



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

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

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

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

---

Reel  
47

Box  
17

Folder  
1121

League for Human Rights, Cleveland, Ohio, freedom and  
democracy, 1940.



# The League For Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy

MATTHEW WOLL  
PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
~~570 KENNEDY AVENUE~~  
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

9 East 46th St.

Oct. 4, 1940.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
East 105th St. & Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I wish to take this opportunity to extend to you an invitation to join our National Body of Sponsors which includes outstanding representatives in the fields of organized labor, education and religion.

The League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy, which was organized in November, 1938, following the atrocious programs in Germany, has devoted itself to combating Nazi propaganda and Fifth Column activities in the organized labor movement of this country.

We feel that it is labor's mission to fight for the precious democratic principles and traditions on which this country was founded, and we recognize that, together with the minorities who suffer at the hands of the totalitarians, organized labor is universally one of the first victims.

Among religious leaders who have already sponsored our movement are included many prominent Protestants and Catholics. We feel that at this time, when all of us are striving for democratic unity based upon the free and voluntary accord of the American people, it is appropriate and necessary to include among our sponsors some of the outstanding leaders of the Jewish faith.

May I therefore take the liberty of urging you to join us in this great work?

I hope to hear from you without undue delay,

Sincerely yours,

MATTHEW WOLL, PRES.

P.S. Enclosed is a partial list of the sponsors of the League.

MW:AB:DM  
ENC.



PARTIAL LIST OF SPONSORS

LABOR

Wm. Green - A. F. L.  
Max Zaritsky  
Pres. United Hatters,  
Cap & Millinery  
John P. Frey  
Pres. Metal Trades Dept. A. F. L.  
John P. Burke  
Pres. Internat'l Bro. of Pulp,  
Sulphite & Paper Mill Workers  
James Maloney  
Pres. Glass Bottle Blowers Assoc.  
Claude M. Baker  
Pres. of Internat'l Typographical  
Union of San Francisco  
Frank Gillmore  
Pres. Assoc. Actors & Artist of America  
George Meany  
Pres. N. Y. State Federation of Labor  
James A. Wilson  
Internat'l Labor Office  
David Dubinsky  
Pres. Inter. Ladies Garment Workers Union

CATHOLIC CLERGY

Cardinal Dougherty, Phila., Pa.  
Bishop John B. Morris  
Little Rock, Ark.  
Bishop E. B. Lechina  
(Coad) M. S. Garriga,  
Corpus Christi, Tex.  
Bishop C. E. Byrne  
Galveston, Tex.  
Archbishop Beckman  
Dubuque, Iowa  
John F. Noll  
Roman Catholic Church  
N. Wayne, Ind.

EDUCATORS

E. C. Holland-Wash. State  
Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur-Stanford Univ.  
Wm. F. Russell, Dean-Teachers Coll., Columbia University  
Frank Aydelotte-Swarthmore  
Robert A. Millikan-Calif. Tech.,-Pasadena  
F. D. Patterson-Tuskegee Institute

PROFESSIONAL MEN & PUBLICISTS

Walter Winchell  
Columnist  
Wm. Allen White  
Ed. Emporia Gazette  
Henry R. Luce  
Publisher, Time, Life & Fortune  
Hon. Jeremiah T. Mahoney  
Former member of N. Y. Supreme  
court  
Ed. W. McGrady  
Vice - Pres., R. C. A.

PROTESTANT CLERGY

Bish. Noel Porter, Sacramento, Cal.  
Bishop C. E. Selecman  
Pres. South. Methodist  
University-Dallas  
Bish. Benj. Ivins  
Prot. Epis. Diocese,  
Milwaukee  
Bish. Ralph Cushman  
Method. Epis. Denver Area  
Bish. F. J. McConnell  
Method. Epis., N. Y. C.  
Bish. Ed. L. Parsons  
Prot. Epis. Diocese, Calif.  
Edgar DeWitt Jones  
Pres. Fed. Council of Churches  
of Christ of America



October 6, 1940

Mr. Matthew Woll, President  
The League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy  
9 East 46th St.  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Woll:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of October 4 and for the invitation which you extend to me to join the National Body of Sponsors of the League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy. The purposes of the League, as you indicate them, are noble, and the need for such a Movement is unquestionably great. I am therefore very happy to accept your invitation, and I shall try to assist you in whatever way I can.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# The League For Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy

MATTHEW WOLL  
PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
1570 KENNEDY AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

9 E. 46th St.

Oct. 9, 1940.

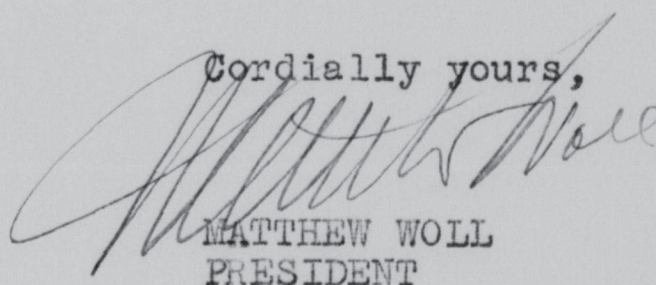
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I wish to express my pleasure  
at your prompt and affirmative response to my in-  
vitation.

I look forward to your fruitful  
cooperation in this work.

Cordially yours,

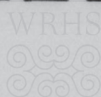
  
MATTHEW WOLL  
PRESIDENT

MW:AB:DM





# OUR AIMS



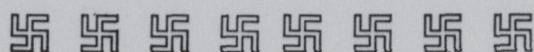
"We seek to make secure . . .  
Freedom . . . the supremacy of  
human right . . . everywhere  
in the world."

*President Roosevelt*

Opening Address 77th Congress



# TWO GOALS



## WORLD OF SLAVES

### **Darre**

A new aristocracy of German masters (Herrenvolk) will be created. This aristocracy will have slaves.

Please do not interpret the word "slaves" as a parable or as a rhetorical term; *we actually have in mind a modern form of medieval slavery.*

(Addressing a group of high Nazi officials)

### **Hitler**

There will be a Herren-Class. And there will be the great mass. Beneath them there will still be the class of subject alien races; we need not hesitate to call them the modern slave class. (Quoted by Hermann Rauschnig, "The Voice of Destruction," pp. 41-42)

### **Roosevelt**

The American people have unalterably set their faces against that tyranny . . . In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms:

**The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.**

(Message to the 77th Congress on the State of the Union)

## NAZIS ON RELIGION

### **Alfred Rosenberg, Reich Minister of Culture**

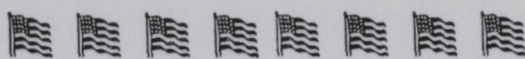
The Catholic Church and the Evangelical Confessional Church as they exist at present, *must vanish from the life of our people.*

(Nuremburg Party Congress, 1936.)

### **Julius Streicher**

It is only on one or two special points that Christ and Hitler stand comparison, for Hitler is far too big a man to be compared with one so petty.

(Munich Univ. July 26, 1935)



## FREE WORLD

### **Gov. Alfred Landon**

Let us never forget what freedom means. Let us never forget that without freedom there can be no security. Let us never forget the high purpose in which this nation was founded and for which we still must strive.

(Address at Toledo and Detroit, October 12, 1936.)

### **Roosevelt**

The Nazis have proclaimed time and again that all other races are inferior and therefore subject to their orders.

(Fireside Chat, December 29, 1940)

### **Roosevelt**

## RELIGION IN DEMOCRACY

### **Father Edmund A. Walsh**

"Where the rights of conscience are attacked, any place in the world, *liberty is wounded every place in the world.*"

(Georgetown Univ. Wash D. C., 1938)

### **Bishop James E. Freeman**

"When religious liberty goes, civil liberty goes with it.

(Protestant Episcopal Church, N.Y.C., '39.)

### **Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron**

"The cruel oppression of Catholic, Protestant and Jew by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia has brought all religious people to realize that we have a common fate and destiny.

(Woman's Home Companion, Dec. 1940)

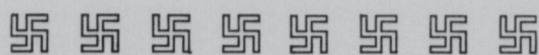
### **Roosevelt**

**The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.**

(77th Congress)



# PEACE?



## A NAZI PEACE...

### **Darre**

Our future generations must even in peace time be educated in such a manner that in case of necessity they may be fit to defend strongly and energetically what we acquired. Here, too, the form of slavery mentioned above will prove its worth. *German masters will be fine pillars to uphold Germany's rule of the world.*

### **Hitler**

Without power over Europe, we must perish. Germany is Europe. We must have Europe and its colonies. Europe is for us. Whoever conquers it will press his seal on the coming age. We are the chosen. . . .

If ever there is a place where democracy is senseless and suicidal, it is in South America. We must strengthen these people's clear conscience. They are actually ashamed of their good instincts! We must send our people out to them. For this we have no need of formal officials and governors. Audacious youth is what we want. Our youth must learn to colonize. . . .

The American people is not yet a nation in the ethnographical sense. It is a conglomerate of disparate elements. But it is the raw material of a nation. The German component of the American people will be the source of its political and mental resurrection.

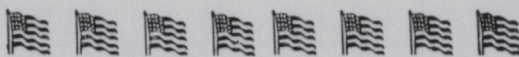
*("The Voice of Destruction")*

Our arms are better in every way. We are armed for any eventuality. No power in the world can remove us against our will.

*(Address to Munitions Workers, Rheinmetall, Brossig, Dec. 10th.)*

### **Roosevelt**

***The third is freedom from want, which transplanted into world terms means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peace time life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.***  
(77th Congress)



## NO PEACE AT ALL...

### **Wendell L. Willkie**

"It makes a vital difference to the United States which side prevails in the present conflict. I refute the statement that our national security is not involved in a British defeat. . . .

*The hope for democracy is the victory of those powers which believe in our way of life . . . and the rebirth of the confidence of men in one another.*

*(Jan. 13, 1941)*

A prospect of a future surrounded by Totalitarian powers; threatened by dictators whose real desire is for conquest; loaded with armaments and debts and fixed with a declining standard of life—such a future is not a future for Americans as we have known them.

We must lay the moral, intellectual and spiritual foundations for the kind of world we want our children to inherit. It must be an open world. It must be a world in which Americans will share with other nations the responsibilities—and the great prospect—of peace.

*(Statement to Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Lease-Lend Bill)*

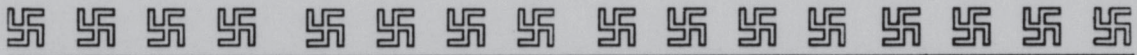
### **Roosevelt**

We know now that a nation can have peace with the Nazis only at the price of total surrender.

Such a dictated peace would be no peace at all. It would be another armistice leading to the most gigantic armament race and the most devastating trade wars in all history.



# EMPLOYERS' "GREATEST GIFT"



## **Robert Ley, Labor Front Fuehrer**

The National Socialist government has given the workers back to the employers  
—*the greatest gift the employers can receive.*

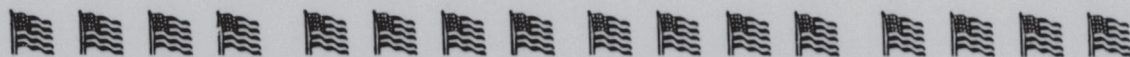
(speaking at Kiel, July 14, 1937.)

### OFFICIAL DECREES

1. *Sec. 2 (1)* The trustees of labor are to regulate the conditions for the conclusion of legally binding labor contracts, instead of labor unions, individual employers or associations of employers.  
(May 19, 1933)
2. *Sec. 18 (1)* For large economic districts, whose limits are defined by the Reich Minister of Labor in cooperation with the Reich Minister of Economics and the Reich Minister of Interior, trustees of labor are to be appointed. They are Reich officials (Civil Servants) and subject to the supervision of the Reich Minister of Labor.  
(January 20, 1934)
3. *Sec. 36 (1)* Violation of social duties . . . is to be punished as an offense against social honor. An offense of this sort exists if . . .  
(2) Workers imperil labor peace in the enterprise through malicious agitation . . .  
(January 20, 1934)
4. *Sec. 2 (2)* Workers and clerks, following the date fixed by the Reich Minister of Labor, may not be employed unless they possess a work book . . . to be made out by the Labor Offices.  
(February 26, 1934)
5. *Sec. 1* The President of the Employment Board alone has the right to regulate the distribution and particularly the exchange of workers.  
(August 10, 1934)
6. *Sec. 1 (2)* All young Germans of both sexes are obligated to serve their people in the Reich Labor Service.  
*Sec. 3 (2)* The Labor Service affects persons between 18 and 25 years of age.  
(June 26, 1936)
7. *Sec. 1 (1)* Works managers, workers, clerks, apprentices, volunteers and assistants may not give notice of termination of employment, unless the Labor Office has consented to the dissolution of the work contract.  
(September 1, 1939)



# "WE MAKE OUR CHOICE"



## **William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor**

Trade Unionism can only flourish and live where men are free . . . *we make our choice between free democratic trade unions and regimented working men . . .*

(Opening Address, 60th Annual Convention, A. F. of L., New Orleans)

### **Highlights From Wagner Act**

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions when they have occurred by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.

(Sec. 7)

Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in concerted activities, for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection.

(Sec. 8)

It shall be an unfair labor practice for an employer—

1. To interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in section 7.
2. To dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any labor organization or contribute financial or other support to it;
3. To discharge or otherwise discriminate against an employee

because he has filed charges or given testimony under this Act.

4. To refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of his employees.

In any investigation, the Board shall provide for an appropriate hearing upon due notice, either in conjunction with a proceeding under section 10 or otherwise, and may take a secret ballot of employees, or utilize any other suitable method to ascertain such representatives.

### **Prevention Of Unfair Practices Limitations**

(Sec. 10) (a) The Board is empowered, as hereinafter provided, to prevent any person from engaging in any unfair labor practice (listed in sections 8) affecting commerce.

Sec. 13 Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to interfere with or impede or diminish in any way the right to strike.

### **William Green**

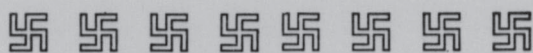
We believe in America, we believe in the freedom we enjoy here, freedom of speech, freedom of press, the right to worship in accordance with the dictates of conscience, and free assemblage. These are our cardinal principles of freedom that belong only to a democracy. We will guard them with our organization and will guard with our lives if necessary.

We stand with the Congress of the United States, we stand with those who are administering the affairs of the nation in the extension of all material and moral aid to Great Britain, and we pray that Great Britain will win this conflict with Totalitarian countries.

(Opening Address, 60th Annual Convention, A. F. of L., New Orleans)



# THE FIFTH COLUMN



## OUR FRIENDS...

### *Hitler*

When I wage war, I shall long have had relations with the men who will form a new government (in the enemy country), a government to suit me. We shall find such men, we shall find them in every country. We shall not need to bribe them. They will come of their own accord. Ambition and delusion, party squabbles and self-seeking arrogance will drive them. Peace will be negotiated.

Our strategy is to destroy the enemy from within. I shall never start a war without the certainty that a demoralized enemy will succumb to the first struggle of a single, gigantic attack.

*("The Voice of Destruction")*

### *Darre*

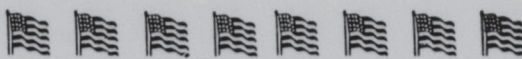
As in France and other countries, also in the U. S., we have many of our compatriots and even more friends among the citizens of the U. S. who are favorably disposed toward us and will not permit public opinion to allow something as senseless and insane as war against Germany — Germany which in a few months gained possession of two continents . . .

*We have in the U. S. a political organization with the same exactitude as Berlin or Prague and we have no fear of any activities on the part of the U. S.*

### *Roosevelt*

*Your government knows much about them and every day is ferreting them out.*

*(Fireside Chat)*



## PROMOTE INTOLERANCE...

### *Dies Committee*

The Bund is an "absolutely militarized organization patterned after the ruthlessly efficient, military setup which characterized Hitler's machine in Germany." This was revealed by the official confidential manual of the German-American Bund, made public recently by the Dies Committee. The Manual states that the Bund demands of its Storm Troop members absolute "loyalty which comes before everything else and extends to the minutest details of the Storm Troopers' lives."

### *Roosevelt*

Let us no longer blind ourselves to the undeniable fact that forces which have crushed and undermined and corrupted so many others are already within our own gates.

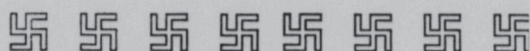
Their secret emissaries are active in our own and neighboring countries. They seek to stir up suspicion and dissension, to cause internal strife. They are active in every group that promotes intolerance.

These trouble-breeders have but one purpose. It is to divide our people, to divide them into hostile groups and to destroy our unity and shatter our will to defend ourselves.

There are also American citizens, many of them in high places, who are aiding and abetting the work of these agents.



# AMERICA



## **"Demoralized . . Corrupted"**

### ***Darre***

You have been asking about my opinion of America, especially the U. S., and the danger of this pseudo-democratic republic's possible attempts to hinder us in our historic development. There is no fear that this *demoralized* country will mix in this German war. . . .

The U. S. also will be forced by Germany to complete and final capitulation. Our superior industrial production will be sold at very low prices to the whole world and will cause the United States to have not 7,000,000 but 30,000,000 unemployed.

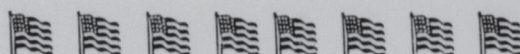
Mr. Rosefeld (referring to President Roosevelt) will then *beg the Fuehrer on his kness to purchase from the U. S. not manufactured products but raw materials at prices which we will dictate.*

The United States is at present so demoralized and so corrupted that, like France and England, it need not be taken into consideration as a military adversary.

*The only purpose of our offensive against the United States is to forever get rid of another bulwark of plutocracy, to regain what belongs to us, to establish order, to proportionately distribute property and to teach America to respect Germany.*

*The fourth is freedom from fear, which translated into world terms means a world-wide reduction of armament to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.*

(77th Congress)



## **"Great Arsenal of Democracy"**

### ***Roosevelt***

There are those who say that the Axis Powers would never have any desire to attack the Western Hemisphere. That is the same dangerous form of wishful thinking which has destroyed the powers of resistance of so many conquered peoples.

The vast resources and wealth of this American Hemisphere constitute the most tempting loot in all of the round world. No nation can appease the Nazis. No man can tame a tiger into a kitten by stroking it. . . .

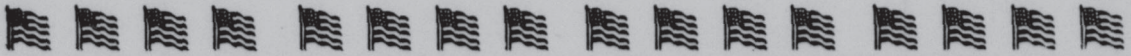
I have the profound conviction that the American people are now determined to put forth a mightier effort than they have ever yet made. As President of the United States, I call for that national effort. *We must be the great arsenal of democracy.*

(*Fireside Chat*)

The time is near when they, "The British and their allies," will not be able to pay in ready cash. We cannot and we will not tell them that they must surrender merely because of present inability to pay for the weapons which we know they must have. The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a free, civilized society. . . .



# FREEDOM SHALL PREVAIL



The League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy, as part of the labor movement, has been engaged in an uncompromising struggle against the dictator states and their agents abroad for years before the outbreak of the war.

Organized Labor realized from the very beginning, long before the conflict reached its present climactic intensity, the terrible implications of the dictator states for the welfare of humanity.

Their suppression of civil liberties, priceless heritage of centuries of struggle against earlier tyrannies; their destruction of democratic processes of government; their liquidation of all voluntary associations, from trade unions through church organizations and cultural and social groupings; their ruthless suppression of minorities of faith, race and opinion—these inhumanities have spread a chill of horror among the civilized peoples of the world.

Their major instrument has been anti-semitism, anti-catholicism and a general offensive against the existence of all established faiths; their major goal, slavery for the toiling masses.

Through denunciation, demonstration, boycott, through every means at our disposal, labor has called upon the free peoples of the world to unite for effective action while time and the relative weakness of the dictators permitted.

Today, the League, together with the rest of the labor movement, gives its full support to our own democratic institutions, and to the remaining free peoples of the world in the profound conviction that freedom shall prevail upon the earth.

**We fight for: Freedom of Expression and Association; Freedom of Faith; Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want—for all peoples everywhere in the world.**

*Published by*

## **LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY**

**9 East 46th Street • New York City  
ELdorado 5-7337**

*WILLIAM GREEN, Honorary President*  
*DAVID DUBINSKY, Vice-President*

*EDWARD MCGRADY, Secretary*

*MATTHEW WOLL, President*

*HON. JEREMIAH T. MAHONEY, Treasurer*