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

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

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

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Citizens League, 1923-1924.

HON. CARL D. FRIEBOLIN
PRESIDENT

HON. PAUL HOWLAND
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

RUTH F. STONE
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

ALVA BRADLEY
TREASURER

THE CITIZENS LEAGUE OF CLEVELAND

1305-6-7 SWETLAND BUILDING

TELEPHONE PROSPECT 550-551

FOR THE PROMOTION OF EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT
IN CLEVELAND AND CUYAHOGA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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ALLARD SMITH
MISS RUTH F. STONE
MRS. CHAS. F. THWING
MRS. ADDISON C. WAID
MRS. MAUDE C. WAITT

September 22, 1923.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Judge Carl D. Friebolin, President of the Citizens League, has called the first meeting of the Advisory Council of which you are a member for Monday, October 1, at 12 o'clock Noon in the lattice room on the mezzanine floor of the Hotel Statler.

The Executive Board desires to present to the Advisory Council the work program of the League and some plans for the immediate future.

This being the first, and a very important meeting, Judge Friebolin hopes that every member of the Council can be present.

Husbands and wives of the members of the Council and Executive Board are also invited to attend.

Kindly indicate acceptance on the enclosed card.

Very truly yours,

Mayo Fesler
Director

Luncheon \$1.00 per plate.

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October 5, 1923.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland.

Dear Sir:

Bradley Hull who is a candidate for judge of the municipal court has given you as a reference concerning his fitness for that office. We should like to have you write us fully and frankly regarding his qualifications. ANYTHING YOU MAY SAY WILL BE TREATED AS ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL.

If you prefer not to write your opinion, we shall appreciate your calling in person or telephoning us at the office of the Citizens League, 1307 Swetland Building (Prospect 550).

It is our desire to get as complete and accurate information as possible about all candidates for public office. An immediate reply will greatly assist us.

Very truly yours,

Mayo Fesler
Director.

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PRESIDENT

HON. PAUL HOWLAND
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February 21, 1924.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

We want to thank you for your kind offer to help in the membership effort by selecting from a list of names those whom you know and to whom you would be willing to have a letter sent on your stationery, and over your signature, inviting them to become members of the Citizens League. We are hoping that you will check, if possible, at least one hundred names.

We are also sending you a form letter or two which you can use if you prefer, but we shall appreciate it if you will change the letter so as to give it a personal touch. Kindly check the list and either O.K. the letter or write one of your own and return to us at your earliest convenience in order that we may have the letters multigraphed and return them to you for your signature.

When you return the list and the letter please enclose a few more than enough of your letter heads and envelopes to write to the ones whose names you have checked. You may return the list either by mail or by messenger, or if you prefer, we will send for it.

We dislike very much to put you to all this trouble but the plan is working very successfully. The girls follow up the letters by telephone and a large number of new members are being secured in this way.

Yours sincerely,

Byron O. Taylor
Financial Secretary.

The enclosed list has been checked two or three times.

Please use a different check mark and do not re-check any names.

We shall appreciate quick action.

HON. CARL D. FRIEBOLIN
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March 5, 1924.

My dear Mr.....:

As you know, Cleveland and Cuyahoga County have not been as well governed for many years as they should. There has been too much incompetency in office and too much waste of public funds. We have not received a full dollar in value for each dollar we have paid in taxes.

The fault is partly our own. We have not taken the interest in these matters that we should. However, there is no use bewailing the past. We should act in the present and make better provision for the future.

We can't do much working separately. We must unite our efforts in order to accomplish anything worth while. The Citizens League was organized for the one object of promoting more efficient and economical local government. It is the best agency through which we can work in bringing about improvements.

The program of the League is set forth in the enclosed leaflet. I am on the Advisory Council and know that they are doing a very difficult work very well.

As one friend of efficient government to another, I invite you to join us and help the good work along. Allow me to suggest that you sign up for the highest grade membership you can afford and send in by first mail.

Very truly yours,

HON. CARL D. FRIEBOLIN
PRESIDENT

HON. PAUL HOWLAND
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. MALCOLM L. McBRIDE
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

ALVA BRADLEY
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April 12, 1924.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland.

Dear Fellow Members:

In behalf of the Citizens League we want to thank you for the help you have given us in the membership drive which has been in progress since the first of the year.

Checking that long list of names, choosing or drafting a letter, supplying the necessary stationery and later signing the numerous letters was a real task.

But it certainly got results. As a result of the correspondence and the telephoning from the office which followed it, the membership of the League has been increased from less than 1100 January 1st, 1924, to over 2000 at present writing and is still growing at the rate of about seventy-five a week.

Our goal has been 3500 members by June 1st. We may not reach quite that number by June 1st; but it seems very probable that we shall reach the 3000 mark.

In either event, we shall at least have sufficient numbers to wield a strong influence for more efficient and economical local government which is our chief objective.

Your help has been a real contribution.

Yours sincerely,

C. W. Brand
Chairman, Membership Committee.