your assembly the Western Association and not the Western Conference. Clearly, you understood at the very beginning that your function was regional. We know that you will not ever be inclined to step into the field of the Central Conference, of which you yourselves are members, and make resolutions on national and world problems. This is the function of the Conference, of which you are a part.

You have evidently organized yourselves for the practical tasks of establishing an encouraging congregational life on the Pacific Coast. May God bless you in your work, so that through your efforts loyalty to Judaism may grow stronger in the area of your special influence.

Sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

Memorandum

COMMITTEE ON UNITY FOR PALESTINE

SUITE 600

41 East 42nd Street • MU 2-3205 • New York 17

From: RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date: September 9, 1946

Subject:

I have just received the enclosed letters and statements in response to the wires which I sent, similar to the wire sent to you, to Israel Goldman and Uri Miller last week. I shall appreciate being advised by you as to whether or not in your judgment these should be enclosed with our mailing, and whether or not you, as President of the CCAR, will see fit to add a third statement.

Cordial personal greetings,

Arthur Lelyveld

DRAFT OF COVERING LETTER

Dear Colleagues:

The year 5707 begins on a note of frustration which is perhaps even more poignant than those which sounded from the depths of the Jewish suffering of the last decade. To witness suffering at the hands of "friends" is spiritually much more disconcerting than to behold decimation at the hands of "enemies."

The pulpits of American Jewry will undoubtedly give utterance to this mood during our High Holyday season, and it is healthy that they should do so. Our collective voice must be raised in a courageous moral judgment which will impress those consciences still capable of being impressed.

We urge you to read the attached "Message to President Truman," as well as the enclosed record of our government with relation to Palestine, and then to make such use of them during your High Holiday service as will commend itself to your best judgment. We join our prayer with yours to that the coming year will bring such/strengthen the hopes of those who yearn for the establishment of God's Kingdom; that it will bring redemption to our people, and true peace to mankind.

"L'Shonah Tovah Tikomeyu."

Sincerely,

Dr. Felix A. Levy
Chairman

Rabbi Arthur L. Lelyveld
Executive Director

A Message from the Congregation to President Truman

At this season of the year, consecrated by the Jewish community for self-scrutiny and spiritual inventory, it has become customary for the leaders of our government to join our hosts of Christian friends and neighbors in sending us Holy Day messages of good-will. We cherish these greetings as expressions of appreciation for the meaningfulness and solemnity of our High Holy Day season.

Our discerning friends will understand us, however, if we confess that at times we react a bit impatiently to new assurances of good-will while old assurances remain unimplemented. The agony of our people will not be diminished by words, however sympathetic and earnest they may be. It is this which dictates to us, as we face our religious year 5707, a feeling that we ourselves must direct a New Year message to you, our President, and to those of our nation's leaders whose words of greeting to us are being read from pulpits throughout the land.

We would urge upon our well-wishers, in connection with the pledges they have made to the Jewish people in the past, that same self-examination with regard to the fulfilment of vows which is part of the sacred tradition of the Jewish period of Atonement. We would say to you and to our administration: Why are your pledges unfulfilled? Why have you not acted vigorously to redeem them? Is it a light thing that the platform on which the present administration was elected to office offered the promise of uncompromising aid in the effort to establish a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine? Is it unimportant that the people of the United States through their elected representatives in Congress have twice affirmed that element of American foreign policy which commits us to the effort to build the Jewish National Home? Shall we disregard the fact that more than a year ago you called for the immediate transfer to Palestine of 100,000 European Jews? We can only bitterly reflect upon the fact that all these fine promises have

remained mere words which serve only to taunt the already indescribably tormented hundreds of thousands of our people who beat in anguish upon doors still closed to them.

We ask for no new promises. We ask only for the fulfillment of the old ones. Let there be no shifting of responsibility. The voice of America if firm enough cannot be as uninfluential as our political leaders have made it appear. The time has come for you to speak to us plainly; will you throw our country's weight behind the struggle for justice to the Jewish people - or have you washed your hands of us? Will your words be implemented, or must we conclude that the world which turned its back while 6,000,000 Jews were being slowly and horribly done to death is still unmoved by our plight and unmindful of its moral obligation.

Our liturgy for this season teaches us that the final decree as to "who shall live" and "who shall die" will be written by a Power higher than any government. We are confident that we struggle on the side of that Power. Consider, we beg of you, where you stand!

COPY

Rabbinical Council of America

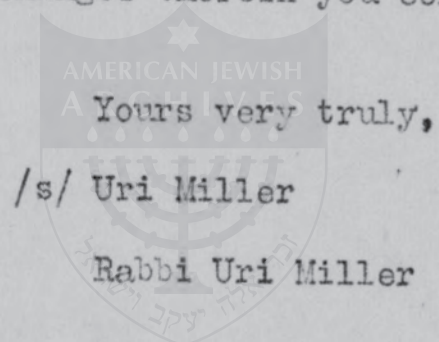
September 5, 1946

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld
Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

Enclosed is a statement as per your wire of September 4th.

Please feel at liberty to make any changes therein you consider appropriate.



/s/ Uri Miller

Rabbi Uri Miller

COPY

The Jewish New Year finds the Jewish tragedy unabated; with Jewish Refugees herded into concentration camps by an allied power and with Jewish Palestine the victim of a brutal terrorism. Coming as this does, more than a year after victory toward which the American People contributed so greatly and through which the American People looked forward to a world built on justice and compassion, this is of vital concern to the American People.

The American People have not lost the spirit of consecration and idealism with which they fought the war and have not resigned themselves to failure in the fulfillment of the high purposes for which so many sacrifices were made.

We can, therefore, be confident that American public opinion will insist that, in accordance with so many promises made by the American Government and its official leadership, and in harmony with American ideals of justice and fair play, that the pledge of the President of the United States that Palestine be open as a haven to one hundred thousand Jewish refugees be fulfilled immediately and the oft-repeated promises that Palestine become a Jewish National Home be implemented by the entire power and prestige of the American government. Our President and Government will thus be carrying out a basic aspect of the new world structure for which America fought.

Rabbi Uri Miller
President
Rabbinical Council of America

COPY

Temple Emanu-El
Providence, Rhode Island

September 8, 1946

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

Enclosed is the statement you requested. I trust it will serve the purpose. Congratulations on the fine project which you are sponsoring in connection with the forthcoming High Holydays.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Israel M. Goldman

COPY

Statement on Palestine

By Rabbi Israel M. Goldman, President
Rabbinical Assembly of America

The tears of hundreds of thousands of American Jews will mingle with those of Mother Rachel these coming High Holydays in weeping for the tragic fate of those Jews who, torn from the gates of Palestine, are thrown again into the long and bitter exile. In the lament of the biblical matriarch, we shall hear the echo of the Jewish tragedy of our own time. We face the New Year with dread foreboding and with heavy hearts. We wonder what future is there for a Jewish Palestine.

In this ominous hour, we must find strength in the promise of restoration spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah and read in our Synagogues on the second day of Rosh Hashanah: "Refrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears, for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. And there is hope for thy future, saith the Lord, and thy children shall return to their own border".

These words must banish despair and hopelessness. They must fill us with renewed determination to effect a Zion redeemed. We must rededicate ourselves, through prayer and high resolve, to the sacred cause of bringing peace and health to the broken and harassed House of Israel. We must strive for the fulfillment of God's promise that "Zion shall be redeemed in justice." The hands of our valiant brethren in Palestine must be upheld, their courage strengthened, and labors rewarded. Side by side with them, must we stand firm and forthright before the councils of the nations, proclaiming our righteous cause, positing our just conviction that the world must come to recognize our historic claim to Palestine as the center of Israel's hope.

Dr. Abba Hilal Elvaz

September 9, 1946

I have just received the enclosed letters and statements in response to the wires which I sent earlier to the wire sent to you, to General Goldhamer and U.S. Miller last week. I shall appreciate being advised by you as to whether or not in your judgment those should be enclosed with our mailing, and whether or not you as President of the CGAR, will see fit to add a third statement.

Cordially personal greetings,



COPY

Temple Emanu-El
Providence, Rhode Island

September 8, 1946

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld
Zionist Organization of America
41 East 43rd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

Enclosed is the statement you requested. I trust it will serve the purpose. Congratulations on the fine project which you are sponsoring in connection with the forthcoming High Holydays.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Israel M. Goldman

COPY

Statement on Palestine

By Rabbi Israel M. Goldman, President
Rabbinical Assembly of America

The tears of hundreds of thousands of American Jews will mingle with those of Mother Rachel these coming High Holydays in weeping for the tragic fate of those Jews who, torn from the gates of Palestine, are thrown again into the long and bitter exile. In the lament of the biblical matriarch, we shall hear the echo of the Jewish tragedy of our own time. We face the New Year with dread foreboding and with heavy hearts. We wonder what future is there for a Jewish Palestine.

In this ominous hour, we must find strength in the promise of restoration spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah and read in our Synagogues on the second day of Rosh Hashanah: "Refrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears, for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. And there is hope for thy future, saith the Lord, and thy children shall return to their own border".

These words must banish despair and hopelessness. They must fill us with renewed determination to effect a Zion redeemed. We must rededicate ourselves, through prayer and high resolve, to the sacred cause of bringing peace and health to the broken and harassed House of Israel. We must strive for the fulfillment of God's promise that "Zion shall be redeemed in justice." The hands of our valiant brethren in Palestine must be upheld, their courage strengthened, and labors rewarded. Side by side with them, must we stand firm and forthright before the councils of the nations, proclaiming our righteous cause, positing our just conviction that the world must come to recognize our historic claim to Palestine as the center of Israel's hope.

COPY

Rabbinical Council of America

September 5, 1946

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld
Zionist Organization of America
41 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi Lelyveld:

Enclosed is a statement as per your wire of September 4th.

Please feel at liberty to make any changes therein you consider appropriate.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Uri Miller

Rabbi Uri Miller

COPY

The Jewish New Year finds the Jewish tragedy unabated; with Jewish Refugees herded into concentration camps by an allied power and with Jewish Palestine the victim of a brutal terrorism. Coming as this does, more than a year after victory toward which the American People contributed so greatly and through which the American People looked forward to a world built on justice and compassion, this is of vital concern to the American People.

The American People have not lost the spirit of consecration and idealism with which they fought the war and have not resigned themselves to failure in the fulfillment of the high purposes for which so many sacrifices were made.

We can, therefore, be confident that American public opinion will insist that, in accordance with so many promises made by the American Government and its official leadership, and in harmony with American ideals of justice and fair play, that the pledge of the President of the United States that Palestine be open as a haven to one hundred thousand Jewish refugees be fulfilled immediately and the oft-repeated promises that Palestine become a Jewish National Home be implemented by the entire power and prestige of the American government. Our President and Government will thus be carrying out a basic aspect of the new world structure for which America fought.

Rabbi Uri Miller
President
Rabbinical Council of America

RABBI RAPHAEL H. LEVINE
Congregation Temple De Hirsch
Seattle 22, Washington

Sept. 11, 1946

Dear Dr. Silver:

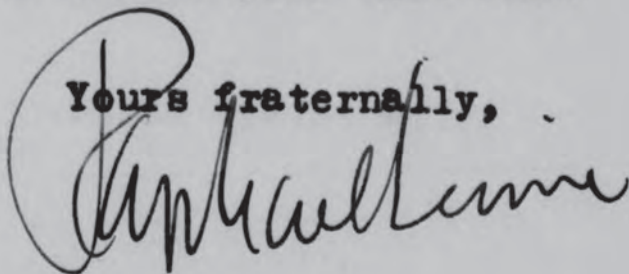
I received your letter of September 6th, and I am very happy that the Central Conference has accepted the organization of our Association in the spirit in which we hoped we would be received.

May I assure you again, as I did in our first letter, that the only purpose of our organization is to help one another in the practical tasks of establishing and encouraging our congregational life on the Pacific Coast. We feel that we have certain regional problems which are peculiar to our area, and by getting together and discussing those problems, we will be able to help one another.

As far as matters of international or world import are concerned, or matters involving principles of Judaism, we have the fullest intention of being guided by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, of which we are members and an association which we greatly cherish.

May I extend to you my personal good wishes for the New Year, and our prayerful hopes that the tragic plight of our people will find some relief in the year that lies ahead.

Yours fraternally,



*Copy to Harrison
9-16-46*

September 12, 1946

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld
41 E. 42nd St.
New York 17, N.Y.

I am enclosing herewith a statement as President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis which you requested and which you can send out along with those of Rabbi Uri Miller and Rabbi Israel N. Goldman.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

Rabbi Samuel J. Levinson
Temple Beth Emeth of Flatbush
83 Marlborough Road

Oct. 11, 1946

Dear Colleague: The Association of Reform Rabbis of New York celebrates its "25th" Anniversary this year. We have set aside the week of Nov. 10-17 for the observance of this event.

You are doubtless familiar with the genesis of the organization, with its relationship to the A. R. H. C. and, especially, with the CCAR.


Bill Rosenblum has communicated the A. R. R.'s desire to be the speaker on the occasion. He gave you a choice of the day in the aforementioned week. The fixing of the day depends upon you.

Time is of the essence. Would you, please, accept and give your response to Bill, that he may proceed with arrangements.

I speak for our 70 members, representatives of Reform Judaism in this area.

With a most hearty greeting to all

Sincerely
Samuel J. Levinson
President


OFFICERS 1946 - 1947

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, President
Cleveland, Ohio

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

PHINEAS SMOLLER, Treasurer
Chicago, Ill.

ISAAC E. MARCUSON, Administrative Secretary
Macon, Ga.

SIDNEY L. REGNER, Financial Secretary
Reading, Pa.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE
OF
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

204 BUFORD PLACE

MACON, GA.

October 14, 1946

EXECUTIVE BOARD

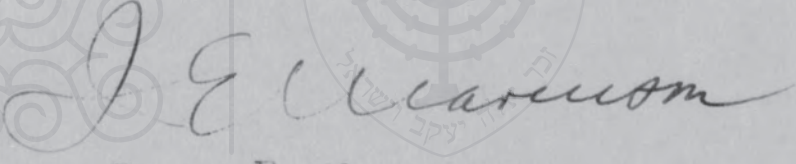
JOSEPH L. BARON, Milwaukee, Wis.
HERBERT I. BLOOM, Kingston, N. Y.
DANIEL L. DAVIS, Lancaster, Pa.
LOUIS I. EGELSON, Cincinnati, O.
SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, Pittsburgh, Pa.
ABRAM M. GRANISON, New York, N. Y.
ROBERT I. KAHN, Houston, Texas
S. FELIX MENDELSON, Chicago, Ill.
LEVI A. OLAN, Worcester, Mass.
WENDELL A. PHILLIPS, El Paso, Texas
DAVID POLISH, Waterbury, Conn.
JOSHUA TRACHTENBERG, Easton, Pa.
DAVID H. WICE, Newark, N. J.
BERNARD ZEIGER, Roanoke, Va.

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

Dear Colleague:

I wonder if you know that Joseph Blatt, of Oklahoma City, died. He is a graduate of the class of 1901, but I suspect that the best man to write a memorial is his successor, Joseph Levenson. If Levenson will get it to me promptly I shall try to get it into this Yearbook.

Very truly yours,


Isaac E. Marcuson
Administrative Secretary

IEM:EM

November 5, 1946

Rabbi Joseph Levenson
Temple B'nai Israel
901 N.W. 24th St.
Oklahoma City 6, Okla.

My dear Rabbi Levenson :

We would like to include in this year's Yearbook a memorial tribute to Rabbi Joseph Blatt and we would appreciate very much if you will write it.

The Yearbook will go to press in the very near future and if you could send us the tribute early, we may be able to include it in this year's Yearbook. It need not be longer than one printed page of the Yearbook. Please send it on to Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson, Secretary of the C.C.A.R., Macon, Ga.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15
November 6, 1946

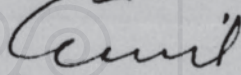
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, 6, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

I have been advised by the Secretary of the Conference that I am
on the Governing Body of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Let me say that I shall be very glad to accept the appointment.

Yours fraternally,



Emil W. Leipziger

ewl;jlg

November 12, 1946

Dr. Emil W. Leipziger
Bienville Hotel, Room 602
New Orleans 13, La.

My dear Dr. Leipziger:

I am enclosing herewith correspondence which is self-explanatory. I would suggest that you contact Rabbi Gotthelf and follow up this matter. I shall be very happy to hear from you as to developments.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR
Enc.

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
521 Fifth Avenue

New York 17, N.Y.

December 4, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Ansel Road at E. 105th St.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

We are sure that you will agree that it is most urgent that all Jewish organizations interested in increasing the immigration of Jewish displaced persons into the United States should unify their efforts to insure a maximum result.

Federal Judge Simon H. Fifkind, who was civilian adviser to General Dwight D. Eisenhower on the problems of Jewish displaced persons, and who has had long experience in political affairs in this country, is eager to assist the American Jewish Conference in the task of coordinating the efforts of its affiliated organizations in this work.

He will discuss the problem with the representatives of all Jewish organizations affiliated with the Conference, at a meeting to be held Wednesday, December 11, 1946 at 8:15 p.m. in the auditorium of the Free Sons of Israel, 257 West 93rd Street, New York City.

We therefore invite you and two additional representatives of your organization to attend this meeting. If you personally cannot come, please designate someone to act in your stead. On the enclosed post card please list the names of your organization's representatives.

Unless there is united Jewish action, there is every danger that this crucial undertaking will meet with disaster in the next Congress. We therefore deem your attendance at this meeting of the utmost importance.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed I. L. Kenen
Executive Secretary

Enc.

P.S. We regret that because of short notice it was impossible to secure a more central location for this meeting.

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NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD
145 E. 32nd St.
New York 16, N.Y.

December 12, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
The Temple
E. 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing herewith two copies of a list which includes the names of the representatives from your organization on our Board of Directors, National Council and National Army and Navy Committee. We would appreciate it if you would advise us promptly about the names of your representatives for the year 1947. The duplicate list is enclosed for your convenience in order that you may indicate the necessary changes thereon and return one copy to us.

We look forward to the continued cooperation which has existed between our organizations.

"ith all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS KRAFT

December 26, 1946

Handwritten: K-202

Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson
Central Conference of American Rabbis
204 Buford Place
Macon, Georgia

Dear Rabbi Marcuson:

In the absence of Mr. Kraft from the city, I would like to acknowledge your letter of December 24th, and make the following comment. We regret that there was an error regarding the address of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. We are noting on our records that the official address is the one indicated above.

I thought you would be interested in seeing copies of our correspondence with the Central Conference of American Rabbis last year regarding the names of their representatives for 1946. You can well understand why we are at a loss to understand your note. We shall gladly place Rabbi Briskner and Rabbi Tedesche on the National Council if you will let us know which persons they replace. (You will note that your organization is entitled to three representatives on the National Council.)

The National Army and Navy Committee is not the same as CANRA. Each national affiliate is invited to name a representative to this committee. May we know whether Rabbi William F. Rosenblum should continue as the representative of the Central Conference.

We look forward to hearing from you and remain, with thanks

Sincerely yours,

MARTHA LOEWENSTEIN
Administrative Secretary

Encl.
ML:HE
cc: Rabbi Abba Elliel Silver

C
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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,

Enclosure

LOUIS KRAFT

December 1, 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 (deceased)
Brooklyn, N. Y.

12/20/45

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Office of President
The Temple, East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

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 Governors, please substitute my name for that of Rabbi Freehof. I assume that it is the practice 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,

/s/ Abba Hillel Silver

PRESIDENT:

RAPHAEL H. LEVINE
Temple de Hirsch
Seattle 22, Wash.



SECRETARY-TREASURER:

MORTON A. BAUMAN
Temple Israel
Hollywood, Calif.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MORRIS GOLDSTEIN
Sherith Israel,
San Francisco, Calif.

A. LINCOLN KROHN
Beth Israel
Phoenix, Arizona

EDGAR F. MAGNIN
Wilshire Blvd. Temple,
Los Angeles, Calif.

IRVING F. REICHERT
Temple Emanu El,
San Francisco, Calif.

WILLIAM M. STERN
Temple Sinai,
Oakland, Calif.

Western Association of Reform Rabbis

Seattle 22, Wash.
January 6, 1947

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am writing to inform you that we have had our second meeting of the Western Association of Reform Rabbis in Los Angeles on December 24th, 25th and 26th. I am happy to report that we had a very fine attendance and discussed a number of matters of special interest to us in this Western Region.

Throughout the entire three day session the subjects we dealt with concerned how better to implement the program of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in this Western Region. We were fortunate in having Rabbi Alfred Wolfe, the Regional representative, who guided our thinking and helped us considerably in arriving at a constructive program. You will doubtless receive a copy of the report which Rabbi Wolfe will send to Rabbi Eisendrath.

There is one problem which I was instructed to discuss with you. It seems that there is a congregation in Los Angeles which is a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, but whose rabbi has been declared ineligible for membership in the C.C.A.R., and since we follow the policy of the C.C.A.R. in not admitting to membership in our Regional Association men ineligible for membership in the C.C.A.R., we are confronted with an anomalous and rather difficult situation. I am referring to Rabbi Ernest Trattner of Los Angeles.

After a thorough discussion it was felt that the C.C.A.R. should use its influence with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to see to it that no congregation should be eligible as a member of the Union whose rabbi, if they have one, is not eligible for membership in the C.C.A.R. If this could be made a national policy it would obviate anomalous and sometimes embarrassing situations.

We would greatly appreciate if this matter were given careful consideration and a policy laid down both by the C.C.A.R. and the Union which would help us meet such situations.

With cordial personal greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Raphael Levine

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

January 7, 1947

Rabbi Hbba Hillel Silver, President,
Central Conference of American Rabbis,
The Temple,
East 105th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to you in connection with the Arbitration matter which you referred to me on November 12, 1946. It involved a Rabbi Ezra Gerson Gotthelf, Executive Director, American Non-Sectarian Friendship Service, 899 Oak Street, San Francisco, California. The correspondence which you sent me contained a letter from Mr. Samuel Joselowitz, Director, Personnel Department, National Jewish Welfare Board, New York City, informing me that he had received a note from you saying that you would refer the matter to me and also the letter sent to you of May 23, 1946 by Mr. Joselowitz charging Rabbi Ezra Gotthelf, one of our members, with refusal to pay back a loan made to him by the National Association of Center Workers. This letter also contained excerpts from a letter from a representative of the American Non-Sectarian Friendship Service who had contacted Rabbi Gotthelf and had used his good offices to try to get the Rabbi to pay his debt, but was met by a refusal which the Rabbi justified because the National Jewish Welfare Board had ruined his career by withholding their endorsement to the chaplaincy.

The letter referred to above, namely that of May 23, 1946, addressed to you contained also copies of a letter from Egelson and myself to whom Mr. Joselowitz had earlier referred the matter.

Upon receipt of your letter of November 12, 1946 I wrote to Rabbi Gotthelf on November 21, 1946, a copy of which letter I am enclosing marked exhibit "A". I received no answer from him and on December 13, 1946 I wrote again, this time sending a registered letter, a copy of which you will find enclosed and marked exhibit "B". This registered letter was returned to me on December 22, 1946 by the post office unopened with a notation "Refused". I have learned from the post office that this means that the individual to whom the letter was addressed personally refused it.

In my letter of December 13, 1946 I said that "If I do not hear from you I must regretfully come to the conclusion that you do not care to answer and leave the Arbitration Committee of the Conference to base its decision on the alleged facts". The time has therefore come for us to take some action and I would like some instruction about it. In the first place, shall you and I deal with it alone without consulting my Committee and bring it before the Executive Board, or shall I circularize my Committee and get their approval or disapproval of my decision?

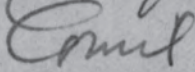
My decision of course would be that Rabbi Gotthelf in refusing to pay an honest debt and in giving a frivolous or untenable reason for doing so, acted unethically. Adding to this refusal an expression of contempt by first ignoring our official letter and then refusing even to open a second communication, he has certainly earned a sharp rebuke from the Conference and in this case the only rebuke would be either a suspension or an expulsion from the Conference.

Religion
IT OUR MOST
CONSTRUCTIVE
DEFENSE

I should like very much to have your reaction to the whole matter and special instruction as to my question as to the method of dealing with this Arbitration case.

I trust you have recovered from the excitement of your European trip and wish that you have a year of contentment and blessing.

Sincerely,



Emil W. Leipziger
Chairman
Arbitration Committee
Central Conference of
American Rabbis

ewl;jlg
enclosures (2)



COPY

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

COPY

EXHIBIT "A"

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

November 21, 1946

Rabbi Ezra Gerson Gotthelf,
Executive Director,
American Non-Sectarian Friendship Service,
899 Oak Street,
San Francisco, California

Dear Colleague:

As Chairman of the Committee on Arbitration of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I address you at the request of our Conference President, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.

A letter has come to us from Mr. Samuel Joselowitz, who is connected with the National Association of Jewish Center Workers, alleging that in August, 1937, you borrowed \$100.00 from their loan fund and \$50.00 in each of the three following months--September, October and November--making a total of \$250.00. He alleges further that although this organization has written you several times during the past years asking for payment of this loan, you have ignored its letters.

On the face of it this looks like an unethical act on the part of a Rabbi, but before I can give judgment concerning this, I should like to hear from you as to your side of the matter. My Committee is acting under a Code of Ethics approved by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in the year 1940. While it deals with three fundamental aspects of relationship, namely; that of Rabbi and Rabbi, that of Congregation and Congregation, and that of Rabbi and Congregation, it implies also ethical obligations of the Rabbi in his dealings with others. For instance, it assumes that Rabbinical actions should be undertaken "with all the sacredness, reverence and aspiration connected with the service of God, Israel and mankind".

You will agree with me that if the complaint made against you is based upon facts, your actions must be construed as not comporting with the highest standards of honor and therefore must be considered unethical.

My Committee is composed of the following:

Henry J. Berkowitz
Henry Cohen
Max C. Currick
Morris M. Feuerlicht
Solomon B. Freehof
James G. Heller
David Lefkowitz, Sr.

Joshua L. Liebman
Edgar F. Magnin
Julian Morgenstern
Joseph Rauch
Irving F. Reichert
Maxwell L. Sacks
Henry Slonimsky

Stephen S. Wise

Representing this Committee I shall be glad to hear from you that there is some misunderstanding here which would exculpate you in the eyes of your colleagues.

May I then hope to hear from you at your very earliest convenience?

Fraternally yours,

Emil W. Leipziger
Chairman
Committee on Arbitration
Central Conference of American Rabbis

ewl;jlg



RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

December 13, 1946

COPY

EXHIBIT "B"

COPY

REGISTERED LETTER --AIR MAIL

Rabbi Ezra Gerson Gotthelf,
Executive Director,
American Non-Sectarian Friendship Service,
899 Oak Street,
San Francisco, California

Dear Colleague:

On November 21st I wrote you a letter, copy of which I am enclosing, and I am a bit disturbed that I have not heard from you. I presume that you received it, since the letter has not been returned. I am sending this letter by Registered Mail and I trust that I may have an answer to it by next mail.

If I do not hear from you I must regretfully come to the conclusion that you do not care to answer and leave the Arbitration Committee of the Conference to base its decision on the alleged facts. It is of course possible that you have been busy and have not been able to deal with the matter until now. You will agree, however, that it is important that I make a report within a reasonable time. So again I earnestly ask that you let me hear from you.

Fraternally yours,

Emil W. Leipziger

ewl;jlg
enclosure

[1947]

January 10, 1946

Mr. Louis Kraft
National Jewish Welfare Board
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Kraft:

A bit of confusion seems to have developed in the matter of the appointment of representatives of the Central Conference of American Rabbis on the various committees of the Jewish Welfare Board. I would like your assistance in straightening out the matter.

As I understand it, the Central Conference of American Rabbis is requested to appoint representatives on (1) the Board of Directors of the JWB; (2) the National Council; (3) the National Army and Navy Committee; (4) Committee on Chaplains.

As I understand it, for the year 1946 the representatives of the CCAR were as follows:

1. Board of Directors — Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
2. The National Council — Rabbi Wm. Braude, Providence, R. I.
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, New York, N. Y.
3. National Army and Navy Board — Rabbi William F. Rosenblum,
New York, N. Y.
4. Committee on Chaplains — Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner, Chairman
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof
Rabbi Abram M. Granison
Rabbi James G. Heller
Rabbi Joshua L. Liebman
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger
Rabbi Louis I. Egelson (Alternate)

Our records show that the Conference has also appointed a committee on cooperation with the Jewish Welfare Board of whom Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner and Rabbi Sidney S. Tedesche are the members. The question is this: Is this a fifth committee or is this committee on cooperation with the Jewish Welfare Board the same as the National Council? If so, then we have appointed three members on the National Council and two members on some non-

January 10, 1946

existing committee. Please give me the correct information. I assume, of course, that the Committee on Chaplains is a separate and distinct committee from the National Council and from the National Army and Navy Committee.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:GR



[1947]

January 10, 1946

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

My dear Rabbi Leipziger:

Thank you for your kind letter of November 7.

Certainly Rabbi Gotthelf is acting in a very reprehensible manner. Before circularizing the entire committee - if you should find that necessary - I would suggest that you have someone of the committee who is in San Francisco talk to Gotthelf, whose headquarters is in San Francisco.

I note from the list of the members of your committee that Rabbi Irving F. Reichert is also a member. I would suggest that you write to Reichert giving him the facts, and suggesting that he have a personal interview with Gotthelf to impress him with the seriousness of the matter and with the prospect that he might be facing suspension or expulsion from the Conference, unless there is a satisfactory explanation or settlement of this matter. When you hear from Reichert you will be in better position to decide what we should do.

I send you my warmest greetings.

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

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.)



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

Cable Address:
JEWELBO New York

FRANK L. WEIL, President; Mrs. FELIX M. WARBURG, Honorary Vice-President
Mrs. ALFRED R. BACHRACH, LLOYD W. DINKELSPIEL, IRVING EDISON,
Mrs. SAMUEL R. GLOGOWER, Mrs. WALTER E. HELLER, CARL M. LOEB, Jr.,
DONALD OBERDORFER, WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Vice-Presidents
JOSEPH H. COHEN, Treasurer; ROBERT K. RAISLER, Assistant Treasurer
JOSEPH ROSENZWEIG, Secretary; RALPH K. GUINZBURG, Assistant Secretary
LOUIS KRAFT, Executive Director

January 14, 1947

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Central Conference of
American Rabbis
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I have your letter of January 10th. According to our records, the 1946 representatives of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which you list for the Board of Directors, National Council and National Army and Navy Committee conform exactly. There is a difference, however, in the names of your representatives on CANRA. We have checked with Rabbi Lev, whose records agree with the following list. These rabbis served in 1946 and have been renamed to serve in 1947:

Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner; Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof; Rabbi Abram M. Granison; Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin; Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger; Rabbi Louis I. Egelson; Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin; Alternates - Rabbi Benjamin Friedman; Rabbi William F. Rosenblum.

You will note that Rabbi James G. Heller and Rabbi Joshua L. Liebman did not serve in 1946 and that Rabbi Louis I. Egelson served as a full member.

Neither Rabbi Lev nor I understand your reference to a Committee on Cooperation. To the best of our knowledge, no such committee was ever appointed.

We look forward to hearing from you as to the names of your representatives for 1947.

Regards -

Sincerely yours,

Louis Kraft
LOUIS KRAFT

[1947]

January 16, 1946

Rabbi Raphael H. Levine
Temple de Hirsch
Seattle 22, Wash.

My dear Rabbi Levine:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of January 6.

I was very pleased to learn of the fine meeting which the Western Association of Reform Rabbis had in Los Angeles last month.

The problem which you raise I shall submit to the next meeting of the Executive of the C.C.A.R.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YMHA's, YWHA's, and JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
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John S. Sills, Director

February 25, 1947

Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities

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Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner,
Administrative Chairman
Rabbi Louis M. Levitsky, Vice-Chairman
and Chairman, Executive Committee
Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, Vice-Chairman
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Rabbi Max D. Davidson
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Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
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Rabbi Leo Jung
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Rabbi Simcha Levy
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin
Rabbi Elias Margolis
Rabbi Emanuel Rackman
Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin
Dr. Morton A. Seidenfeld
Rabbi Charles E. Shulman
Rabbi Milton Steinberg
Rabbi Elkan C. Voorsanger
Col. Max R. Wainer

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The attached call is self-explanatory. It was prepared at the request of the Presidents of the various Theological Seminaries who had met with the Jewish Welfare Board on the Chaplaincy problem. It was the desire of the representatives of the Seminaries that the call also be signed by the Rabbinical and lay bodies serving the synagogues of the country. I am, therefore, submitting this draft to you with the request that you authorize the signature of your organization.

Sincerely,

Aryeh Lev
ARYEH LEV

Rabbi Aryeh Lev
Director

February 28, 1947

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

My dear Rabbi Lev:

Replying to your letter of February 25 - the CCAR
will be pleased to sign the "Call", a copy of which you
sent me.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

MEMORANDUM

Nº 71

Date April 9, 1947

From Henry W. Levy

To Rabbi Abraham Feldman, Chairman, Program Committee, CCAR

Copy for information of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President; Dr. Isaac Marcuson, Secretary

Subject _____

As I told you, when we conferred in New York, I have worked out a general publicity program in advance of the 58th annual conference of the Central Conference. As this program will include a number of releases between now and the opening of the conference, as well as the sending of three or four mats to the English-Jewish newspapers, I think it advisable that it be approved in general by you and the other leaders of the Central Conference in that it will involve a number of expenditures for mats.

All the mailings will be done by the Cincinnati office of the Union and all expenditures will be made by them. The bill will eventually be presented to the Central Conference by the Union office in Cincinnati.

It is my belief that to adequately publicize the Central Conference meeting, that it can only be done through the presentation to the English-Jewish newspapers of mats, as this is the sort of thing they use, whereas any number of stories that we send out will get little or no usage except in the two or three weeks immediately preceding the conference. The cost of making these mats with captions attached differs according to the size of the mats. But, generally, I should say that they would average about \$35.00 or \$40.00 for each mat sent out.

This, then, is my outline for the publicity in advance of the conference:

ALREADY DONE

1. An initial story was sent out to the English-Jewish newspapers about two weeks ago announcing the date. We have already received a number of clippings on this.
2. A story has also been sent out through the medium of the Union News Service to all temple bulletins throughout the country.

FUTURE PROGRAM

1. Along with this memorandum, I am enclosing a release which announces the papers on "A Revaluation of the Goodwill Movement", and "Prayer In Our Time" and the roundtable on "The Practical Problem of the Rabbinate." Intentionally it does not include all aspects of the program. It doesn't include the men who will deliver the conference sermon and the conference lecture, nor does it include the fact that Prime Minister Mackenzie King will be

a speaker. These, I am saving for later releases. This release will go out shortly.

2. A subsequent release will announce the address by Prime Minister King at the opening session.

3. Another release, this in the form of a mat, will announce the two rabbis delivering the conference lecture and the conference sermon.

4. Another mat will feature the three rabbis speaking on the roundtable on "The Pastoral Ministry".

5. Still another mat will feature the four rabbis delivering formal papers, Glazer, Feinberg, Newman and Cronbach.

6. Immediately preceding the conference, to appear in the week or two before it, will be a large mat of the headliners of the Central Conference convention. This mat will include - at least it seems to me that it should include - the President, the Chairman of the Program Committee, the Administrative Secretary, Prime Minister King, Rev. Jones, the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, and the host rabbi of Montreal.

7. Also, for the week immediately preceding the conference, we will send out one story which will include the names of every actual participant on the program.

8. Some four or five weeks before the conference, I plan also to release to the English-Jewish newspapers a future article based upon the fact that this year's conference will mark the 50th anniversary of the last time the CCAR met in Montreal. This story will include mention of the program and subjects discussed at the Montreal convention fifty years ago as compared with the program and subjects of interest today.

9. I am also preparing a special story for LIBERAL JUDAISM for the June issue on the Central Conference convention, which will include some material on the conference in Montreal fifty years ago.

10. A number of stories will also be released in advance of the convention along with photographs or mats to the papers in Cleveland, Hartford, and other communities whose rabbis are taking an active part on the program of the Central Conference.

11. I will also want to prepare, in advance, a mat of the new president-to-be of the conference for release immediately after the convention.

This program does not include mention of the daily releases that will be gotten out in Montreal on the daily sessions of the conference.

Last year, we worked under a severe handicap for lack of proper secretarial help. It is my belief then that improper ^{re}secretarial help is a difficulty that can and should be met, and I suggest that an effort be made to borrow my secretary at the Union office for the week of the conference. Although I haven't checked, I imagine Dr. Eisendrath will approve such a procedure; the only cost to the CCAR would be her transportation to and from Montreal and her living expenses in Montreal for that week, as her salary will be covered by regular Union arrangement. If this meets with your approval, I will take the matter up with Dr. Eisendrath.

I have enumerated the releases to be sent out as I feel that it is best that you know exactly what is planned, and that you are prepared for the expenses that will be involved. I strongly urge that in the interest of a good and thorough advance publicity job, that the additional expenditures resulting from the use of mats be approved.

H43



UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

HENRY W. LEVY, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

1647

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

June 4, 1947

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have been following the publicity plan for the Central Conference's convention, in accordance with the memorandum sent to you sometime ago. So far, results have been good.

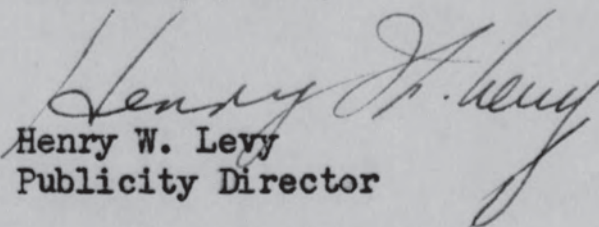
We are now coming to that all important first session, and your Presidential Report.

I know how busy you are, but I am hopeful that you will be able to get your paper to me as soon as possible. Insofar as the English-Jewish press is concerned, I should like to send out two stories; one for release on Friday, the 27 of June, which will concern itself almost entirely with your Presidential Report; and the other for release on Friday, the 4 of July, which will concern other phases of the conference.

In order to release your speech for the English-Jewish weeklies of June 27, I have to send it out by Friday, the 20, so I will need a copy of your address by Thursday, the 19th, at the latest, or if possible, Wednesday, the 18th.

I am hopeful that you will be able to get the paper to me by then.

Cordially yours,


Henry W. Levy
Publicity Director

HWL:cs

RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER
TOURO SYNAGOGUE
NEW ORLEANS 15

June 9, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President,
Central Conference of American Rabbis,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

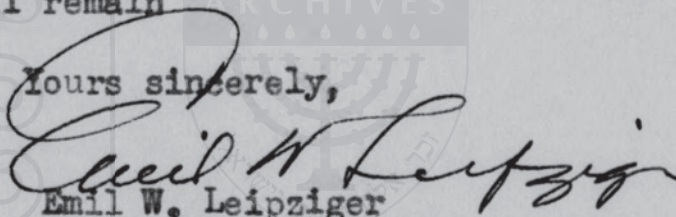
Dear Dr. Silver:

I am enclosing a copy of the Report which I expect to present
to the CCAR Board if you approve of it.

If you have anything that you would like to add or subtract,
please let me know at once.

With fraternal greetings, I remain

Yours sincerely,



Emil W. Leipziger

Chairman

Arbitration Committee
Central Conference of
American Rabbis

ewl;jlg
enc.

June 9, 1947

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS:

Gentlemen:

It is my privilege to render a report with reference to an Arbitration matter referred to our Committee. It involves one of our members--Rabbi ~~Eura~~ Gotthelf, now of San Francisco, California.

Rabbi Gotthelf had borrowed \$250.00 during the year 1937 from the National Association of Jewish Center Workers which has a loan fund. They had written to him from time to time asking for payments in return, but the letters were unanswered.

In 1945 the Director of the Personnel Department of the National Association of Jewish Center Workers under the J. W. B. discovered that Rabbi Gotthelf was employed by the American Non-Sectarian Friendship Service in San Francisco. but he received no reply to two letters written to our Colleague at this address. At this point attention to the matter was called to the Pacific Coast ^{Field} Secretary of the Friendship Service who got in touch with Rabbi Gotthelf and was informed that the Rabbi would not repay this sum and felt himself justified in his refusal because the J. W. B. had ruined his career by withholding his endorsement to the Chaplaincy. Of course there was no relation between the J. W. B. and the National Association of Jewish Center Workers as regards the loan.

The matter was finally channeled by Rabbi Brickner and Rabbi Egelson of the Chaplaincy Committee to the Conference.

According to our rules, I had to refer this matter to our President because the Arbitration Committee cannot initiate action in regard to Arbitration.

On November 12, 1946 I wrote to Dr. Silver, our President, suggesting that I contact Rabbi Gotthelf and follow the matter up. Accordingly on November 21, 1946 I wrote Rabbi Gotthelf informing him of the series of actions which lead the Conference to take up the matter of his refusal to repay the loan to the National Association of Jewish Center Workers. From that letter I quote as follows:

"On the face of it this looks like an unethical act"(continual refusal to answer letters with reference to the loan) "on the part of a Rabbi, but before I can give judgment concerning this, I should like to hear your side of the matter. My Committee is acting under a Code of Ethics approved by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in the year 1940. While it deals with three fundamental aspects of relationship, namely: that of Rabbi and Rabbi, that of Congregation and Congregation, and that of Rabbi and Congregation, it implies also ethical obligations of the Rabbi in his dealings with others". It assumes that Rabbinical actions should be undertaken with 'all the sacredness, reverence and aspiration connected with the service of God, Israel and mankind'.

"You will agree with me that if the complaint made against you is based upon facts your actions must be construed as not comporting with the highest standards of honor and therefore must be considered unethical".

Furthermore I gave him the names of the members of our Committee and asked that I might hear from him.

I never heard from him, so on December 13, 1946 I wrote him again by Registered Letter, and the Registered envelope was returned to me with a notation "Refused". The envelope bore my name on the outside.

I made a report of the matter to Rabbi Silver, our President, on January 7, 1947 telling him of my own experiences with Rabbi Gotthelf. I asked for instructions. It occurred to me that this case might be handled by the Chairman of the Arbitration Committee and the President and of course by the Executive Committee. I informed Dr. Silver that my own decision was that Rabbi Gotthelf in refusing to pay an honest debt and in giving frivolous or untenable reasons for doing so acted unethically. Adding to this refusal was an expression of contempt by ignoring our official letter and then refusing even to open a second communication, he has certainly earned a sharp rebuke from the Conference and in this case not only a rebuke but either expulsion or suspension from the Conference.

On January 10, 1947 Dr. Silver, our President, wrote that before circularizing the entire Committee, if that should be found necessary, that I get in touch with Rabbi Irving F. Reichert of San Francisco, asking that he contact Rabbi Gotthelf personally.

On January 28, 1947 I received a letter from Rabbi Reichert saying that he would undertake the contact and had already tried to reach Rabbi Gotthelf by phone. It seems that Rabbi Gotthelf is now working as an engineer in Sunnyvale, a suburb of San Francisco and that he comes home only on week ends.

I heard no more from Rabbi Reichert until April 3, 1947 when I was informed that Rabbi Reichert had communicated several times with Rabbi Gotthelf's Mother and had asked her to inform him that he (Rabbi Reichert) wished to speak with him on a matter of importance and furthermore suggested that Rabbi Gotthelf telephone him when he came to San Francisco. Since that time, April 3rd, nothing was heard from Rabbi Gotthelf.

On April 14, 1947 I heard from Rabbi Reichert again and I quote from his letter

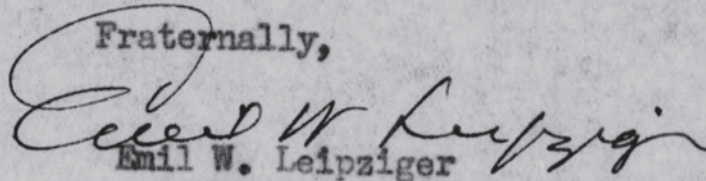
"After a number of futile efforts, I finally succeeded in discussing with Rabbi Gotthelf the subject matter of your communication of January 23rd. He suspected immediately why I wished to see him and refused to make an appointment, insisting that we talk about the matter over the telephone. His attitude was defiant and resentful. He insists that any financial obligation he might have incurred to the National Association of Jewish Center Workers was cancelled by the action of the J. W. B. in denying him an appointment as a Chaplain during the recent war. He says that he has washed his hands of the rabbinate and that he considers it an impertinence for the CCAR to intervene, claiming that it has no jurisdiction whatever."

"Under the circumstances I must concur with the opinion of Silver and yourself that Gotthelf has forfeited any claim to our further consideration (I asked him to send me a written statement of his attitude but he declined vigorously to putting anything in writing)".

This is the whole story. We are dealing with a man, who according to Smoller, is a member of the CCAR in good standing, having paid his dues thru 1945-46.

I reiterate as my own judgment, as I expressed it in a former letter, that Rabbi Gotthelf be suspended or expelled. Let the Board decide whether ^{the} judgment of Hillel or Shammai shall prevail.

Fraternally,



Emil W. Leipziger

Chairman

Arbitration Committee

ewl;jlg

WRHS



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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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1947 JUN 18 AM 11 24

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE EAST 105 ST AND ANSEL RD=

HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEND ME YOUR PRESIDENTIAL
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ONE COPY TO 3 E 65 ST AND ANOTHER COPY TO ME AT THE
MT ROYAL HOTEL=

:HENRY W LEVY.

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