



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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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Levinson, Salmon O., 1933-1934.

October 27, 1933.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
Levinson Becker Gilbert Peebles & Swiren,
1 North LaSalle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

As you probably know, I am chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American League for Defense of Jewish Rights. This League is now planning its campaign in Chicago. You can be of utmost service in this emergency if you would accept the chairmanship of the campaign committee. This seems to be the unanimous opinion of friends who have written me from Chicago. You would unite the factions in your city as no one else can and your name and influence would insure success.

May I urge upon you to make the necessary sacrifice in accepting the chairmanship?

With all good wishes and hoping that I may have the pleasure of seeing you in the near future, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:EK

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO

October 30, 1933

Dear Dr. Silver:

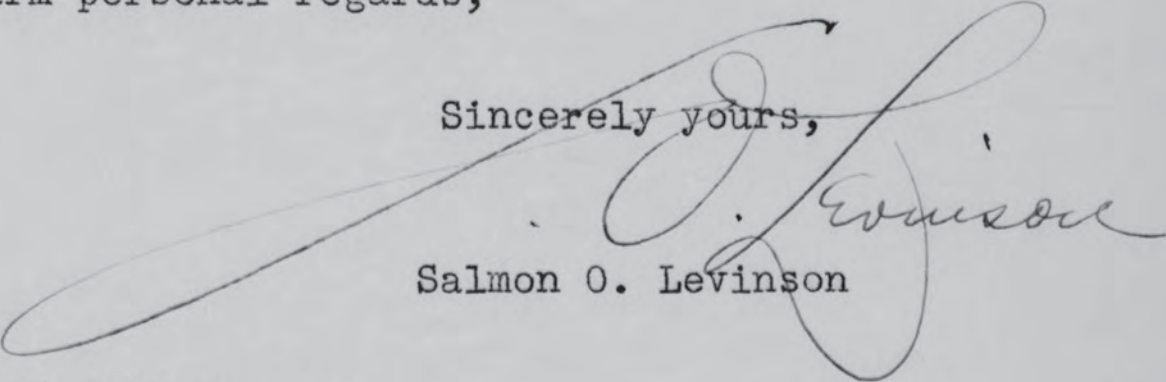
I am in receipt of your letter of the 27th instant and appreciate your generous words.

Whether I will accept the chairmanship or not is now completely dwarfed by the amount of work that is thrown upon me to try to keep the discordant Jewish elements in line until we can try to organize a general meeting. It was my idea that the indictments against Nazi Germany should be several and not confined to the grievances of the Jews--which, God knows, are terrific. The Nazi Germans here are trying to make out that this so-called boycott is a Jewish one in answer to the German boycott against the Jews on April 1st last. It seems to me to be the part of wisdom to organize in Chicago on a much larger scale, freed from the possible charge of a purely retaliatory measure and, if we can get that larger group to call a big meeting, adopt a strong but comprehensive resolution, that will furnish the basis for any and all action of the Jewish groups thereafter.

I am in favor of prompt and vigorous resistance to the limit. I am also in favor of using our best judgment in the manner in which it is done. A little later I will send you copy of the proposed resolution. This thing is taking up so much of my time that I find it next to impossible to do anything else. What I would have to do if I accepted the chairmanship, I can't quite conceive.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

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

SOL K

November 8, 1933.

Mr. Salmon C. Levinson,
Levinson Becker Gilbert Peebles & Swiren,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

Mr. Bernard Stone has written me about the program of our work in Chicago. I am delighted that you are giving it such fine leadership.

I understand that you are organizing a general committee of which a large percentage will be non-Jews. That is excellent. It is important to place our appeal to the American people on a non-sectarian basis and to unite with all the freedom-loving forces of the nation.

Mr. Stone writes me further that you are planning to inaugurate your work with a mass meeting on November 22nd, to which Mr. Untermeyer is to be invited. I hope that this mass meeting will be a great demonstration and will inaugurate a campaign for funds which we need very much if we are to prosecute our work successfully throughout the country.

We are waiting for funds with which to publish a booklet to be distributed to two hundred thousand physicians and druggists, containing a list of all imported drugs and the substitutes which may be had for them in this country or elsewhere. This booklet has been ready for some weeks, having been drafted by a group of outstanding physicians and druggists in New York.

We also plan to publish a monthly "Economic Bulletin" to be sent to all the principle merchants and

11-8-33

manufacturers in the United States. Heretofore a few of us have been financing the entire work of the American League for the Defense of Jewish Rights.

May I suggest, my dear Mr. Levinson, that in organizing your committee, you do not overlook some official representatives of the American Legion and the Veterans of the Spanish-American War. The German agents are making an especial effort to capture the American associations of veterans.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

November 10, 1933

Dear Dr. Silver:

I appreciate your letter of the 8th inst. and am grateful for your magnanimous words.

We have not fixed the exact date for the meeting because I want to have 25 or 30 representative and outstanding Chicago citizens, men and women, as the initial personnel of our Committee before calling the meeting. There will be about three-fourths Christians, mainly Protestants and Catholics, and one-fourth Jews.

The various Jewish groups have been most considerate in yielding to my urgent judgment that no resolution be passed by them until the major body is set up and action taken, after which the path will be free for them.

In my theoretical planning I much desired to have you one of the guest speakers. But I am ashamed to say that, at least among some of our sixty rabbis here, there crops out a most unworthy, sometimes ill-concealed, envy--which, though perhaps a bit natural, is almost inexcusable in the face of this great cause. However, I know you will not misunderstand my intense desire to have this whole meeting dominated by Gentile expression and sentiment, because we are being watched by the Nazi spies, and I am trying to cover our tracks in every way to prevent the distortion of the movement. Indeed, I have put up to a number of my Christian friends as to whether I, being a Jew, ought to be chairman of such a committee. I have urged them to be perfectly frank in view of the unprecedented crisis which confronts us all. They have all replied in the same way, so that I feel under a necessity if the call continues, to act as chairman. I have insisted, however, that we must have a president instead of trying to rely upon a vice-chairman. I have proposed Paul Hutchinson, managing editor of The Christian Century and this suggestion has met with favor among the Jews.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver -2-

November 10, 1933

I am not sure just what we will do, but are planning to have as guest speakers, if we can get them, Untermyer, La Guardia and William Green. If it were advisable to add you I should call the list perfect. I know of no one who would be more effective, both in eloquence and in content, than you. So much responsibility has been thrust upon me that I "take time out" (a la football) to think out the strategy, especially in view of the terribly mixed, conflicting and almost chaotic sentiment among our Chicago Jews.

There has been considerable opposition to Untermyer among the "upper crust" for not very good reasons so far as I can discern. I know of nobody who could (or would) have done such grand work as Untermyer. He is 75 years old, is carrying on other colossal matters at the same time, and giving himself without stint of personal effort or money to this vital danger to the Jews.

For your confidential eye, and not to be used or shown, I enclose copy of resolution I prepared that has met with favor. There is implicit in this resolution my idea of the management and wisdom of handling the situation. Doubtless you can make some ameliorating suggestions.

I have inquired of two proposed members of our Committee who ought to know about the American Legion and Spanish-American war veterans. They say the opposite is true, and that the Illinois Legion has passed a resolution to boycott Germany.

Two days ago I was advised by the editor of an important newspaper here to get Lutherans on our Committee. I shall take that up, but I must bring the thing to a head, as time is oozing and this pretty much monopolizes all my time and strength. Usually, for some reason or other, when I get into a thing entirely too much of the work and responsibility is put upon me. I do not mind it, except there is always the fear of failure and, especially, delay.

I am in correspondence with Mr. Untermyer and our views are substantially in accord. I am sure the same may be said of you.

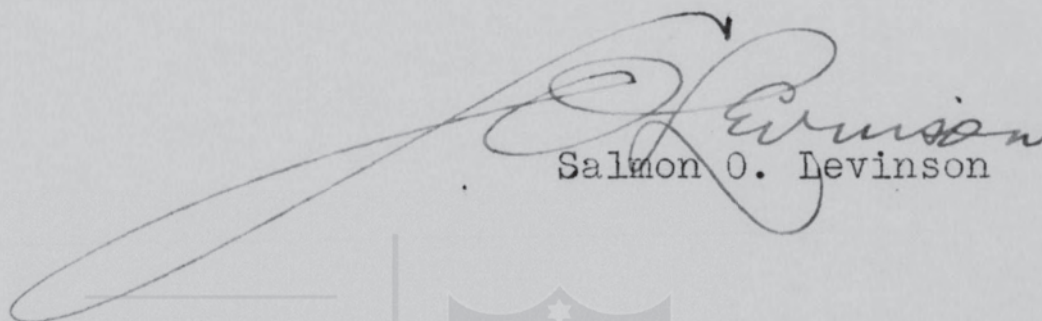
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

-3-

November 10, 1933

I do not want you to get the impression that there aren't a fine lot of rabbis here that would love to have you come. I am merely trying to avoid the kind of "spiritual stiletto work" that has been used against me from the same quarters. Of course I realize that in great affairs we can not take account of small people or small qualities.

Sincerely yours,



Salmon O. Levinson

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



SOL K

RESOLUTION

revision 11/7/33

WHEREAS, the Nazi government of Germany under the control of Hitler, Goering and Goebbels, has appalled the civilized world by trampling upon the fundamental rights of millions of innocent and worthy German citizens, using and relying upon diabolical force to its ends; and

WHEREAS, the liberty of tens of millions of German citizens has been blotted out by terrorization and death, by complete subjection of the German press to the will of Hitler under criminal pains and penalties, by the suppression and forcible extinction of all political opposition and also by making Nazism the single touchstone of all German religion, economics and international policy; and

WHEREAS, the Nazi government has shattered and destroyed the rights and institutions of labor, has tyrannically imprisoned many of their leaders, has confiscated their accumulated funds and denied them the privileges accorded to labor in practically all other civilized countries in the world; and whereas the Nazi government has undermined and impeded the progress of women in their natural rights and is reducing them largely to the status of household drudges; and

WHEREAS, every principle of civilization and humanity has been violated in depriving Jewish citizens of all their elementary rights of citizenship and livelihood, and in plundering, torturing and killing many of their number without cause, and by cruel persecutions driving thousands of them to ruin, exile and suicide; and

WHEREAS, this barbarous regime has ostracized, put in concentration camps, and deprived of all means of livelihood the flower of the great Christian and Jewish scholars of Germany, whose genius and brilliancy were the admiration of the cultural world; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of the present Nazi program is to rearm and remilitarize Germany with the express design of winning what they call the "inevitable next war;" and accordingly Germany has withdrawn from the existing Disarmament Conference and has thereby delivered a crushing blow to the attainment of world peace; and

WHEREAS, large meetings of condemnation and protest against the truculent conduct of the Nazi government have been held in Europe and in the United States and efforts are being made by millions of people the world over to meet this unprecedented challenge to liberty and civilization and to resist and destroy Hitlerism before its poisonous germs infect impoverished and desperate peoples of other lands and before it ripens into aggressive militarism and war:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned

join in the condemnation of the inhuman conduct of the Nazi government and express their will and purpose to aid and cooperate to thwart and remove this vital menace to liberty and civilization. And we pledge ourselves to refrain from buying or dealing in any and all German materials, goods and products, and to refuse to patronize or ride in Nazi owned or controlled steamships or other means of transportation until the stigma and curse of Hitlerism are forever weeded out of the German government.

November 13, 1933.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
Levinson, Becker, Gilbert, Peebles & Swiren,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

I was delighted to receive your letter of November 10th and to note the progress which you are making. The draft of your resolution which you were kind enough to send me is superb. It is as complete, forceful and dignified a statement of our question as I have read. As far as the program of your meeting is concerned, I hope that you will succeed in getting Mr. Untermeyer, La Guardia or William Green. Please have no concern about my participating in the meeting.

I know where the opposition largely comes from -- a former rabbi from Cleveland whom I was constrained, on several occasions to spank in public. He is a mischief-maker of the first order and one who sees in great national causes only what there is in them for him. He should not be taken too seriously.

I am delighted to know that you are acting as chairman as that is the key to the success of the work in Chicago.

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

November 14th, 1933

Dear Mr. Stone:

Thanks for your kind favor of November 8, which I have neglected to answer. I must be excused because of my multiple engrossment here.

I have received another letter from Mr. Untermeyer, and another from Rabbi Silver, the latter clearly explaining the nature of Rabbi Goldman and his antics. It seems to be the nature of the man to be a trouble-maker, according to Dr. Silver, who ought to know, Goldman having come from Cleveland.

We are getting along to the point where we have 25 important Chicagoans lined up for the Committee, of which only four, including myself, are Jews. I may add one or two more, but I think we will limit the Committee, anyway, to 30 until the meeting.

There may be a delay about the meeting because we can't get an adequate hall, because of professional hockey games, which require ice flooring, until December 3. We have about concluded that Sunday afternoon is far and away the best time, both for crowds and for newspaper publicity on Mondays. The lines are holding very well and everybody seems to be satisfied with the general method and program we have devised. I think we will probably have Dr. James M. Yard, who for years was Professor of International Law at Northwestern University, as our Secretary. He will be perfectly fine.

I think I will have to go east and if I do, I think an hour spent with Mr. Untermeyer might clear up whatever differences we have of method and strategy.

In the meantime, I am keeping in touch with all the people you are interested in here, and everything is moving smoothly. I hope nothing happens to impede or defeat our program.

Sincerely yours,

signed----- S. O. Levinson

Mr. Bernard Stone
729 Seventh Ave.
New York City

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LA SALLE STREET

CHICAGO

November 27, 1933

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We were delighted to receive your last telegram, reading as follows:

"WILL ARRIVE BY PLANE SUNDAY AFTERNOON."

Please let me know exactly when and where the plane lands and, if at all possible, I will try to have my car there. I am not sure of this because Colonel Robins and Rev. John Haynes Holmes will be with us and I may not be able to manage it.

In any event, we want to pay all your expenses. Your coming is a source of pride and joy to the Committee.

I want to see as much of you as possible. Perhaps you can dine with us Sunday evening. At that time we hope also to have the pleasure of dining Holmes and Robins.

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

SOL K

*I start at 3:10,
the meeting about 3:30. Hope
you can arrive at Chicago Stadium
by 4 or 4:15 for*

Bay west

November 29, 1933.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

It has occurred to me that it would be highly advisable to get on your program next Sunday afternoon, a prominent representative of the American Federation of Labor. The Federation has officially gone on record as endorsing the boycott. If there is an important official of the American Legion in Chicago, it might be well to have him speak on the subject of resisting Nazi propaganda in the United States, in keeping with the resolution adopted by the convention of the Legion.

But then I am sure that you have in all probability already considered these matters. With all good wishes, and looking forward with pleasure to seeing you on Sunday, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO

December 6, 1933

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Enclosed find clippings from our Monday morning papers--the Chicago Tribune and the Herald & Examiner. Monday's New York Times you have doubtless seen with its two or more columns.

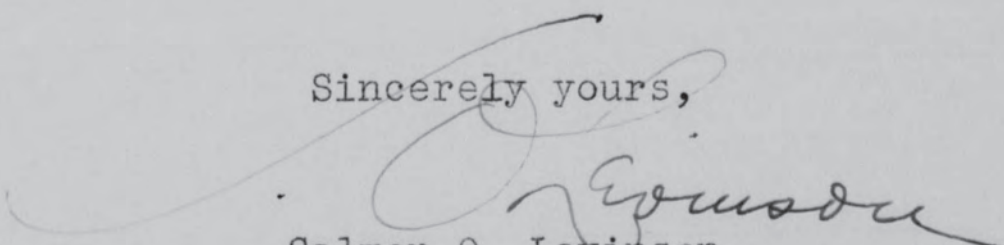
The reactions since have been most encouraging. So many people were thrilled and your wind-up was just as nearly perfect as it could be.

I hope you had a nice visit with Mr. Untermyer.

Mrs. Levinson and I are leaving for Florida and Washington tomorrow night and will be gone ten days or so. In the meantime, I am doing what I can to keep the Committee's activities keyed up. I am quite tired with trying to clean up my accumulated work and with the nervous let-down following the strain I was under for so many weeks. I presume a more phlegmatic man would have gone through with it without nervousness.

With personal regards to you and Mrs. Silver,

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

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

SOL K-enc.

January 8, 1934.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Levinson:

I am enclosing herewith a sample copy
of a circular which was sent to 2500 subscribers
of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland.

Very sincerely yours,

BK
Encl.

Sec'y to Rabbi Silver.

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO

January 16, 1934

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In cleaning out one of my congested desk drawers, I find an article in the N.Y. TIMES of May 12, 1933. It features Baker as the leader in the movement of the National Conference of Jews and Christians and quotes him as follows:

"I feel quite sure that I express on behalf of both Catholics and Protestants a warm sympathy for American Jews who are especially aggrieved at these reports."--

referring to the newspaper and other reports, including one from James G. McDonald.

By the way, this same newspaper contains a story from London of the interview between Lady Asquith and Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, which, doubtless you saw at the time.

One of the prominent Standard Club members, who rather vigorously opposed the boycott and who is closely connected with the American Jewish Committee of New York, today sent me a check for \$200. This is one of the men that I had the talk with on Saturday preceding my talk with you here on Sunday. This would seem to indicate that I shall get some help from that quarter, although it has been very slow. I am determined not to belittle myself but to rely upon those people who have some comprehension of the super-vital issues at stake.

If any of your sermons or speeches re the Nazis have been published I would like whatever you have. But don't go to any trouble or expense.

I just read this morning the confidential and non-circulated statement gotten out by the American Jewish Committee argufying against the boycott. Have you seen it?

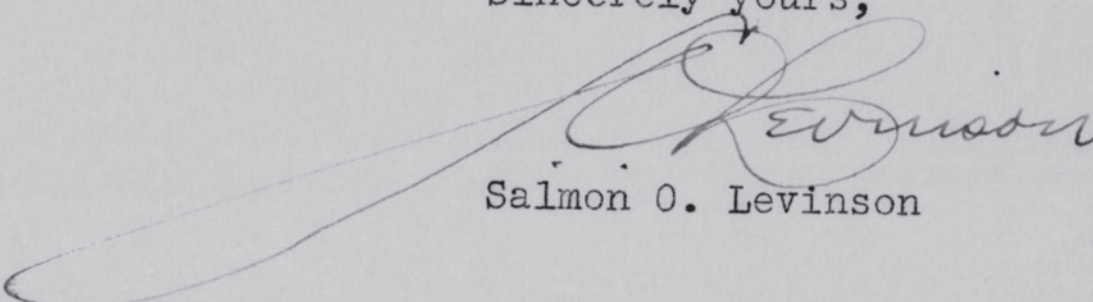
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

-2-

January 16, 1934

I am making good headway as fast as I can
get at these people who are laboring under the
fallacies of the situation.

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

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

SOL K



January 17, 1934.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

Thank you for your letter of June 16th. I have not seen the statement of the American Jewish Committee arguing against the boycott. I should very much like to see it.

Last Saturday, Dr. Ernest L. Klein, of your city, called on me in the interest of the National Free Press which he is publishing in Chicago. He told me the whole story of his negotiations with the people in New York and his failure to get support from them. Frankly, I am at a loss to know what I can do for him. Our League has very meager funds and these must be devoted exclusively to boycott purposes. I should be glad to take the matter up with the New York people who have been investigating *the matter* *and will* ~~refuse~~ ^{to} subsidize Dr. Klein's paper -- if you think that that would be helpful. Perhaps in the meantime and until the New York group is persuaded to assist him, some help can be attained in Chicago.

We have just opened our offices for the Cleveland branch of the League and we have installed a permanent secretary -- Miss Mildred Chadsey, who for years, has been the Director of Adult Education in Cleveland and who has splendid contacts in the community. She is not Jewish.

Our mail campaign in New York is bringing satisfactory results.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Levinson in which Mrs. Silver joins me, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

January 19, 1934

Dear Dr. Silver:

Pursuant to your request, I enclose the printed circular explaining the position of the American-Jewish Committee on boycott, or, as they say, "organized Jewish boycott." The letter sending it on says:

"This was gotten up for circulation among our members, but, in order not to inject a note of discord into Jewish life, it was decided not to circulate it. It strikes me that it might be well to pass it on for the confidential information of Mr. S. O. Levinson."

The letter was written by Morris Waldman.

PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN THIS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. I am only sending it to you because I think you ought to have it at once and make such excerpts as you care to from it.

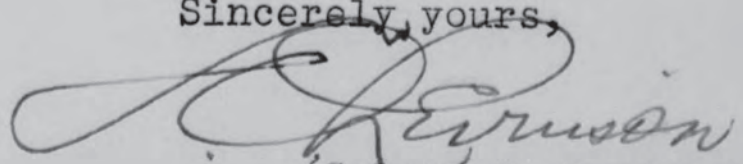
I notice the names of Albert D. Lasker, James H. Becker, James Davis, of Chicago, and can see how I originally dealt with people who are absolutely committed against boycott. In other words, I did not know, in my newness to the situation, what I was going up against.

Also, for your personal information, Mr. Sol Kline, to whom Mr. Waldman was writing and who belongs to the other group, sent me a check for \$200. James H. Becker telephoned me yesterday that he would be in today with his personal check. Thus the thing is thawing out.

I also notice the name of Lessing Rosenwald, chairman of Sears Roebuck in this list. From our information (and we are in correspondence) Sears Roebuck & Company are handling and buying German stuff. What do you know about it, and what ought to be done?

Sincerely yours,

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


Salmon O. Levinson

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

February 1, 1934

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have been away and am just able to answer your letter of January 29. Thanks for returning the paper of the A.J.C. Every now and again I hear of Jews that are fighting me on this thing and I try to run them to earth by a personal conference.

I opposed Dr. Yard's asking you to address a meeting here. I told him you were giving an enormous amount of your time to the New York and Cleveland committees, also taking Untermeyer's place in his absence. However, they want to talk the matter over with me, which we will do later. I quite agree with you that if you come here to raise money a part of it ought to go to your work, particularly to your Cleveland organization. It would be somewhat of an imposition on you otherwise.

I would like to be put on the mailing list of your Economic Bulletin if you think it would be of help.

Meantime, we are getting along pretty well despite the slowness of the financial returns. I have about reached the conclusion that not one Jew in ten really understands the situation as it is.

One of these days I am going to deliver the best speech I can on the following proposition: The huge sum of money being raised solely for the purpose of assisting refugees, actual and potential, as James G. McDonald's call for 25 million dollars, is purely humanitarian. It does not touch the issue. It does not cope with Hitler or Naziism. The now 8000 Christian pastors in Germany are fighting Hitler and should be helped. You are fighting Naziism; we are fighting it. But the money paid for refugees is in its effect a great relief to Hitler himself. If the people he has brutally treated, economically strangled, and exiled, voluntarily or involuntarily, are taken care of by the other Jews of the world, his quasi-conscience is not troubled and he will have accomplished his purpose.

It also has two other bad effects: It shows other countries how they can cut down unemployment through anti-Semitism without doing any grave harm because the Jews of the world will finance these emigrants. It also

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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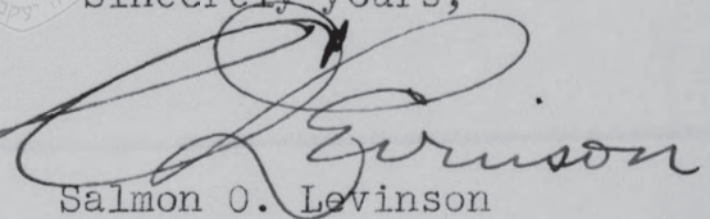
February 1, 1934

involves the effect of these tens of thousands of increasing refugees on public sentiment in liberal countries in which they seek asylum.

Of course I do not, as a human being, object to the work of relief, but I insist that it does absolutely nothing to solve this vital problem. It really intensifies it. For if Hitler succeeds anti-Semitism will inevitably spread and the palliative may thus ultimately aggravate the disease.

I want you to put your unusually fine mind to the questions I thus raise and let me know what you think about them. If the Jews of the world have got to continue this process, it will take hundreds of millions of dollars to do it if Hitler is successful. There is a time to fight and a time to pray. I am afraid the Jews too frequently get rid of serious duties by the sheer giving of money. I sent on \$500 from Maine this summer for the refugee fund, so I am questioning my own action. In any event, giving for relief is not enough.

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th St. and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

SOL K

February 6, 1934.

Please Reply to:
The Temple,
Ansel Rd. & E. 105th St.
Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

Thank you so much for your letter of February 1st. I am in complete agreement with what you write. I am enclosing herewith a copy of an editorial which I wrote for the Jewish Daily Bulletin three or four months ago and which at the time created considerable comment and evoked considerable criticism. You will see how closely our ideas meet on this subject.

I should like to have you embody your ideas in an article which we can publish in the February issue of the Economic Bulletin. We are publishing fifteen thousand copies per issue. I have asked our New York office to forward you a number of copies.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

The Mayflower,
Washington, D. C.

February 16, 1934.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple, East 105th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have been away almost ever since your last letter reached me in Chicago. My time is so engrossed that I will not be able to write the article you want at least for an indefinite period. However, I have discussed the matter with William Hard, the well-known magazine and newspaper man, and I think he will be glad to write an article along that and other lines. He has a very great knowledge of the German situation, having been in Germany a good deal in the last two years, and he is always intensely interested in questions of liberty and democracy. I wish you would write to him at 1028 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C., giving him perhaps a little wider scope on an article than I would do. I will take care of the payment for the article.

Yours most sincerely,

S. O. Levinson
by E.C.N.

Chicago address:
One North La Salle Street.

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO

March 23, 1934

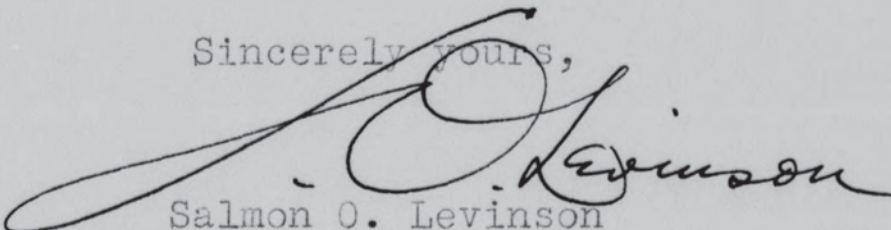
Dear Dr. Silver:

It was so good of you to write me, which you did so generously. I have heard from so many of my friends that the decoration is worth while for that reason alone.

However, I have been able to work with the French more effectively for some reason than with any other nation. We still have our differences but owing to present conditions I felt that I could not refuse such a proffered honor, although I had made up my mind that, in my public work, I did not want to be in the light of being affected, favorably or unfavorably, toward any particular nation. But the Hitler business has upset a good many of my apple carts.

I am off for a little vacation to Augusta, Georgia, whence I hope to return with renewed energy.

Sincerely yours,



Salmon O. Levinson

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th St. and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

SOL K

March 28, 1934

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

I am enclosing herewith the article which I received from Mr. William Hard. Frankly, I do not know what to do with it. It is certainly not the kind of an article which we should print in our "economic bulletin."

The subject of the boycott is treated only incidentally, whereas Mr. Hard is definitely opposed to the introduction of the Tidings Resolution in the Senate, as well as to the Dickstein investigation which has been ordered by the House. I have no quarrel with his philosophy, but if logically followed through, the Jews of America should do nothing vis-a-vis Germany but should content themselves with educating people against the doctrine of racialism.

I like your judgment in the matter. With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:AY
ENCL.1

THE BON AIR-VANDERBILT HOTEL

THE VANDERBILT HOTEL
THIRTY-FOURTH STREET EAST AT PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

THE CHAMBERLIN-VANDERBILT HOTEL
OLD POINT COMFORT, VIRGINIA

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

April 3, 1934.

THE CONDADO-VANDERBILT HOTEL
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

Dear Dr. Silver:-

Your letter of March 28th made its way to Augusta where I have been in search of heat and rest for a few days. You see I am not as tough physically as a young man like yourself. Besides the three major operations I had in 1931 so shattered my nerves that overstrain is somewhat ill-timed. I have had so many critical matters, public and professional, the last six months to tax my energies that we concluded to run down here for a fortnight "far from the madding crowd".

But enough of egoism.

I read over Hard's article entitled "Anti-Nazi Tactics". I think it is splendidly done but needs to be tapered a bit, and the idea of an individual boycott as distinguished from governmental action, inserted. I think if he will rearrange his matter a bit and bring out this contrast with emphasis, the article would be of great value, coming as it does from a man who has had a tremendous number of Jewish friends and is hardly second to anybody in his admiration of our people.

I have concluded, with your approval, to take this matter up with him in Washington next week, whither I go the coming Saturday. As I visualize this thing with the projected changes, the article is so powerful that it ought to have also a larger audience also and a different one from that which your Economic-Bulletin can give it.

His article is another illustration of how a change here and there and the recognition of a particular point of view would transform the thing altogether.

I will be at the Hotel Mayflower, arriving Sunday morning.

Please write me when giving suggestions
Sincerely, S. O. S. Friedman

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

April 26, 1934

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Hard took luncheon with me in Washington recently and we went fully over his article. He agreed with me as to the necessity of distinguishing much more sharply between governmental action and the individual boycott. His point of view of course is very friendly and his points are good and will be very greatly improved for practical use on his revision.

You will probably hear from him within a short time.

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
729 Seventh Avenue
New York City

SOL K

May 7, 1934.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

I was in Chicago last Wednesday to address the Youth Rally at the Sinai Center under the auspices of the Chicago League. Dr. Yard told me that you were on the Pacific Coast and I regret not having had the opportunity of talking with you. There are quite a number of matters that I should like to discuss with you in relation to the progress of our work in this country.

I was pleased with the report which I received of the progress of your campaign for funds in Chicago and I make bold to reopen with you again the subject of the Chicago League making a contribution to National Headquarters in order to assist it in prosecuting its work. You are no doubt acquainted with the work which we are doing at headquarters -- the publication of the monthly Economic Bulletin of which your League avails itself, the extensive research department which we are carrying on, the boycott publicity work of a national character, etc., etc. I feel that the Chicago League ought to make a fixed monthly contribution to the National office for services which Headquarters has been ready and will be ready to render it. The amount of this contribution I would leave entirely to your judgment. Or you may consider making a grant in one lump sum. The Cleveland League has made such an arrangement with the New York office. I believe that the time has come for a closer affiliation between the Chicago League and the New York central organization.

I trust that you had a pleasant visit on the Pacific Coast and that both you and Mrs. Levinson are well. With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BX

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

May 8, 1934

Dear Dr. Silver:

Your letter of May 7 timed itself with my exact return from California where I was called on account of serious illness in my family.

I, too, regret that I was away when you were here. There are so many unexplored subjects I would like to discuss with you, wholly independent of our paramount one, that I do not want to miss any occasion.

I do not think any of our more important members would receive favorably your suggestion that we help finance the eastern organization. I am also opposed to it. We are using our money not only for Chicago, but for the Middle West and possibly the Far West. I just returned from Los Angeles where I found the Jews in about as chaotic a state as I did here last October. This is a thing I would have liked to talk over with you. If I had had time to remain over and could have taken two weeks to it, I would have gone after them. Something ought to be done about this.

Has William Hard revised his manuscript and sent it on? If not, please write him saying that you have heard from me and that you are eagerly awaiting the revision.

The more I think about it, the more convinced I am that we must keep as far away as possible from fomenting any kind of governmental action against Germany. On the surface this seems to be the greatest thing that could happen, namely, for the United States government, either through the Senate, or by the President or the State Department, to take a firm stand of protest and resentment against the mistreatment and persecution of the Jews by Hitler. But the result of it may be the worst possible. It would be seized upon by the other nations, the old Allies, as a move by the United States the logic of which would bring her necessarily into the fold in the event that war between France and Germany

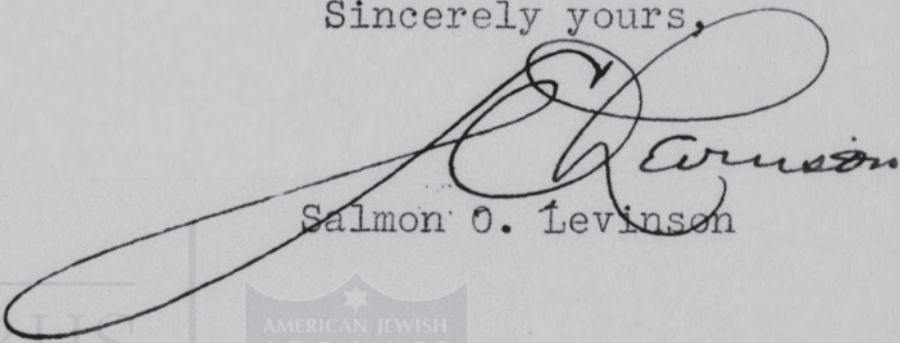
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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May 8, 1934

developed. Such an eventuality is only too probable. The warlike preparations now going on in Europe, if kept up, can have but one ultimate result. If such a dreadful thing happens, it is just as sure as fate that the Jews would be blamed for it and we would have for a slogan "The Jews got us into war," by the advocates of anti-Semitism. I have always opposed this type of governmental action and always will. It has a peculiar danger to us Jews. I wish you would give this philosophic analysis and comment.

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th St. and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio



SOL K

May 14, 1934.

Mr. Salmon O. Levinson,
1 North La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Levinson:

Thank you so much for your kind letter which I received this morning and for the very lovely things which you say about my Chicago address.

I had intended to send you a scolding letter in reply to the one which you sent me last week indicating that your people in Chicago have no intention of contributing some support to our national headquarters. I believe that your League is making a mistake in not sending some help to carry on our national work.

Don't you think that in view of the fact that you talked over with Mr. Hard the revision of his paper that it might perhaps be better if you would ask him for the revised article? We can then print it in our June issue and perhaps also put it in the form of a pamphlet to be distributed nationally.

With best wishes and hoping that I may have the pleasure of seeing you in the very near future and with kindest regards to Mrs. Levinson in which Mrs. Silver joins me, permit me to remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

LEVINSON BECKER GILBERT PEEBLES & SWIREN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

CABLE ADDRESS "LEBEC"
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8130

ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO

May 26, 1934

Dear Dr. Silver:

Doctor Yard has turned over to me your letter of May 24. It is probably "damnable iteration" to write you on this subject again, but perhaps I can make it a little clearer.

There are now four different Jewish ^{and} so-called nonsectarian organizations fighting Naziism that are collecting money from Jews in Chicago. I have been trying to compose the differences but there are a good many kinks still to be straightened out. I doubt whether I can do anything with the B'nai Brith or the Anti-Defamation League. The American Jewish Committee is also now invading Chicago. That will make five. The American Jewish Congress has been in the field for some months.

These things are not only confusing and crippling but they also enable many Jews to use the situation as an alibi in these dreadful days of lingering depression.

It seems to me, therefore, so clear from our point of view that we ought not and can not commit ourselves to dividing up contributions. Our work is growing apace. We are about to send out 50,000 copies of a most important letter written by Dr. Hutchinson, our President, demonstrating the fatal attack of Naziism on Christianity. We are employing and about to employ half a dozen non-Jewish speakers over Chicago and the middle west. We are also having Mr. G. Harrison Brown, who has played an important role in London and Berlin on the Nazi subject, come over. He, too, is a non-Jew. This is a mere sample of the widening activities of our Committee.

Next week, if I can, I am going to explore the possibility of harmonizing some of these groups and either getting them out of the way or consolidating the activity.

In the meantime, the great headquarters in New York have got wealth and numbers to draw on equal to the whole of Chicago and the regions west of Chicago in the entire United States.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

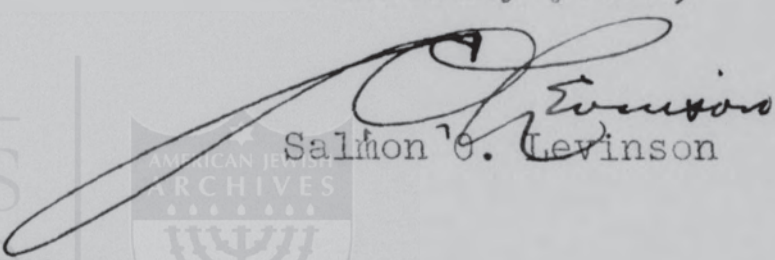
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May 26, 1934

I, personally, would like to see an independent organization in each of the large cities rather than mere branches. Branches do not produce the effect upon German consuls and the German Ambassador that new and independent movements do. I so advocated to Rabbi Lazaron in Baltimore the other night.

I am going to be in New York soon as I have other matters to take up with Sam Untermyer, and I am hoping you may be there by chance because there are two or three acute and very important questions that I would like to thrash out at the risk of being overawed by two such formidable personages.

Sincerely yours,


Salmon O. Levinson

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio.

SOL K

P.S. I have just received a letter of the greatest importance from Senator Borah, from which I quote:

"You will be interested to know that a German friend of mine who is rather close to the powers-that-be, at least who is often consulted about matters in this country, came to me today and said that this speech, together with a letter I wrote to the Jewish Charity committee in New York, had been cabled to Berlin, and they were, to use his expression, 'raising the devil.' I was surprised to have him say to me: 'But I agree with you absolutely.'"

This can not of course be used publicly, but it is all right to give it to any of our people. It is an awful blow to Germany to lose such a staunch friend as Borah has tried to be to Germany the past ten years.

S.O.L.