



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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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658

Harding-Brandeis incident, principally about Warren G. Harding's lack of support for Louis D. Brandeis to Supreme Court and Harding's views concerning Palestine, other materials re: Stephen S. Wise, 1920.

FREE SYNAGOGUE  
NEW YORK

STEPHEN S. WISE  
RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Oct. 6, 1920

Rabbi A.H. Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Silver:

Have you definitely arranged for Oct. 31st for us?  
We count upon you and I wait your word that you are coming.  
What will your theme be?

I am working at my calendar with a view to giving  
you a Friday night or a Sunday. I would prefer a Friday evening  
later in the year, and think I can safely promise some Friday  
in December. Will that do until I know definitely after a week  
or ten days just what Friday it is to be?

May I not have your early word in confirmation of  
the 31st.

Faithfully yours,

9 In Mark - 1 cc - Oct 31

Gene - Oct 1/20 - Chi 9 7:45  
P. M. 10 - 1. M. 1. 5/10

FREE SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK

STEPHEN S. WISE

RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Oct. 6, 1920

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Silver:

I have your letter in which you tell me that I can take the train out of your city at 12:33 and get to Chicago at 7:30. Are you sure about that, for I do not find any such train on my schedule. Again, can I get out at 12:33 without too much of a rush. Does your service begin early enough to permit that.

Please borrow one of Wolsey's long coats for me for I shall be stumping for Cox and shall have no long coat with me.

Of course you will make a reservation on the 12:33, provided there be such a train. I shall be in Chicago the night before, winding up with Cox and leaving there at 11 o'clock and getting to your city at seven or eight in the morning. Please reserve a room for me at the Statler, which hotel I like.

Delighted to think that it is settled that you are coming to us. What is your theme to be? We want to give public notice thereto at once. It is awfully good of you to say that you are ready to address the Newark congregation and Dr. Goldstein will write you about it.

Faithfully yours,

*Wise*

ABRAM I. ELKUS,  
PRESIDENT  
CHARLES E. BLOCH,  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
SAMUEL SAMUEL,  
TREASURER  
WALTER S. HILBORN  
HON. SECRETARY

# Free Synagogue

A RELIGIOUS CENTER FOR  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

STEPHEN S. WISE - RABBI  
SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN - ASSOCIATE

Social Service Department  
36 WEST 68TH ST.

BENJAMIN SCHLOSS  
CHAIRMAN

SAMUEL SAMUEL  
TREASURER

SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FREDERICK L. GUGGENHEIMER  
ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Oct. 8, 1920

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Dr. Wise has just told me of your willingness to speak for our Newark group Sunday evening, October 31st. I wished we could arrange it, but this congregation, which has just begun, is not sufficiently organized to undertake such a meeting as we would want to have for you. Will you not agree to postpone your coming to Newark until your next trip East, when we shall be only too happy to gather the Newark people together to listen to your message.

With kindest greetings for the New Year, believe me

Cordially yours

*Frederick L. Guggenheimer*

October 11th, 1920

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,  
23 West 90th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Wise,

I am delighted to learn that you will be with us October 31st. I am absolutely sure that there is a train leaving Cleveland at 12:33, which will get you to Chicago at 7:45. We shall see to it that you make your train here in Cleveland on time. I shall make reservation for you at the Statler.

You ask me to borrow one of Wolsey's long coats for you. Do you mean it? Are you ashamed to be seen in your own clothes while stamping for Cox?

I shall, D.V., be in New York on October 31st. I am enclosing a list of lectures, from which please select one and let me know which you choose.

I have just heard from Dr. Goldstein, stating that Newark is not sufficiently organized as yet. I shall, of course, be very happy to come to them at some future time.

With kindest regards and wishing you well,  
I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

P.S. Send to The Temple the subject of your address, as soon as possible, for publicity.

FREE SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK

STEPHEN S. WISE

RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Oct. 12, 1920

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Silver:

Since last I wrote to you, things have changed and I am afraid I cannot promise Oct. 31st. I find I cannot get to Chicago until 10 o'clock at night from Kansas where I speak on Thursday and Friday. If my train be two hours late, I could not get to you at all. Then I should have to rush back immediately to Chicago after speaking for you and it makes a very hard week of it seeing that I shall have seven nights in sleepers. In the circumstances, I beg you to come to us on Oct. 31st and telegraph at my expense that you will, but to excuse me until a little later when I promise to give you a Friday evening or a Sunday. This is a definite promise on my part, the date to be fixed before Nov. 1st. Do come if you can and let me know at once that we may still expect you. Please give me your subject as well.

Sincerely yours,

*Wise*

*How was Washington!*

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

186H EW 13

FY NEW YORK NY 1240P OCT 15 1920

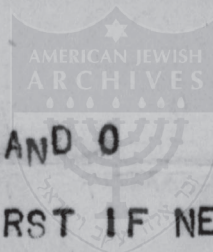
RABBI ABBA H SILVER

186 TEMPLE CLEVELAND 0

GOLDSTEIN READY TO SPEAK THIRTY FIRST IF NEEDED SO THAT YOU CAN  
COME

STEPHEN S WISE

135P



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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Night Message	Nite
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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

375 H CY 47

SD NEW YORK NY 4 14PM OCT 13 1920

RABBI A H SILVER

375:

TEMPLE E 55 ST CLEVELAND O

SEE H ASSURE HIM YOU KNOW GENERAL FEELING HIS B ACTION ONLY ANTI

LIBERAL NOT THE OTHER GET LETTER EXPRESSING FRIENDLY INTEREST

IN OUR ENDEAVORS IN P AND SOLICITUDE FATE OUR PEOPLE EAST EUROPE

WILL CARRY OUR PROGRAME IN RELATION TO THIS AS STATED TO YOU YESTERDAY

JULIAN M MACK

653PM

Please tell your secretary that my address is not  
23 East 92nd St. but  
23 West 90th St.



FREE SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK

STEPHEN S. WISE

RESIDENCE, 23 WEST 90TH STREET

Oct. 15, 1920

Rabbi A.H.Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Silver:

Judge Mack took up with me today the matter of the appeal of the Indiana National Democratic Committee to voters with respect to Harding's opposition to Brandeis' confirmation, and he felt as do I that it would be better to have the protest made by one who is a Democrat and a supporter of Cox and Roosevelt rather than by a supporter of Harding. Of course the statement may be supplemented by you if you deem it wise so to do.

Faithfully yours,

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

A9

325H EW 48

HG MARION O 323P OCT 15 1920

RABBI H SILVER

CLEVELAND O

YOUR TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN ABSENCE OF SENATOR HARDING ON SPEAKING  
STOP  
TOUR /IT IS PROBABLE HE WILL BE IN MARION ON TWENTY SECOND STOP  
IF SO HE WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU BUT IN ORDER TO BE CERTAIN  
WILL YOU PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH SENATOR ABOUT THE TWENTIETH  
HOWARD D MANNINGTON

510P

October 16th, 1920

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,  
23 West 90th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Wise,

I was indeed very much disappointed on reading your letter of the 12th. I had made all plans for your coming here on the 22th.

I regret exceedingly, my dear Dr. Wise, that under the circumstances I shall not be able to accommodate you on October 31st. There is only one reason which would justify me in leaving my pulpit on a Sunday morning so early in the season, and that is your coming here. I have been away from Cleveland so much of the time, and shall of course be compelled to do so in the future, that I should be very unhappy if I were compelled to have some one else substitute for me on this Sunday morning. My people do not like it. If you can still arrange to come here, I shall be glad to reciprocate.

Our meeting with Braddeis was very satisfactory. I am now drafting a memorandum of the Conference which I shall send to Judge Mack within a few days.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Copy of "paid" telegram to  
Warren G. Harding, Marion, Ohio.

October 16th - 10:30 a.m.

I am very anxious to put before you certain matters  
which I believe to be of service and interest to you. May  
I be assured of an interview with you. Would the twenty-first  
or twenty-second be convenient dates for you? I will come to  
Marion. Please wire collect.

(Signed) Rabbi A. H. Silver

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
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# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
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RECEIVED AT

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1920 OCT 19 PM 7 30

FY CLEVELAND O 812P 19

RABBI A H SILVER

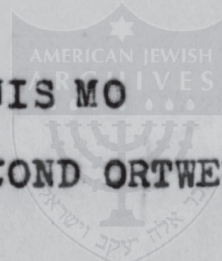
2292

CARE M J SLONIM 322 VICTORIA BLDG STLOUIS MO

MARION TELEGRAPHS WILL SEE YOU TWENTY SECOND OR TWENTY THIRD ASKS

WHAT YOU ADVISE

FRANCES J JONES.



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

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GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
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Night Message	Nite
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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

432H RF 35 1 EXTRA

MARION OHIO 850 PM OCT 18 1920

RABBI A H SILVER

CLEVELAND O



REPLYING YOUR TELEGRAM TODAY SENATOR HARDING WILL NOT BE IN

MARION ON THURSDAY OCTOBER TWENTY FIRST STOP SORRY STOP SENATOR

WILL HERE FROM FRIDAY OCTOBER 22 UNTIL FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER TWENTY SEVENTH

GEO B CHRISTIAN JR SECY

1046 PM

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

311 H GY 12

FY STLOUIS MO 404PM OCT 19 1920

FRANCIS H TOVES

THE TEMPLE 55 AND CENTRAL AVE CLEVELAND O

HAVE YOU HEARD FROM MARION WILL RETURN THURSDAY MORNING NOTIFY

WEDDING PARTY

A H SILVER

535PM

*Marion L / 21 22123 / 20 C1. Ec  
A.H.S.*

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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# TELEGRAM

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GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
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Night Message	Nite
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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

142H EW 25 1 EXTRA

RG MARION O 1055A OCT 19 1920

RABBI A SILVER

142 CLEVELAND O

FURTHER REFERENCE TO YOUR TELEGRAMS YESTERDAY SENATOR HARDINGS WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU ON THE TWENTY SECOND OR TWENTY THIRD STOP PLEASE ADVISE

GEO B CHRISTIAN JR

SECY

1232P

W

JULIAN W. MACK  
U.S. CIRCUIT JUDGE  
NEW YORK CITY

WOOLWORTH BUILDING  
October 20, 1920.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Bernard Flexner is intimately acquainted with the Republican leaders. He has an appointment with them in Chicago on Monday and is going to take up these Jewish matters. It is important that he have the full story of your interview with Harding. Will you therefore kindly write to me at once all about it and send to him to the Congress Hotel, a copy of your letter to me.

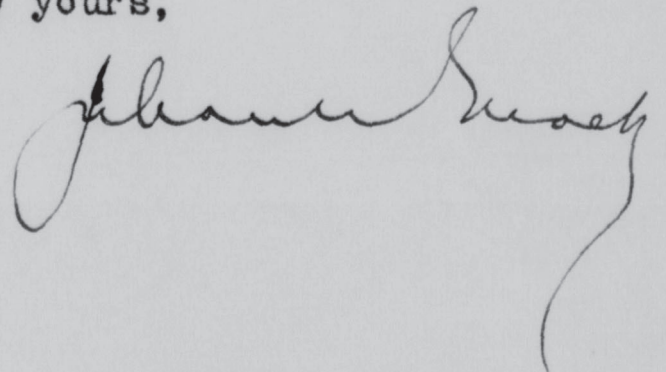
I had expected the typewritten report of our talk with LDB last Tuesday, in time to present at last Sunday's meeting; but I have not yet received it.

Don't forget to send LDB a copy of it at the same time.

I greatly hope that you are going to be here for the meeting of October 31st. even though Dr. Wise tells me that he cannot occupy your pulpit on that day.

Cordially yours,

Dr. A. H. Silver,  
The Temple,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julian W. Mack", with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

134H EW 11

FY ST LOUIS MO 1045A OCT 20 1920

FRANCIS H JONES

134

GARE THE TEMPLE CLEVELAND O

WILL GO TO MARION ON THE TWENTY THIRD PLEASE WIRE H

A H SILVER

1206P

*✓ - - Marion ! Saturday  
Oct twenty-third to See Sen Harding  
(Signed) Rabbi A. H. Silver*

## United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Marion, Ohio,  
Oct. 23, 1920.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I have, as you of course know, the most sympathetic interest in the matters which you bring to my attention. No one, more than I, will vigorously condemn outrage, unfairness and mob violence wherever they may occur.

The treatment of the Jewish people in some parts of the world has been atrocious, and every true American will not hesitate to heap condemnation upon the spirit of persecution which has brought such conditions about. I wish to point out furthermore that persecution and mob violence, wherever and whenever they may occur, not only do brutal injury to the victims, but brutalizes those who inflict it.

It is impossible for me to believe that the present League of Nations can be regarded as a bulwark against such atrocities because, during the period when its American advocates have claimed that it was fully functioning, some of the worst atrocities have occurred without any apparent control on the part of the League. It is my feeling that this fact may be accounted for because the League idea, as insisted upon by the President in all its detail, really amounts to an armed alliance with emphasis upon force. I am for a league or association with the emphasis placed upon justice so that the world may become more interested in civilization and humanity than in mere guarantees of military protection given to territorial possession, often acquired by conquest.

I know that it is the hope of many of the Jews in the world that there shall be established in Palestine a Jewish home-land and the progress of this aspiration has had my sympathetic interest, though I believe that the great ultimate good which the world may receive from Jewish contribution to civilization will come principally through such primary devotion, and service of citizenship, as they have given to America.

Sincerely yours,

*Warren G. Harding*



COPY

Marion, Ohio,  
October 23, 1920.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

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Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Warren G. Harding

October twenty-fifth  
1920

Judge Julian W. Mack,  
55 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Judge Mack,

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter from Senator Harding, the original of which is in my possession.

I was with the Senator last Saturday. I find him most favorably inclined to assist in improving the condition of our people in Eastern Europe. On the subject of Zionism he is sympathetic, though not enthusiastic. He is not uninformed on the subject. On the contrary, I feel that he has been in touch with it, but through channels not entirely sympathetic. I feel, however, that a greater acquaintance with it, might win him over to the cause.

It is, of course, unfortunate that he has incorporated in his letter reference to the League of Nations, but you will readily understand the reasons for it. If you use the letter, you will of course use it in full.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

October 26th, 1920

.....

While I am not actively participating in this campaign, I feel compelled, however, to issue a statement relative to the attempt now being made in certain quarters to discredit Senator Harding, by attributing to him Anti-semitic motives in his refusal to endorse Mr. Brandeis for the Judgeship of the Supreme Court.

Whatever the reasons may have been which prompted the Senator in his action, they were certainly not Anti-semitic. I have known Senator Harding for many years. I am fully acquainted with his intimate views concerning the Jew and Judaism. He is not only broad and tolerant, but he has at all times publicly and privately expressed an enlightened appreciation and a keen admiration for the achievements of our people; for their great contributions to ~~the~~ civilization and for their unswerving loyalty to America.

It is regrettable that such unjustified charges be made at a time when religious and racial differences should be subordinated to the great service of citizenship, and by men who are not at all concerned with championing the cause of our people.

October twenty-sixth  
1920

Senator Warren G. Harding,

Marion, Ohio.

My dear Senator:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter of the twenty-third instant, and to thank you. I feel confident that the sentiments expressed with such conviction will prove of inestimable service to those of our people in whose behalf they were intended.

I am enclosing herewith a statement of mine on the League of Nations, which I think may be of interest to you.

*am enclosing also a state-*  
~~I shall also send you a state-~~  
ment which I have made to the press in re Brandeis, which I promised to send you.

With kindest regards and wishing you well, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

2 Enclosures

# PRESIDENT HARDING DECLARES INTEREST IN ZIONISTS' CAUSE

---

WASHINGTON.—At a luncheon arranged by the Zionist Organization of this city the following letter communicated to its secretary, Alexander Wolf, by President Harding, was read:

"I have already communicated to you my regrets that it is impossible for me to be present at the luncheon in honor of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, head of the Zionist Commission in to the United States, but I want to add an expression of my most friendly interest in and for the Zionist movement. It is impossible for one who has studied at all the services of the Hebrew people to avoid the faith that they will one day be restored to their historic national home and there enter on a new and yet greater phase of their contribution to the advance of humanity.

"Please assure those who will be gathered at the luncheon today of my continued concern for the cause in which you are so zealously laboring.

"Most sincerely yours,"

"Warren Gemaliel Harding."

Letters were also read from Vice President Coolidge and the British Ambassador Auckland Geddes.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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# WESTERN UNION



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GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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RECEIVED AT 5516 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO  
63H RF 7

SD NEWYORK NY 948 AM OCT 27 1920

RABBI A H SILVER

63 THE TEMPLE E 55 ST CLEVELAND O

WILL NOT PUBLISH EITHER CANDIDATES LETTER THANKS

JULIAN W MACK

1027 AM

# United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Marion, Ohio  
October 28, 1920

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 28, 1920, to Senator Harding with its enclosure of your address on the League of Nations and your statement relative to the confirmation of Justice Brandeis.

I shall be glad to bring them to the attention of the Senator immediately upon his return to Marion from the campaigning tour upon which he is now engaged.

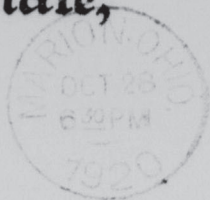
I am sure that he will be gratefully appreciative of your courtesies in these matters. I may add that I have already made effective use of your statement in the Justice Brandeis matter.

Very truly yours,

*Bo Christian*  
Secretary

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.



Rabbi A. H. Silver  
Cleveland, Ohio



Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Rabbi of the Free Synagogue, one of the long-time leaders of the Zionist Organization of America, who is supporting Cox and Roosevelt, made the following statement today:

My attention has been called to a statement issued by the Indiana Democratic State Committee under the heading: "Senator Harding Voted No. on the Confirmation by the United States Senate of Justice Brandeis, a Distinguished Jew and a Leader of his Race in this Country."

The evident purpose of the Indiana Democratic State Committee is to move American Jews to believe that Senator Harding's opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Brandeis as a Justice of the United States Supreme Court was due to the fact that the latter is a Jew.

Dr. Wise said: "Though I am supporting Cox and Roosevelt, I wish to record the strongest possible objection to the act of the Indiana Democratic State Committee ~~xx~~ in making this kind of appeal to the Jewish citizens of America. There is no Jewish vote and there will not be a Jewish vote. Jews, like members of all other religious and racial groups, vote as Americans, passing upon the issues that come before the American people solely with regard to the question whether they serve the highest aims and ideals of Americanism.

It is only fair to Senator Harding to say that he voted against Justice Brandeis because he did not and does not approve of the things that Justice Brandeis has represented in American life. I believe that Senator Harding would have voted against Mr. Brandeis, if the latter had been a Protestant, Catholic or unbeliever. President Wilson did not appoint Mr. Brandeis to the Supreme Court because he is a Jew any more than Senator Harding opposed his confirmation.

because he is a Jew. President Wilson named Brandeis to the United States Supreme Court because, like millions of his fellow-Americans, he considered Brandeis one of the greatest of American jurists, a man who had proved himself not only a great lawyer but a wise, far-seeing statesman.

Senator Harding voted against Justice Brandeis' confirmation, as did Senator Lodge of Massachusetts and practically all the men who now surround Senator Harding, because Justice Brandeis had become perhaps the greatest leader of sound, constructive liberalism in America. It is safe to say that, if elected President, Harding will not appoint any man to the Supreme Court of the Justice Brandeis or the Justice Holmes type. Whether American citizens wish to leave liberalism unrepresented in the United States Supreme Court, as it will be as far as appointments by Harding as President would leave it, is a matter for them to decide at the election.

As a Jew and a Jewish teacher, I wish once more to register my most earnest protest against attempting to drag any Jewish question into American politics. American Jews are Americans. As Americans, they think and vote and act. I am certain that the Democratic National Committee will share my disapproval of the attitude of the Indiana Democratic State Committee in issuing this appeal. It must never be done again. It is a ~~very~~ reflection upon the intelligence and the patriotism of a large group of American citizens.