



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
1067

Joint Distribution Committee, 1931-1932.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 2040 East 9th St., Cleveland. Ohio TEL. CHERRY 1740

LINE 87

1931 DEC 21 PM 7 26

QA210 69 NL=ATLANTA GA 21

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

CARE THE TEMPLE CLEVELAND OHIO=

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE JEWISH AGENCY AND BNAI BRITH
UNITING IN CAMPAIGN FOR WEEK JANUARY SEVENTEENTH STOP
REFERRING TO OUR PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE AM INQUIRING IF YOUR
HELP WOULD BE AVAILABLE STOP ATLANTA COMMUNITY HAS
NEVER HEARD YOU AND LEADERS OF CAMPAIGN BELIEVE THAT APPEAL
FROM YOU WOULD AROUSE INTENSE INTEREST AND INSURE SUCCESS
EVEN UNDERPRESENT CONDITIONS STOP THE DATE MENTIONED COULD
BE CHANGED IF NECESSARY TO MEET YOUR CONVENIENCE=

H A ALEXANDER.

ANSWER COLLECT 12/22/31

REGRET EXCEEDINGLY CAN NOT COME TO ATLANTA IN JANUARY
MY PROGRAM IS OVERCROWDED WITH OUT OF TOWN LECTURE ENGAGEMENTS
BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS

A. H. SILVER

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 2040 East 9th St. Cleveland, Ohio TEL. CHERRY 1740
LINE 260

1931 DEC 22 PM 10 45

NC340 94 NL=NEWYORK NY 22

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE CLEVELAND OHIO=

CHAIRMAN SAM E LEVEY OF ATLANTA COMBINED CAMPAIGN INCLUDING
AGENCY JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE AND BNAI BRITH ADVISES
OF INVITATION EXTENDED TO YOU AS GUEST SPEAKER AT DRIVE
OPENING MONDAY JANUARY EIGHTEENTH STOP I KNOW ATLANTA IS
MAKING SPLENDID PREPARATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPEAL AND YOUR
PRESENCE THIS OCCASION WOULD NOT ONLY STIMULATE COMMUNITY
INTO ACTION FOR THESE DESERVING CAUSES BUT WOULD ALSO HELP
ATLANTA SPIRITUALLY STOP IF YOU CAN POSSIBLY ACCEPT I WILL
BE MOST GRATEFUL STOP PLEASE WIRE YOUR DECISION TO ME AT
FOUR FIFTEEN LEXINGTON AVENUE ROOM FOUR HUNDRED FOUR STOP
CORDIAL REGARDS=

JONAH B WISE.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LCO = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 2040 East 9th St., Cleveland, Ohio

TELEPHONE
CHERRY 1740, LINE 87

1931 DEC 23 AM 10 30

ND262 20= TU NEWYORK NY 23 1022A

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

Duplicate of telephoned telegram

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

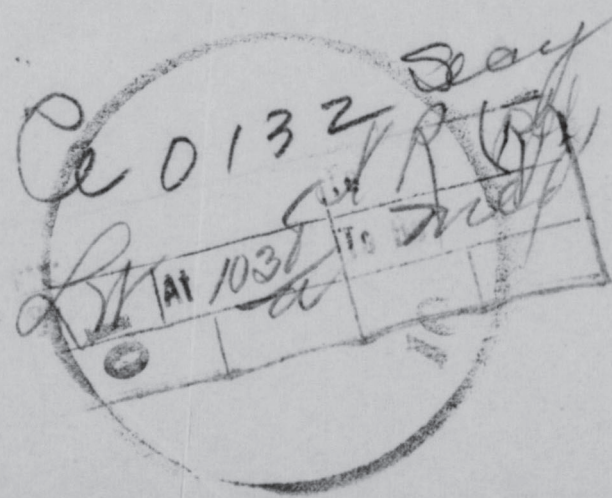
FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

THE TEMPLE CLEVELAND OHIO=

CORRECTING MY NIGHTLETTER RE ATLANTA INVITATION THE ATLANTA
COMMITTEE DESIRES YOUR PRESENCE JANUARY SEVENTEENTH AND NOT
JANUARY EIGHTEENTH STOP REGARDS=

JONAH B WISE.



THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

PAUL BAERWALD
CHAIRMAN
7 HANOVER STREET
NEW YORK

April 4th, 1932.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am happy to inform you that at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee held in New York City on March 27, 1932, your membership on the Council was unanimously confirmed. A summary of the proceedings and the annual report presented by the Secretary, Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, will be sent to you shortly. I sincerely hope you will read the summary and the report.

The National Council constitutes the responsible leadership of the many communities in America which have, by their splendid generosity, made the work of relief and reconstruction abroad possible. It is our plan at annual meetings of the Council to weigh Jewish problems overseas and the most effective method of undertaking our activities in this country. We shall keep the members of the Council informed of the situation overseas, as well as of the activities of the Committee here.

I was accorded the honor of being selected Chairman, and my colleagues in office are: Mr. Felix M. Warburg, Honorary Chairman, Mr. Herbert H. Lehman and Mr. James N. Rosenberg, Vice Chairmen, Mr. George W. Naumburg Treasurer, Mr. Marco F. Hellman, Associate Treasurer, Mrs. H. B. L. Goldstein, Comptroller, and Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, Secretary.

This is my first communication to the members of this important Council. I should like particularly to invite your attention to the resolutions adopted by the Council, as presented by Judge Maurice Bernon, of Cleveland, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee. These important resolutions were invested with particular significance by the discussion conducted, among others, by James Marshall, Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron, B. C. Vladeck, Arthur Lehman and George Z. Medalie, and were solemnly and unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

I should appreciate a word from you at your early convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Baerwald
Chairman.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Jaint

HERBERT H. LEHMAN
ONE WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK

April 25, 1932.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

If you were not present at the meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on March 27th to hear the report that the Secretary, Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, made to the National Council, I wish to suggest that you take time enough to read it as it has both interested and impressed me greatly.

As Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee of this organization since 1921, I have been particularly interested in the sections of the Report which relate to the economic self-help work we have initiated.

In Poland, in 1926, we started with 212 free loan societies. We had intended to disburse the funds in actual emergency relief, but, instead, we put them into revolving loan funds. Today, there are almost 800 of these societies in as many towns in Poland. Our relatively small advance brought forth a contribution of over \$800,000. on the part of the Polish Jews themselves, and these sums together created an operating capital which lends out to as many as 100,000 people in Poland, small sums aggregating over \$2,000,000 a year. Our investment gave economic salvation to the poorest Jews of Poland who could not possibly pay any interest on their borrowings. They have received in this way, over 830,000 loans, totalling almost \$10,000,000. since 1926. These loans average about \$11. a loan. In hundreds of thousands of cases, these credits have enabled the artisan and the small trader to equip himself with tools and raw material, and eke out his livelihood.

Mr. Hyman refers to the work of the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation. This is quite distinct from the free loan societies. This Foundation was organized by us in partnership with the Jewish Colonization Association, to help credit cooperative societies in Eastern Europe. The movement has spread. There are now over 750 cooperatives with 315,000 members receiving loans from the Foundation. That means that it reaches a population of over 1,125,000 people. These cooperatives have a yearly loan turnover in small sums at nominal rates of interest of \$40,000,000. It is difficult to imagine, especially now, what hardships would face the Jewish people in those countries in securing such credits if it were not for this network of loan societies.

I am interested also in the section of the Report which refers to the Palestine Economic Corporation which is giving material aid on a business basis, to productive enterprises in Palestine.

You will also want to read carefully the paragraphs on Russia. In our early work, we had to expend millions of dollars in cooperation with the American Relief Administration in actual child feeding and famine relief. During the

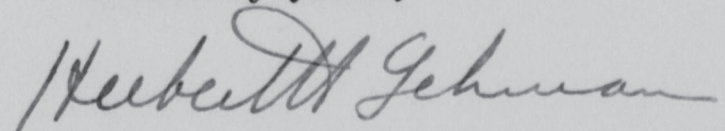
last eight years, we have been engaged in large reconstruction enterprises to enable the Russian Jews to stand on their own feet. When the opportunity arose for Jews to settle on the land and there was a spontaneous movement to the soil, we provided the Agro-Joint with funds to enable thousands of families to settle. Today the American Society for Jewish Farm Settlements in Russia, aided by the magnificent subscription of the late Julius Rosenwald and of Mr. Felix M. Warburg, has taken over this agricultural program. Special contributions to the Joint Distribution Committee have enabled the Agro-Joint to train thousands of Jewish declassified for mechanical, manual and factory employment.

A most impressive point in this Report is the way in which our co-religionists abroad have increasingly assumed the responsibility and financial burden of all their institutions. No form of philanthropy is as permanent and worthwhile as helping a man to help himself. In this connection, the Report makes this significant statement: "When the Joint Distribution Committee first began operations, a dollar contributed in America meant only one dollar's worth of help in Europe. Today, for every American dollar, from five to ten dollars are raised locally." Not only has the Committee helped the local populations increasingly to support their own communal institutions, but in addition, the very fact of our participation has stimulated the support of governments and municipalities.

It is hardly necessary for me to refer to the effects of the present world-wide depression on the position of Jews abroad. The Report, quoted from Dr. Kahn, on the present situation is, indeed, a sad one, and I feel strongly, as Dr. Kahn points out, that no one can be unmoved by the suffering of these hundreds of thousands of people, and by the fact that thousands of children are starving. But even more important than the urgency of these feeding and palliative measures is the necessity of keeping alive the whole structure which the Jews of Eastern and Central Europe have built up to look after their own philanthropies, their social service requirements and their organizations of economic aid.

In addressing this letter to you, I am conscious of the fact that we have overwhelming problems right here in this country. As Americans everywhere we are discharging these obligations in our own communities in meeting unemployment and want. These obligations we must meet as we have in the past, but we cannot forget the sufferings of multitudes of our co-religionists in Eastern and Central Europe who are also in dire straits, and who can look only to us for a measure of encouragement and sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Herbert H. Lehman".

Herbert H. Lehman

HHL:LC

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

INC.

7 HANOVER STREET

12TH FLOOR

NEW YORK CITY

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

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

RABBI JONAH B. WISE, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
MARCY I. BERGER, CAMPAIGN SECRETARY
ISIDOR COONS, FIELD DIRECTOR

Detroit, Michigan,
June 21, 1932

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

Thank you for the letter addressed to me as National Secretary of the Allied Jewish Campaign which you were so good as to send to me, care of the Statler Hotel, in this city. I am sure that this letter, when I show it to our leaders in charge of collections throughout the country, will impel them not only to continue, but to expedite their collection efforts.

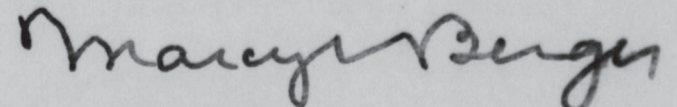
I am hoping that the Monday meeting at the Federation office in Cleveland resulted in a determination to go ahead, not only to obtain Welfare Fund pledges from those who have not yet subscribed, but also to obtain increased subscriptions from those who although able to do more, have not as yet subscribed adequately.

Were it not necessary for me to continue my travels until the Fourth of July I would look forward to hearing you speak at the close of the American Palestine Campaign in New York City this coming week.

It was exceedingly kind of you to grant me so much of your time Friday morning and for this, as well as for the pleasant ride back to the city, I am most grateful to you.

With greetings, I remain

Faithfully yours,



Campaign Secretary