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

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Darrow, Clarence (president, Victor L. Berger National
Foundation), 1931.

....., 1931.

MR. CLARENCE DARROW, *President*,
The Victor L. Berger National Foundation,
907 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Darrow:

I suggest that you write to the following about the plans and purposes of The Victor L. Berger National Foundation. You (^{MAY}_{MAY NOT}) state that you are doing so at my suggestion.

Name

Address

City

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Very sincerely yours,

Name.....

Address.....

THE VICTOR L. BERGER NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Clarence Darrow, President

MARX LEWIS, DIRECTOR

20

CABLE CODE "BERGERFUND"

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SUITE 303 INSURANCE BUILDING

907-15TH STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEPHONE DISTRICT 5174

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NORMAN THOMAS,
DIRECTOR
LEAGUE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

E. J. COSTELLO,
EDITOR THE MILWAUKEE LEADER

February 18, 1931.

Rabbi Abba Hilel Silver,
East 105th Street, at Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In the absence of Mr. Darrow, who has left town, I am writing to express the appreciation we feel for your acceptance of an invitation extended to you by Mr. Norman Thomas, to become a member of the Council of the Victor L. Berger National Foundation. Mrs. Berger, to whom Mr. Thomas communicated your acceptance, informs me that it is made subject to the condition that you will not be called upon to raise funds. There will be no difficulty in meeting that condition. We feel that your participation in and of itself, and irrespective of fund raising, will mean a good deal in insuring the success of our efforts.

On Sunday evening, March 1, a dinner will be held at the National Press Club on the occasion of Mr. Berger's anniversary, to launch the Foundation. If you can find time to send me a brief message which can be read at the dinner, it will be very helpful.

Thanking you again, and assuring you that we shall do our utmost to accomplish the laudable aims of the Foundation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Marx Lewis

ML/mr

CLARENCE DARROW

907 FIFTEENTH STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 28, 1931.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the preliminaries in connection with the Victor L. Berger National Foundation have been completed. A distinguished group of men and women, drawn from the liberal, peace and labor movements, have united in support of this effort. Their response has been a source of encouragement to me and to those having this work in charge.

A detailed report of what has already been done is being prepared, and will reach you within the next week or ten days.

We are about to enter the second stage of our undertaking, and if it proves to be as successful as the first we shall have good cause to be proud of the results. We intend to broadcast during the next few weeks an appeal for support which will reach into the homes of many thousands of our friends.

The literature, postage and labor required for this appeal, if it is to be as widespread as we want it to be, will cost, it is estimated, \$2,000. It will constitute the groundwork of our structure.

What has been done so far, and it has required considerable funds, has been financed by contributions, mainly small ones, that have come in practically without solicitation. It would not be safe to rely on that for the major effort that we must now undertake.

There are two ways in which you can help us get this start:

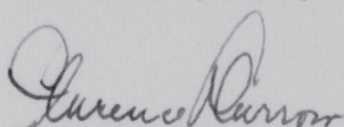
1. By making a contribution yourself. No matter how small - if everyone to whom I am now writing will help some - we will raise the \$2,000 we need.

2. By suggesting the names of others to whom we might write.

I hope you can help along both lines. I know that we are working in the midst of a depression, and many may not be able to give as much as they should like to. I feel that I can leave that to the judgment of our friends, and that they will do the best they can to help us make a good start towards creating an agency for peace and progress, such as the Foundation proposes.

Thanking you for your cooperation, and that, if you can help, you will do so promptly, so our drive can get under way, I am

Very sincerely yours,


President.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
E. 105th Street and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

CD/m

THE VICTOR L. BERGER NATIONAL FOUNDATION

CLARENCE DARROW, PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SUITE 303 INSURANCE BUILDING

MARX LEWIS, DIRECTOR

907 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

TELEPHONE DISTRICT 5174



September 25, 1931.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I enclose a note which Norman Thomas has kindly suggested that I send you along with my own letter explaining more fully what our idea is.

In order to be able to raise a substantial part of the \$100,000. required by the Foundation to make possible a worth-while national edition of the Milwaukee Leader, it will be necessary to conduct a number of affairs throughout the country. For the most part, they will be dinners at which appeals will be made for funds. However, due to the depression and to the numerous appeals that will have to be made for various relief purposes during the coming winter, it is felt that if in some instances, a debate or other profit-making affair can be substituted, it would be less of a drain on those who are called upon to give.

Mr. Darrow, who is president of the Foundation, has consented to donate his services for a debate. We feel that the most promising opportunity for a substantial return would be in Cleveland, if it were possible to get you to take part. We feel confident that, with the proper arrangements and a subject of general interest, a sizeable amount would be netted by the Foundation. Moreover, there would be, we feel, a real educational benefit so that it would be a fair exchange to those who would attend. The date and the subject could be taken up and arranged to suit the convenience and wishes of both Mr. Darrow and yourself. Possibly some phase of religion could be discussed if you should so prefer.

Will you be kind enough to let me know your views on the subject?

Thanking you for what consideration you may be able to give our suggestion, and assuring you that we shall do our utmost to make your cooperation count in the achievement of our purposes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director



CABLE CODE "BERGERFUND"

An Organization for the Promotion of Liberal Thought and Public Welfare

THE VICTOR L. BERGER National Foundation, incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia, is organized to honor the memory of the late Victor L. Berger. Its founders believe that this can be done best by rendering effective aid to those minority causes to which he devoted himself for four decades—and in the manner he considered most helpful—by the building of a newspaper press which will mobilize public opinion in behalf of the ideals for which liberals, progressives and peace advocates contend.

The lack of an adequate newspaper press, truly representative of and owned by the groups espousing the causes above referred to, is quite as much responsible for the industrial chaos with which the world is now confronted as any other factor. With few exceptions the metropolitan newspapers of America are owned by and representative of those classes content with the continuance of the status quo. It is therefore, inconceivable that they should be expected to emphasize to their readers activities important to liberal and progressive groups and to those striving to bring about a warless world.

The general objects of the Victor L. Berger National Foundation are thus stated in the articles of incorporation:

To assist in the establishment and extension of a newspaper press, the purpose of which shall be to promote an understanding of the economic activities of the world, and how they may be so organized and directed as to yield to the people generally the largest satisfactions; to encourage extension of the organized labor movement, and a more widespread consideration of the problems of political and industrial democracy; to more fully educate the people about the waste and destructiveness of war, and, by cultivating friendly feeling between the inhabitants of various countries, further the adoption of concrete proposals for world peace and brotherhood.

The methods by which the foundation proposes the achievement of these objects are as follows:

1. Strengthen and develop, financially and otherwise, The Milwaukee Leader, founded by Victor L. Berger, so that it may serve more effectively the objectives of the corporation.

"It is of paramount importance that we establish our own press as quickly as possible. There is every evidence of the emergence of working class forces in this country. We need newspapers which will be more representative of the rank and file of our population than is now the case. I am very glad to become identified with the Victor L. Berger National Foundation, because it presents a really practical plan for building up our own press. I think the splendid work started by the late Victor L. Berger, of whose fearless independence I was an admirer, should be pushed with all possible energy."

—Statement of Clarence Darrow on accepting the presidency of the Victor L. Berger National Foundation.

"Your effort to mobilize the liberal and progressive forces in this country in supporting our liberal press is to be commended. The concentration of capital, accomplished by mergers, consolidations, etc., has had its most dangerous effects in the fields of dissemination of information, such as the press and the radio. Accordingly, the Victor L. Berger National Foundation, which is formed to aid the existence, and, if possible, the expansion of the liberal and labor press of America, should obtain support from every sector of liberal thought. You have my best wishes for the complete success of your efforts."

—Message from Gov. Philip F. La Follette of Wisconsin on the occasion of the dinner inaugurating the Foundation held at the National Press Club, Washington, D. C., March 1, 1931.

2. Make The Milwaukee Leader the nucleus around which shall be built and maintained an English newspaper press dedicated to those objectives.

3. Provide effective, organized opposition to any attempts, legislative or otherwise, federal or state, to impose restrictions on the freedom of the press.

4. Adopt any program to attain the foundation's objectives, which shall seem expedient to the trustees.

In the statement of the causes to be aided, the founders have singled out from the many to which Victor L. Berger so unselfishly gave himself during a long, varied and active public career, those movements with which his name will be linked for generations to come.

First among these causes was the establishment of a more equitable social system. Child welfare legislation, recognition of the rights of women, shorter hours and better working conditions for all who labor, a larger voice by the worker in the determination of the conditions under which he is to labor, old age pensions, the abolition of all forms of intolerance—these found in him a staunch and consistent supporter.

Opposition to war ranked high among the movements that were near to his heart. It

was an opposition which continued not only in times of peace but also in times of war, when the dangers are greatest, and the prospect of sympathetic support the slightest. For his opposition to the World war he received a 20-year prison sentence—in the case of a man of his age, a life sentence. He faced it fearlessly and courageously, preferring to spend the remainder of his life behind prison bars than to withdraw a single word of his criticism of America's entry into the World war.

Third among the chief movements in which he served was the cause of civil liberty and the freedom of the press. During the World war, when the forces of reaction had barred his paper, The Milwaukee Leader, from the mails; when he, himself, facing a prison sentence, was denied the seat in the lower house of Congress to which his fellow citizens had repeatedly elected him; while mobs in various parts of the nation were demanding that he be driven from the city he had helped make politically decent and clean—in this trying period Victor Berger fought practically alone for the preservation of those liberties which, in a moment of hysteria, had almost been forgotten.

It is to aid such causes, and to defend them when they are in jeopardy, that the

Victor L. Berger National Foundation has been organized. Its founders include outstanding men and women of varying shades of opinion, all united in acclaiming the historic mission which Mr. Berger performed.

It is realized that the program here outlined will require active and continued support over a long period of years. It is not a program for the moment, but one looking forward into the decades that economists are agreed will mark vast changes in world economy. As such it constitutes a movement for the betterment of conditions of life with which thinking men and women everywhere will want to be identified.

Enlargement of The Milwaukee Leader has already begun. The initial step was taken in the establishment of THE AMERICAN LEADER, which is designed for gradual development as a national daily newspaper, at a mailing rate sufficiently low to insure its placement in homes all over the United States. Twenty years of experience, a capital investment in The Milwaukee Leader which now exceeds a half million dollars, a plant and facilities admirably adapted to the publication of a nation-wide daily—these are among the assets of THE AMERICAN LEADER in the national field. As its circulation increases and its influence expands, local editions may be issued for strategic industrial centers. Thus the benefits of a local press would be available, even though the cost of establishing local plants for such newspapers might be prohibitive. Without such a press it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the various groups interested in the Foundation to make any real progress through the stirring world events which are just ahead.

It is estimated that an initial fund of \$100,000 will be required to lay the basis for the projected national press, with that degree of safety which the Foundation proposes to insure for all its undertakings.

The raising of this fund of \$100,000 constitutes the immediate objective of the Foundation. Subscriptions in any amount will be received and gratefully acknowledged. Subscribers will be enrolled as members of the National Council.

Checks may be made payable to Stuart Chase, Treasurer, Victor L. Berger National Foundation, Suite 303, Insurance Building, 907 Fifteenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Victor L. Berger National Foundation

Is Sponsored and Supported by Liberal Minded Men
and Women of National Repute.

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PHIL E. ZIEGLER

Carson

WLF

Sept. 28th, 1931

Mr. Marx Lewis,
Director Victor L. Berger
National Foundation,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Lewis:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter
of Sept. 25th, as well as for the enclosed letter of Norman
Thomas.

While I am interested in the project of the
Victor L. Berger National Foundation I can not undertake
any activity in its behalf at this time. Certainly no
debates as I have consistently refused to enter into any
debating arrangements with any one.

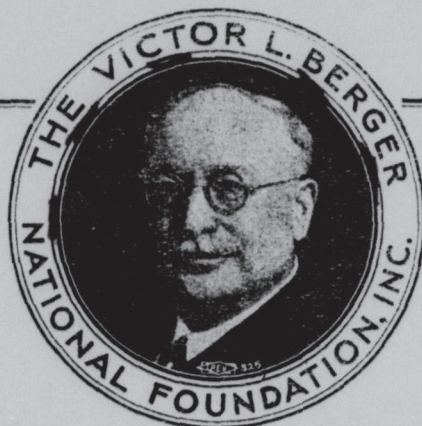
With best wishes, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

CLARENCE DARROW, PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SUITE 303 INSURANCE BLDG.
907-15TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONE DISTRICT 5174



CABLE CODE "BERGERFUND"

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October 1, 1931.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

JANE ADDAMS
JOHN DEWEY
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ELIZABETH GILMAN
JAMES MAURER
UPTON SINCLAIR

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of September 28, and regret, of course, that you are unable to take part in the proposed debate.

If you can make any suggestion as to how we could make use of Mr. Darrow's offer to donate his services for a debate in Cleveland so as to yield some revenue to the Foundation, I would deeply appreciate it. You may be in a better position to know this than I.

Thanking you for your kind wishes, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director

ML*mb

Oct. 12th, 1931

Mr. Marx Lewis,
303 Insurance Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Lewis:-

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of October 1st.

Perhaps Peter Witt of our city would be
induced to debate with Mr. Darrow. In that case you
would have a very attractive program.

With kindest regards permit me to remain

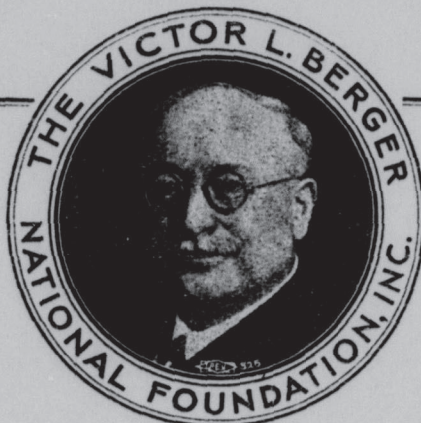
Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

CLARENCE DARROW, PRESIDENT

MARX LEWIS, DIRECTOR

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SUITE 303 INSURANCE BLDG.
907-15TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONE DISTRICT 5174



CABLE CODE "BERGERFUND"

20

October 14, 1931.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

JANE ADDAMS
JOHN DEWEY
GLENN FRANK
ELIZABETH GILMAN
JAMES MAURER
UPTON SINCLAIR

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am grateful to you for your letter of October 12,
suggesting that a debate between Mr. Darrow and Mr. Witt
would be likely to prove attractive in Cleveland. I
shall communicate with Mr. Witt immediately.

With kind personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director

ML*mb