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Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1960-1963.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

40 WEST 68th STREET

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

OFFICE of the PRESIDENT — RABBI ALBERT G. MINDA
2324 Emerson Avenue South, Minneapolis 5, Minnesota

September 24, 1962

92
Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
Tifereth Israel
University Circle and Silver Park
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Abba:

I hope you have had a very pleasant summer. I want you to know how very much I appreciated your attendance at our Conference in Minneapolis. It meant much to all of us to have the inspiration of your presence. I trust we shall thus be privileged for many years to come.

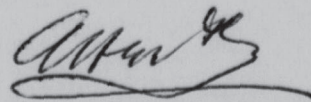
We are planning for the Conference to be held in Philadelphia Monday - Thursday, June 17 - 21. Instead of having a Conference lecture, Leon Feuer and I would like very much to have you and Sol Freehof make presentations on the subject, "The Rabbinate In Our Lifetime". These would be given on Wednesday evening, June 19th.

I sincerely trust that you will see your way clear to accept. I know I speak for all our colleagues when I say that all of us would anticipate this session, as one long to be remembered.

I shall appreciate a reply at your early convenience.

With every good wish to you, Mrs. Silver, and Daniel for the New Year, I am

As ever,
Faithfully,



Rabbi Albert G. Minda

AGM/a

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February 12, 1963

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Tifereth Israel,
University Circle & Silver Park
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

It is my high honor, as chairman of the committee charged with the preparation of a volume commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, to invite your participation in this historic project, on behalf of my fellow committee members, Albert Minda, Jacob R. Marcus, Levi Olan, Bernard J. Bamberger and Stanley Chyet.

Our committee views this approaching anniversary not as an occasion for self-congratulation and public relations cliches, but as an invaluable opportunity to present to the world a critical, analytical study of what the Conference has been and has accomplished. As we have discussed the nature of this volume (a tentative table of contents is inclosed) it has seemed to us that we can attempt nothing less than a public self-survey, an intellectual construct of the Reform movement, including an utterly frank evaluation of our achievements and shortcomings.

Each colleague who is being invited to share in this opportunity and challenge has been carefully chosen as best equipped to accomplish his part of the task in keeping with the highest intellectual standards of contemporary thought. Each colleague will be expected to speak not for himself alone, but for all of the members of the Conference, indeed for the entire Reform movement. His name will appear as author of the chapter for which he is responsible, of course, but because he is speaking for all of his colleagues the committee must respectfully reserve to itself the right to reject and not publish an essay which is not regarded as authentically and essentially representative of the Conference's standards and objectives.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver - 2
February 12, 1963

The assignment which we invite you to accept is Chapter X: The Relationship of the Conference to the Reform Movement. We have in mind an analysis of the origins of the College, Union and Conference independently and in relationship to each other; the growth of joint activity and also of competition; the struggles for influence and support. An utterly frank evaluation needs to be written of the relative importance of the CCAR in decades past and today. This chapter would include also an attempt to discover whether the Reform movement is stronger than its component parts, and, in addition, a weighing of the significance of these institutions in the life of congregations throughout the land, in large cities as well as small towns. Is there a struggle between laymen and rabbis? Or does present controversy stem from competition between two or three types of "professionals." We view this as one of the most important chapters in the volume, a study of the unity and disunity of Reform, the position and role of each institution, the likelihood of cohesion and/or conflict in the future, and the ideal goals of each institution and of the movement as a whole, in future decades.

This brief and somewhat disjointed outline is the product of the joint thinking of our committee. It is intended to be suggestive, not restrictive; thought-provoking rather than all-inclusive.

I hope that, after the most serious consideration, you will wish to accept this invitation. I have no doubt but that you can make a magnificent contribution to this Conference self-evaluation, and that you will want to participate in this historic pronouncement on behalf of the Conference. But your acceptance must be conditioned on your ability and willingness to pledge yourself to submit the chapter to the chairman no later than May 15, 1963. I hope that your many responsibilities and commitments will permit you to devote the necessary time and energy to the proper execution of this task.

A few words about technicalities: Each chapter, except the introduction, is to be limited to a maximum of 7500 words (about 25 double-spaced typed pages). Documentation of all essential material is required. External make-up is to be in keeping with the provisions of the University of Chicago Manual of Style.

The chairman and members of the committee will be pleased to assist you in any way you may desire, in connection with research, source materials, and other problems. You may feel completely free to call upon any of us prior to the formal submission of your chapter.

I look forward to hearing from you within a week of your receipt of this letter.

Faithfully,

B. H. S.

- I. Introduction: Organisation History
- II. Theological and Ideological Development
- III. Liturgical Development
- IV. CCAR Thought and Activity in the Fields of Church and State, Social Justice and Civil Rights.
- V. The Conference View of the Role of the Jew in the Modern World.
- VI. The Changing Role of the Rabbi
- VII. The CCAR and Jewish Religious Education
- VIII. The Conference and the American Scene
- IX. The Conference and American Jewish Life.
- X. The Relationship of the Conference to the Reform Movement
- XI. An Evaluation

Appendix A: A chronology of important dates and events.

Appendix B: A bibliography of the publications of the Conference.

February 18, 1963

My dear Bert:

Let me thank you for your letter of February 12th and for your invitation to write an article for a volume commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. I am very honored that you have requested me to participate in this project which I regard as a very important one. Unfortunately, I am not able to comply with the condition which you have set, namely: to submit my article not later than May 15, 1963.

I am leaving the country in the next few weeks for England where I am opening the United Israel Appeal campaign and from there I plan to go to Israel where I will remain through most of the month of April. Besides that, I am working on some other things which will occupy my spare time during 1963. I regret very much that I will have to fore-go the pleasure of complying with your request. I wish you every success in your undertaking.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Dr. Bertram W. Korn
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
York Road and Township Line, Elkins Park
Philadelphia 17, Pennsylvania

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

40 WEST 68th STREET

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

2335 Collingwood Avenue
Toledo, Ohio

May 6, 1963

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

I hope this finds you in good health and that Virginia and you had an enjoyable trip.

I am writing about the Conference program. I received a note the other day from Sol Freehof giving me his suggestion as to the format for the program, which I thought was fine. He suggested that each of you speak for about 25 to 30 minutes and then have a question period for the rabbis. Does this sound all right to you or do you have any other suggestions? Please let me know.


I am looking forward eagerly to this program about which I have dreamed for a year and a half. Incidentally, I shall be presiding at this session.

Hortense and I hope that Virginia will come with you to the Conference and we shall see both of you there, and of course, we shall be seeing you in Israel this summer.

I assume that you are still planning to go for the Hebrew Union College dedication and the Zionist convention.

With best wishes, I am,

As ever,



Rabbi Leon I. Feuer

LIF-s

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RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

May 22, 1963

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland 6, Ohio

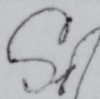
Dear Abba:

I will add to the list of questions the ones that you have suggested. The seven questions that you have to ask me are fine, and I will try to answer them.

The whole situation is rather strange: We have to get used to the fact that we are the aging sages of the rabbinate. At least you and I ought to enjoy ourselves in this colloquy!

With best wishes to Virginia and you, in which Lillian joins me, I am

As ever,



SBF:t

Solomon B. Freehof

THE TEMPLE



Congregation B'nai Jehudah

712 East Sixty-Ninth Street • Kansas City 31, Missouri
Telephone: EMerson 3-1050

June 25, 1963

RABBI A. JAMES RUDIN

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Tifereth Israel
University Circle and Silver Park
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The highlight of the recent CCAR Convention in Philadelphia was your dialogue with Dr. Freehof. As a young Rabbi I found it to be an inspiring evening.

Mazel Tov on your Seventieth Birthday and may God grant you many more years in the active rabbinate.

Sincerely yours,

A. James Rudin
Rabbi A. James Rudin

AJR:rl

July 5, 1963

My dear Rabbi Rudin:

Thank you so much for your lovely note. It was very thoughtful of you to write to me. I enjoyed my dialogue with Dr. Freehof very much. Altogether it was a very pleasant evening.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm

Rabbi A. James Rudin
Congregation B'nai Jehudah
712 East 69th Street
Kansas City 31, Missouri