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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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Consumers' League of Ohio, 1919-1920.



# The Consumers' League of Ohio

750 PROSPECT AVENUE, CLEVELAND

ONTARIO 1916

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

MISS MYRTA L. JONES

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. E. S. BASSETT

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. ERNEST ANGELL

### AN ORGANIZATION

TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LABOR FOR WOMEN  
TO ABOLISH CHILD LABOR

### TREASURER

MRS. F. H. GOFF

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

MRS. CHAS. F. THWING

### RECORDING SECRETARY

MRS. J. H. LOTZ

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MISS WILMA I. BALL

December 3, 1919

Rabbi A. H. Silver  
Euclid & 82nd. Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver

I take great pleasure in sending you under separate cover the current number of the "Cleveland Topics" which contains an article on the work of the National Consumers' League for the next ten years. As a Vice President of the Ohio Consumers' League you will be greatly interested in the plans set forth therein.

In constant appreciation of your support and loyalty to the work of the League,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Myrta L. Jones*  
President.



## ONTARIO 1916

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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
MRS. E. S. BASSETT

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RECORDING SECRETARY  
MRS. J. H. LOTZ

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*Consumers'  
League*

January 24th, 1920

Miss Bertha Thayer,  
The Consumers' League of Ohio,  
750 Prospect Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mrs. Thayer,

Rabbi Silver desires me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the twenty-first instant and to say that he will be very glad to have his name considered for re-election to your Board, and will be glad to continue to lend his support to your fine work.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.



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MRS. FRANK MUHLHAUSER

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. E. S. BASSETT

"LET THERE BE LIGHT ON INDUSTRY"

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MISS WILMA I. BALL

February 11, 1920.

Rabbi A. H. Silver

Euclid Avenue & 82nd St.

Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Silver:

We take pleasure in calling to your attentive interest the enclosed notice of our Annual Meeting.

Never in the history of this country has intelligent discussion of industrial affairs been so important; the men presented on this program are authorities on their topics.

As one of our Vice Presidents you are especially urged to be present, thus lending to this occasion the support of one known to have the interest of the community at heart.

A special place at the speakers' table will be reserved for you.

Very sincerely yours,

*Wilma I. Ball*

Executive Secretary



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MISS WILMA I. BALL

November 2, 1920

Rabbi A. H. Silver  
Central Ave. and East 55th St.  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Silver:

You are cordially invited to be present  
at a luncheon meeting to be held on Monday, Dec. 6th.  
at 12:30, in Parlor J, Hotel Winton.

Mr. John R. Shillady, the new Executive  
Director of the National Consumers' League will  
speak on Orderly Progress in Industry.

As one of our Honorary Vice Presidents  
I am specially anxious for your presence. Will  
you kindly let us know by ten o'clock Monday morn-  
ing whether or not you will come?

Very sincerely yours,

*Myrta L. Jones*

President.

1533 E. 18th  
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MISS WILMA I. BALL

January 17, 1921.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

This is an appeal for immediate practical help in passing the Gronna Bill on January 24th., the date recently fixed by the Senate for the final vote on it in the present Congress.

Will you please write a letter yourself and have at least five friends write similar letters to our Senators, urging favorable action on this bill. If possible have your club endorse the legislation and send this on. The time is so short it will be necessary to act at once.

Yours hopefully,

*Wilma I. Ball*

Executive Secretary.

For Mrs. Florence Kelley, General Secretary.

National Consumers' League.



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## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MISS WILMA I. BALL

February 5th., 1921.

Rabbi A. H. Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

We take great pleasure in enclosing you herewith the announcement of the Annual Meeting of the Consumers' League.

As an Honorary Vice President of our organization, we look forward to meeting you there, and trust nothing will prevent your attendance, which means much to us.

If you will let us know in time, an advantageous place will be reserved for you.

Very cordially yours,

*Kathleen J. Bates*  
*(Mrs. Albert H. Bates)*

Chairman of Committee  
on Arrangements.



MINIMUM PROVISIONS FOR PACKER CONTROL LEGISLATION  
AND REASONS THEREFOR.

By  
The Farmers' National Council, Bliss Building, Washington, D. C.  
Hon. H. F. Baker, President. George P. Hampton, Managing Director.  
Benjamin C. Marsh, Secretary and Director of Legislation.

1. The creation of a national Food Commission with power to supervise and regulate the meat packers, or at least the definite vesting in existing commissions or agencies of the Federal government of primary or original responsibility for supervising and regulating the meat packers so that there may be no uncertainty or doubt as to the responsibility for the supervision and regulation vested in each commission or agency.
2. A system of compulsory chartering for:
  - (1) All meat packers in their entire business.
  - (2) All persons (including partnerships, corporations, etc) engaged in distributing, in commerce, quotations and market news relating to livestock, poultry and dairy products.
  - (3) All persons engaged in performing services in commerce with respect to livestock handled on a commission basis, in or in connection with stockyards.
  - (4) All persons engaged in buying and immediately reselling livestock for speculation in, or in connection with stockyards, this provision not to apply to farmers nor to stock-growers buying stock in stockyards for feeding purposes.
  - (5) Until public market stockyards and feeding-in-transit stockyards shall be made common carriers and owned and operated by railroads under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission,- there shall be a compulsory chartering for all persons owning or operating stockyards at which livestock is handled commercially and feeding-in-transit stockyards, including holding companies and guarantor companies for stockyards companies.

The Federal Trade Commission after its exhaustive investigation of the meat packing industry made by direction of the President, in their letter transmitting the summary of the report to the President, stated:-

"Answering directly your question as to whether or not there exist 'monopolies, controls, trusts, combinations, conspiracies, or restraints of trade out of harmony with the law and the public interest,' we have found conclusive evidence that warrants an unqualified affirmative."\*\*\*\*\*

"It appears that five great packing concerns of the country - Swift, Armour, Morris, Cudahy, and Wilson - have attained such a dominant position that they control at will the market in which they buy their supplies, the market in which they sell their products, and hold the fortunes of their competitors in their hands."



Requiring the railroads, through holding companies, to acquire and operate within a stated time all refrigerator cars or special equipment cars for the transportation of fresh meat or perishable food or food stuffs, and prohibiting the railroads from using any packer refrigerator cars unless so owned by the railroads, unless specifically authorized to temporarily do so by the commission or agency in charge.

The Federal Trade Commission in this letter of transmittal stated:

"If these five great concerns owned no packing plants and killed no cattle and still retained control of the instruments of transportation, of marketing and of storage, their position would not be less strong than it is.

"The producer of live stock is at the mercy of these five companies because they control the market and the marketing facilities and to some extent, the rolling stock which transports the product to the market.

"The competitors of these five concerns are at their mercy because of the control of the market places, storage facilities, and the refrigerator cars for distribution.

"The consumer of meat products is at the mercy of these five because both producer and competitor are helpless to bring relief.

Our entire experience has shown that it is not feasible to control the packers or any other great combination of capital through court decree. Legislation recommended above is essential adequately to control the packers and to make possible effective competition, as former Federal Trade Commissioner Colver stated with reference to the court decree:

As a consumer, you can protest against this condition in the meat packing industry.

This bill is approved by Mrs. Costigan, Chairman of the Committee on Food in the League of Women Voters, and President of the Consumers' League of the District of Columbia.

The Gronna bill provides for Federal control of these food essentials of life by the establishment of a Food Commission. It comes to final vote in the Senate on January 24th. Write to your senators now and register your opinion. Let them know how you stand! Refer to The Gronna Bill, 66th Congress, 2nd. Session, S. 3944, Calendar No. 386.

Address letters to-

Senator Frank Willis,  
Capitol Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Senator Atlee Pomerne,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C.