



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

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

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

Reel
45

Box
16

Folder
1066

Joint Distribution Committee, 1931.

THE 1931 FUND
OF THE
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

415 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY
—
TELEPHONE: VANDERBILT 3-5050
—

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:
RABBI JONAH B. WISE

OFFICERS OF
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

FELIX M. WARBURG, CHAIRMAN
HERBERT H. LEHMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, VICE CHAIRMAN
PAUL BAERWALD, TREASURER
GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, ASSOC. TREASURER
H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, COMPTROLLER
JOSEPH C. HYMAN, SECRETARY

February 2nd, 1931.

Dear Abe:

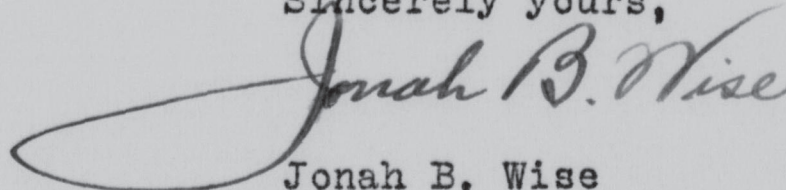
A little over a month ago an intimate gathering of interested Jewish leaders in New York attended a reception tendered by Mr. James N. Rosenberg to Dr. Bernhard Kahn of Berlin. Prof. Albert Einstein came to this reception because of his friendship for Dr. Kahn, and made a short address in addition to that made by the guest of honor.

Dr. Kahn is a distinguished German who has for many years devoted himself to European Jewish interests. He knows Europe and European Jewry as few people do. He spoke confidentially to the gathering on Jewish problems, especially the growth of anti-Semitism abroad. His analysis of the situation is an authoritative and important contribution to our knowledge of the subject, and I feel that you would wish to have the text of his informal address.

I hope you will use this valuable material for your personal information, and I am sure you understand that its contents are confidential, not because the facts are unknown but because of the standing and position of the gentleman who has undertaken to communicate them to us.

I shall appreciate any comment you would want to make on the problems discussed by Dr. Kahn.

Sincerely yours,



Jonah B. Wise

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

JBW:JG

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

ORGANIZED BY
AMERICAN JEWISH RELIEF COMMITTEE
CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
PEOPLE'S RELIEF COMMITTEE

FELIX M. WARBURG, CHAIRMAN
HERBERT H. LEHMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, VICE CHAIRMAN
PAUL BAERWALD, TREASURER
GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, ASSOC. TREASURER
H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, COMPTROLLER
JOSEPH C. HYMAN, SECRETARY

40 EXCHANGE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: HANOVER 2-8977

February 10, 1931.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Conditions of world Jewry being such that continued work will be necessary for the Joint Distribution Committee, close study has been given for more than a year to the question of associating with the Board of Directors of the Joint Distribution Committee a National Council of representative men and women from among the leading Jews of this country who have during the past years taken an active part in the work of the Committee for the help of our people overseas. These studies have led to a proposed reincorporation of the Joint Distribution Committee and the creation of a National Council, of which National Council - to be composed of about two hundred and fifty men and women - we very much desire you to become a charter member.

To make provision for a general membership of the organization and likewise for adequate representation of the different sections of this country, and Canada, on the Board of Directors, a Committee on Reorganization was appointed. The late Louis Marshall served as Chairman of that Committee. At his death, the Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Felix M. Warburg, requested me to take on the Chairmanship of the Reorganization Committee, which has met and which, through its Sub-Committee, has drafted a Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws for an enlarged Committee. The Certificate is to be filed shortly under the name - American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

Developed in the early stages of the world war, as a temporary emergency relief organization, the Joint Distribution Committee has directly disbursed \$80,000,000. in Eastern Europe and throughout the war zone. Its program has progressed from palliative aid to the highest forms of constructive assistance, whereby our brethren in Poland, Russia, Roumania, Lithuania, Palestine, Turkey - in all, 42 countries - have been supported in their efforts to regain their footing and to rebuild their lives. The Joint Distribution Committee has served in caring for the fatherless, in training the orphans, in providing schooling for children, in maintaining religious and cultural institutions, in resettling hundreds of thousands of refugees, in setting up medical and sanitary organizations and

institutions, and in making possible the granting of productive help to hundreds of thousands of Jewish families through loans and credits, and in helping them to become farmers, artisans, factory workers, etc.

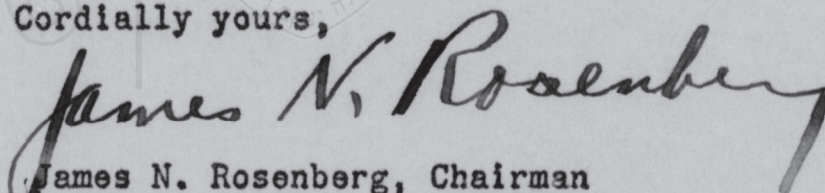
This reconstruction has taken different forms in various countries. That work, especially in the face of terrific economic difficulties abroad and the added factor of the rising tide of anti-Semitism overseas, must continue for some time to come, and toward the maintenance and continuation of that program, the Committee, with its history and traditions of sixteen years of service, will address its efforts.

The National Council will constitute the membership of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. It will consist of not less than two hundred and fifty persons and from its membership, there is to be elected annually, one of the three classes of the Board of Directors of this organization.

I am happy, on behalf of the Reorganization Committee, to invite you to become a member of the National Council of this organization, and I sincerely trust that in order to expedite the work of the Committee, you will be good enough to advise the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, of your acceptance.

Believe me, with personal greetings,

Cordially yours,


James N. Rosenberg, Chairman
Reorganization Committee

JNR/RM

Feb. 13th, 1931

Mr. Joseph C. Hyman,
40 Exchange Place,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Hyman:-

I shall be very pleased to serve on
the National Council of the American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

ORGANIZED BY
AMERICAN JEWISH RELIEF COMMITTEE
CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
PEOPLE'S RELIEF COMMITTEE

FELIX M. WARBURG, CHAIRMAN
HERBERT H. LEHMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, VICE CHAIRMAN
PAUL BAERWALD, TREASURER
GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, ASSOC. TREASURER
H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, COMPTROLLER
JOSEPH C. HYMAN, SECRETARY

40 EXCHANGE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY
CABLES: "JOINTDISCO" NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: HANOVER 2-8977

February 17th, 1931.

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

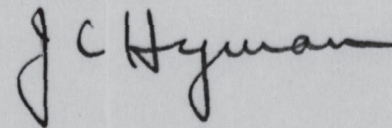
Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Reorganization Committee are happy to have your letter advising of your willingness to become a member of the National Council of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. We are grateful for your interest and the assurance of your cooperation.

You will be duly informed of the steps taken to effect the organization of the Council.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Secretary.

JCH:LC

THE 1931 FUND
OF THE
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

415 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY
—
TELEPHONE: VANDERBILT 3-5050
—

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:
RABBI JONAH B. WISE

OFFICERS OF
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

FELIX M. WARBURG, CHAIRMAN
HERBERT H. LEHMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, VICE CHAIRMAN
PAUL BAERWALD, TREASURER
GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, ASSOC. TREASURER
H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, COMPTROLLER
JOSEPH C. HYMAN, SECRETARY

February 24, 1931.

Dear Abe,

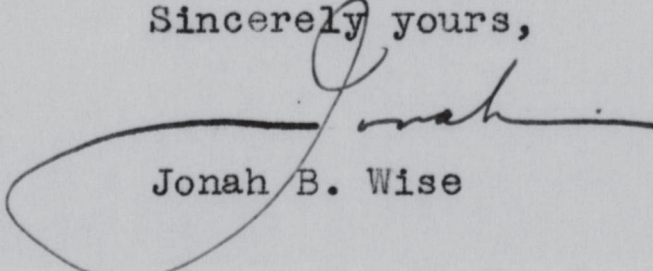
I sent you a letter with the two dollars in it. I trust you received it.

I enjoyed my visit to Cleveland very much and regret it was so brief.

My experience with the Joint Distribution Committee Campaign so far leads me to believe that there is a possibility for organized generosity on the part of American Jewry on a very high plane, and I am eager to discuss it with you at sometime. If you are in this neighborhood, please let me know as I should like the opportunity to speak to you.

Please remember me most kindly to your dear wife and to your neighbors when you see them.

Sincerely yours,



Jonah B. Wise

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

JBW:JG

THE 1931 FUND
OF THE
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
415 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

RABBI JONAH B. WISE
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

JAMES MARSHALL
NATIONAL TREASURER
MORRIS C. TROPER
NATIONAL COMPTROLLER

MARCY I. BERGER
NATIONAL SECRETARY

ISIDOR COONS
NATIONAL FIELD DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE: VANDERBILT 3-5050

OFFICERS OF
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

FELIX M. WARBURG, CHAIRMAN
HERBERT H. LEHMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN
JAMES N. ROSENBERG, VICE CHAIRMAN
PAUL BAERWALD, TREASURER
GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, ASSOC. TREASURER
H. B. L. GOLDSTEIN, COMPTROLLER
JOSEPH C. HYMAN, SECRETARY

April 10th, 1931.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to a number of Christian clergymen asking them to speak on the subject of the relief of Jews in Eastern Europe. This is intended to bring before the Christian church public the urgency of our problem. We are not asking them for money. It is designed to give us some public discussion and to meet the minor objection that we have no right to send money out of America at this time.

It is entirely possible that one of these clergymen may ask your opinion and advice. I know I can safely leave this in your hands, but am advising you in advance in order that you may know how the situation has come about.

There is a rising tide of interest in our tremendous task which is gratifying. I believe our American Jewry can be stimulated into action which will have good results far beyond the immediate problem in which we are at present involved. The help I have had so far from my colleagues strengthens me in my feeling that they are the vital factors, both in leadership and opinion, in our American Jewish communities.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jonah B. Wise
Jonah B. Wise

JBW:JG