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

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Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies, 1941-1942.

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#### **Western Reserve Historical Society**

10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
(216) 721-5722  
[wrhs.org](http://wrhs.org)

#### **American Jewish Archives**

3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220  
(513) 487-3000  
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C  
P  
Y  
August 22, 1941.

Mr. Alfred Duff-Cooper  
Ambassador Hotel  
Park Avenue at 51st Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Duff-Cooper:

I had hoped to have the privilege of a few moment's chat with you so that I might apprise you of some of the work which has been done by the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies, in cooperation with the British War Relief Society.

In view, however, of the extreme pressure upon your time which prevents a personal interview, may I take this second-best means of communication.

It has been my privilege to chairman the activity of the Jewish Section since its establishment. The idea was initiated by Dr. Stephen S. Wise and the initial effort was undertaken under his direction by the American Jewish Congress.

We have broadened out our constituency, however, so that at the present time we have the endorsement and cooperation of more than twenty national Jewish bodies including every important religious, social and fraternal organization.

Outstanding in the leadership of this effort throughout the country have been the Zionists. The heads of all the Zionist groups and bodies have given their whole-hearted cooperation and have identified before their constituencies the cause of Britain with the cause of their own highest and most vital interest as Americans and as Jews.

Our practical program was concentrated at first upon the appeal for funds to provide mobile kitchens. When we were advised by Mr. Cruger of London that the need for mobile kitchens was tapering off and the need for children's homes was more urgent, we concentrated our appeals upon the latter.

We have thus far presented three such children's homes, representing contributions of at least \$25,000 each. The first of these was presented in honor of General Sir Archibald Wavell, the second in honor of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, on the occasion of his recent visit here, and the third in honor of Dr. Stephen S. Wise. In a few weeks we shall present another children's home in honor of the President's mother, Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt. We have funds available for additional presentations in the near future.



Mr. Duff-Cooper

-2-

August 22, 1941.

Needless to say, these instances have served and will continue to serve as occasions for making explicit before public opinion the ideals and values of the present world struggle which are implicit in our work.

It will, I am sure, please you to learn that Mr. Frederick W. Gehle, Chairman of Fund-Raising for the British War Relief Society, estimates that one-third of all the funds which have been raised by the British War Relief Society have come from Jewish sources.

The enclosed excerpt from a letter sent us some time ago by Lord Halifax afforded us considerable satisfaction.

I have troubled you with this lengthy communication believing that not only you will be interested, but that your colleagues in London may likewise be interested to know about this phase of the activities of American Jews in behalf of Britain.

Respectfully yours,

IG:CR  
Enc.

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN  
Chairman



THE BRITISH WAR RELIEF SOCIETY

Incorporated

730 Fifth Avenue

Telephone: CIRCLE 7-2300

New York, N. Y.

Winthrop W. Aldrich, President

Robert R. Appleby, Vice-President

---

September 17, 1941

Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman,  
Jewish Section, Interfaith Committee  
for Aid to the Democracies,  
57 William Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

"On the occasion of the approach of the Jewish New Year, may I extend to you and through you to the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies, the best wishes of the British War Relief Society together with my own cordial greetings.

"I am glad to have an opportunity to express again my profound appreciation of the accomplishments of your organization in the British war relief effort. The mobile feeding canteens and the children's nursing homes which have been provided by the substantial funds raised by your organization are more than physical boons to the men, women and children of Britain. They are tokens of your fellowship with them in the ideals of democracy and they have had an undeniably important part in sustaining the morale of the British people.

"The close daily contact between your organization and ours has developed an understanding and comradeship which I am sure will redound to the full and complete success of our common labors, and we all look forward to the continuing expansion of the splendid results which the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies has already achieved.

"It is my prayer, as I know it is yours, that the New Year in the Jewish calendar may witness increasingly the pushing back of the barbaric hordes which have been imperilling all races and creeds and whose special fury has been so cruelly vented upon the Jewish people. May the cause of human liberty in which our beloved America is joined with Britain advance speedily towards final victory."

Cordially yours,

(signed)

Frederick W. Gehle,  
Chairman,  
Fund Raising Division

FWG:HS

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The following is an excerpt from a letter recently received from Lord Halifax, British Embassy, Washington:

"I am indeed very impressed in your letter of the 21st of April and am deeply impressed by the success of the war relief work on behalf of Great Britain to which the members of the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies are devoting so much time and energy. It is a fine idea to concentrate on Children's homes and you have my warm good wishes for success in your campaign for funds....

"....Believe me when I say how greatly I appreciate what you are doing for our people...."(signed - Halifax)



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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

C O P Y

London, Oct. 20, 1941

Rev. M. L. Perlzweig  
330 West 42nd St.,  
New York City

I HAVE HEARD WITH GREAT INTEREST OF THE PROPOSAL OF THE JEWISH SECTION OF THE INTERFAITH COMMITTEE TO PRESENT AS A MEMORIAL TO MRS. ROOSEVELT A GIFT OF A CHILDREN'S NURSING HOME IN BRITAIN FOR AIR RAID VICTIMS. THE ASSOCIATION OF SUCH A HOME WITH THE MEMORY OF THE PRESIDENT'S MOTHER WOULD BE YET ANOTHER LINK WITH THE BONDS WHICH ARE UNITING THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE IN THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY. NO OBJECT COULD BE NEARER THE HEARTS OF OUR PEOPLES THAN THE CARE OF LITTLE CHILDREN WHO MAY BE THE VICTIMS OF THE MENACE FROM THE AIR. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE JEWISH SECTION OF THE INTERFAITH COMMITTEE. THIS IS ONE MORE INSTANCE OF THE EXCELLENT WORK WHICH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY ARE CARRYING OUT FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

(signed) Ernest Brown  
Minister of Health



# Jewish Section Interfaith Committee For Aid To The Democracies

IN COOPERATION WITH THE BRITISH WAR RELIEF SOCIETY

57 WILLIAM STREET

Telephone: BOwling Green 9-2547

NEW YORK CITY

## *Officers of the British War Relief Society*

WINTHROP W. ALDRICH, *President*  
FREDERICK W. GEHLE, *Chairman,*  
*Fund Raising Division*

## *Officers*

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN, *Chairman*  
IRVING MANACHER, *Treasurer*  
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DR. MAURICE L. PERLZWEIG, *Consultant*

## *Officers of the Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies*

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DR. HENRY A. ATKINSON, *General Secretary*

## *Vice-Chairmen*

ALFRED M. COHEN	HERMAN HOFFMAN	JUDGE NATHAN D. PERLMAN
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LOUIS FABRICANT	DR. SAMUEL MARGOSHES	CARL SHERMAN
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER	DR. STEPHEN S. WISE	

October 21, 1941

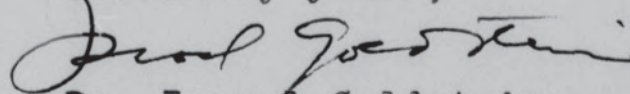
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The first meeting of our Executive Committee for the new season of activity now beginning will be held Monday afternoon, October 27th, at 5 o'clock in my study, 270 West 89th Street, New York City.

I will look forward to your attendance. A number of important matters will be taken up in connection with the plans for the year which lies before us.

Cordially yours,



Dr. Israel Goldstein  
CHAIRMAN

IG/gns



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Benjamin Winter  
Mrs. Stephen S. Wise  
Rabbi Samuel Wohl  
Max Zaritsky

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

American Jewish Congress  
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Federation of Jewish  
    Women's Organizations  
Federation of Polish Jews in America  
Free Sons of Israel  
Hadassah  
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Independent Order B'rith Shalom  
Jewish National Workers' Alliance  
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Mizrachi Women's Organization  
National Council of Young Israel  
Order Sons of Zion  
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Progressive Order of the West  
Rabbinical Assembly of America

Rabbinical Assembly of  
    Hebrew Theological College  
Rabbinical Council of America  
Synagogue Council of America  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations  
United Roumanian Jews of America  
United Synagogue of America  
Zionist Organization of America

*"Let the Jewish Part in British War Relief be as Great as is the Jewish Hope for British Victory."*



MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
JEWISH SECTION, INTERFAITH COMMITTEE FOR AID TO THE DEMOCRACIES

Held Monday, October 27th, 1941  
at 270 West 89th Street, New York City  
at 5 P. M.

Present: Dr. Israel Goldstein, Chairman: Mrs. Louis I. Barst, Mrs. Frank Cohen, Mrs. Alice Hartley, Mrs. L. Oppenheimer, Mr. Louis E. Goldstein, Mr. Herman Hoffman, Mr. Irving Manacher, Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, Mr. Carl Sherman, Mr. James Waterman Wise, Mr. Maurice Wulkan.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and submitted the following report of our activities since the last meeting in July:

- 1 - On September 15th Mr. Bertrand de N. Cruger, British representative of the B.W.R.S. had a luncheon tendered in his honor and reported to us on the application of our funds in England. He stressed the importance of our activity in establishing children's nursing homes and reported that the Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth personally attended the dedication of the first home.
- 2 - Mr. Lavy Bakstansky, who returned to London on October 16th, has agreed to serve as our liaison with the British War Relief Society in London.
- 3 - The Independent Order Brith Abraham has granted us an allocation of \$12,500 for the year 1941-42. This is being paid in ten equal monthly installments.
- 4 - The Sara Delano Roosevelt project which was undertaken by our Women's Division. The initial goal of \$25,000 has already been exceeded. Due to the unfortunate death of Mrs. Roosevelt, the dedication of this home had to be deferred and instead Memorial Services were held at the Waldorf-Astoria on September 25th. The dedication of the Home and presentation of the S.D.R. Memorial Book, containing the name of all the donors, will be presented at a Luncheon some time early in January.
- 5 - On July 1st a dinner was tendered in honor of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, in whose name the Jewish Section dedicated a Children's Nursing Home. It was a distinguished event. An amount exceeding \$50,000 was received in connection with the dinner.
- 6 - The receipt of New Year greetings from Mr. Frederick W. Gehle, Chairman of the Fund Raising Division of the B.W.R.S. which expressed the appreciation of the B.W.R.S. for the splendid cooperation and achievements of the Jewish Section.

Dr. Perlzweig made a motion to invite Lady Reading to become our Chairman in England, to see that the activities of the Jewish Section were properly represented. This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Dr. Perlzweig then read a cablegram which he had just received from the Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown, British Minister of Health, copy of which is attached hereto, and made part of these minutes. He also read his cabled reply to Mr. Brown and his letter which followed.

Dr. Perlzweig proposed that we write to all the other members of the British government, since he felt we could expect an expression of gratitude from them, similar to the one we received from the Minister of Health.



Dr. Perlzweig reported that he was going to Chicago on or about November 10th and volunteered to make an attempt to organize a committee of the Jewish Section there. There was considerable discussion on the feasibility of such a committee working as a unit of the Jewish Section. Dr. Perlzweig had in mind the possibility of calling a conference of several influential members of the community, and get their reaction as to the best method of procedure. Dr. Goldstein believed that our experience in Chicago has proven that to be one of the most difficult cities in the country for organizing a Jewish Section. We had a volunteer worker in Chicago all summer trying to organize such a committee but he failed.

Dr. Goldstein suggested as an alternative, an appeal to the Welfare Funds of that city. With a review of our activities for the past six months, they may be impressed sufficiently to make a substantial allocation. It was decided that Dr. Perlzweig will consult the leading Jews in Chicago regarding these two alternatives.

Dr. Goldstein reported that we are writing to the Welfare Funds in cities throughout the country asking for allocations.

Mr. Hoffman reported on the resolution of the I.O.B.A. which voted the sum of \$12,500. The Women's Division of the I.O.B.A. has raised the sum of \$2300. Mr. Hoffman expressed the thought that perhaps the I.O.B.A. might raise the additional funds to have an I.O.B.A. nursing home.

Dr. Goldstein submitted a report of activities of the Jewish Section up to October 24th. This report is attached hereto, and made part of these minutes.

Dr. Goldstein reported that he had engaged a field representative, a Mr. Samuel Abramson, for a trial period of three months.

Dr. Goldstein welcomed Mrs. Barst as a new member of the Executive Board and expressed great appreciation for her help and cooperation with the Women's Division, under Mrs. Oppenheimer, throughout the summer. The Chairman further reported that the Women's Division had done a wonderful job, since the launching of its program with the Tea to Lady Marley, by not only reaching, but exceeding its goal of \$25,000.

Mrs. Oppenheimer reported that the Women's Division had collected the sum of \$28,250 to be applied towards the establishment of a Children's Nursing Home. She also reported that good pledges amounting to \$3400 would bring the total up to \$31,650. In discussing future plans of the Women's Division Mrs. Hartley read the following program of proposed activities:

1. A raffle by Mrs. Schwartz and Mrs. Leibel of the Atlantic Beach Hotel Committee, of a Silver Salver.
2. Mrs. Silverstone, who gave a Garden Party for us at her Scarsdale Home, is in California at the present time. She has offered to help dispose of a Platina fox which Mr. Wulkan received from Mr. I. J. Fox. Mrs. Silverstone suggested a drawing, culminating in an event such as a luncheon or a dinner at one of the important gathering places of the motion picture people.



3. Hadassah in Canada want to establish a ward in a Children's Nursing Home.
4. Grossinger's, who have already raised over \$2,000 for us at their hotel in the Catskills, are having a theatre party for our benefit of Eddie Cantor's "Banjo Eyes".

A general discussion ensued regarding the plans and prospects of the Jewish Section for the immediate future.

Mr. Hoffman suggested that a favorable statement from the Churchill government with reference to the Jewish situation would be helpful and that efforts be made to obtain such a statement.

Mr. Wise suggested a national Jewish roll call asking every Jew in the country to join the roll call and subscribe the sum of \$1.00 as an expression of his or her support of the Democratic cause. This roll call of American Jewry to begin some time early in 1942, and a receipt to be given for each \$1.00, in the form of a scroll. Mr. Wise promised to work out the details for this project at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30.





## REPORT OF ACTIVITY

JEWISH SECTION INTERFAITH COMMITTEE FOR AID TO THE DEMOCRACIES  
For the period of July 16 through October 24, 1941.

### A) RECEIPTS:

On July 15 we reported total receipts and credits aggregating \$326,555.13. Since then the B.W.R.S. has received from us and for our account the sum of

	40,891.88
making a total to date of	<u>\$367,447.01</u>

Included in the above are a few modest allocations from organizations and welfare funds and a contribution of \$12,500 from the Independent Order B'rith Abraham which is being paid in equal monthly installments.

### B) ACTIVITIES:

1) During the summer there was the customary lull of activity. We dispensed with the services of our fieldmen and our office staff was reduced to skeleton proportions.

2) The Sara Delano Roosevelt Project: This project was undertaken by our Women's Division under the co-chairmanship of Mrs. L. Oppenheimer and Mrs. M. Furman for the purpose of raising a fund of \$25,000 to be applied for the establishment of a children's nursing home in England. The home was to be named in honor of Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt and presented to her at a luncheon in celebration of her 87th birthday on September 25. Due to the unfortunate death of Mrs. Roosevelt the birthday celebration was converted into a memorial. A most impressive memorial service was held at the Waldorf-Astoria on the date originally set for the luncheon. Those who participated in the memorial were: Dorothy Thompson; Helen Jepson; Newbold Morris, President, City Council, City of New York; Frederick W. Gehle, Chairman, Fund Raising Division, British War Relief Society; Rev. Frank R. Wilson, Minister of St. James Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, N.Y. (Mrs. Roosevelt's Church); Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig and our Chairman, Dr. Israel Goldstein. The sum of \$28,248.71 has already been raised for this purpose and the home will be dedicated in the near future.

In connection with this project the following activities were undertaken:

a) Summer Resorts: Appeal letters were addressed to a number of hotels, camps and other resorts. On July 30-31 Mr. Goldstein, our director, made a tour of some of the more important hotels in Sullivan County. This was followed up by a more intensive tour by Mrs. Hartley, Executive Secretary of our Women's Division, and Mrs. Shepard Goldberg. As a result of these tours fund raising functions were conducted at a number of these hotels. A function held at Grossingers resulted in a contribution of more than \$2000.

b) A meeting was held at the Lido Club in Long Island on August 22. This meeting was addressed by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig and resulted in contributions aggregating \$5,282.



c) On September 13 a garden party was held at the home of Mrs. Murray Silverstone in Scarsdale, which resulted in contributions aggregating \$3,555.84.

d) A cocktail party was held by the Committee of 21 at the Hotel Pierre on October 10, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Shepard Goldberg. \$271.11 was raised.

3) The Jewish War Veterans Convention at Buffalo was addressed on August 31 by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig. Mr. Goldstein covered this convention on behalf of the Jewish Section and addressed the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans. The support of both these organizations was pledged, but we have no way of knowing at the present time how much their support will mean in tangible terms.

4) The Eastern Seaboard Conference of the Pioneer Women's Organization was addressed by the Earl of Gosford and by Mr. Goldstein on September 13. Checks aggregating \$1,300 were presented by this organization on this occasion.

5) On September 11 a check in the sum of \$1000 was presented to us by the Port Chester B'nai B'rith. This function was addressed by Mr. Frederick W. Gehle, Chairman of Fund Raising of the B.W.R.S., who was accompanied by Mr. Marcus Wulkan.

6) The Convention of the Zionist Organization of America at Cincinnati on September 5 was covered by Mr. Goldstein. Dr. Perlzweig addressed the convention on behalf of British war relief.

7) A campaign for funds for the Jewish Section is being inaugurated in the City of Hartford following a visit by Mr. Goldstein on October 2.

8) On October 3 Mr. Goldstein visited Boston and conferred with Dr. Shain and others regarding a campaign for 1941-42. A committee is now being organized and the campaign will be inaugurated about the first of the year after the current welfare fund campaign has been completed in that community.

9) On September 14 Mr. Goldstein visited Passaic and conferred with the officers of the Welfare fund, who agreed to recommend to their Board of Directors that a campaign be conducted in Passaic on behalf of the Jewish Section.

10) On October 19 our chairman Dr. Israel Goldstein delivered an address over station WEVD entitled "Democracy in Action." In this address, he discussed the aims and achievements of the Jewish Section and made an appeal for British war relief. The address has received the commendation from Lord Halifax in a note, copy of which is enclosed.

11) On October 22, Mr. Goldstein visited Philadelphia and conferred with Dr. Solis-Cohen and Mr. Gerbovoy, chairman and secretary respectively of our branch in that community. The work in Philadelphia has thus far been far from satisfactory and we therefore do not know what will happen as a result of the plans referred to below, but we are hoping that some substantial results may come therefrom. The following activities were agreed upon:



a) The organization of a Women's Division and the calling of a conference of all women's groups in Philadelphia to take place in the near future, at which time a campaign for a fund of \$25,000 for the establishment of a children's nursing home will be launched.

b) Dr. Solis-Cohen and Mr. Gerbovoy promised that they would try to initiate a campaign among all Jewish organizations in Philadelphia.

Mr. Goldstein also conferred with Joseph Herbach, secretary of the B'nai B'rith Grand Lodge #3, with reference to the participation of the Lodges of that district in our work. Mr. Herbach promised to submit this matter to the Grand Master and the Executive Board for action.

12) We are making efforts to organize a campaign in Long Island. Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow of Temple Beth El, Cedarhurst, has accepted the chairmanship and a committee is now being organized representing all Long Island communities to conduct this campaign.

13) With the opening of the fall two mailings have been addressed to all our contacts:

a) A New Year appeal was sent to all rabbis and presidents of congregations, men's clubs and youth groups, requesting an appeal from the pulpit on the High Holidays or in the alternative, a definite campaign for funds after the ~~Xmas~~ holidays.

b) Another appeal was mailed to all our affiliated groups and contacts throughout the country requesting them to resume their activities for the coming season.

A copy of New Year greetings received from Frederick W. Gehle, chairman of the Fund Raising Division of the B.W.R.S. accompanied each of these mailings.

#### C) PLANS FOR THE NEW SEASON:

1) We propose to continue our activities among organizations and individuals who have been contacted during the past season.

2) An appeal to the welfare funds for allocations which will go out within the next few days.

3) The organization of committees in various communities for the purpose of organizing campaigns for the Jewish Section. For this purpose we are planning to again employ a part time representative in the city of Philadelphia and a full time field representative who will cover other communities.

#### D) OVERHEAD:

The expenses incurred by the Jewish Section thus far have been approximately seven percent of the funds raised. Our present staff includes a director, an executive secretary of the Women's Division, and four stenographers and clerical assistants and our payroll aggregates \$228 per week. Gross expenses for each of the months of July, August and September averaged \$2,000.



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BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 18, 1941

Dear Dr. Goldstein

I am very glad of the opportunity of seeing the text of the address which you are going to deliver on Sunday evening. It is an admirable appeal, and I deeply appreciate all the work you are doing to help the British War Relief Society.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Halifax

Dr. Israel Goldstein  
Chairman  
Jewish Section  
Interfaith Committee for Aid  
to the Democracies  
57 William St.,  
New York, N.Y.



# Jewish Section Interfaith Committee For Aid To The Democracies

IN COOPERATION WITH THE BRITISH WAR RELIEF SOCIETY

57 WILLIAM STREET

Telephone: BOWling Green 9-2547

NEW YORK CITY

## *Officers of the British War Relief Society*

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## *Vice-Chairmen*

ALFRED M. COHEN  
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## *Women's Division*

MRS. L. OPPENHEIMER, *Chairman*  
MRS. MAX FURMAN, *Co-Chairman*

November 11, 1941

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Ansel Road  
Cleveland, O.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I want to thank you again for your kindness in giving me some of your valuable time so that we might discuss the aid of the Jewish women of Cleveland towards the cause of British war relief through the Jewish Section.

I appreciate full well what a busy man you are on behalf of so many worthy causes, and yet have every confidence that you will urge the support of this movement especially through Mrs. Newmark, the president of your Sisterhood.

As I told you, I did not allow the opportunity to slip by to tell that audience of women that Dr. Abba Hillel Silver was one of the vice-chairmen of our organization. It definitely helped me to find a responsive chord in the hearts of these women representing so many organizations. Again my sincere thanks.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Alice Hartley*  
Alice Hartley  
Executive Secretary  
Women's Division

AH/gns



77th Congress  
2nd Session

H. J. RES. 291  
(Report No. 1960)

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 12, 1942

Mr. Voorhis of California introduced the following joint resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on Labor

March 27, 1942

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the  
Union and ordered to be printed

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JOINT RESOLUTION

To establish the National Commission for Post-War Reconstruction.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby established a National Commission for Post War Reconstruction (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"). to be composed of (1) five Members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; (2) five Members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and (3) twenty-four members to be appointed by the President as follows: Three from the executive branch of the Government, three from organizations of farmers, three from organizations of labor, three from organizations of business and industry, one from organizations of banks and financial institutions, three from church organizations, two from educational associations, three from organizations of consumers, at least two of whom shall be from associations of consumer cooperatives, one from public health and welfare associations, one outstanding economist, and one outstanding industrial engineer. In the case of appointments to be made by the President any bona fide nationally recognized organization of any group from which appointment is to be made may submit to the President for his consideration a list of not less than three persons as nominees for appointment and the President shall, so far as possible, be guided by such nominations in making appointments to the Commission. A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of the Commission and shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection.

SEC. 2. The Commission shall, in all its work, recognize the fact that the first task of America is the winning of the war, and that whatever will contribute to that end must be done.

SEC. 3. The Commission may carry forward its work in whatever manner will in the opinion of its members achieve the best results. It may conduct hearings, public or executive, assemble and publish data, analyses, and opinion regarding the meeting of the problems of the post-war period. The aim and objective of the Commission's work shall be the development of a practical plan and program for the continuous full employment of all Americans able and willing to work, and for the achievement and maintenance of a just and equitable relationship as to wages between agriculture and industry, to the end that free enterprise



(2)

may be preserved. Such a program shall not be limited to legislative proposals but may also recommend plans for action by business, finance, labor, agriculture, and consumers or other action on the part of groups, organizations, or citizens which would, in the opinion of the Commission, contribute to the elimination of unemployment. The Commission shall give special attention to measures to be taken at the time of the return of the Nation to a peacetime economy in order that the reduction of war expenditures will not result in unemployment and distress.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of members of the Commission to secure the greatest possible degree of participation and interest in the work of the Commission on the part of the groups from which such members shall have been chosen. Members shall constantly bring before such groups problems, findings, and proposals of the Commission and shall encourage discussion, analysis, recommendations, and criticism from such groups.

SEC. 5. (a) The Commission shall elect one of its members to act as Chairman. Members of the Commission shall serve without additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the exercise of the functions of the Commission.

(b) The Commission shall select, on the basis of qualifications for the work, an executive director. Such executive director need not be a member of the Commission. The Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director at not to exceed \$10,000 per year.

(c) The Commission may, if it deems it in the interest of effective prosecution of its work select an executive committee from its membership and delegate to such committee such special duties and responsibilities as it sees fit. The Commission may also divide itself into subcommittees for the consideration of particular phases of its work or for dealing with particular problems.

SEC. 6. For the purposes of this joint resolution, the Commission, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to hold such hearings, to sit and act at such times and places during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Seventy-seventh and succeeding Congresses, and to use such voluntary and uncompensated services as it may deem necessary.

The Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress may be used by the Commission to assist it, and the Commission is authorized to transfer such sums as may be necessary for this purpose. The Commission may also utilize the services, information facilities, and personnel of the various departments and agencies of the Government, and it may employ and fix the compensation of such other experts and employees as it deems necessary for the performance of its duties.

SEC. 7. (a) It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to continue the Commission until such time as its work is completed. The Commission shall report to Congress and the President from time to time upon the progress of its work. Within one year from the date of its creation the Commission shall make a preliminary report.

(b) A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, and the powers conferred upon them by this joint resolution may be exercised by a majority vote.

SEC. 8. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the provisions of this joint resolution.



Interfaith Statement Calling on the President and Congress  
for Immediate Planning for Post-War Economic  
Reconstruction and the Abolition of Unemployment

The undersigned clergymen of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths, representative of all sections of America, earnestly call the attention of the people of our country, of the Congress and of the President of the United States, to the urgency of initiating at this time further democratic and coordinated study and planning for post-war economic reconstruction.

Even in the present time of primary pre-occupation of the nation in military effort, immediate planning for winning the peace is a fundamental necessity to the welfare of our nation, to the preservation of the four freedoms at home, as well as their assurance on a world-wide scale.

When the war ends, widespread unemployment must not be allowed to return to curse our land; and to disillusion our citizens and our returning soldiers. A test of democracy is the provision of employment for all citizens able to work.

It is a most significant fact that while various economic groups hold widely divergent views on many issues, all are agreed upon this. We must study and plan now. At Congressional hearings in Washington, representatives of major national associations of employers, organized labor, farm organizations, and of consumers, as well as national representatives of the three faiths urged the adoption of legislation to set up a national commission to study and make recommendations on post-war reconstruction, such commission to include both representatives of government and representatives of national economic organizations and others. Never before, to our knowledge, has there appeared to be such substantial agreement among diverse economic groups in support of a



general legislative proposal of this kind.

In its present form this proposed legislation is now before the House as House Joint Resolution #291 introduced by Hon. Jerry Voorhis, representative from California. While not presuming to pass judgment upon technical details of this bill, we heartily favor its adoption and believe its major provisions are essential to carrying out the purpose of democratic study and recommendation on this urgent issue of human welfare.

In conclusion we call attention to the following excerpt from the favorable report on this bill by the Committee on Labor of the House.

"It is our manifest duty to do all things necessary to assure to the men in our armed forces that when they return from this conflict they will find here good jobs awaiting them and Substantial solid hope for a better future than they have ever known before. Nor can America expect to assume the world leadership for lasting peace, which must be hers, unless her own economic system is functioning well and her people and industries are fully employed at the time the peace is being made. These are the reasons why, next only to the provisions of the sinews of the war itself, the first duty of the Congress is to initiate now the work of preparing to meet the problems which will confront us when peace returns. There is not the slightest doubt but that these problems can be met if we have the courage and the vision and understanding to meet them....There must be a spirit spread throughout the length and breadth of this country, which will be a spirit not of demanding for one's self or one's own group, but of a willingness to give and take until a definite and specific answer to the economic problem of America, in peacetime, has been found."

Signed

Name

Title (If you permit for publication)

Faith

Address