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

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

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Church of the Air broadcast, 1955.



# COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC.

485 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York • PLaza 1-2345

September 11, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Congregation Tifereth Israel  
East 105th & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

My sincere apologies for interrupting your busy schedule. Yet such has been my esteem for you and your work across the years, that writing you is a privilege as well as cause for apology. Let me be as brief as possible.

I am the producer of CBS Radio's Church of the Air, two half-hour programs broadcast every Sunday on the network. Twenty-five years ago, in the Fall of 1931, this series was initiated with His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston; the Rt. Rev. Irving Peake Johnson, Episcopal Bishop of Colorado; and with you -- as you well may remember. This Fall we are celebrating this 25th Anniversary with a special broadcast on October 30th, 9:30 to 10:00 AM, EST, followed by a series of seven broadcasts, November 6th through December 18th, 9:30 to 10:00 AM, representing seven major Faiths. Invited to participate on the series are such clergymen as Rabbi Jonah Wise, Cardinal Spellman, Dr. Theodore Ferris, Bishop Oxnam, Dean Carson Blake.

May I extend to you a cordial invitation to participate in the special October 30th program. We are inviting you, one of the original speakers, the Rt. Rev. Joseph S. Minnis, the successor of Bishop Johnson, and The Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, the successor of Cardinal O'Connell, to speak for from four to six minutes each. The format of the program, still under consideration but not a religious service, would be along these lines:

A narrator, probably Mr. Arthur Hull Hayes, President of CBS Radio, would sketch the occasion and ask each of you to relate the Church of the Air's contributions to the last 25 years -- specifically, what has religion had to say to Americans living through the Depression of the Thirties, the War of the Forties, and the Atomic Age of the Fifties. Our purpose is to underscore religious radio's pertinence to world activity and



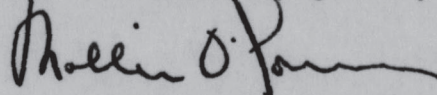
September 11, 1955

continuing guidance to the American people. Each of you would answer for your Faith. To give you concrete reference material, I would send you outstanding excerpts from addresses of Jewish clergy which have been broadcast over the Church of the Air during the various troubled eras. You might also introduce one of your ✓  
choirs singing a selection broadcast on the Church of the Air on a specific and significant Sunday: I could advise you on this. President Hayes would close with a tribute to religion's support of our people and nation in times of uncertainty and stress.

I am most aware of the many demands on your time and am eager to ease any burden implicit in our invitation. We would be happy to record your portions at your convenience. And ✓  
if you feel your Fall schedule may preclude your preparing a four to six minute script, I would be honored to help in whatever manner you indicate. In truth, you are so indispensable to our program, I wish I could think of far more effective inducements!

Again, please forgive me for taking so much of your time. I would not trouble you with this special delivery were I not myself pressed; publicity for the 25th Anniversary celebration must be released by, at latest, Sept. 15th. I shall be in touch with your office the early part of next week to see if I may have your decision.

Most sincerely yours,

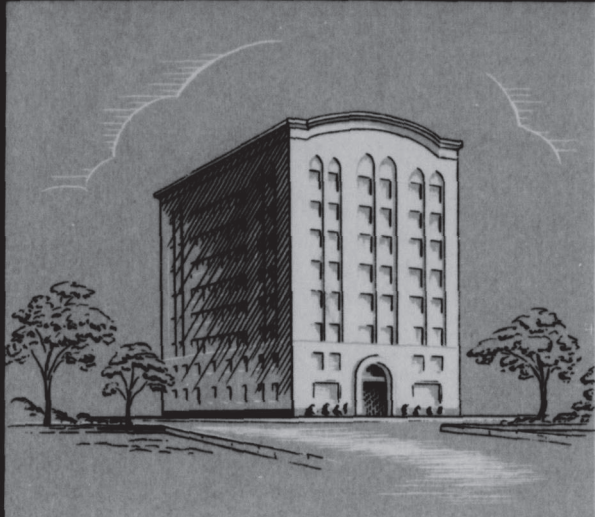


Mrs. Mollie O'Connor  
Producer  
Church of the Air

MCC/jc

cc: Dr. Jonah Wise





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September 16, 1955

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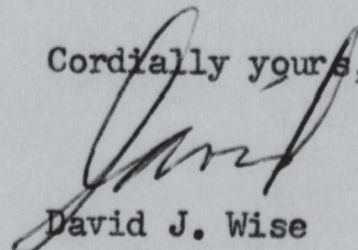
Dear Friend:

Mrs. Mollie O'Connor, director of the "Church of the Air" for the Columbia Broadcasting System, told me Wednesday that she had talked to you long distance regarding your broadcast over the "Church of the Air" for December. She said that you had asked about a recording which you had made this past summer in Brussels under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She asked me to find out the details. I telephoned Vernon Hoyt who is in charge of public relations for the NCCJ, and he told me that he would be in touch with you as soon as he finds out all about it himself. He was a little vague on the details.

Incidentally, when are we going to have you again as a guest on the "Message of Israel?" Let me know, and I think that I may be able to clear a date (that is, a month) during the coming year. I realize that the program is on <sup>IN CLEVELAND</sup> at a very poor hour - namely, 11:30 P.M. Sundays - but perhaps, while you are on, the management of the station will change us to a better hour.

Warmest personal regards, and best wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year.

Cordially yours,

  
David J. Wise

DJW:rm

Good news! MESSAGE OF ISRAEL choir now on phonograph records.  
Inquire: Radio, 838 5th Ave., New York 21, N. Y.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
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THE CHURCH OF THE AIR

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM

10:00 - 10:30 AM Current New York Time  
10:30 - 11:00 AM Current New York Time  
Each Sunday

\* \* \*

One Church of the Air broadcast has  
more listeners than the Apostle Paul  
had in all the years of his ministry.

\* \* \*



The Church of the Air has been a continuous series on the CBS network since September, 1931.

It offers each Sunday two separate half-hour programs, presenting clergymen of different denominations. These programs may originate at any point in the United States where there is a CBS-affiliated station.

Both series of the Church of the Air are available to the entire CBS network, and the periods are reserved from sale.

Time and facilities for the Church of the Air are provided without charge by Columbia and its affiliated stations. In the same spirit, participating clergymen and choirs give their services.

The 104 annual half-hour periods are allocated among the various denominations. Several factors determine the number of programs allocated to one faith, but chief among these are numerical strength and geographical distribution throughout the United States. In recognition of those groups which, although numerically small, are spiritually significant, certain periods are rotated annually among them.

A speaker is generally assisted in the program by the choir of his church or synagogue. Where no choir is available, CBS provides the services of professional singers. If the speaker expresses no preference about musical numbers, CBS staff members choose selections, often specially arranged, that are consonant both with the speaker's topic for the broadcast and with his theology.



While the program generally presents a clergyman, the speaker may be a layman or laywoman who has an important place in the denomination. Listeners thereby have an opportunity to hear the leaders of their denominations -- a privilege formerly available to the comparative few who could attend the national conferences.

Church of the Air programs have on other occasions presented dramatizations of events significant to the Hebrew-Christian tradition, or of importance in the history of a particular denomination.

Brief series of programs by one speaker have also been offered, but customarily the Church of the Air presents two different speakers, of different denominations, each Sunday.

Overall plans for the Church of the Air are formulated by CBS in collaboration with a Board of Consultants representing twelve different denominations. There are, in addition, other denominational leaders whose conference is asked in arranging programs of their denominations. Suggestions for speakers come from many sources: from members of the Board of Consultants; from members of the CBS staff; from the management of CBS affiliated stations, who call attention to the leaders in their communities; from denominational organizations; from churchgoers all over the country. While it is impossible, even in 104 annual half-hours, to schedule all the qualified speakers who thus come to attention, every suggestion is given careful consideration. Particular endeavor is made to assure adequate representation of the various sections of the country.



Such procedure assures the listener a cross-section of religious thought in the United States, and also provides representation for shades of theological thinking from ultra-conservative to ultra-liberal.

The Church of the Air speaker may also feel assured that he has an equal variety in his audience. It is the unique service of radio to religion that a clergyman may thus speak to the man and woman who have no religious affiliation.

In accordance with the long-established policy of CBS, the network does not sell time for religious broadcasts. Neither does it permit solicitation of funds on the Church of the Air, or even the acceptance of voluntary donations. Frequent contributions of money are sent to the program by listeners. These are invariably returned with a letter of explanation and appreciation.

Copies of addresses heard on the Church of the Air are generally available to listeners. These are provided -- again without charge -- by one of several denominational agencies or by the speaker himself.



# Religious News

FROM CBS RADIO PRESS INFORMATION • 485 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK

September 29, 1955

"CHURCH OF THE AIR" COMMEMORATES 25th YEAR OF BROADCASTING;  
ARTHUR HULL HAYES, PRESIDENT, CBS RADIO, TO PRESENT SPEAKERS

The 25th year of "Church of the Air" on CBS Radio will be commemorated this fall with a special series of eight half-hour programs Sunday mornings, Oct. 30-Dec. 18.

Arthur Hull Hayes, President of CBS Radio, on the initial broadcast Sunday morning, Oct. 30, will review the history of "Church of the Air" and present three speakers of the major faiths represented when the program originated in 1931.

Representing the Jewish faith will be Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland. Rabbi Silver, who was the first Jewish speaker on "Church of the Air" in 1931, has served The Temple as its rabbi since 1917.

Representing the Catholic Church will be the Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, successor to His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, the first Catholic speaker heard on the program.

The Episcopal Church will be represented by the Rt. Rev. Joseph S. Minnis, Episcopal Bishop of Colorado, successor to the Rt. Rev. Irving Peake Johnson, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Colorado, the first Episcopal speaker.

(Sunday mornings, Oct. 30-Dec. 18 at 9:30-10:00 AM, EST)

(More)



Mr. Hayes will review highlights of what the program's speakers have said during the years "Church of the Air" has served the CBS Radio audience -- throughout the depression of the 30's, the war of the 40's and the Atomic Age of the 50's. Each clergyman will respond for his faith and cite quotes from "Church of the Air" sermons of the various troubled eras.

Sunday mornings, Nov. 6 thru Dec. 18, the leaders of seven different denominations will describe the beginnings of each faith and the personal impetus behind it (Wesley, Calvin, Cranmer, Luther, Abraham, St. Peter and Joseph Smith). The religious and intellectual climate surrounding each personality will be examined, with each talk preceded by a biographical study of the founder. Music composed by the founder or written early in the history of each faith will be presented.

The schedule follows:

Sunday, Nov. 6 - Methodist - Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Bishop of the Methodist Church in the Washington, D.C. area since 1952.

Sunday, Nov. 13 - Episcopal - The Rev. Dr. Theodore Parker Ferris, Rector of Historic Trinity Church in Boston, Mass.

Sunday, Nov. 20 - Presbyterian - The Rev. Dr. Charles T. Leber, Secretary to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. since 1936. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

Sunday, Nov. 27 - Lutheran - The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Scherer, Brown Professor of Homiletics at Union Theological Seminary in New York since 1945.

(More)



CBS Radio ... 3

Sunday, Dec. 4 - Jewish - Dr. Jonah B. Wise, Rabbi of the Central Synagogue since 1925. Son of the founder of American Reform Judaism, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, Dr. Wise has served for more than 50 years in the ministry, and more than 30 years at the Central Synagogue.

Sunday, Dec. 11 - Catholic - Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

Sunday, Dec. 18 - Latter Day Saints - David O. McKay of Salt Lake City, ninth and present President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"Church of the Air" is produced for CBS Radio by Mollie O'Connor of CBS News and Public Affairs.





# COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC.

485 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York • PLaza 1-2345

September 30, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Congregation Tifereth Israel  
East 105th and Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am delighted that you have graciously consented to participate on the Church of the Air program of October 30th, 9:30 to 10:00 AM, Eastern Standard Time. Bishop Minnis, Archbishop Cushing, and President Hayes have also accepted our invitation.

My personal apologies for not having been in touch with you again long since. Illness has disrupted this office for the past three weeks.

Your portions of the broadcast will be recorded in the studios of Station WGAR in Cleveland, under the general supervision of Mr. Robert Smiley. Mr. Smiley is apprised of your wish to record and will await word from you as to specific convenient date.

I am enclosing a formidable amount of material, but do not be discouraged! The Tenth Anniversary Booklet and its enclosure are simply for you to skim for general orientation about this series of broadcasts. The press release is the first of several to be issued in the ensuing weeks, and for your interest; I shall send you the others. The Format sheet is also for your guidance. You will note that we would like you to speak approximately five minutes, first two and then three. And, finally, I am enclosing a list of memorable events over the past 25 years.

Let me say this about the content of your message. We do not wish our guests to give a specific tribute to CBS or to the Church of the Air. We feel that the significance of a religious broadcast's having a national audience for 25 years is much greater. I am eager to recall to the devout and to illustrate to the skeptics that religion has supported our people

*tape ready*  
*Mon. Oct. 24th 2:00 P.M.*  
*W. 11th St. 61st St.*  
*mail out on 24th*

*PM 1-0200*



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

September 30, 1955

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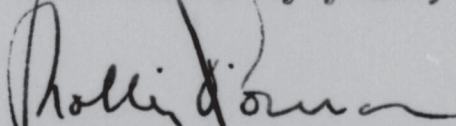
and nation in their times of stress and uncertainty and pain, that it is not to be dismissed as remote from the affairs that shape men's lives.

It is my thought that you might talk generally on religion's vitality across the 25 years, and illustrate with Church of the Air Jewish sermons and music. I have run off the enclosed list of dates for your and my use. I am presently engaged in checking what our clergy said to the nation the Sunday after President Roosevelt closed the banks, on the Sunday after he died, on the Sundays after Pearl Harbor, V-E Day, Hiroshima, V-J Day, and so forth. I find many sermons directed generally to the problems of the Depression, World War II and the Atomic Age; they too are illustrative of the clergy's alert guidance.

Within a very few days I shall send you some quotations which you may find useful in developing your message. I shall also notify you on what two Jewish choirs have been selected to participate in the program, why they are chosen, and what they will sing. As you see in the Format, I would appreciate your introducing them. I shall need three copies of your message in my office at your earliest convenience. You will therefore be hearing from me again the first of next week.

May I reiterate my pleasure in your gracious participation. News of this broadcast is being exceptionally well received.

Most sincerely yours,



Mrs. Mollie O'Connor  
Producer  
Church of the Air

mo'c:rei

Encs.

cc: Dr. Jonah Wise



1. Rabbi Harry H. Epstein of Congregation Ahavath Achim in Atlanta, Georgia  
May 11, 1947. Address title: "Atomic Morality"

"Ours is a disturbed world. There is the maddening talk of World War III. The dread of the atom, the threat of total annihilation by atomic energy, hangs like the sword of Damocles over our heads giving us no rest. The moral landmarks by which men fashioned their lives and designed their conduct are being shattered. Ours is the task of translating into the realm of realistic action such tried and tested Biblical ideas as the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Truly, in our atomic world we need a dynamic morality. For not science nor scientific discoveries and developments will decide the fate of our world. No. People will decide the fate of mankind. 'When man hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all My statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live.' (Ezekiel 18:19)."

2. Rabbi William F. Rosenblum, President of the Synagogue Council of America and Rabbi of Temple Israel in New York City. October 26, 1947

"A drama is being enacted in New York Harbor almost at this hour. Two destroyers are approaching the ship on which over five thousand war dead are being brought back home from Europe. 'Have we died in vain .... once more?' Let our ambassadors and diplomats, our senators and congressmen, our businessmen and labor leaders, our clergy and our citizenry listen to the call of the legion who paid the supreme price to have a different world and they will bend their every effort to give us a world in which differences will keep us safe ..... and free!"

3. Dr. William H. Fineshriber, Rabbi of Congregation Keneseth Israel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. April 18, 1948

"We are in the thick of the greatest crisis that history records. We are to make concrete decision through suffering and pain and death whether our children will remain free or become slaves to a heartless, brutal, ruthless dictatorship. We must now assemble our energies and plan to construct a world based upon the Judeo-Christian doctrine of peace and good will to all mankind."

4. Rabbi Meyer Kimmel of Temple Beth-El in Long Beach, New York. May 23, 1948.  
(May 15, 1948 Israel becomes a nation.)

"Our Father in Heaven, dwelling as we do in the security of our own homes and our own blessed country, we offer a prayer for Israel, who after 1900 years of homelessness and wandering, has returned to the security and dignity of a home. May peace and prosperity soon return to the holy land, and may all men dwell therein in friendship and brotherly love."

5. Rabbi Nahum Schulman of Congregation Mikro Kodesh in Minneapolis, Minnesota. August 1, 1948.

"On the threshold of the atomic age, we find man confused and bewildered. Out of the depth of dismay, fear and agony we hear the world-shaking cry: 'Whence cometh my help?' All too long and too often have we permitted religion to be disparaged, ridiculed and discredited as a sterile and stultifying factor in human experience. It is imperative that we see how it permeates and pervades all of life. Our reply must be crystal clear. It is that our help must come from a living, dynamic and creative faith."



6. Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, President of Union of American Hebrew Congregations in New York City. October 2, 1949

"The answer to the trembling query of this hour, as to what can possibly be the future of Israel or of mankind after the frightful curses, the indescribable misery which both Jew and non-Jew have been experiencing, may be found in those few concise words: 'atem nitsovim kul'chem -- Ye will stand, ye will endure, ye will survive all the strife and terror of the hour, if ye stand all of you together.' Only through such at-one-ment with God and His moral law and with all our fellow beings, can there be any conceivable refuge from the explosive, dynamitic world-convulsive cataclysm even now in the making, that head-on collision of East and West ... The ancient Psalmist in just such a day of gathering storm as this had the audacity of faith to declare that: 'Though the earth tremble and the mountains sink into the depths of the sea' -- as well they will, if atomic war breaks loose -- nonetheless, 'the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our tower of strength.' Only that synagogue or church, the heart of which will pulsate with the warm blood of the masses of men and women can hope to meet the present crisis."

7. Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer, Director of Interreligious Activities of the American Jewish Committee in New York. October 29, 1950

"What good is faith at such a time? My dear friends, faith is indispensable to our very existence. There is a crying need for faith in ourselves and in our fellow-men. The sorry plight we are in is simply a challenge to man - so that when he does succeed in fashioning a decent world, he will share in the joy of creative achievement."

8. Dr. Nelson Glueck, President of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio February 17, 1952

"Never in our history have we been confronted with greater difficulties and dangers than those that threaten our security and peace today. And never has it been more necessary than today for us to realize that our future depends upon our spirit and faith and integrity far more than upon our economic strength and military might. The kind of struggle that is exemplified in our resistance to the Communist attack in Korea today is one which has existed from the dawn of history on and will continue as long as civilization survives on the surface of our planet. It is the struggle between blind servility and independent understanding, between bigotry that begets slavery and fairness and decency that bar bigotry, between life-denying obscurantism and life-sustaining enlightenment ... The issue that confronts us is vast and urgent and universal. It involves all of us of America; it involves all of mankind. What then is required of us to meet it? It requires our being decent in our individual endeavors, and honest in our public offices and trusts. It requires on our part the readiness to battle both in times of war and peace for the spirit and letter of our Bill of Rights, which is based upon the moral imperatives of the Bible. It requires of us the continuance of the pioneer spirit of America, the pioneer gathering together of all persons and all peoples to hew out ever larger clearings in the wilderness of life for cultivation and construction. It requires that we continue to make clear and keep on emphasizing and reiterating in America and throughout the ends of the earth that the essence of strength lies in the distillation of freedom for all!



9. Rabbi Henry Fischer, Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Zion in Chicago. August 2, 1953

"Every century has a key word which spells its innermost desires. In the last century the word was 'progress'; in our own it is 'survival'. An ancient Jewish teacher living in Babylonea 2,000 years ago said: 'The whole world survives by the merit of 36 righteous people'. It is the decency of the common man in every-day living that preserves our civilization. The world needs leaders - great men can build a world and evil genius can destroy it, but ultimately, it is you and I, in the way we exercise our responsibilities. Ultimately, it is we who save the world."

10. Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, Congregation Shaaray Tefila, Far Rockaway, N. Y. July 11, 1954

"As America tries to advance the cause of freedom it sometimes happens that the people who are trying to fulfill the good are the very ones who are being silenced. Whom have we made suspects in this age of hysterical witch-hunting? Often we have made suspect those people who want more social justice and more social security. Too often it is the champions of peace and social justice in our midst who are presumptively subversive. To this there must come a halt. We must pray that America shall continue to learn the true meaning of freedom, that never in the process shall good men be regarded as enemies of freedom."





# COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC.

485 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York • PLaza 1-2345

October 5, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Congregation Tifereth Israel  
East 105th and Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am disturbing you again, this time with specific information to guide your message on the Church of the Air of October 30th, 9:30 to 10:00 AM EST.

You may remember that we would like this anniversary program to recall and illustrate religion's guidance of our people over the last 25 years. With this in mind, I have been researching the messages and music broadcast on the Church of the Air.

I find that my records on the addresses delivered before January 1946 are not reliable. It has therefore seemed wisest to have the years 1931 through 1945 illustrated and represented by music. The following two choirs plan to participate on the program. I would appreciate your introducing them at the two most appropriate places in your talk, briefly giving the date and significance of their original broadcast:

1. The Choir of Temple Beth-El in Detroit. ✓  
It sang on the Church of the Air of January 24, 1937, the Sunday after F.D.R.'s Inaugural Address about "One-third of the nation is ill-housed, ill-clad, and ill-nourished" (January 20, 1937).  
The selection: "The Nation's Prayer" by Caesar Franck.
2. The Quartet of Temple Shaare Emeth in St. Louis.  
It sang on the Church of the Air of December 14, 1941, the Sunday after Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941).  
The selection: "Give Us Peace, O Lord" by Gounod.



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

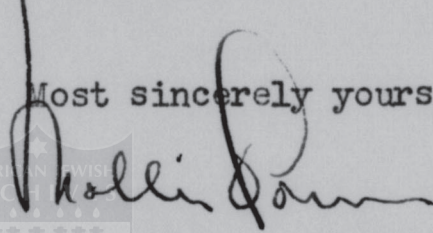
October 5, 1955

-2-

I am enclosing some quotations taken from Jewish addresses over the years, for whatever use you may wish to make of them in your talk.

If questions arise at any time, please do not hesitate to call on me, or on Mr. Robert Smiley at Station WGAR. We shall be happy to give every assistance. Mr. Smiley will be in touch with your office shortly to arrange a recording date.

Most sincerely yours,

  
Mrs. Mollie O'Connor  
Producer  
Church of the Air

mo'c:rei

Enc.

cc: Dr. Jonah Wise  
Mr. Robert Smiley, WGAR



CBS RADIO'S CHURCH OF THE AIR  
25TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES

October 14, 1955

The 25th year of "Church of the Air" on CBS Radio will be commemorated this Fall with a special series of eight half-hour programs Sunday mornings October 30th - December 18th, 9:30 to 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time. Participating in the series will be leading clergymen of eight different faiths and, supporting them, 26 of America's most famous choirs.

- I. On October 30th Arthur Hull Hayes, President of CBS Radio, will participate in a special historical broadcast. President Hayes will recall the world-wide crises and events during the last 25 years and will ask three distinguished clergymen to remind us what religion has had to say to Americans living through these same troubled years.

Representing the Jewish faith will be Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, and the original Jewish speaker on the Church of the Air, back in 1931. Representing the Roman Catholic faith will be the Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, and successor to His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, the first Roman Catholic speaker heard on the program. The Episcopal Church will be represented by the Rt. Rev. Joseph S. Minnis, Episcopal Bishop of Colorado, and successor to the Rt. Rev. Irving Peake Johnson, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Colorado, the first Protestant speaker.

President Hayes will briefly recall the years during which the Church of the Air has served the CBS Radio audience - the depression of the 30's, the war of the 40's, and the Atomic Age of the 50's. Each guest will respond for his faith with exact quotations from sermons preached on the Church of the Air during these turbulent eras, and will introduce two choirs singing the selection they sang on a Church of the Air broadcast one historic Sunday.

Archbishop Cushing will call on the Choir of St. Louis Cathedral to sing "O Sacred Head Surrounded," a selection it sang on March 12, 1933, following Roosevelt's declaration of a national bank holiday. And he will ask the Choir of St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., to sing "Da Pacem," the selection it sang on June 11, 1944, the Sunday following D-Day.

Rabbi Silver will introduce the Choir of Temple Beth-El in Detroit, which will sing "The Nation's Prayer" as it did on January 24, 1947, the Sunday following F.D.R.'s famous "One-third of the nation..." Inaugural Address. He will also ask the Choir of Temple Shaare Emeth in St. Louis to sing "O Lord, May the Words of My Mouth," the selection it sang on December 14, 1941, the Sunday following Pearl Harbor.

Bishop Minnis will call on the Chancel Choir of Christ Church Methodist in N.Y.C. to sing their choice on March 26, 1933 - following a month of such historic events as F.D.R.'s Inaugural "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself...", the "Hundred Days" Congress, the Emergency Banking Act: on that Sunday the choir sang "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." And he will ask the Choir of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, D.C. to sing the selection they chose for August 12, 1945, the Sunday following Hiroshima: "Turn Back, O Man."

President Hayes will close the broadcast with a tribute to religion's significant support and guidance of our people.

\*N.B. - music selection changed.



II. Beginning November 6, 1955, and through December 18th, the leaders of seven of our major denominations will each present a program devoted to the major personality in the history of his church. Participating in each broadcast will be several of the outstanding choirs of the denomination. The choirs will sing music associated with the earliest days of the faith.

- A. November 6, 1955. Methodist. Speaker: Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Bishop of the Methodist Church in the Washington, D.C. area since 1952. Bishop Oxnam will speak on John Wesley, the man and his significance. Choirs: The Seminary Singers of Boston University; Wesley Chapel Choir of London, England; the Cathedral Choir of Wilshire Blvd. Methodist Church in Los Angeles; the Chancel Choir of the First Methodist Church of Evanston, Illinois.
- B. November 13, 1955. Episcopal. Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Theodore Parker Ferris, Rector of historic Trinity Church in Boston, Mass. Dr. Ferris will speak on Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. Choirs: the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys of Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.; the Choir of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, New York; the Choir of St. Paul's Church in Cleveland; and the Trinity Church Choir of St. Paul's Chapel in New York City.
- C. November 20, 1955. Presbyterian. Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Charles T. Leber, Secretary to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Dr. Leber will speak on Calvin. Choirs: The Choir of the Princeton Theological Seminary; the Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, California.
- D. November 27, 1955. Lutheran. Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Scherer, Brown Professor of Homiletics at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Dr. Scherer (United Lutheran Church) will speak on Luther. Choirs: The Choir of St. Olaf's College (Evangelical Lutheran Church); The Choir of Augustana College (Augustana Lutheran Church); The Chapel Choir of Capital University (American Lutheran Church).
- E. December 4, 1955. Jewish. Speaker: Dr. Jonah B. Wise, Rabbi of Central Synagogue in New York. Dr. Wise will speak on Abraham. Choirs: The Choir of Central Synagogue (Reform); The Choir of Beth Sholom Synagogue in Washington, D.C. (Orthodox); The Choir of Har Zion Synagogue in Philadelphia (Conservative).
- F. December 11, 1955. Roman Catholic. Speaker: Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York. Cardinal Spellman will speak on the Church, its foundations, and the institution of the Papacy in St. Peter. Choirs: The Sistine Chapel Choir; The Choir of St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, New York; The Choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York; The Moreau Seminary Choir of the University of Notre Dame.
- G. December 18, 1955. Latter Day Saints. Speaker: David O. McKay of Salt Lake City, ninth and present President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. President McKay will speak on Joseph Smith. Choirs: The Tabernacle Choir of Salt Lake City; The Mormon Choir of Southern California.



Format for the Church of the Air - October 30, 1955 - 9:30 - 10:00 AM EST

Musical Theme

1. President Arthur Hull Hayes 3 minutes  
President Hayes will sketch the occasion and briefly recall the major events and changes in the world during the past 25 years. He will then ask our three guests to remind us what religion has had to say during the same troubled years, and specifically how the clergy on the Church of the Air have talked to their fellow Americans. He will introduce:
2. The Most Reverend Richard J. Cushing 2 minutes  
Archbishop Cushing will recall the years, where appropriate directly quoting the Catholic religion's guidance to the people on the Church of the Air. He will introduce a choir which sang on the Church of the Air one troubled Sunday in the 'thirties.
3. Roman Catholic Choir 2 minutes  
Singing selection sung on the historic Sunday.
4. Archbishop Cushing 3 minutes  
Archbishop Cushing will continue, and will close introducing a second choir which served on another Sunday of moment.
5. Roman Catholic Choir 1 minute  
Singing selection sung on that Sunday.
6. President Hayes 15 seconds  
President Hayes will introduce:
7. Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver *the years,* 2 minutes  
Rabbi Silver will recall/and introduce a choir which ministered to the country in the 'thirties on the Church of the Air.
8. Jewish Choir 2 minutes  
Singing selection sung on particular broadcast.
9. Rabbi Silver 3 minutes  
Rabbi Silver will continue, using quotations and introducing:
10. A Second Jewish Choir 1 minute  
Singing selection sung on particular broadcast.



- |     |  |            |
|-----|--|------------|
| 11. | President Hayes<br>President Hayes will introduce:   | 15 seconds |
| 12. | The Rt. Reverend Joseph S. Minnis<br>Bishop Minnis will recall the years and introduce a Protestant choir which sang to the country on one of the troubled Sundays in the 'thirties. | 2 minutes  |
| 13. | Protestant Choir<br>Singing selection sung on that Sunday.   | 2 minutes  |
| 14. | Bishop Minnis<br>Bishop Minnis will continue, using quotations and introducing:  | 3 minutes  |
| 15. | Another Protestant Choir<br>Singing selection sung on the broadcast.   | 1 minute   |
| 16. | President Hayes<br>President Hayes will close with a tribute to religion's significant support and guidance of our people.   | 2 minutes  |

Musical Theme

\* Timings are approximate.



# COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC.

485 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York • PLaza 1-2345

November 2, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Congregation Tifereth Israel  
East 105th and Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

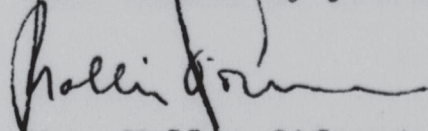
Dear Rabbi Silver:

Permit me to express my own appreciation, and that of CBS Radio, for your fine contribution to the special anniversary Church of the Air broadcast. Perhaps you were able to hear the program -- I hope approved it.

From your reputation and from talking with you on the phone, I expected your voice and delivery to be superior radio; my expectations were more than fulfilled. I found listening to your message an exciting experience: your handling of the language, and of thought concepts is really superb.

May I reiterate my thanks. You were gracious in consenting to participate on the program, and then provided us with an anniversary tape of unusual merit.

Most sincerely yours,



Mrs. Mollie O'Connor  
Producer  
Church of the Air

mo'c:rei  
cc: Dr. Jonah Wise



Address in

Manuscript file ..... # 396





Phone call by Miss O'Connor - CBS - Church of Air Program

She would very much like to have your script ~~by~~ the 24th as she has to write Mr. Hayes speech and wants to be sure there is no dovetailing of material.

Mr. Hayes will be introducing you and if you could begin by saying "Thank you Mr. Hayes" etc.

Mr. Hayes speech will set the stage historically - covering perhaps period of boys in the war - the grim ~~boys~~ <sup>depression</sup> /etc., and she suggested that these ideas not be repeated in your talk but rather that you cover the religious aspect.

She advised that she has had the two Choirs' music rerecorded - that your reference to the music would be in the nature of the music illustrating what you say.

Choir selections has been changed: 1st Choir - Detroit Temple Beth El is O.K.

2nd Choir - Sher Emeth - St Louis will be "O LORD MAY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH"

You will have plenty of time.

Pla<sub>2</sub>a 1-2345 - call and say I have nothing for her.

*Smiley R.  
W.P.A.R.  
recording date*