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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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League for Human Rights Against Naziism, Cleveland, Ohio,
1936-1937.

Western Reserve Historical Society

10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106
(216) 721-5722
wrhs.org

American Jewish Archives

3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
(513) 487-3000
AmericanJewishArchives.org

COPY

RABBI LOUIS WITT
Dayton, Ohio

April 14, 1936

Mr. Elmer Scheuer
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Scheuer:

There is no organization in our community for the boycott of German goods. I want to see German goods boycotted but have felt all along that the great mistake was made at the very beginning in making the Jewish Group the Front of such a boycott. If a group can be organized in Dayton, initiated and controlled preponderantly by Non-Jews, I would be very glad and eager to cooperate to the limit. If your office can advise me how that can best be done or, better still, if some one from Cleveland can come here and help organize the field, I would be grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Witt

B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL COMMISSION

April 17th

Dear Mr. Scheuer:

The Columbus representative of the American Jewish Congress, who is interested in the boycott movement, is Dr. B. W. Abramson, 139 S. Grant Avenue. I suggest that you communicate with him.

It is only fair to state, however, that the leading Jewish business men of the city are definitely against a publicly announced boycott movement, even though they all claim to be observing similar practices personally. There is no way to develop such a movement among them unless a strong non-Jewish committee were first set up, such as you have in Cleveland. And the leading Jews of the community will, in many cases, not aid in setting up such a committee.

This is merely descriptive, and for your personal information. In any case, I would not be the proper person to take the lead in the movement, as my connection is with the university, rather than the local community.

Sincerely,

Lee J. Levinger

THE TEMPLE
Congregation Rodef Sholem
Youngstown, Ohio

April 21, 1936

I. E. Philo
Rabbi

Mr. Elmer Scheuer
The League for Human Rights
Against Naziism
608 Ninth Chester Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Scheuer:-

Answering your letter of April seventh in which you ask for information as to the person who heads up the work for the Boycott in Youngstown, I regret to say I know of no such head.

I think, however, if you will address a communication to the local Bnai Brith you will receive satisfactory action.

Sincerely,

I. E. Philo

Letter written to: Max E. Stone
209 E. Federal St.

May 1, 1936

Copy same as enclosure mailed to Rabbis

Lorain

Agudath B'nai Israel Congregation
Ninth Street and Reid Avenue
Lorain, Ohio

April 29, 1936

Mr. Elmer Scheuer
608 Ninth Chester Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Scheuer:

I did not reply to your letter of April 7th promptly for two reasons: Firstly, I was too occupied with Passover activities; and secondly, we have no Anti-Nazi organization or committee in Lorain.

This does not mean that German goods are being sold here freely. In a previous letter to Rabbi Silver I wrote that I have made a personal investigation of a number of stores and discovered no German merchandise. Of course, I realize that some German products are being sold here and there, and I mention the subject whenever there is an opportunity.

I have since interested one of our most active men to form a committee for the boycott of German goods. Please write to Mr. Samuel Slutzker, 1181 - 8th St., Lorain, Ohio, with reference to this matter.

Assuring you of my readiness to cooperate with you in this matter, I am

Yours sincerely,

Julius Kerman

Rabbi

Agudath B'nai Israel Cong.

P.S. Incidentally, Mrs. Kerman was offered some German merchandise in the May Company of Cleveland which, of course, she refused to buy stating her reasons.

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

Lima, Ohio

Rabbi Bernard M. Dorfman

May 5, 1936

Mr. Elmer Scheuer
608 Ninth Chester Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Scheuer:

I am in receipt of your letter of April 7th relative to the personnel that heads the work for the boycott of German goods in Lima. I very much regret that we have no such committee and I offer you the following names of gentlemen in Lima who are prominent business men, and who are members of the Better Business Bureau. I suggest that you write to them on this matter.

Mr. Arthur Wohlgemuth, c/o Feldman Inc., Lima, Ohio

Mr. Gus Holstein

Mr. Sylvan Holstein, The Leader Store, Lima, Ohio

Mr. Samuel Blattner, Sam'l G. Blattner & Sons, Lima, Ohio

Very truly yours,

Bernard M. Dorfman

COPY

May 7, 1936

League for Human Rights
Against Naziism

608 Ninth Chester Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

Attention: Mr. Scheuer:

Sorry to have delayed so long in answering your letter of the 7th. Permit me to say that we have no one here who heads the work for the Boycott of German goods in Steubenville. Further, we have discovered that only 2 of the chain-stores handle German goods. (5 and 10; Montgomery-Ward) Most of the large stores are owned by jews and we manage to boycott fairly effectively.

I took the matter up with Mr. A. Nathan, owner of the largest department store in the city and he advised to let the matter drop as the element of unfair competition would enter into the matter. He, of course, would be the logical man for such a task but he refuses to take it over. His own store does more than the other stores combined and no German goods are sold there.

Sorry to disappoint you and if I can aid in any other way in your splendid work, I shall be most happy to cooperate.

Sincerely,

✓
Samuel D. Soskin
✉

ALPHABETIC
SERIALS
SECTION

Canton

Rabbi Charles B. Latz
15 McCurdy Block
Canton, Ohio

May 11th, 1936

Mr. Elmer Scheuer

League for Human Rights
608 Ninth Chester Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Scheuer:

Answering your letter of inquiry as to the head of the Canton Anti-Nazi Boycott Committee, I think the most appropriate person is Mr. Jos. Freifield, who is the head of the committee of the Canton Metro Club. His address is 828 - 11th N.W. I am sure that he will be aggressive in the work which you may ask him to do for the League.

With cordial greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles Latz

October 16, 1936

Mr. Jos. Freifield
828 - 11th N.W.
Canton, Ohio

My dear Mr. Freifield:

Rabbi Charles Latz has informed us that you are the head of the committee for the boycott of the Canton Metro Club and that you might be of assistance to us.

It is very necessary that we and the New York League for Human Rights Against Naziism know what chain stores are operating in Canton and in turn what ones of these stores are carrying German goods and what German goods they are carrying.

I am enclosing a report that was sent to our office upon request from the Akron committee thinking that it may be helpful to you. The Akron committee employed a shopper who carefully shopped all of the chain stores in Akron in order to make this report. Do you think that you could get the funds with which to employ a shopper or do you think you could get a group of volunteers to do this work?

If I can be of any assistance to you I would gladly make the trip to Canton to talk with you and the committee.

Yours sincerely,

Director

October 16, 1936

Mr. Samuel Slutzker
1181 - 8th Street
Lorain, Ohio

My dear Mr. Slutzker:

Rabbi Julius Kerman has informed us that you are going to organize a committee for the boycott of German goods in Lorain.

It is very necessary that we and the New York League for Human Rights Against Naziism know what chain stores are operating in Lorain and in turn what ones of these stores are carrying German goods and what German goods they are carrying.

I am enclosing a report that was sent to our office upon request from the Akron committee thinking that it may be helpful to you. The Akron committee employed a shopper who carefully shopped all of the chain stores in Akron in order to make this report. Do you think you could get the funds with which to employ a shopper or do you think you could get a group of volunteers to do this work?

If I can be of any assistance to you I would gladly make the trip to Lorain to talk with you and the committee.

Yours sincerely,

Director

LAW OFFICES

ALBERT A. WOLDMAN

CHERRY 2311

826 STANDARD BUILDING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

October 1, 1936.

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Because Joseph Cohen of Kansas City is a dear friend of mine and a B'nai B'rith associate I did not choose to openly take issue with him and Fred Hartsfelder regarding their attempts to whitewash Alfred M. Landon from the alleged charge of Anti-Semitism arising out of the Carmichael letter episode. I was not entirely convinced by their explanation. They discussed one insignificant phase of the case but failed to explain other and, in my opinion, more serious matters which need explanation.

I was opposed to the motion by George Furth to put the Cleveland Jewish Community Council on record by public statement that we, the Jews of Cleveland, are convinced that the candidates of the two major parties are free from the suspicion of being Anti-Semitic. I was, therefore, pleased that my substitute motion to refer the decision of issuing such a statement to the Committee on Politics, was carried.

I understand now that Republicans in our group will press the issuance of the statement in question.

I am writing this letter to inform you that I as an individual am strongly opposed to any such contemplated pronouncement.

I discussed this question with Joseph Cohen privately and I repeat in substance the reasons I stated for taking issue with him.

From the standpoint of the Cleveland Jewish community, I think that a statement declaring both candidates free from the taint of anti-Semitism is unnecessary because the Carmichael letter incident is practically unknown locally, and a public declaration would only tend to give greater prominence to this episode and magnify rather than diminish the unfortunate issue.

I am opposed to a statement by the Jewish Community Council for the further reason that it would put the Council in the position of whitewashing Landon. We all know that Roosevelt - as great a philo-Semite as ever occupied the White House-

needs no declaration on our part to clarify his position. Landon does. A Community Council statement can and will be interpreted as a deliberate attempt to promote the candidacy of the Republican nominee among the Jews of Cleveland, at the expense of Roosevelt.

I for one am not impressed by Cohen's and Hartsfelder's explanation of the Carmichael incident as proof of Landon's attitude towards us. I asked Cohen these pertinent questions:

Why is it necessary for you and Hartsfelder to tour the country in defense of Landon? Why cannot he speak for himself? Why is he so strangely silent? Why doesn't he personally issue an unequivocal public statement to clarify his stand? Why doesn't he repudiate and denounce the horde of anti-Semites and pro-Fascists who have attached themselves to his camp? If he is sincere and has the courage of his convictions it is his duty to speak.

Of course it is good politics not to alienate some of his chief supporters - the William Randolph Hearsts, the Col. Sanctuaries, Trues, Edmondsons, et al.

We must judge Landon by the company he keeps.

Landon's chief supporter is Hearst who proclaims Hitler a great man and lauds his policies. Col. E.N. Sanctuary, leader of "The World Alliance Against Jewish Aggressiveness," Edmondson, True, Pelley, - Jew baiters all - are in the Landon camp. Is not this fact of graver concern to us Jews than even the comparatively insignificant Carmichael letter episode?

I do not accuse Landon of bigotry. But I do say that the Jewish Community Council of Cleveland should do nothing that can be construed as bolstering his candidacy. And a statement as contemplated by our group would do just that. Roosevelt does not need a public declaration on our part. Landon does. Such a statement would be fraught with the danger we are endeavoring to avoid, namely the injection of the Jewish question into the campaign. Many would regard it as a pro-Landon declaration. *inevitably and justifiably*

Self-preservation is the first law of nature. More important to me than the so-called issues of the campaign - high protective tariff, taxation, the approach to recovery, constitutionality, etc., is the preservation, peace and security of those near and dear to me.

On the one hand there is Roosevelt, an avowed philo-Semite and humanitarian who has manifested his fairness and tolerance in many ways; who has appointed men of our race to posts of great responsibility and invited others as close advisors and confidants. Because of this situation he has been subjected to attacks by the men now found in the Landon Camp, for his alleged "Jew Deal."

On the other hand there is Landon for whom apologists are now touring the country; Landon who refuses to repudiate the horde of

bigots and Jew-baiters who have attached themselves to his candidacy.

On the one hand is certainty. On the other - a question mark.

For me as a Jew there is only one path - and in self-preservation I must go that way.

I, therefore, wish to urge you as chairman of the Committee on Politics of the Cleveland Jewish Community Council to convey these thoughts to your group and to use your influence in preventing the issuance of the contemplated statement - which, though contrary to our intentions is bound to be regarded as a pro-Landon declaration.

I am frank to state that should your committee vote to issue such a statement, that I would be inclined to join others in opposing it.

Cordially yours,

Albert A. Wolman



October 5, 1936

Miss Mildred Chadsey
608 Ninth Chester Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Miss Chadsey:

Mr. George Furth had written me that I might expect a letter from you in re your plan for the creation of active non-Jewish opposition to anti-Semitism. Your letter came this afternoon, together with your questionnaire for ministers. I hasten to answer your letter and if this response runs to undue length, you will please excuse it on the grounds that I am anxious to make the situation very clear to you.

There can, of course, be nothing prejudicial in your securing through your friendly contact with the Cleveland newspapers all information which comes to them in the form of pamphlets, anonymous letters, news items, etc., which bears upon the problem of anti-Semitism. This will give you some idea of the nature of current trends and from time to time may bring something new into the picture to tie up with other aspects already secured. I do not believe it wise to place an over-emphasis upon the Cleveland situation. Outside of a little sporadic individual activity, anti-Semitism expressed in Cleveland will, for the most part, emanate from larger movements. If these inter-state and national movements make headway, Cleveland will not be able to isolate herself for very long. It would appear to me, therefore, that the important thing is to constantly feed all information into a central office which continuously assembles all information from all parts of the nation. This method has enabled us to do some rather effective work up until now, and puts us in a position, I believe, to intensify that effectiveness. Our communities will continue to keep us advised of all local developments.

Definite plans are now being followed to form a great national organization headed by non-Jews of great prominence. Many very influential names have been suggested; some have already been interviewed and are quite willing to develop this body. Its influence and its authoritative character would be unchallengeable because of the very weight of the names attaching to it. Naturally such a movement predicated upon essential Americanism should not be devoid of Jews. Once a start is made, Jews will be brought into it, though they will never outweigh the non-Jewish influence. The stupidities of contemporary anti-Semitism will be dealt with by this body. Various methods will be employed, particularly such as will lend themselves to wide publicity in important press media and organizations. Millions of people will be reached, not only through the press, but through the pulpit and other places of public expression. Because of these plans, I am convinced that too precipitant action at this time by any single committee might be unwise, and I would like to have such action deferred until there can be further consideration by a number of people who have given very considerable study to this whole matter.

I do not quite agree with you that the James True article which appeared in the "New Masses" should have appeared in a different magazine in order to have secured other than a radical reading public. The James True article was, in our judgment, a grave mistake. Had it not been for the fact that we are fairly well organized throughout the country, it would have led to some very stupid action upon the part of Jewish communities. Fortunately, we were able to avert this because of the sustained contact which we have with such communities. One must be familiar with James True and his background and his Washington connections in order to realize the full measure of this stupidity.

You ask me about Dr. Robert Gault of Northwestern and the proposed meeting of Catholics, Protestants and Jewish leaders which had been scheduled for October 12-16 at Chicago. You comment that it is an extension of the North Carolina Conference, and that Dr. Gault, who was active in that Conference, is Chairman of this group. Because of the "New Masses" reference to that Conference and Dr. Gault, you believe it possible that some of the interested parties may not be aware of the fact that they are "lending themselves to anti-Semitic activities in the name of anti-Communism".

Dr. Gault was not active in the Asheville Conference. He was one of the one hundred and fifty who signed the original call. When he was informed that many anti-Semites were included in the signatories to the letter calling the Conference, he sent a very explicit wire condemning in no uncertain terms anti-Semitism and all other "isms" which sought to create prejudice between American groups. We played a rather important part in connection with the Asheville Conference, advising decent Christians ministers and laymen throughout the country who were identified with it, of the nature of many of the people joining them in the call. Many were shocked, and went to Asheville determined to frustrate any purpose to make it an anti-Semitic conference. The results are known to you. Dr. Gault was not of the revolting group of anti-Semites, but instead has thrown himself into the "America Forward" movement purposed to defeat the plans of those who bolted that Asheville Conference because of its refusal to unite its anti-Communist with an anti-Semitic program.

The Asheville Conference was political in conception. The extension of the movement originally had its political implications. In order to sever itself from such implications, the meeting at Chicago was postponed until early in December. The election would thus be out of the way and the aims of those who were anxious to invest the gathering with political coloration were thus defeated.

Several of the preliminary conferences have been held in our office. Besides Dr. Gault, the participants have been men like Dr. Horace Bridges of Chicago, Dr. George W. Evans, religious editor of the Chicago Tribune, Dr. Kohn of the Lutheran group, and Rabbis Felix Levy and Solomon Goldman. Several of us collaborated on the statement of purpose, which reveals that Catholics, Protestants, and Jews are uniting against Communism, Fascism, and Nazism, for the preservation of the Democratic philosophy, and also in an effort to secure religious reaffirmations in the congregations of the three religious groups.

The reason for the selection originally of October 15th and 16th for the gathering in Chicago was to smother the possibilities of publicity for the Washington conference of anti-Semites scheduled for the same dates. Careful consideration convinced us that this was unwise for many reasons, and the later date was subsequently chosen. You may depend upon it that the utmost care is being exercised and that Jews and Christians of liberal spirit and genuine understanding will watch every move with the utmost care.

Neither have we been unmindful of the necessity of circumscribing the possible influence of the Washington conference of anti-Semites. We are hopeful that the influence may be confined almost entirely to the four walls of the hall in which the meeting will be held.

Nor is this all; Rev. Nollner, who is organizing the "America Forward" movement conferred with us when he was in Chicago en route to Omaha. He was placed directly in contact with able representatives of the League in Omaha and there is absolutely no danger of his movement going astray in this community. He passed through Chicago yesterday and was in touch with our office. He is very anxious for complete cooperation, and to avoid any possible mistakes. Regardless of any skepticism which we may have had as to Nollner's original purposes, we are thoroughly convinced now that he will not make any blunders with this organization. I believe you may be assured that neither Mr. Kirby nor any of his ilk will play any part in, or exercise any control of this movement from this time forth.

We do not believe it wise to issue such a questionnaire as you have drawn up. There are

many subjects which it contains that until now have not even been dreamt of by many of the people who are scheduled to receive your questionnaire. We do not believe it wise to put any ideas of this character into people's heads, particularly when it may not be necessary. Our thought is that we are interested in a constructive American program; Catholics are interested in the same program; Protestants likewise. We can defeat anti-Semitic purposes by promoting real conceptions of the American philosophy and of the American way. This means that all of us are equally concerned with scotching stupid statements about the Pope securing the White House, as well as exposing libelous and unfounded allegations against the Jewish people.

Communist leaders have recently in private expressed their debt of gratitude to Mr. Hearst who has recruited more members of Communism in a few months than the Party by its own efforts could have secured in as many years. Let us be careful to avoid mistakes of this character.

Please be assured, Miss Chadsey, of our desire to be helpful. This letter is not prompted by the critical spirit. We have experienced, however, the dangers of issuing questionnaires to groups of people promiscuously. You have no assurance that they are all liberal or friendly. There are possibilities of distorting the situation and frustrating your purpose unless each step be very carefully considered.

I should be very happy to receive further word from you in connection herewith.

Sincerely yours,


Richard E. Gutstadt
Director

REG:rs

cc--Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVE



C O P Y

October 12, 1936

Mr. Elmer Scheuer, Chairman, Executive Committee,
League for Human Rights Against Naziism,
2320 Superior Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Scheuer:

First I want to express my appreciation to you and other members of the Executive Committee with whom it has been my privilege and pleasure to work.

Secondly, I want to ask you to release me from my position not later than December 1 and preferably by November 15. I would be glad to be of any assistance or service I can in helping you to find a successor and it is my opinion that it would be better for only you and Mr. Morris and Rabbi Silver to know at this time that I contemplate leaving not later than December 1 and as soon before that as you can relieve me.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbi Silver and to Mr. Morris.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Mildred Chadsey
K

AHS:BK

October 12 , 1936

Miss Mildred Chadsey,
Wade Park Manor,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Miss Chadsey:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the
letter which you dictated yesterday and which you
asked me to send to Mr. Scheuer, Mr. I. R. Morris
and Rabbi Silver.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

BJK
Enc.

October 12, 1936

Dear Mr. Scheuer:

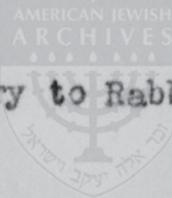
Miss Chadsey dictated the enclosed letter to me this afternoon. I have mailed a copy to Mr. Morris and shall give Rabbi Silver his copy in the morning.

Very sincerely yours,

BJK
Enc.

WRHS


Secretary to Rabbi Silver.



HENRY C. WOLFE
COSHOCOTON, OHIO

October 14, 1936.

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

My dear Dr. Silver:

Knowing your interest in democracy's struggle
against the onslaught^s of Nazi-ism in Europe, I am taking the liberty,
on my return from the Continent, to enclose an article of mine which
discusses Nazi violence in the Balkans.

You may possibly be interested to read a short
article of mine, "DANZIG UNDER THE TERROR," which will appear in
the October 17th number of The NATION.

Sincerely yours,

Henry C. Wolfe

October 16, 1936

Dr. B. W. Abramson
139 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio

My dear Dr. Abramson:

Mr. Lee J. Levinger of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Commission has written us in reply to our inquiry that you are interested in the boycott movement and suggested that we communicate with you.

It is very necessary that we and the New York League for Human Rights Against Naziism know what chain stores are operating in Columbus and in turn what ones of these stores are carrying German goods and what German goods they are carrying.

I am enclosing a report that was sent to our office upon request from the Akron committee thinking that it may be helpful to you. The Akron committee employed a shopper who carefully shopped all of the chain stores in Akron in order to make this report. Do you think that you could get the funds with which to employ a shopper or do you think you could get a group of volunteers to do this work?

If I can be of any assistance to you I would gladly make the trip to Columbus to talk with you and your committee.

Yours sincerely,

Director

October 21, 1936

Mr. Henry C. Wolfe,
Coshocton, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Wolf:

Let me thank you for your thoughtfulness
in sending me your article on Nazi violence in the
Balkans.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

BAKER HOSTETLER SIDLO & PATTERSON
Union Trust Building
Cleveland

October 21, 1936

Mr. Nathan Loeser
National City Bank Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Loeser:

I return Bulletin 3-'36 of the American Jewish Committee. It makes very sad reading and no thoughtful man can be unmoved either by this widespread cruelty or the thing it indicates.

To the latter aspect of the German situation I have been giving my mind for a number of years. So far as Germany is concerned, I know of no way in which an American can have the slightest influence in restraining the frenzied course to which economic terror has driven a bewildered people, but I think we Americans can and ought to be very much concerned and very active about every manifestation of the transplantation of this prejudice onto American soil.

As one of the joint chairmen of the Conference of Jews and Christians, I suppose I am unusually sensitive to racial and religious prejudices and perhaps unusually informed about their growth among us. It used to be in America that the anti-Jewish prejudice and the anti-Catholic prejudice were the most easily inflamed and the most easily used by agitators who wanted to exploit them for their own profit. Since the conclusion of the World War the growth of the spirit of nationalism has changed that picture and now in every country the natives are acquiring prejudices against all outsiders and among outsiders they include all racial or religious minorities. As a consequence, in this country at this moment we have, I think, somewhat more prejudice against Jews and Catholics than we used to have, but in addition to that all Germans are suspect, and all Russians are suspect, and all Italians are suspect. The so-called native Americans imagine that all Germans are Nazis and all Russians are Communists and all Italians are Fascists, and every manifestation of sympathy by any one of these groups of people toward the land of their ancestors is immediately construed into an advocacy of political philosophy current in that country at this time. On the other hand, as these groups feel the pressure of this suspicion and distrust, they adopt a defensive mechanism and become Nazis, Communists and Fascists, not because of any belief in the philosophy but as a defiant retort to the suspicion which they feel to be unjust.

The application of all this to the present situation is, of course, very serious. Here in America our common life is cut across by more and more virulent prejudices than we have ever known, and how we are going to keep America wholesome and diminish these ignorant emotions which have hitherto divided

us becomes an increasingly grave problem.

From what I have said you will realize, I am sure, that while I am keenly sensible of the Jewish problem both in Germany and the United States and recognize that it has certain individual characteristics, it is as yet but a special instance of a general problem which fills me with grave anxiety and sadness.

Cordially yours,

NEWTON D. BAKER

1-1a



October 22, 1936

Mr. A. Carr
Nathan Hale Jr. High School
3594 East Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Carr:

Do you recall an interview I had with you on November 22, 1935, regarding the complaints of Jewish children in the neighborhood that some of the teachers were unfair to Jews in their remarks? After talking to you I was convinced you had a very real problem and were handling it in such a way that warranted no outside interference.

I am sending you a letter containing another complaint of unfair treatment and asking you to deal with this as you see fit.

Yours sincerely,

Director

Confidential

(COPY)

October 29th, 1936

Hon. Newton D. Baker,
Union Trust Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Baker:

I would appreciate it if, at your convenience,
you could read a part or all of the enclosed bulletins issued
by the American Jewish Committee. It will give you some
idea of the actual situation of the Jews in Germany at the
present time.

With kindest regards,

Very truly yours,

(sgd) NATHAN LOESER

NL:LLG
Enc.

October 30, 1936

MEMORANDUM FROM MISS CHADSEY

for
RABBI SILVER

- (1) The attached is an article I am sending to all the Jewish papers on Monday which will be over Mr. Scheuer's signature. Don't you think that you should write a strong editorial on this subject for the Jewish papers? I will call you on Monday to see if you can do this and if you can, I will call the papers Monday telling them to hold space until Wednesday. I think editorials have to be in by Wednesday.

For your information, six of these Jewish merchants have been reported to the Jewish War Veterans and the B'nai B'rith and they are dealing with these men. It is possible that we may decide to follow up this letter with a news item next week giving the names of these six merchants and a story of these organizations' dealings with them.

- (2) I understand that Mr. Craner, Secretary of the New York organization is ready to come to Cleveland when asked. Mr. Morris said that you were delaying asking him until the new secretary was appointed. Personally, I feel that not a day should be lost in getting Mr. Craner to Cleveland and get action on the chainstore situation. The German merchandise appearing in Kresge's and Woolworth's is having an effect upon the other stores, especially the neighborhood stores. I had hoped to be able to meet this problem before giving up the work and I assure you that I am ready to bend my entire efforts on this for the next month in the hope that we can clear it up.

RELEASE FOR JEWISH NEWSPAPERS

LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST NAZISM SERVES WARNING

to

JEWISH MERCHANTS DEALING IN GERMAN GOODS

The League for Human Rights against Nazism has been conducting an intensive investigation of the merchandise carried by the neighborhood dry goods and variety and local chain stores. For the most part these stores are owned and operated by Jewish merchants. The League is sending the following message to these stores.

"To the disgrace, not only of the Jewish community, but to the larger community that is co-operating and working for the Boycott of German goods and services, we find that many stores owned and operated by Jewish merchants are dealing in German merchandise. Some of these merchants claim that their German goods, especially their gloves, are old stock that was bought before the League began its work. If true, this is not a justifiable excuse, but it is not true because the label on these gloves is "Germany". Up until two years ago, gloves coming from Germany carried the label "Saxony" or "Bavaria" or the name of some other division of Germany. Two years ago, the law went into effect that goods must carry the label of the country in which they were made, and not of a province in that country. The lamentable fact is that ^{are} these Jews/dealing in the goods of enemy, buying job lots of merchandise that are marked down because they are German and therefore can not be sold to the large downtown stores. After almost four years of work and warning on the part of the League, these Jewish merchants can no longer expect leniency. They have proved themselves unworthy of any degree of consideration. Every Rabbi and every Jewish organization and every Jewish newspaper in this community is working for the Boycott. The League is hereby serving notice that the names

of Jews dealing in German merchandise, no matter how small the stock, or how old, are being given to these Rabbis, organizations and newspapers. These Jewish merchants deserve to stand accused of disloyalty before their people."

(Signed) Elmer Scheuer
CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The names of these merchants have been allocated to the various Jewish organizations. Within the next few weeks, representatives of these organizations will visit these stores and if German goods are found, the drastic methods set forth in the letter from the League will be pursued.



THE LEAGUE
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST NAZIISM

608 Ninth Chester Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

PRospect 5730

October 30, 1936

Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

You recall that at the small meeting at the Wade Park Manor, when I said that I could get no responses from the Jewish representatives in the Ohio towns, you replied that they must be made to respond. In the following paragraph I want to summarize my efforts to deal with them and have you advise with me about the next steps to make them respond.

At three times during the last three years we have made efforts working with Mr. Haber of the B'nai B'rith and Mrs. Brudno of the Council of Jewish Women, to find leaders in Akron, Youngstown, Columbus, Canton, Lorain. At three times we have written to different people asking them to arrange a meeting which we could attend with a view to helping them start work, and three times they have referred us to Rabbis in these towns. These Rabbis have for the most part told us either that they are convinced there is no German goods or that they would like to see a movement started but do not think it should be started by the Jewish groups.

After the meeting at the Wade Park Manor, I again wrote to the Rabbis at these places asking them to do specific things, namely, to have the chain stores in their town shopped either by volunteer shoppers or by a paid shopper and to report to us the results of their shopping. I explained in detail why I wanted this information. These letters were sent over three weeks ago and I have not heard from any of them as yet.

As I reported at that meeting, we went personally to Akron and Youngstown because our correspondence with representatives there resulted in a committee inviting us. The Akron meeting resulted in the committee employing someone to shop the chain stores in Akron. Apparently our visit to Youngstown was of no avail as we have yet had no tangible evidences that it was.

What do you suggest should be my next move in regard to Canton, Columbus, Lorain and Youngstown?

Yours sincerely,

Mildred Shodan

Director

November 2, 1936

Mr. Elmer Scheuer,
The Bloch Co.,
2320 Superior Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Elmer:

You may recall that back in 1933, before our local Anti-Nazi League was organized, I appealed to the community for funds to carry on boycott activities. Of the money collected, some went to New York headquarters and some went to our local organization. My secretary, Mr. Levy, called my attention, last week, to the fact that there was still a balance of \$60.72 in the bank. I have withdrawn the amount from the bank and am sending it to you to apply on the budget of our local Anti-Nazi League.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK
Enc.

THE LEAGUE
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST NAZIISM
608 Ninth Chester Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio
PRospect 5730

November 4, 1936

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

This is to acknowledge your check for \$60.72 that
Mr. Scheuer has turned over to the League.



Yours sincerely,

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

By:

I Gross

DEALERS SUPPLY COMPANY

Beauty Parlor Supplies

PROSPECT-FOURTH BUILDING
2077 East 4th Street
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Phone, MAin 4494

Nov. 13th, 1936

Rabbi A. Silver,
% The Temple,
Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

We are enclosing a letter which has been circularized to the beauty shops in Cleveland.

We are sending it to you, knowing that you would be interested in propaganda of this sort.

If there is anything that we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Respectfully yours,

DEALERS SUPPLY COMPANY

AG:ES

A. Greenfield

November 16, 1936

Mr. A. Greenfield,
Dealers Supply Company,
2077 East 4th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Greenfield:

Let me thank you for your thoughtfulness
in sending me the circular. I have forwarded it
to the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith
in Chicago. I am sure they will follow the matter
up.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS: BK

November 20, 1936

Mr. A. Greenfield,
Dealers Supply Company
2077 East 4th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Greenfield:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I just received from the Anti-Defamation League of Chicago with reference to the American Beauty Products Company. I knew that you would be interested in seeing it. Please return the letter to me after you have read it.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK
Enc.

DEALERS SUPPLY COMPANY

Beauty Parlor Supplies

PROSPECT-FOURTH BUILDING

2077 East 4th Street
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Phone, MAin 4494

Nov. 21st, 1936

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:-

As requested in your letter of the 20th, we are returning the letter from the Anti-Defamation League of Chicago, which we have read with great interest.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

DEALERS SUPPLY COMPANY

A. Greenfield

AG:ES



November 30, 1936

Miss Mildred Chadsey,
League for Human Rights Against Naziism,
Chester-Ninth Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Miss Chadsey:

The enclosed letter of Mr. Seger
is self-explanatory. Do you know of a few German-
American citizens in Cleveland who would be interested
in meeting Mr. Seger?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

MRS. I. NUSSBAUM
415 WEST WARREN ST.
BUCYRUS, OHIO

Dec. 26, 1936

Dear sir,

Being a contributor to your society, am enclosing an article from today's Cleveland Plain Dealer and would like to know whether these things could not be suppressed, in this small town, this paper is read by many, and does not do the cause any good on the contrary if you think writing to the "B'nai B'rith" lodge will help any will do so very respectfully

Mrs. I. Nussbaum

THE LEAGUE
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST NAZIISM

608 Ninth Chester Bldg.

Cleveland, Ohio

PRospect 5730

January 16, 1937

Rabbi A. H. Silver
Commodore Hotel
New York, New York

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I am writing you to explain the wires which I was obliged to send you this week.

Mr. Morris, Mr. Scheuer and I think that a luncheon meeting on Friday, February 12th, would entirely change the purpose of the meeting. We considered a Friday luncheon and then arranging for Mr. Sollmann to speak at the Men's City Club and we decided against that for several reasons. Now it seems to us that a Sunday evening meeting with Mr. Sollmann as principle speaker; with you, as chairman, also making a shorter speech; and a Catholic Priest would make a good evening program. We have not heard from you about this date. If you cannot preside and speak, we will not have the meeting Sunday. Will you please wire us? We would then arrange to have Mr. Sollmann speak at least once more on Monday. I would like, if possible, to get a luncheon engagement and an evening meeting for him. If we have him Sunday and present him to Cleveland Saturday, I am afraid that will steal the thunder of our meeting.

Do you think Father Moriarity would be a good representative? I do not know what his attitude is, so if you have any information about it, I will be glad to have it before I approach him.

I am also wondering about Father Cyprian. I do not know whether the rules of his order would prevent his presence at a public meeting, and, of course, I do not know his attitude toward our problem.

Have you heard that the German Consulate meeting has been cancelled? One victory for our side!

The Electrical League presenting Dr. Longoria is calling a special meeting of the Board of Directors Monday to consider our request. I have asked them to present a speaker January 22nd,

January 16, 1937
Cleveland, Ohio

Rabbi A. H. Silver
Page 2

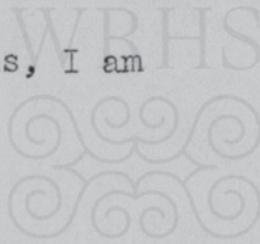
that the meeting be set up under precisely the same conditions as Dr. Longoria's meeting. My feeling is that they will comply with our request, however, they may disappoint me and if they do it will be just too bad.

Then you will want to know too that after a long conference with Mr. Shiverick and two other members of his organization, Mr. Pierce, the manager, phoned me that they had taken all German merchandise out of the store. However, I have not had the time to investigate this.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Isaac E. Muzette
Director



Copy for
office

January 16, 1937

Rabbi A. H. Silver
Commodore Hotel
New York, New York

My dear Rabbi Silver:

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January 16, 1937
Cleveland, Ohio

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Sincerely yours,

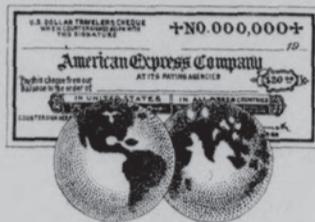
Director

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

AMERICAN EXPRESS AFFILIATED FOREIGN OFFICES

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BOMBAY	GLASGOW
BREMEN	HAMBURG
BRUSSELS	HAVRE
CAIRO	HONG KONG
CALCUTTA	INTERLAKEN
CANNES	JERUSALEM
COLOMBO	LIVERPOOL

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AMEXCO



TRAVELERS CHEQUES, TRAVEL SERVICE
HERE AND EVERYWHERE

1426 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO
CHARLES G. STARCKE
J.G. KEHOE
DISTRICT MANAGER

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MONTREAL	TIENTSIN
MUNICH	TORONTO
NAPLES	VIENNA
NICE	YOKOHAMA
PALERMO	ZURICH

TEL. CHERRY 4436

JAN 22 1937

January 21, 1937

Gottfried Company
1150 West 3 Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Gentlemen:

We are making preliminary arrangements for the visit to America of a party of Germans engaged in the clothing industry, and tentative schedule provides for a visit to Cleveland sometime within the near future. On the day they will visit Cleveland they have expressed a desire to visit your plant.

I am writing at this time to inquire if you will allow this group the privilege of visiting your plant. If granted this opportunity, I will advise you several days ahead of their arrival.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL SERVICE

Charles G. Starcke
Charles G. Starcke
District Manager

CGS:h

Please Return

January 28, 1937

Mr. Emil H. Gottfried,
Gottfried Company,
1150 West 3rd Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Gottfried:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from the New York Office relative to the invitation which was extended to you by the American Express Company. The New York Office seems convinced that the clothing group is here for propaganda purposes. They suggest that you might accept the invitation but tactfully learn from them at first hand what they are about.

Please return the enclosed letter to me after you have read it. With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.



THE

Gottfried
COMPANY

ORIGINATORS & MANUFACTURERS OF

Marie Dressler Dresses

1150 WEST 3RD STREET
CLEVELAND, O.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
% The Temple,
E. 105th St., and Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Feb. 1st,

1937.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The enclosed copy of letter is self-explanatory. While my decision has been made, I don't think there would be any harm in learning who the delegation consists of. Such information may come in handy some day. However, I entertain little hope of getting this information.

At any rate, I will keep you informed of any further developments.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

EHG:EW

P.S. I am returning the letter you requested.

NEW YORK SALESROOM ★ 1350 BROADWAY



CHICAGO SALESROOM ★ MERCHANDISE MART

KNOWN · THE · COUNTRY · OVER ·

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

· FOR · THEIR · REMARKABLE · FIT

American Express Office,
1426 Euclid Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Feb. 1st,

1937.

Gentlemen:

Att: Mr. Starcke.

In response to your recent letter regarding the German delegation desiring to visit our plant, I desire to learn the exact number comprising this delegation and what firms they represent, before arriving at any decision in the matter.

I will give this request further consideration upon receipt of this information.

Very truly yours,

THE GOTTFRIED COMPANY,

EHG:BW

OFFICE HOURS:
9 TO 12 A. M. 1 TO 4:30 P. M.
9 TO 12 SATURDAY

DIRECTOR
GRACE E. MEYETTE
SECRETARY
LAURA GROSS

The League for Human Rights

608 Ninth Chester Bldg.

Cleveland, Ohio

PRospect 5730



March 3, 1937

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing a check for the gift which you so generously made in our time of need. We returned all of the gifts with the exception of Mr. Scheuer's, Mr. Weinberger's and yours, immediately out of the funds advanced by the Welfare Federation. We received a check on the first which enables us now to return these three gifts. Thank you very much for helping us to meet our emergency.

Sincerely yours,

Grace E. Meyette
Director

NATHAN M. BOTWIN
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
808 PROSPECT-FOURTH BLDG.
CLEVELAND

1101 Public Square Bldg.

March 19, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Road & E. 105th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

A couple of weeks ago I tried to reach you on the telephone for the purpose of inviting you to a preview of a picture called A GREATER PROMISE. Unfortunately, you were not in and so I left the message for you with Rabbi Sherman. I regret that neither of you appeared.

We were merely interested in this preview for the purpose of determining whether the actions of the Board of Censorship constituted a denial of civil rights in this case, or worse.

Undoubtedly, you have read the remarks of Ward Marsh in the Plain Dealer commending this picture very highly. All of us who attended the preview--and we were a fairly large group, who came from all walks of life and represented about equally, Jews and Christians--were uniformly of the opinion that we could not possibly understand what motivated the Board of Censors in declaring the picture "harmful." The motive has now been made clear.

Before stating verbatim the reason given by Mr. Roy Reichelderfer for banning the picture, let me recall one of the incidents in the picture so that you may be able to follow Mr. Reichelderfer's analysis more intelligently. In the picture, a Russian youth and a Jewish girl fall in love with each other. At first, the parents of both disapprove of the match but later on the Russian father and the Jewish mother talk it over and they come to the conclusion that if marriage will bring their children greater happiness, they will not stand in their way. The picture does not either advocate or disapprove of intermarriage. This marriage is merely one of the incidents of the picture.

Now read the following three "principles" enunciated by the Board of Censorship in its opinion for the rejection of this film:

1. "As a picture portraying regimented,

communistic life, which is fundamentally atheistic, it creates an anti-religious feeling among the audience. This is illustrated by the fact that when the old mother feels distressed, she regrets the fact that there is no Rabbi in the community whom to consult with."

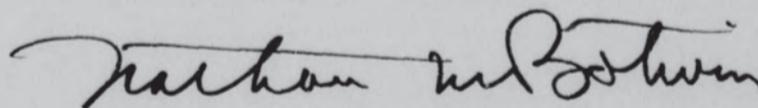
2. "The picture encourages social and racial equality, thereby stirring up racial hatreds."
3. "The film glorifies collective life which means the abolishment of private property."

"All the above doctrines are contrary to the accepted codes of American life."

This statement was brought to my desk only a half hour ago. I have read it and reread it and applying the analysis to the facts of the picture, I cannot escape the conclusion that Mr. Reichelderfer is applying the Nazi "rassenschande" theory to the marriage of a Jew and a Russian; that the marriage "encourages social and racial equality" between the Jews and Russians which is an infamous crime from the Nazi standpoint. In the heart of Mr. Reichelderfer, who is a Nazi, intermarriage necessarily stirs up "racial hatreds." What do you think of this situation and what in your opinion should be done now?

I am writing letters on this subject to Rabbi Brickner and Alfred A. Benesh. In my opinion, this incident dramatizes the fact that Nazism not only has already arrived in the United States, but that it is becoming strongly entrenched in high places. THE TIME TO FIGHT FOR LIBERTY IS WHILE YOU HAVE IT. AFTER IT HAS BEEN LOST, IT IS TOO LATE.

Sincerely yours,



Nathan M. Botwin

NMB:AL

March 26th, 1937

Miss Grace Meyette
Director, League for Human Rights
608 Ninth Chester Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Meyette:

Your letter of March 24th making inquiry as to Mme. Irene Harand, also from Mr. Geo. W. Furth written March 25th, have been referred to me.

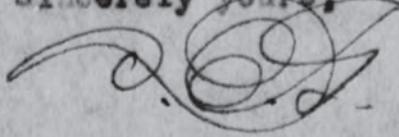
I note that it will not be feasible to have Mme. Harand in Cleveland on April 18th or 19th because of conflicting plans both at Rabbi Silver's Temple and because of the expected visit of Professor Jerome Davis of Yale.

The other dates available are April 27th, 28th, 29th or 30th. Could you arrange a meeting on one of these dates. Mme. Harand does not expect an honorarium for herself but prefers to receive a contribution to her organization which is known as the Harand Movement. In view of the kinship of her interest with the essential program of your League, it is to be hoped that it will be possible to have a contribution to her very important program result from her visit to your city. I wonder whether it would be possible for you to communicate with Dr. Silver as to this. Our suggestion to him sought arrangement of a noon-day luncheon gathering of a selected group of your leading Jewish and non-Jewish citizens to whom Mme. Harand might more intimately present her program and from whom a substantial contribution in support of it might be forthcoming. If such a noon hour gathering could be arranged for the same day on which she might address your group at night, this would work in well with our plans to have her in as many places as possible during her comparatively brief stay in this general vicinity.

In response to your question as to her ability to speak English well, may I say that she has been studying our language intensively. Because of her remarkable facility with languages, we expect her to be able to express herself with telling clarity. Even were she to speak in German, and to be followed by an interpreter as was done at several large meetings in Chicago on her last visit, the effect is not lost upon her audience. She is a person of uniquely charming appeal, whose presentation is characterized by dramatic earnestness. You need anticipate no difficulty on this score.

May I please hear from you at your very earliest opportunity as to which of the proffered dates you will be able to utilize for the meeting you plan. It is to be hoped that ample press publicity will be given the highly important content of her message.

Sincerely yours,



L. Elliot Grafman
Director, Speakers Bureau

LEG:EBF
cc: Geo. W. Furth
Rabbi Silver

OFFICE HOURS:
9 TO 12 A. M. 1 TO 4:30 P. M.
9 TO 12 SATURDAY

DIRECTOR
GRACE E. MEYETTE
SECRETARY
LAURA GROSS

The League for Human Rights
608 Ninth Chester Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

PRospect 5730



March 29, 1937

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

My dear Rabbi Silver:

There will be a luncheon meeting of the Sponsoring Committee of the League for Human Rights, Monday, April 5th, at twelve o'clock at the Allerton Hotel.

The purpose of this meeting is to report the activities of the League for Human Rights and to discuss Nazi activities in Cleveland.

Please send your luncheon reservation to the League office before Friday, April 2nd. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, we would be very happy to have you attend the meeting which will immediately follow the luncheon.

Sincerely yours,

Grace E. Meyette
Director

MEMORANDUM OF A VISIT PAID BY SEN TO THE
STATE DEPARTMENT MARCH 31, 1937.

SEN had no definite appointment with the State Department, but knowing that Secretary Hull was occupied with Tweedsmuir, thought he might say a word to Moore. Moore at once took up with SEN the matter of the Department being permitted to retain the original document as well as the substitute Memorandum. I shall leave it to SEN to decide whether it would not be wise for us to accede to that request.

SEN explained to Judge Moore the very difficult situation in which we find ourselves at this time, saying to him "Everything that the Chief and the State Department, including Secretary Hull and yourself, have done for us may be neutralized at any moment".

I told Judge Moore of our fears of the rumors of an authoritative Legislative Council, or of possible centralization, of the ending of economic absorptive capacity as the norm of Jewish immigration. I explained to Judge Moore our two-fold involvement in the problem -- one, by reason of our Government's attitude beginning with Wilson and culminating in the attitude of the President; second, that we were a help to the final treaty. "The real danger, Judge Moore, is that our Government may be faced by a "fait accompli". The Royal Commission may make its report to the Government, and the Government announce its decision simultaneously with the Report. Nothing would then be left to us but to appeal to the League of Nations or the High Court". He minimized the possibility of appealing to the League of Nations saying "You know that the League of Nations is likely to do nothing, for you know how weak it is at this time, nor do I see how it could go to the High Court".

I insisted that our Government ought to know what is in the minds of the British Government even though the phraseology of the Report may not yet be decided upon. He agreed completely and in substance said "I don't think it would be well for our Government to raise the question on the grounds of our right to see the report and to know the decision in advance. Let me do it in a friendly and informal way. I see a great deal of Sir Ronald Lindsay. He comes into the Department every day or two. Informally I can ask him to find out from his Government what are the lines of the Report. I think I can get them in that way. There will be time then to reach a decision as to what, if anything, we should do".

I could not dissent from that procedure because it seemed to me to be offered in a spirit of friendliness; but I did ask that I be sent for immediately when Judge Moore gets the desired information from Sir Ronald. When the information comes will be time enough for four or five of us to meet in Washington and decide what course to pursue.

I need hardly mention that this memorandum must be regarded as strictly confidential.

What year?
136-37-38

THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

608 Ninth Chester Bldg.

Cleveland, Ohio

PRospect 5730



Director—GRACE E. MEYETTE
Secretary—LAURA GROSS

OFFICE HOURS:

9 - 12 A. M.
1 - 4:30 P. M.
9 - 12 Saturday

April 1, 1937

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

(Please read this letter at your next Board and Open Meetings)

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Through the efforts of the League, the exchange of German High School students was completely and thoroughly presented to the citizens of Cleveland and surrounding townships. It was the purpose of the League to bring to the attention of the School Boards the violation of American Public School educational principles, namely, racial and religious tolerance, freedom of speech, and freedom of inquiry, all of which, according to the words of the Nazi leaders are violated. We at no time directly sought to influence the teachers, the parents, or the students; we chose to place the responsibility upon the School Boards. This we achieved. In no instance has the School Board sponsored or recruited students which is wholly the responsibility of the parents.

We recommend first, more letters to the papers from your Gentile friends, second, requests from your Gentile friends for speakers in the schools.

Senator Dickstein is appealing to Congress for funds for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of Nazi activities in the United States. Have you written to the Senators and Representatives of your District to vote for House Resolution 88?

The film industry of Germany is suffering severely from decreased exports due to a general lack of interest in Nazi films. The Nazi government has recently obtained complete control of the UFA for the purpose of making Nazi propaganda films. Watch your neighborhood theatres for any UFA films, particularly a film called "Amphitryon" and one called "Old and New Kings". Emil Jannings is featured in "Old and New Kings" and it is understood that he is to be the new propaganda director of the new UFA Company.

The New York Times for March 24th carried a picture and story of fifty Christian German refugees leaving their homes for Colombia, South America, where they hope to establish a self-sustaining community.

We recommend that all references to the Boycott of the goods and services of the Germany of to-day be referred to as Nazi goods and Nazi services as we are boycotting Nazi Germany rather than Germany or the German people.

In spite of the fact that Sir Henri Deterding is no longer an officer of the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company, reports indicate he owns two-thirds of the stock. Royal Dutch Petroleum gasoline is sold in this country under the name of "Shell Gas".

WHY DO THESE FIRMS CONTINUE TO CARRY NAZI MERCHANDISE?

Woolworth
Kresge
Newberry
McCrorry
Sears, Roebuck and Company
Cleveland News Company, 700 St. Clair Ave. (not to be confused with
the Cleveland News, the newspaper)
Dodd Company-Huron Road
Kathal Wales - Shaker Square
E. N. Prentke - 1944 E. 105th St.
Charles E. Russell Inc. - Shaker Square (not to be confused with
Jones-Russell Company)

NAZI MERCHANDISE TO BE WATCHED: Prints, Pencils, Thumb Tacks, Artists
Supplies, Cameras, Thermometers, all Cutlery and Tools, Scissors, Paper Doilies,
Colonial Paper Bouquet Holders, Favors, and Star Fish Food.

Progress Vacuum Cleaner is not a Nazi product and the following article
appeared in the House Furnishing Review of March 27th:

"PROGRESS VACUUM CLEANER MADE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO--NOT ABROAD"

"House Furnishing Review has been informed by A. K. Hoppe, vice-president
and sales manager of Progress Vacuum Corporation of Cleveland, that a statement on
page 29 of the February issue is erroneous. This statement was: "Progress Vacuum
Cleaner, made abroad and assembled in Cleveland." The Progress Vacuum Corporation
state that their product is made in its entirety in America and wholly financed by
American Capital. HOUSE FURNISHING REVIEW regrets this error",

BERGER JEWELRY COMPANY does not sell Nazi merchandise.

HOFFMAN'S has removed Nazi novelties which it carried in its 105 St. Store.

MCKESSON HALL VAN GORDER carried German refined Mineral Oil and Star Fish
Food. Most Russian Mineral Oil has a large parafine content and in some cases that
is injurious. Germany has developed a method of refining all Russian mineral oil
which no one else has done. To-day Russian Mineral Oil is refined in Belgium mostly,
but some of it is refined in Germany. Because of the demand for it, they cannot re-
fuse to handle it. As to the Star Fish Food, a case of this Fish Food lasts a long
time and it is only sold in the small German neighborhoods where it is the only fish
food they know and ask for it by name. There is not enough being sold to cause any
concern. We reaffirm that it is their policy not to carry Nazi goods.

CHARLES E. RUSSELL INC. (This is not to be confused with JONES-RUSSELL CO.)
Refused to remove Nazi merchandise.

OHIO STATIONERY COMPANY - 1371 West 6th Street
RUBBER SUNDRIES - 1383 West 9th Street
carry only harmonicas made in Germany. We have been unable to find any harmonicas
manufactured in any other country that can be used as musical instruments.

BAILEY COMPANY has removed all Nazi knitting needles and crocheting hooks.

HIGBEE COMPANY: The Bavarian stock pattern china is old stock and is carried for replacements and will not be reordered.

LINDNER COMPANY - Carried on Valentine's Day, Colonial Bouquet Holders which were used for handkerchief bouquets. These holders are Nazi merchandise. Lindner Company returned these immediately to the jobber.

MAY COMPANY - has removed embroidery (Nunn's and Appolo) made in Nazi Germany.

MCNALLY-DOYLE - had on display some Nazi Easter novelties which were removed as soon as they were called to their attention.

SAUNDER NOVELTY COMPANY - carries Nazi novelty paper hats which have been in stock since 1931. They refuse to remove these.

To our knowledge, there is no Nazi merchandise in the 105th Street stores.

COSTELLO'S MUSIC SHOP, 1993 East 105th Street: carries Nazi made Fifes, accordions for which adequate substitutes can be found. Mr. Costello said, "I will avoid Nazi merchandise when possible".

"All films made by Agfa Ansco Corporation of Binghamton, N.Y. are wholly 100% American.

All current models of cameras are manufactured in the United States.

However, there is an agfa Ansco Corporation in Germany connected with the Farben Industry. This has no connection whatsoever with the Agfa Ansco Corporation of Binghamton, N.Y. The German corporation's films are sold throughout Europe and oftentimes their products are confused with those of the American corporation. There are, perhaps, some stockholders in Germany who own stock in the American Corporation."

The effectiveness of the boycott depends upon your cooperation.

The boycott of Nazi merchandise and services should be more vigorously enforced than ever. Remember that the Nazis never sleep.

Remember that American Dollars sent to Nazi Germany from the sale of Nazi cameras and prints make just as good bullets as money received from gloves or knitting needles.

From
The League for Human Rights
607 Ninth Chester Building
Cleveland, Ohio

JACK RAPER SUGGESTS

TO CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS WHO MAY GO TO GERMANY THIS SUMMER:

"Don't tell any boys, girls or adults that in the United States you may criticise the President or his policies. You may be accused of encouraging criticism of Hitler.

"Don't say you do not believe Hitler is God. You may be ostracised.

"Don't tell anybody that the United States Constitution gives every citizen religious freedom. That might be construed as an attack on the German government.

"Don't tell that American citizens may vote as they please.

"Don't tell anybody in Germany that Jews go to our schools, that you know many Jewish boys and girls and associate with them. Tell that, and you might as well take the next boat for home.

"Don't tell that in the United States the Congress may override the President's veto. This might be construed as an attempt to weaken Hitler's power.

"Don't say you think Mayor LaGuardia had the right to say what he did of Hitler. You may be beaten up or arrested, or both.

"Don't tell that the ablest justice of the United States Supreme Court is a Jew. That would be 'just too bad' for you.

"Don't say the American people don't believe in killing or inflicting bodily injury, imprisoning or confiscating the property of any man because of his race or religion. You can't tell what may happen to you.

"Don't say you believe in democracy".

(From the Cleveland Press, March 11 and 13, 1937)

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
COLUMBUS

ALFRED A. BENESCH
DIRECTOR

4-29-37.

Dear Rabbi Silver, - There is a very serious
phase of the student exchange situation
which I cannot now discuss - either
by letter or orally. An explanation will
be forthcoming in due season.

I must ask you to
remember that I am still a self-
respecting Jew, and that, like the
Leopard, I do not change my spots.

If my record as a defender of Jewish
rights does not speak loudly enough to
overwhelm the noise created by a few
Wissenschafts, I am very sorry.

Hastily & sincerely yours

Alfred A. Benesch

April 30, 1937

Mr. Alfred A. Benesch,
Deschler-Wallick Hotel,
Columbus, Ohio.

My dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your letter. My call to you over long distance was prompted by the thought that much of the criticism could be easily dispelled if you were present at the meeting of the League for Human Rights which was held yesterday at which the whole subject was discussed. The members of the Committee felt that they would like to have your statement and your judgment in the matter in view of the criticism which had been aroused and the confusion in counsel which prevailed. I did not know at the time of the letter which you sent to the Jewish World and which was published yesterday morning in that paper.

At the meeting of the League, held yesterday noon, both your letters to the Jewish World and to Mr. Lake were read. I believe that the Committee came to understand your point of view much better as a result of the reading of the letters.

It was decided that no protest be made by our League to the Board of Education and no issue be raised on the subject of payment of tuition fees by the visiting German students. A letter will, however, be sent by the League to the Board asking the Board what provisions have been made to see that these students shall not carry on Nazi propoganda in the schools which they attend (wearing of uniforms, Nazi insignia, "heil" salutations, invitations by schoolteachers to have the visiting students tell about life in Germany, etc., etc.). The League felt that your understanding with Mr. Lake on these subjects was a private

Mr. Benesch

-2-

April 30, 1937

understanding and that the Board, as such, had taken no action in the matter. I think that this subject ought to be explored at the meeting of the Board next Monday evening.

Should you be in the City over the weekend, I shall be very happy to talk these matters over with you.

With all good wishes to you and Helen in which Virginia joins me, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK



STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
COLUMBUS

ALFRED A. BENESCH
DIRECTOR

5-1-37.

Dear Rabbi Silver, -

I am very grateful for your

understanding letter of yesterday. -

The League's decision to request the Board
& see that no untoward action, tacit or expressed,
is taken by the visiting students, is quite correct.

Indeed, I had already instructed Mr. Lake
in that regard, and when your letter is presented
at the Board meeting, I shall reinforce

those instructions.

I am not at all apprehensive that our own
children, reared in the democratic tradition,
will be unable to resist the impact even of
"child propagandists," as Amos Braun calls them.
And as for the "gesture," isn't it high time
that somebody begins to suggest conciliation instead
of re-orientation? - I shall be much interested
& read about your sermon of tomorrow and

regret that I cannot hear it. I have to
address the students as scheduled tomorrow.

Shelton joins me in affectionate greetings
to you & Virginia & the delectable kiddies.

Sincerely,
AL



May 3, 1937

Mr. Alfred A. Benesch,
Deschler-Wallick Hotel,
Columbus, Ohio.

My dear Friends:

Let me thank you for your letter which I just received. You have probably read by this time the report in the Plain Dealer of the coming of the Nazi students to Cleveland and the reception which they received in the Public Hall. The newspaper report was considerably toned down. Miss Mayette, secretary of the League for Human Rights, and others who attended the Public Hall reception informed me that it was an outright Nazi demonstration. The Nazi flag was on the stage. The "Horst Wessel" song was sung by the entire audience with hands outstretched in the Nazi salute. There were present in the audience young German-Americans in Nazi uniform with the swastika insignia.

This meeting, as I feared, is to be the first of a series of such receptions and meetings in various parts of the city. One is planned for Cleveland College next Saturday night. There will be a reception at Shaker Heights School to-night.

The point which I am afraid you miss in this entire student exchange proposition is that the attendance at school is only the subterfuge in this entire matter. The students are of course instructed to behave correctly in the schools. But it is outside of the schools that the Nazis in Cleveland will exploit their presence in what will prove to be a six-week intensive campaign for Hitlerism under the most favorable circumstances imaginable. Had the schools refused the exchange this shrewd piece of Nazi propaganda would not have been possible.

The Jewish community is profoundly disturbed about this whole matter.

With all good wishes to you and Helen, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
COLUMBUS

ALFRED A. BENESCH
DIRECTOR

5-4-37.

Dear Ruth, Sirs, -

I agree in toto with your impressions of the effect of the Sunday night meeting at Public Hall. I must, however, take issue with you on your statement that had the schools refused the exchange, this spread of propaganda would not have been possible. Please bear in mind that the ~~Jewish~~ students were already on their way to America, when the Cleveland Board of Education took action a week ago. Furthermore, Cleveland's Board has no jurisdiction over Shaker Heights, Lakewood, Rocky River and the other suburbs, nor can it control activities outside the schools. The Sunday night meeting could have been held regardless of the action of the Cleveland Board.

I resent as forcefully as do you the demonstration which took place at that meeting - which is very likely to be repeated; but how could our Board have prevented it? I represent only the schools of Cleveland, and I feel very strongly that if our children, trained in democratic traditions, are unable to resist the impact of Nazi propaganda, then God save our American public school system.

With every good wish to you, Virginia, and the children, I am,

Sincerely yours
A

May 6, 1937

Rabbi Edward L. Israel, President,
American Jewish Congress,
11 East Lexington Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Ed:

Let me thank you for your note of
April 30. I have turned the information over
to the League here in Cleveland and they will
look into the matter, I am sure.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

May 6, 1937

Miss Grace Mayette,
League for Human Rights,
Chester-Ninth Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

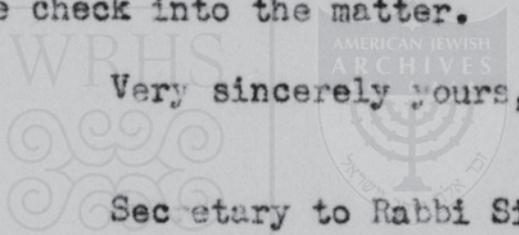
My dear Miss Mayette:

Rabbi Silver asked me to send you the enclosed letter which he received from Rabbi Israel. Please check into the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver



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RUTH EMILY MCMURRY, PH. D.

May 7, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105 Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The news that the Nazi Government has been sending secondary school students to this country and that they are attending high schools here was a surprise to me. Groups of this type have been sent over here on tours and two similar groups are planned for the coming summer. I am inclined to think that we are likely to be too much disturbed by these visits. Groups of German pupils are being sent to most European countries and, in the case of England, there is a direct exchange between schools.

From the point of view of policy, I think the best way to meet the situation is not by an attack on Nazi Germany but by more positive efforts to stress the meaning of American ideals. During the last four years the charge has been made very frequently that Jews have tended to over-emphasize the attacks on themselves as a group instead of cooperating with other groups interested in the maintenance of liberal and democratic ideas and ideals.

I regret that owing to pressing duties at the University and the fact that I am leaving for New Zealand and Australia on the 20th, it was impossible for me to accept your invitation to go to Cleveland on Monday.

Sincerely yours,

I. L. Kandel

I. L. Kandel

ILK:KG

P.S. Hamilton Fish Armstrong's "We or They" & speeches like those of Borah's reported in today's New York Times are infinitely more effective than any number of Jewish mass meetings & Madison & Garden rallies.

GEORGE PALDA

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ENGINEERS BUILDING

CLEVELAND

May 11, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Permit me to congratulate you on the splendid meeting held last night in protest to Nazi propoganda through the medium of young German boys and girls and, particularly, to congratulate you upon your splendid and inspiring address, full of passionate and just indignation not only because of the treatment accorded to your people, but, because of the threat to American and world democracy.

Your vigorous assault on Fascism and all that it implies renews the, sometimes, faltering courage of those who have been fighting Nazi philosophy since it first thrust itself upon the world.

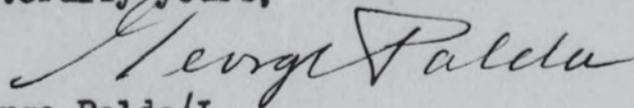
On behalf of the American League Against War and Fascism and for myself I express to you sincere admiration of your vigorous and courageous stand for democracy, particularly in these days, when, it seems, that espousal of democratic principles has become unconventional and an evidence of unhealthy, radical tendencies.

Your blistering indictment of the Nazi murderers in Spain likewise meets with my heartfelt approbation and I sincerely hope your eloquent words will sink deep into the consciousness of your auditors and stir them to help succor a ravished people and nation which simply seek the democratic way of life.

For your inspring words for devastated Spain and her loyal people I extend to you sincere thanks on behalf of the North American Committee for the Aid of Spanish Democracy.

May your courage to fight Naziism and Fascism inspire others as it has inspired me.

Gratefully yours,



George Palda/L

1230 Lakeland Avenue

Lakewood, Ohio

May 12, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
10311 Lake Shore Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver,

The speech which you made recently concerning the German exchange greatly startled and interested me. Startled because of the questions it brought to mind, and interested because of the profound admiration which I have always felt for you and for the race which you represent.

That admiration is a personal and active one, too, for one of my closest friends is a Jewish girl. Her intelligence, her wit, and her love of culture have led me to see those same qualities where they exist in other Jews. Attending concerts and similar performances in the city has also made me realise that without the support of the Jews

most of our educational and aesthetic institutions could not exist.

With such a personal sentiment all news of the treatment which is accorded the Jews in Germany is naturally heart sickening. Every scorned Jew is, as you so well said, as worthy as any of those young people who are visiting our country. But is it the American way to greet them with intolerance? During our history there has been, to the best of my knowledge, but little persecution of the Jew. The United States has offered him abundant opportunities and he has made the most of them. How can you then rebuke us for extending to another race the tolerance which we have always shown to you?

Another question, too, comes into my mind. What do you want most of all for your people in Germany. Would it be far wrong to guess that it would be tolerance and a chance to earn a living according to their merits? And yet by answering hate with hate are you

going to create tolerance? Of course we would not wish you to stand passively by while those of your race suffered. We have ourselves objected to the treatment shown to the Catholic and Protestant churches in Germany and no doubt will do more if we receive as much abuse as the Jews have. But might there not be a morsel of truth in the saying that "A soft answer turneth away wrath"? What better chance could we ask for in which to show the Germans the real worth of your race than right here in America? Even Hitler cannot last forever. Some day he will have gone and then there will come leaders from among those who are young people today. Perhaps then, if there is mutual love and respect, the pendulum will swing back and the Jew will once more come into his own in Germany.

These are humble opinions which have been expressed here for I am only

a high school student and would never have
written this letter had I not so admired
your race. Accept this then as it was
written, sincerely and in love.

Respectfully,

Esther Jordan



May 13, 1937

Mr. George Palda,
Engineers Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Palda:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of May 11 and for the lovely things which you say about the address which I delivered last Monday evening at the Anti-Nazi protest meeting. I thought that the meeting was a very impressive one and I am inclined to believe that it will prove very helpful in keeping our community relatively free from subtle Nazi propaganda.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

May 14, 1937

Miss Esther Jordon,
1230 Lakeland Avenue,
Lakewood, Ohio.

My dear Miss Jordon:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of May 12 which I read with much interest. I appreciate very much the spirit in which the letter is written. If you had attended the meeting in the Music Hall last Monday evening, you would have found no occasion, I am sure, to write the letter because all the speakers on the program stressed the thought that we were not unfriendly to the young German students personally and that proper courtesy should be extended to them. The thought which was stressed was that the community ought not to be beguiled by the coming of these students and lose sight of the fact that their mission here is not education but propaganda and that they are innocent pawns in the hands of a shrewd propaganda machine in Nazi Germany which aims, through them and their natural appeal, to "sweeten up" the American public on the Reich and to make it forget its cruelties, concentration camps, blood purges, its attacks both on the Catholic and Protestant churches, the destruction of academic freedom and the infamous cruelty visited upon tens of thousands of German school children whose sole crime was that they were not "Aryans" and who because of this crime were driven out of the public schools of Germany.

May I suggest that you procure a copy of the little book which appeared recently by Dr. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Editor of "Foreign Affairs" called "We or They" - Two Worlds in Conflict. A reading of this book by an eminent authority on international affairs will reveal to you the seriousness of the Fascist challenge to democracies all over the world including our own, and the threat to civilization in the continued triumphs of Fascism in the face of disunited blundering forces of liberals and democrats who have not learned how to organize and fight back.

One should not be intolerant - that would be playing the Nazi game. On the other hand, one dare not be indifferent

Miss Jordon

-2-

May 14, 1937

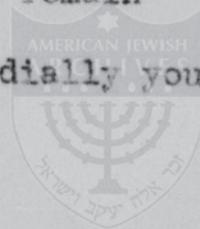
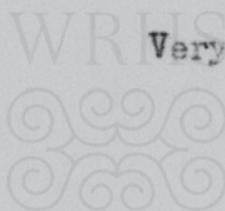
to wrong, cruelty and barbarism when they manifest themselves on such a large scale as in Nazi Germany, particularly when that government is not content with destroying freedom and justice within its own borders but is carrying on a notorious campaign in all the neighboring countries and beyond to undermine human liberties everywhere. Witness Spain and the recent criminal bombing of civilians - men, women and children - in the Holy City of the Basques by German military airplanes.

"Gestures" are tremendously important and when liberals lose their hot resentment against tyrannical governments and do not retort to an insolent piece of cunning propaganda with a sharp rebuff, then they are on the way to ultimate liquidation.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



May 14, 1937

Miss Grace Mayette,
League for Human Rights,
608 Chester-Ninth Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Miss Mayette:

Please get someone to sign the enclosed letter
and have it sent to the Cleveland Press.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK



May 14, 1937

Mr. Louis Seltzer, Editor,
The Cleveland Press,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I feel relieved! Following the meeting of thirty-five hundred citizens of Cleveland held last Monday evening to protest the Nazi Student Exchange, I got the impression that the Cleveland Press was running short of reporters because there was no first-hand report of the meeting in your paper.

Today (Friday), on reading the Cleveland Press, I discovered with relief that you actually have enough reporters so that you could spare one to go and find out what kind of icecream a certain German student by the name of Werner Kostboth likes and what he thinks about Laurel and Hardy. All this is, of course, of utmost importance to the life of our community. Congratulations on the manner in which you run a metropolitan newspaper!.....

Very sincerely yours,

THERON S. JACKSON, M.D.
CARNEGIE MEDICAL BUILDING
10515 CARNEGIE AVENUE
CLEVELAND

May 14, 1937

Rabbi A.H. Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Blvd.,
City.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

First of all, I wish to say that I am an American: two hundred years on my mother's side; over one hundred years on my father's side; origin, northern England. I have use for only one land and one people - those of the United States. Germany is nothing to me, nor Ethiopia or Siam.

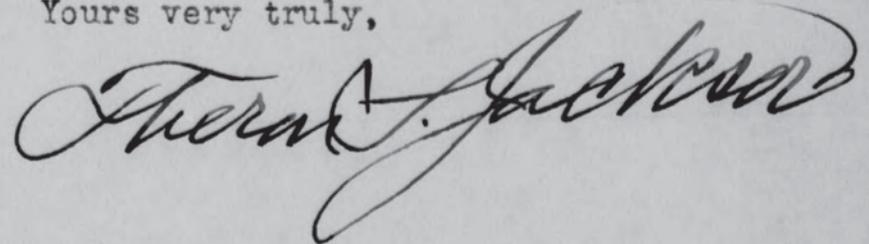
It is time that I, who was a friend of the Jews, say what I have to say; but, Rabbi, I voice the unspoken sentiment of great numbers of far seeing Gentiles who simply do not talk much. I am amazed that you do not give the Gentiles of this and other communities credit for having sense enough to know that your attack on these children is not an attack by an American upon Germany and Hitler but an attack by a Jew on the foes of Judaism.

Why involve Americans in general in a purely racial attack upon Germany?

Is the faith of your fathers so weakened that you fear one hundred school children? It angers me to have you antagonize Gentiles who have been sympathetic friends of the Jews. We might have a homogeneous nation with a little help and not hindrance on your part.

Believe me, Rabbi, now or later you will learn that you are doing your people great harm.

Yours very truly,



TSJ/MG

May 17, 1937

Dr. Theron S. Jackson,
Carnegie Medical Building,
10515 Carnegie Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Jackson:

I did not like your letter because it is written in bad taste. However, I am answering it in order to set you right on a few points. Had you attended the meeting at the Music Hall last Monday evening, you would not have written your letter for the protest of all the speakers at that meeting was not against the Nazi students who have come to Cleveland but against the exploitation of these innocent students by the Nazi propaganda machine to "sweeten up" the American people on the German Reich whose brutalities and indecencies have raised a stench in the nostrils of free peoples all over the world.

You deftly reduce the whole Nazi business to a Jewish issue. That, of course is Nazi tactics. But right-thinking people know otherwise. There were three eminent Christian professors who spoke at the Monday evening meeting - authorities in the field of education - who denounced the Student Exchange. You make no reference to them; or to you perhaps regard them as the higher tools of Jews? Did you see the statement in yesterday's Plain Dealer which emanated from a meeting of the Federation of School Teachers branding the Student Exchange as a racket and a piece of Nazi propaganda? I am enclosing herewith an editorial which appears in today's issue of the Christian Century. The Christian Century, as you can probably guess, is not edited by Jews.

No, I do not think there is any point to your letter nor am I impressed by the fact that you presume to speak in the name of "great numbers of far seeing Gentiles who simply do not talk much." I am content to speak in my own name and to voice my own sentiments.

Dr. Jackson

-2-

May 17, 1937

May I recommend to you a little pamphlet recently written by Dr. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Editor of "Foreign Affairs", called "We or They - Two Worlds in Conflict". It should be an eye opener to every American who beguiles himself into believing that the reactionary systems of government and ideas now rampant in the Old World hold no menace to our country.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.



A. L. SALTZSTEIN
MILWAUKEE

May 18, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I enclose an editorial appearing in the Milwaukee Journal of yesterday based on statements made by you.

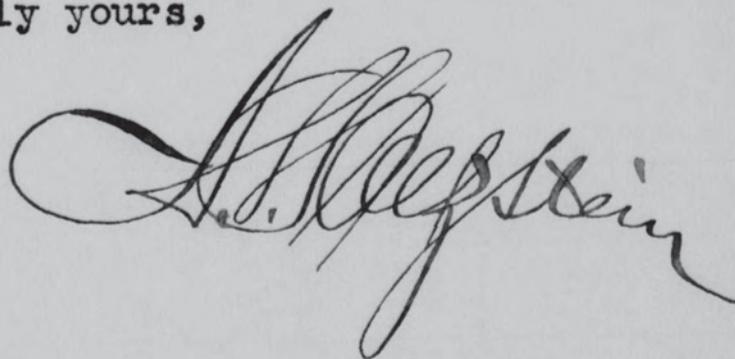
The editorial writer treats the subject rather lightly, "a dish of ice cream".

I know the President and Editor of the paper quite well. They have always been very fair.

I shall appreciate your comment.

Hoping all is well with you and yours, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "A. L. Saltzstein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

ALS LL
Enc. 1

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

L. W. NIEMAN, Founder, 1882

Published by The Journal Company
H. J. GRANT, President and Editor

RATES: Daily 3 cents, Sunday 10 cents. By mail in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan where carrier service is not available, daily \$5.00 and Sunday \$5.00 per year in advance. Rates in other states and foreign countries, and for mail or motor service to rural routes, furnished upon application.

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'Hitlerizing America!'

A furore is being worked up in Cleveland, according to Clifford F. Butcher's account in The Sunday Journal, over an exchange of German and American students.

This bringing of 100 German boys and girls of the secondary school age into Cleveland schools and Cleveland homes is a dire plot to Hitlerize America, say the opponents of the plan. And the sending of 100 Cleveland students across the water on June 12 to complete the exchange is just a further betrayal of America—so the opposition runs on.

Rabbi A. H. Silver, very vocal, refers to "this miserable device of dictatorship" and thinks it would have become Cleveland "to have laid a little less stress on sweet reasonableness and charming hospitality." Or, to translate the rabbi's words, he does not want the Nazi children in America.

And what does it all come down to when we see these children, and very fine children they are by all accounts, going around the Cleveland schools and mixing with American children? They are interested in American ice cream, a delicacy they have known little about; in the fact that America has three meals a day instead of the five they have been accustomed to, and they get a little hungry between times; in our history and social studies to some extent; a great deal in the American equality relationship between teacher and student as compared to the more formal attitude they must take toward their own teachers.

That is the "miserable" and diabolical result! And when the Cleveland students visit Germany, they will be interested, not in Hitler but in the everyday customs, habits and accomplishments of the German people. If there is something in Germany that will give them a new thrill, as ice cream thrilled the German boys and girls, that is what they will remember.

It is too bad that we cannot approach these problems in this spirit. Is American democracy so frail a thing that it cannot withstand the shock of having 100 German children come to our homes and schools and then having 100 American children go to German homes and schools?

What is there to fear? For years the Boy Scouts of the world have met on the same plane, in their international gatherings and relationships. Has that destroyed the democracy of American Boy Scouts? There are no firmer Americans.

Chief Justice Hughes in a recent address spoke of the "process of reason" as the foundation of democracy. And by that, no doubt, he meant the processes of reasonableness, fairness, as opposed to the tyranny of force and prejudice.

Too much of American thought today is centered around denunciation. And, unfortunately, a good part of this denunciation is uttered by some who profess to be greatly liberal. When you analyze what they say, you find they are merely greatly prejudiced. Intolerance is an alarming American trait right now. Intolerance and inconsistency. Pacifists denounce war—and praise the army of Russia. Others call for neutrality—and raise money for one side in Spain. Still others call for race freedom—and fight an exchange of 200 little school children.

Perhaps what the world needs—what America needs—is a return to the simplicity and sincerity of mind that finds merit and delight in a dish of ice cream.

Or, to put it another way, Vice President Tom Marshall was a homely but sound philosopher when he said, during another instance of national jitters, that what this country needed most was a good five-cent cigar.

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May 20, 1937

Miss Mary Gordon
Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy
159 North State
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Miss Gordon:

I spoke at a meeting in Cleveland last week which was against Naziism, and the managers of that meeting have insisted against my wishes in paying me \$50 for my address.

I do not wish to use this money personally, but I am taking the liberty of sending you a check for this amount so that it may be used for a cause vital to democracy.

With best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

PHD:JL

Paul H. Douglas

cc Mr. I. R. Morris

PAUL H. DOUGLAS

May 20, 1937

Mr. I. R. Morris
Union Trust Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Morris:

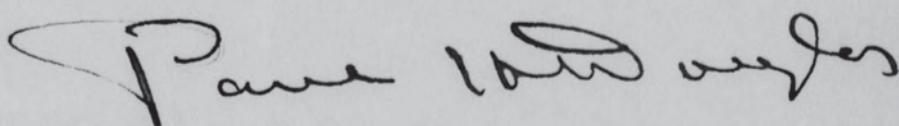
I greatly appreciate your letter, and I am glad if I was of any service at all to the cause.

I do not wish to accept any personal remuneration for my services that evening, but since you insist upon paying me, I am taking the liberty of turning over your contribution of \$50 to the American Friends of Spanish Democracy to help provide medicines and aid for the women and children of Loyalist Spain.

It was a great pleasure to meet both Mrs. Morris and yourself.

With warmest best wishes,

Faithfully yours,



PHD:JL

cc Miss Grace Meyette
League for Human Rights
Cleveland

May 21, 1937

Mr. A. L. Saltzstein,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

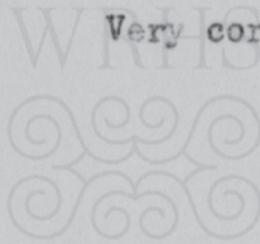
My dear Mr. Saltzstein:

Let me thank you for your thoughtfulness in calling my attention to the editorial in the Milwaukee Journal. I am enclosing herewith a reply which I sent to him this afternoon.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.



C O P Y

May 21, 1937

Mr. H. J. Grant, Editor,
The Milwaukee Journal,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

My dear Mr. Grant:

Through the courtesy of a friend, your editorial "Hitlerizing America" was sent to me. In it you comment on the protest which was made in Cleveland against the so-called Student Exchange with Germany. It is because you quote me in your editorial that I take the liberty of writing to you and I trust that you will find space for my letter in your esteemed paper.

It is apparent that you, too, along with some other naive liberals, have gotten up on the high horse of "broad-mindedness" and are determined to see in the exchange of "200 little school children" nothing but an act of international good will of happy augury. May I, in the first place, remind you that these "little school children" are not "little school children" at all. Nearly all the Nazi students who came to our community uninvited, having been wished on our schools by a handful of Nazi sympathisers here acting in cooperation with the Nazi Government, are of high school age - many of them eighteen years old - the sort of "little school children" who in the Old World are putting on first class political shows and generally raising hell - the sort of "little school children" who were among the earliest and noisiest followers of Hitler and Mussolini. These young men and women were hand-picked by the Nazi Government. Some of them I am told, are "professional" exchange students...

The great civic protest meeting was addressed not only by your humble servant, the "very vocal" Rabbi Silver, but also by three foremost American educators and sociologists - Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild of New York University, Dr. Peter Oldegard of Ohio State University and Dr. Paul Douglas of the University of Chicago. These men were inclined to see in the coming of the Nazi students to Cleveland more than a commendable desire on the part of their solicitous Government to have these "little school children" taste some American ice-cream....The Fascists of the world are not sending their young people on a jaunt 3000 miles away from home just in order to give their young darlings a taste either of American ice-cream or democracy. They have no money either for butter or for trans-oceanic picnics. They use their money for cannon and for propoganda. It is the same government which sent the bombing planes to kill women and children in Guernica which is now, we are to believe, sending those innocents to our shores to learn the ways of democracy - after having ~~sup~~ suppressed every vestige of it in their own lands...

It was not the 100 students who were the object of our protest but their exploitation by a propaganda machine whose net-work covers the world. These youths and their official guides and "fuehrers" serve as nuclei around which pro-Nazi sentiment rallies. Nazi sympathisers exploit their presence to create sentiment for Hitlerism. Meetings, receptions and public functions are built around them. Newspapers are filled with pages of news and photographs about their comings and goings. The purpose is clear - to "sweeten up" American sentiment toward the Third Reich, to persuade Americans that all is sweet and attractive in the Fatherland - as sweet and attractive as these "little school children" and that all the criticism which has been launched against the Reich, all the talk about concentration camps, terrorism, the suppression of freedom of thought, the brutal treatment of non-Aryan children in the schools, etc. etc., are just so many lies of malicious Jews or Communists or Catholics whose priests and monks are guilty of unspeakable immoralities.

School attendance and school work are the camouflage for this entire business - a successful camouflage which beguiles not only laymen but editors of alert newspapers as well. The purpose of this so-called Student Exchange is not educational but political. As Dr. Paul Douglas said: "The Exchange is a two-way export of Nazi ideas, not an inter-change. No children can leave the Fascist state without the consent of the Minister of Propaganda. No liberals come here. None can be sent back. No American can spread the idea of democracy in Germany."

May I humbly suggest that you would have better served the purpose of American democracy if instead of playing down the protest of thousands of incensed citizens, both Jews and non-Jews, in our community against this transparent bit of Nazi propaganda, you would have utilized the occasion of the coming of these students to the United States to remind the American people what havoc was actually wrought in the academic life of Germany by four years of Hitlerism - the ruthless regimentation of all education, the dragooning of all teachers into Nazi ideology, the militarization of all youth instruction and the persecution of the independent Catholic schools which is now going on by way of the infamous trials of priests and monks aimed at discrediting the Catholic church and its educational institutions. I refer you to the recent statement of Cardinal Mundelein.

You might have spared yourself a cheap sneer against those who "call for race freedom" by devoting your space to calling attention to the 1700 professors and teachers who were driven from their posts because they were guilty of not having

C O P Y

-3-

been born "Aryans" and to the treatment of the Jewish school children in Germany. They were first separated and humiliated in the class rooms and then, by law, expelled and driven into ghetto schools. The regime which was responsible for this unspeakable act of barbarism against innocent school children now has the effrontery to invite American school children to come over and learn in Nazi schools culture and the ways of civilized living and at the same time it is sending a hundred of its hand-picked students as "Exhibit A" to American.

You did not find it timely or necessary to call attention to these facts, but you did find it necessary to defend the "little school children" who, I assure you, were not at all abused in our fair city but were extended every personal courtesy, even by those who regard them as pawns in the hands of a cunning and unscrupulous propaganda machine.

Very truly yours,

AHS:BK



May 24, 1937

Miss Grace Mayette,
League for Human Rights,
608 Chester-Ninth Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Miss Mayette:

Enclosed herewith is Rabbi Silver's
check for \$75. This should straighten out the
Erika Mann situation. I'm sorry there was a
delay in getting it to you.

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

EVERY EVENING AND SUNDAY

MILWAUKEE

May 25, 1937

Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland
Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Your letter of May 21, addressed to Mr. Grant and intended for publication, has been referred to me.

Because of the great amount of mail it is possible for The Journal to print only a few typical letters and the long ones are usually sacrificed in order to present a variety of opinions in brief but if you care to condense yours to about 500 words The Journal will be glad to use it. There are about 1,000 words in it now.

Very truly yours,

Kenelm L. McCauley
Kenelm L. McCauley

A. L. SALTZSTEIN
MILWAUKEE

June 2, 1937

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

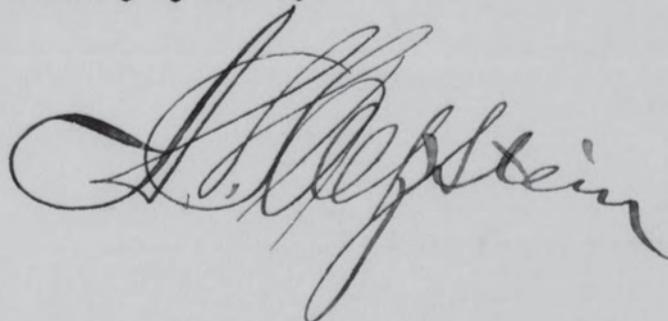
Dear Rabbi Silver:

Thanks very much for your letter of the twenty-first ultimo with copy of your letter to Mr. Grant. I have watched the papers carefully, but so far your letter has not been published. I do not know whether or not Mr. Grant or some one from the Editorial Department has sent you a reply. If so, I shall be pleased to have you advise me.

I am leaving tomorrow for the east to attend the Executive Board meeting of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations next Sunday in New York. On my return, I hope to hear further from you on this subject and be assured of my earnest cooperation.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,



ALS
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June 4, 1937

Mr. A. L. Saltzstein,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

My dear Mr. Saltzstein:

In reply to your kind letter of June 2nd, permit me to say that I received a letter from the Milwaukee Journal a copy of which I am enclosing herewith. I did not think it was worthwhile going to the trouble of recasting my letter. If the Milwaukee Journal was desirous of presenting our case in full, it would have had no difficulty in finding space for the entire letter.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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

WESTERN UNION (20)

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at 2016 East 105th St., Cleveland, Ohio. Telephone Cedar 1867

1937 JUN 4 PM 12 22
HD103 51 4 EXTRA DL DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM=

:ALBANY NY 4 1136A

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER= X

THE TEMPLE EAST 105 ST ANSEL ROAD=

HAVE TODAY RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR EXPLANATION WHY CLEVELAND SCHOOLS ARE PERMITTING EXCHANGE OF ONE HUNDRED GUEST SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH GERMANY STOP IS THIS TRUE STOP HAVE ANY DEFINITE STEPS BEEN MADE TO PREVENT SUCH FLAGRANT DEMONSTRATION OF NAZISM STOP WILL APPRECIATE PROMPT REPLY TO SATISFY LOCAL INQUIRIES= E MARTIN FREUND UNITED JEWISH APPEAL.

June 4, 1937

Dr. E. Martin Freund,
762 Madison Avenue,
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Freund:

In reply to your telegram with reference to the Exchange Students, permit me to say that the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Public Schools had nothing to do with the arrangements. A group of active Nazi sympathizers in the city enrolled a hundred homes, nearly all of Germans, who consented to take in German students and in return to send their children to Germany for a six-week period. The Schools were asked to take a hand in the arrangement of this Student Exchange and they refused. They were then asked to admit these students for a period of six weeks. The Cleveland Schools refused to admit them as regular students but allowed them to attend as visitors. The Shaker Heights Schools permitted them to attend as regular students upon payment of tuition fee.

Vigorous protests against the whole plan were, of course made by individuals and organizations in the city. In an effort to counteract what propaganda values the Nazi Government hoped to derive from the Student Exchange, a huge public mass meeting was held which was addressed by three outstanding American educators, Dr. Paul Douglas of Chicago University, Dr. Fairchild of New York University and Dr. Oldegard of Ohio State University - and myself - at which the whole story of what Germany has done to its educational system, the expulsion of teachers and professors and Jewish children from its schools, etc. was recounted. No opportunity was lost to bring home to the public the real motives behind the Student Exchange. It is likely that such exchanges will be attempted in other cities. They should be resisted.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

June 9, 1937

Miss Grace Mayette,
League for Human Rights,
608 Chester-Ninth Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Miss Mayette:

The enclosed letter will interest you.
Please provide Miss Razovsky with whatever information
you have available.

With all good wishes, I remain
Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK



THE AMERICAN LEAGUE
AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

CLEVELAND CITY COMMITTEE

ROOM 203 SUPERIOR BLDG.
CLEVELAND, OHIO

CHerry 5479

HARRY F. WARD
National Chairman

ALEXANDER F. WHITNEY
Honorary State Chairman

MAX S. HAYES
Honorary City Chairman

PROF. PAUL P. ROGERS
Chairman

GEORGE PALDA
Executive Chairman

HARRY I. BECKER
Executive Secretary

Rabbi Silver. June 21st 1937.

My Dear Sir,-

All men and women

who are thinking in terms of their
relationship to the world scene
must rejoice over your cour-
ageous talk to the Jewish War
Veterans Sunday night.

Both as a person and as a
member of the executive committee
of The American League Against
War and Fascism I congratulate
you on your fine stand.

I may also congratulate
you on having Miss Magitte as
secretary of the League for Human
Rights.

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE
AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

CLEVELAND CITY COMMITTEE

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Chairman

GEORGE PALDA
Executive Chairman

HARRY I. BECKER
Executive Secretary

She is a person of great
vitality, a clear thinker
and a most excellent
organizer.

Very truly yours

Elisabeth Douglas Fry
(Mrs. R. D. Fry.)



792 The Arcade
Cleveland, O.
June 22, 1937.

Gentlemen,

I am sending you some
defamatory magazines against
the Jews, so that you may
place them in the proper
hands for investigation and
action.

Yours truly,

Dr. N. A. Rose

Devil Pictured as Jew Is Book Given to Nazis' Children

NURNBERG, Germany, Dec. 25.—(AP)—A picture book with its theme "the devil is the Jew" was Jew-baiter Julius Streicher's Christmas gift today to German boys and girls.

Addressing a children's Christmas party the Nazi anti-semitic propagandist told his tiny guests that "God helps only those who are good," that after the World War the devil lorded it over man and:

"Do you know who the devil is?"

A thousand children shouted: "The Jew, the Jew."

And Streicher continued "Yes, the Jew was the devil. After the war he took everything."

And in the Christmas book, advertised as "a book which has thus far been lacking for our youth," Publisher Streicher carries out the "devil theme" with splashy-colored illustrations and doggerel.

"Don't trust a fox on meadow green, nor trust a Jew his oath to mean" reads the verse on the title page, besides a caricature of a fox with a head of Jewish features and a Jew raising two fingers to swear an oath.

The first poem is titled "The Devil Is the Father of the Jew" and is illustrated by a red, cloven-hoofed beast.

A girl, Elvira Bauer, 18, wrote the doggerel and drew the illustrations.

"The author in a masterful way is introducing youth to a field of knowledge which has hitherto been made available to but few," Streicher's publishing house "Stuermer Verlag" observed in releasing the new publication.

June 23, 1937

Mr. I. R. Morris,
Union Trust Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Isidore:

I understand that a committee has been appointed by the Cleveland Jewish Community Council to clarify its relationship with the League for Human Rights. I am enclosing herewith a letter which I sent to Mr. Bernstein, secretary of the Council, soon after the general meeting of the Council. It is important that the League insist on and maintain its complete autonomy and that no other organization dictate to it its form of organization or procedure. I am sure that you will make no commitments for the League without first presenting the matter to the Executive Board. First steps are important....

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

June 25, 1937

Mr. I. R. Morris,
Union Trust Bldg.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Isidore:

Since speaking to you in your office yesterday about adding people to the Board of the League, it has occurred to me that it might be wise to wait with such appointments until we would have had a chance to think through the entire matter of recasting the Board of the League. That we can do early in the Fall. In the meantime - status quo.

With all good wishes for a very happy summer,
I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. That was a remarkable achievement of yours at the Budget Committee meeting, yesterday, and a great victory for the League.

I am sending you this splendid address of Senator Borah which you may not have seen. It might be a good thing for our office to make a few hundred reprints and send it to German groups, particularly in this city.