



## 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.

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National Community Relations Advisory Council, 1947-1950.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLICITY OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

Fear of dual allegiance has from its inception been the mainspring of the American Council for Judaism's program and publicity. It has, both before and since the creation of the state of Israel, issued public statements emphasizing the danger that the loyalty of American Jews would be impaired as a result of Zionist activities.

In a letter to Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson (reported in the New York Times of August 31, 1946) its president, Lessing J. Rosenwald, stated that the creation of the Jewish state "threatens...to have a deleterious effect upon the present political status of Jews in countries in which they are equal citizens and infringes the sovereign rights of the countries of which they are citizens."

In an address to the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, reported in the New York Times of April 25, 1947, Mr. Rosenwald predicted that "the Jews themselves in the world at large would have to decide in the near future what the status of the Jews was to be." He went on to say that "the choice was between a universal concept of Jews as free and equal citizens throughout the world, adhering to an ancient religion, or as members of a nation, centered in a Jewish state in Palestine."

The same point was made by him in an article in Colliers Magazine, in which he asked: "Here is the question every Jew will have to ask himself. 'Am I a member of a universal religion, Judaism, or am I an adherent of Zionist nationalism, with some degree of attachment to a new state?'"

Mr. Rosenwald brushed aside the possibility of any answer to this question other than his own when, somewhat later, he wrote to The New York Times in rejoinder to a letter to the same newspaper by Judge Joseph M. Proskauer. Excerpts from the two letters, as published in The Times, follow.

Judge Proskauer wrote in part (New York Times, January 19, 1948):

We are told by the anti-Semite, through malice, and by some small sections of American Jewry, through confusion



that...partition has created a problem of possible inconsistency between our obligations as Americans and as Jews. There is no such problem. Five years ago our Committee stated: "There can be no political identification of Jews outside of Palestine with whatever government may there be instituted." These words state an axiom and remain true today. The Jews of America suffer from no political schizophrenia. Politically we are not split personalities, and in faith and in conduct we shall continue to demonstrate what the death rolls of our army on many a battle field have attested, that we are bone of the bone and flesh of the flesh of America.

Mr. Rosenwald, in his rejoinder, stated (New York Times, January 29, 1948):

[It is] altogether possible that...events, activities, and claims beyond the control of American Jews may in effect create such a problem... The contention by Mr. Proskauer that there "can be no political identification, etc." must, of course, be read in its true meaning, namely, that there should be no such thing. But of itself, it does not preclude the possibility that attempts to involve American Jews will be made by representatives of the newly to be created State.

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Since the creation of the state of Israel, the Council for Judaism has not attacked the State per se, but has used the newspapers and the magazine with the largest circulation in the world to warn that Zionism, with which a large segment of American Jews is recognized by the general public to be sympathetic, is undermining the patriotism of its adherents. In its fear lest Jews become guilty of dual loyalty, it continues to publicize statements which give the impression that a large segment of Jews are already actually guilty of dual loyalty.

At the opening session of the Fifth Annual Conference held in Chicago, April 22-24, 1949, fully reported in the New York Times, Mr. Rosenwald issued a warning that "Israel must cease and desist in its effort to establish itself on a world-wide 'Jewish' nationalism that is shattering the basis of our American national integration." Mr. Rosenwald is further quoted as follows: "The creation and recognition of a sovereign state of Israel has, with alarming speed, tremendously intensified the Jewish nationalists' desire to control our lives and to advance their claim that all Jews possess a 'Jewish' nationality such as has been achieved already in Israel and imposed upon Jews in Arab lands." (N.Y. Times, 4/23/49)

The same charge was given a special sectional flavor in a speech made later that year in Dallas by Mr. Rosenwald. From that speech the Dallas News of November 16, 1949, quoted the following: "We believe the Jew should separate his religion from his nationality in the same manner other religious groups do... This is a rather hard idea to put across. However, it is easier in a city such as Dallas than Detroit or Boston where a large immigrant population still retains the Zionists' nationalistic idea."



The Council's releases based on the second session of its meeting in Chicago further illustrates its tendency to spread the very suspicions which it ostensibly seeks to prevent. This release contained the report of an attack by Dr. Milton R. Konvitz of Cornell University on Judge Morris Rothenberg of New York, who a few weeks previously had presided in court when three Jewish boys were brought before him charged with throwing tomatoes at Britain's Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin on his arrival in this city. Judge Rothenberg had admitted his sympathy with the boys and disqualified himself from the trial. The release concluded:

Instead of baring their hooliganism, Judge Rothenberg attempted to make heroes of them and at the same time succeeded in creating the impression in the minds of newspaper readers that American Jews can no longer be trusted to defend and protect American interest. (N.Y. Times, 4/24/49)

At the first session of this conference, Mr. Rosenwald also attacked the U.P.A. (Zionist component of the UJA) as follows: "The line of control now runs directly from the Israeli Government to the Jewish Agency to the United Palestine Appeal." He also stated that "Zionism can no longer be recognized as humanitarian. It will be recognized as the active participation in a foreign nationalism which it is." (New York Times, 4/23/49) That this is apparently the official line of the Council is evidenced by a similar charge made by its Washington chapter and a statement in the Council News. The Washington chapter had stated:

...Since no foreign nation can have agencies of its nationalism operating in the United States, as American institutions, without damage to itself and America, it behooves the World Zionist Organization and its American affiliate, having achieved its objective of creating an independent state of Israel, forthwith to dissolve....

(N.Y. Herald-Tribune, 2/17/49)

The Council News of August 1949 asserted that "the ZOA should be known for what it is -- the agency of a foreign nationalism" and that "those who follow its discipline subject themselves to the necessities of two nationalisms, Israel and America."

Speaking at a Houston chapter meeting of the Council in November, 1949, Mr. Rosenwald declared: "American Zionist leaders are working hard to organize Jews in the United States as a bloc for Israeli national interests and exploiting Judaism for secular purposes. The Council is determined, however, to resist all nationalistic propaganda which endeavors to make Jews believe their status is set by the success or failure of Israel." He was also quoted in the Houston Press of November 17, 1949 as attacking the "Zionist plan to impose upon Americans of Jewish faith the mark of a foreign nationality group by identifying them with a so-called 'Jewish culture.'" (Houston Press, 11/17/49)



The Houston Chronicle, in its news coverage of the same speech, reported:

"Mr. Rosenwald said the President of the Zionist Organization of America has been in Washington to exercise pressure on behalf of the Israeli position on Jerusalem, the Arab refugee problem and the new state's boundaries.

"He charged that rabbinical associations have been involved in political manifestations on behalf of a foreign nationalism."

The most widely circulated of the Council's statements was the article by Alfred M. Lilienthal, a member of the Executive Committee of the Washington Chapter, which appeared in the September (1949) issue of the Readers Digest. (Appearing with this article was one giving the Zionist position by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.) That this article had official Council sanction is evidenced by the fact that the names of Council leaders are cited by the Readers Digest as commending this "presentation of both sides of the Zionist question." The Readers Digest, it will be noted, has a domestic circulation of over 9,000,000 and a readership of several times that number. The following are quotations from Mr. Lilienthal's article, entitled "Israel's Flag is Not Mine":

...Zionism was and is a nationalist movement organized to reconstitute Jews as a nation with a separate homeland. Now that such a state exists, what am I? Am I still only an American who believes in Judaism? Or am I - as extreme Zionists and Anti-Semites alike argue - a backsliding member of an Oriental tribe whose loyalty belongs to that group?...

When (Israel's) flag was first raised on May 14, 1948, I had no impulse to dance in the street with hysterical joy, as did so many in New York and London...

My one and only homeland is America. I am proud of my belief in the age-old Judaic concept of one God in Heaven and one Humanity here below. But my faith does not pull me into a feeling of narrowly tribal kinship with all others who worship God in this way. Whenever I read of Americans singing the Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem, or see youth groups raising Israel's flag beside the Stars and Stripes, I am outraged. For Israel's flag and anthem are symbols of a foreign state; they are not mine...

Have these misguided zealots [the Zionists] forgotten the indignation which was aroused in America in the '30's, when the Bundists tried to tell Americans of German ancestry that they owed loyalty to Germany, and set up in America youth camps dedicated to German culture?...



Are these people acting as Americans? Europe's recovery through the Marshall Plan is the keystone of our bipartisan foreign policy, which the Communists are trying to sabotage. Any boycott of British goods, organized or unorganized, helps this destruction. Now I know these Zionists were not consciously trying to tear down American foreign policy, but their actions were the inevitable result of living under the discipline of two nationalisms. Were Hitler alive today, how he would laugh! ...

In any religion one can find a small group of fanatics who hate those of other faiths. Such fanatics are not numerous or important. It is Semitism - the constant efforts of some Jews to assert themselves as Jews - and not their religion of Judaism which feeds anti-Semitism...

Have we forgotten the words of Woodrow Wilson in 1915 when he warned all Americans: "You cannot become true Americans if you think of yourselves in groups. A man who thinks of himself as belonging to a particular national group in America has not yet become an American. And a man who goes among you to trade on your nationality is not worthy to live under the Stars and Stripes!"

This article having been attacked by George E. Sokolsky in the New York Sun of September 7, 1949, Mr. Lilienthal in a letter to the editor (September 15th) took occasion to reaffirm the Council's position that Zionist leaders insist on a world-wide Jewish nationalism:

The issue of political Zionism as raised in my piece does not concern itself with whether Americans of Jewish faith may properly look with sympathy on the creation of Israel and may give humanitarian aid to their suffering coreligionists. The issue is whether the new state created, as Zionist leaders here and in Israel insist, a world-wide Jewish nationalism to which all members of the Jewish faith owe a duty, responsibility and political support.

In addition to the statements made by Council spokesmen, the Council has also sponsored the appearance before its chapters of non-Jewish leaders holding views like the Council's own, and has issued press releases based on their speeches, thereby further spreading suspicion of dual loyalty. Among these speakers have been prominent Protestant divines, like Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, and Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, president Emeritus of Union Theological Seminary. Speaking to a luncheon gathering of the ACJ, Dr. Leiper said:

American Jews must not identify themselves with the political State of Israel if they hope to be considered full-fledged members of the United States community...Americans of the Jewish faith must be on their guard against a "dual



nationality" that would divide their patriotic allegiance between Israel and the United States. Such a split loyalty will brand Jews in this country permanently as a national and "racial" minority, different from the rest of the nation. \*

(New York Times, March 1, 1949)

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, like Dr. Leiper, discoursed on the theme of "dual nationality":

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, president Emeritus of the Union Theological Seminary, urged yesterday before a Jewish audience that the new state of Israel not be made an "integral element" of American foreign policy.

Dr. Coffin told his listeners that Americans of other faiths had been "startled" by the concern of American Jews for a national state, although no group had ever been "more fervently and sincerely American" than the Jews in the United States.

"I beg of you, as Americans," he said, "as representatives of a great spiritual community, to keep your heads and stand fast for the American pattern. This is your homeland, and not overseas somewhere."

(New York Herald-Tribune, January 25, 1949)

As recently as November 1, the noted publicist, Miss Dorothy Thompson, addressed the fifth annual meeting of the Philadelphia chapter of the ACJ. Her remarks were variously reported by the New York Times, Philadelphia Evening Bulletin and Christian Science Monitor. The Christian Science Monitor (November 3, 1949) reported:

...Dorothy Thompson, columnist, said the claim that every Jew in the world is a member of the Jewish people, or nation, jeopardizes the equal civic status of American Jews.

This claim....strongly resembled the racist philosophy of Hitler's Third Reich.

The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin (November 2, 1949) reported:

Dorothy Thompson warned American Jews in a speech here

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\*Dr. Leiper was further reported by the New York Times to have deplored the action of "Jewish pressure groups in Washington who seek to influence United States foreign policy in unconstitutional ways for the benefit of Israel." A subsequent issue of the New York Times (March 16, 1949) contained a letter from Dr. Leiper denying that he had used this language, but this letter reiterated his concern about the possibility of dual loyalty on the part of American Jews.



last night that sooner or later Jewish nationalists must choose between the United States and Israel.

"There is no room in American nationality for two citizenships or two nationalities," Miss Thompson said.

Miss Thompson also warned that Jews outside of Palestine cannot "continue indefinitely to mask as humanitarian relief contributions to the economy of a foreign state, or to allow a system to develop whereby a foreign state in effect levies taxes upon citizens of other states which they regard as, somehow, diaspora nationals."

According to the same paper, Miss Thompson also criticized tendencies in Jewish organizational life in the United States as follows:

There is even traceable in the United States a wish to separate Jewish cultural existence here from the main stream of American Life, ...[and] to set up among American Jews a quasi-secular community with, among other functions, judges to pass upon the actions of Jews.

There are already in many cities Jewish community councils, quasi-legislative bodies, who try to discipline Jews as though they were members of a separate minority group within the United States.

(Philadelphia Evening Bulletin,  
11/2/49)

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Following are some illustrative instances of the use of Council for Judaism propaganda:

A. SOME HEADLINES IN METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPERS

1. WORLD CHALLENGE STRESSED TO JEWS

L.J. ROSENWALD, JUDAISM COUNCIL HEAD, SAYS COHESION AS AMERICANS COMES FIRST  
(New York Times, 1/28/48)



2. STOP WORLD DRIVE, ISRAEL IS WARNED

L.J. ROSENWALD TELLS JUDAISM COUNCIL NATIONALISTS WOULD CONTROL JEWS HERE  
(N.Y.Times, 4/23/49)

3. LINKING JEWS HERE TO ISRAEL SCORED

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM ASSERTS THEY SHOULD STAND WITH FOES OF RACIAL NATIONALISM  
(N.Y.Times, 4/24/49)

4. NATIONALISTIC LINK TO ISRAEL BARRED

JUDAISM COUNCIL HOLDS IT HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY BEYOND SHARING OF RELIGION  
(N.Y.Times, 4/25/49)

5. DR. COFFIN ASKS JEWS TO PUT US AHEAD OF ISRAEL

SAYS POLITICAL ZIONISM COULD IMPERIL AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY  
(N.Y.Herald-Tribune, 1/25/49)

6. WARNS ON PRO-ISRAELISM

DR. HENRY SLOANE COFFIN CITES DANGER IN DIVIDED LOYALTY  
(N.Y.Times, 1/25/49)

7. JEWS TOLD TO SHUN 'DUAL NATIONALITY'

IT MAY FOSTER ANTI-SEMITISM, DR. LEIPER OF WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WARNS  
(N.Y.Times, 3/1/49)

8. JEWS WARNED TO CHOOSE

DOROTHY THOMPSON SAYS THEY CAN'T HAVE DOUBLE LOYALTY  
(N.Y.Times, 11/2/49)

9. DOROTHY THOMPSON CAUTIONS US JEWS ON ISRAEL ALLEGIANCE

(Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, 11/2/49)

10. HOLDS ISRAEL IS NOT 'HOME'

AMERICAN RABBI TALKS

(Milwaukee Journal, 10/21/49)

Thus the average reader of a newspaper or magazine learns the following:

1. Zionism is endangering American interests
2. The attitude of American Jews toward Israel is creating anti-Semitism



3. Israel is engaged in a "world drive" to "control Jews here" and secure their allegiance
4. The Council for Judaism is the agent responsible for exposing this nefarious plot
5. The Jews of America possess a "dual nationality"
6. They must cease this duality and "choose" between the United States or Israel.

B. EDITORIALS IN SMALL-TOWN NEWSPAPERS

The Orangeburg, South Carolina Times and Democrat editorialized:

The effort being made by the leaders of the new...State of Israel to establish a joint nationalism with Jews in other lands, is meeting with some opposition from patriotic and intelligent Jews in the United States....It will be well for all of the Jews in the United States to agree with Mr. Rosenwald, to support him in his efforts to make plain that they possess no "Jewish nationality" and owe no duties to Israel. (The Council News, June 1949)

The Lynchburg, Virginia News observed:

There is stubborn resistance to the idea that American Jews should transfer their allegiance from the United States to Israel. In fact, this resistance goes so far as to challenge the strong spirit of nationalism that is being cultivated around the new government... This danger, together with the idea of "a racial national theory of solidarity"...may cost the state of Israel an irreparable loss of sympathy in this country. (The Council News, June, 1949)

The Danbury News-Times had expressed its admiration of the Council in 1948.

Not all American Jews look upon Palestine as "home" and some are opposed to the whole idea of settling thousands of Jews in the Holy Land.

The American Council for Judaism is an organization that opposed the idea of Palestine as the Jewish homeland, and combats it...[Quoting an ACJ statement.] There are in this country numbers of Americans of Jewish faith who reject, lock, stock and barrel, any concept that Jews are either

For all of the Jews in the United States, to agree with Mr. Rosenwald to support him in his efforts to make plain that they possess no "Jewish nationality" and owe no duties to Israel. (The Council News, June 1949)

The Lynchburg, Virginia News observed:

There is stubborn resistance to the idea that American Jews should transfer their allegiance from the United States to



a racial or national entity and who affirm that they are Jews by religion....

Which may be something for all Americans to bear in mind these days.

(Council Bulletin, May 17, 1948)

An editorial of a more explicit nature appeared in the Bergen Evening Record of Hackensack, New Jersey, on May 18, 1948, from which the following is an excerpt:

....New York is admittedly the largest Jewish city in the world, but at last reports it is still an American city. The recent raising of the Jewish national flag there and the singing throngs in the streets will I hope be ascribed to spontaneous enthusiasm rather than deliberate planning. Typical American good humor and tolerance will probably prevent repercussions, but if they should go astray our American Jews and their enthusiasm for a legendary promised land will be solely to blame for the mess in our midst....

It seems superfluous to tell any American of Jewish ancestry or belief that there can be no hyphenate Americans here.... if they claim to be national hyphenates, he (the writer) must as an American repudiate such a divided allegiance to this land of religious freedom.

We do not suggest that such hyphenates be hung, drawn, and quartered in the medieval pattern, but it might not be too inappropriate to suggest that our State Department issue passports to all Americans of Jewish ancestry who think their fealty to the new Jewish state transcends their obligation to the land of their birth. Thus, and perhaps thus only, will American Jews seeking an ephemeral promised land learn belatedly that their Promised Land and their Acres of Diamonds are all around them, in the priceless U.S.A.....

Six days later, the paper reprinted this editorial. In an adjoining column it printed a policy statement which had in the meanwhile been adopted by the American Council for Judaism.

An avalanche of letters followed, some from highly disturbed Jews, others from anti-Semites. On May 27th, the paper carried a letter to the editor from the publisher, John Borg. Mr. Borg not only inferentially acknowledged his obligation to the Council for Judaism by freely paraphrasing its statements, but directly identified his own views with those of the Council. He wrote, in part:

...Bergen County is now seeing a local example of a highly organized Jewish national propaganda machine in action against freedom of expression and the press. That organized nation-



wide Jewish host successfully pressurized President Truman into recognition of the new state of Israel almost before it was officially born...

...I join with that completely American Council for Judaism in voicing my strongest protest against those Jewish propagandists, who represent only a comparative handful of our American people. American Jews comprise less than 4 per cent of our country's population. Probably only half of that 4 per cent are Zionists, who, come hell or high water, have gone overboard in their sentimentalism and zeal to establish the new Jewish state in total disregard of the interest of all the other Americans here who have respected and defended their Constitutional freedoms. The Judaists state very frankly that Israel is solely a political conception, not a religious one. Straight thinking impels every American to agree with them....

...Those abusive Jews in our midst do not now realize that in reality we are waging his contest for them in a longer range perspective. Currently they have been incited to destroy the twin pillars of free speech and free press, which upholds the roof over our priceless First Constitutional Amendment. They, of course, cannot be permitted to succeed, here or elsewhere in our nation. But, assuming that they did, then would follow in logical sequence the destruction of that religious freedom which Americans prize so highly...

#### C. EXPLOITATION BY PROFESSIONAL ANTI-SEMITES

Rarely, indeed, has an anti-Semite found the official publication of a Jewish organization so worthy of his commendation as Merwin K. Hart apparently found at least one issue of the Council News. The following appeared in "To All Americans", issued by the National Economic Council, Inc., of which Hart is president, under date of February 15, 1950:

...Zionists generally, and Winchell in particular, are using this term as a smoke screen to conceal their own hate. For they are the greatest hate group that ever appeared in the United States. There has been none other comparable with them. Any reader who doubts this will do well to write the American Council for Judaism, 201 East 57th St., NY 22, for a copy of its Council News for December. He will see from this that Lessing Rosenwald, its President, and formerly Chairman of the Board of Sears Roebuck & Company, and other leading Jews are even more alarmed about the threat of Zionism to America-and to the loyal American Jews as well-than we are.



George Armstrong likewise found the utterances of Mr. Rosenwald grist to his mill. In his diatribe, "The Zionists", published April 29, 1950, Armstrong wrote,

...In a press interview (November 16, 1949) Morris J. Rosenwald, founder of Sears, Roebuck & Company and president of the 'American Council of Judaism', said that the Jew is a religion and not a nation, (as claimed by Theodor Herzl and Rabbi Wise), and that his organization is opposed to Zionism and the Zionist state. He said that his organization has a membership of only 15,000 out of a total Jewish population in America of 5,000,000. The estimate of 15,000 represents about the number of non-Zionist American Jews who are good citizens and they should, of course, be protected and permitted to remain. It is estimated that there are 13,000,000 Jews in America (instead of five million) and that 85% of them are Zionists.

These are recent examples. Many others could be cited, over a three-year period. For example a letter from Rabbi Max J. Merritt, executive director of the Los Angeles chapter of the Council published in the Hollywood Citizen-News on August 27, 1947, served as a springboard for an attack by the anti-Semitic Public Affairs Forum, headed by Earl C. Craig. Rabbi Merritt wrote in part as follows:

No report has ever been published showing how the Zionist Organization has spent the more than \$43,000,000 [sic] allocated to it by the 1946 United Jewish Welfare Fund through its adjunct, the United Palestine Appeal. It is a matter of common knowledge that huge sums have been spent in the United States by the Zionist organization for propaganda, lobbying and other techniques coloring public opinion, closely related to extremist activities in Palestine.

He also quoted from a writer in the Virginia Quarterly Review, reading as follows:

The national interest of the Zionists of Palestine and of



the world runs counter to the National interest of the American nation.... It is high time that the American people and especially the millions of loyal American citizens of Jewish faith, know and understand the facts... The Zionist organizations of the United States, representing a pressure group of less than 400,000 members out of the 6,000,000 Jews of the country, maintain in Washington a lobby of extraordinary skill and efficiency....The obvious purpose is to give the public and government the impression that every body, Christian as well as Jew, is interested in the Zionist movement and favors its aims.

On August 20, 1947, Craig's Public Affairs Forum adopted a resolution which it forwarded to the President of the United States, and copies of which, accompanied by copies of the Merritt letter, it later circulated to public officials including members of Congress. This resolution charged that pressures were being brought on government officials "for the purpose of forcing the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, contrary to the wishes of the native inhabitants, and ... this agitation ... is particularly directed ... against countries with whom we share the secret of the Atomic Bomb ... for the purpose of promoting their program of International Zionism .... It spreads disunity among the American people and weakens the government of the United States in its diplomatic relations with other countries.... Certain well-financed Professional Zionist Agitators, radio commentators and newspapers who cater to so-called minority groups (whose activities suggest that they have a dual allegiance inconsistent with loyalty to the United States) are now engaged in Russia-First, pro-Communist, pro-Zionist, and anti-British propaganda thus giving aid and comfort to subversive foreign ideologies and organizations."...

Similarly, a statement by Sidney Teiser, president of the Oregon chapter of the Council, to the effect that the UJA was diverting funds to fight the Arabs, found its way into The Broom, a viciously anti-Semitic publication, in its issue of May 17, 1948, as follows:

DID YOU DONATE TO UNITED JEWISH APPEAL FUND?

ANTI-ZION CHIEF CLAIMS DONATED FUNDS BUY ARMS

Portland, Oregon. -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr., ex-secretary of the treasury, is guilty of double talk if he insinuates that none of the money being raised for the United Jewish Appeal is to be used for arms, Sidney Teiser, president of the Oregon Chapter, American Council for Judaism, declared.

Teiser's group is opposed to establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Morgenthau is head of the United Jewish Appeal in the United States.



Teiser criticized Morgenthau's statements in Portland Monday, when the ex-treasury head said "some of the funds would go for medicine, blankets, trucks, food, shelter, lands, but none for munitions, as such."

Like Craig, Robert Williams, a former close associate of Upton Close, seizes the opportunity to link Zionists and Communists. Moreover, he and other anti-Semites have not only used the sanction of the Council to give weight to their stock-in-trade attacks on Jews, but -- by a device reminiscent of Father Coughlin, who always denied that he was anti-Semitic, claiming to attack only "communistic atheist Jews" -- have lined themselves up alongside the Council in an apparent effort to demonstrate that they cannot themselves fairly be branded as anti Semites. For example, Williams writes:

No thoughtful American can read the Jewish press today without becoming alarmed. Too many Jewish periodicals are pouring a stream of pro-Communist Marxist, pro-Russian sentiment into the Jewish people. As a counter-intelligence officer in the Army, I was astounded to see so many of our Communists were Jews. These facts may shock conservative American Jews who will pay heed as much as they shock non-Jews. The remark that "all Jews are Communists" is an irresponsible and asinine statement. This is the mistake more and more Americans are making today. The rigidly Orthodox Jew I believe to be a loyal American citizen, opposed to Fascism, Communism and Political Zionism, adhering only to religious Zionism, a spiritual concept. Jews who belong to, or agree with, The American Council for Judaism likewise acknowledge only one flag, the Stars and Stripes. They, too, oppose being used by radicals in a revolutionary movement which they regard as certain to end in terror and bloodshed for Jew and Gentile alike.

The Anti-Defamation League and its Use in the World Communist Offensive, Robert Williams, 1947, pp.18-19 (pamphlet)

And Gerald L. K. Smith writes:

While in Shreveport organizing, manipulating, and contacting, necessary to carry on our organization program, this Louisiana city was visited by a Rabbi. I have mentioned this Rabbi on more than one occasion in The Cross and the Flag. His name is Elmer Berger. He is against Zionism. He made a speech in a Shreveport synagogue. A member of our staff went to the meeting and took notes.

Rabbi Berger really talks straight to the Jews who come to hear him. Of course, he was bitterly opposed by the Zionists. When he was on the West Coast he had almost as tough a time



as I did. He had to have bodyguards in San Francisco and in Los Angeles. Why is this Rabbi so hated by the Zionists? In the first place, he brands political Zionism as a racket, and a money-raising racket at that. In the second place, he says that the Jews have no more right to Palestine than the Arabs or the Christians. Mohammedanism started in that part of the country. Christianity started in that part of the country, and Judaism so-called started in that part of the country. He made a vigorous attack on Rabbi Silver of Ohio, who is now the head of the Zionist program in America.

If I had made the same speech it would have been advertised as being the most vicious anti-Semitic speech ever made. He wants the Jews to be identified only on a religious basis, and not on a racial basis.

The Cross and the Flag, April, 1947, p.13  
(Gerald L.K. Smith)

12/5/49





January 19, 1950

Mr. Irving Kane  
3139 Kingsley Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Irving:

I read this morning in the J.T.A. Bulletin the statement which you, as Chairman of the N.C.R.A.C., issued in condemnation of the American Council for Judaism. I want to congratulate you upon the action which was finally taken and which, I am sure, was the result of your strong leadership in the matter. It is a good and forthright statement, and a distinct service to the American Jewish community. I trust that the statement will receive the widest publicity.

More power to you!

Cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



# NEWS *from the* NATIONAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

295 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 5-1606

MEMBER AGENCIES: American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith (Anti-Defamation League), Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Regional, State, and County-wide Jewish Community Councils in the Southwest Region (tri-state region embracing eleven local communities), in the States of Indiana and Minnesota, in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Calif., and in Essex County, N. J.; and local Jewish Community Councils in the following cities: Akron, Baltimore, Boston, Bridgeport, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New Haven, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rochester, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Springfield, Mass.

For release in Anglo-Jewish newspapers on or after Wednesday, January 18, 1950

## NCRAC DENOUNCES AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

A strong condemnation of the American Council for Judaism for its "unfounded charges and innuendoes casting doubts on the loyalty of American Jews" was issued this week by the National Community Relations Advisory Council, coordinating body for the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and twenty-seven local Jewish community councils throughout the country.

The Executive Committee of the NCRAC took the action unanimously at a meeting in New York last Thursday (January 12). The full statement follows:

"The small but highly vocal group of Jewish individuals known as the American Council for Judaism has been responsible for the publication in the nation's press of reiterated statements casting doubts on the loyalty of American Jews who have demonstrated their sympathies with Israel. These statements constitute thinly veiled slurs on the allegiance of substantially the whole American Jewish community. The overwhelming majority of American Jews, Zionist and non-Zionist alike, recognizing their obligation to help Israel in the huge task of resettling and absorbing hundreds of thousands of homeless Jews, and conscious of their deep religious and cultural affinity with the Jews of Israel, are aiding in the upbuilding of that land.



"In raising the bogey of "dual loyalty", the American Council for Judaism ignores the fact that the American way of life recognizes the right of all citizens to work for such causes, consistent with the welfare and security of the United States, as engage their sympathies. Aid to Israel is such a cause. In the eyes of our government, Israel is -- as a high official recently expressed it -- "an outpost of democracy in the Middle East."

"Our fellow citizens have joined American Jews in applauding the accomplishments and encouraging the efforts of the State of Israel. Indeed, leaving aside the professional anti-Semites who seize upon any pretext for fulminating against Jews, it is only in the minds of the numerically insignificant membership of the American Council for Judaism, and of the few individuals who have succumbed to the Council's propaganda, that the specter of "dual loyalty" has arisen.

"No one questions the right of the Council for Judaism, however insignificant its size, to disagree with the great majority of its fellow citizens and to hold itself aloof from their efforts. Nor does anyone question its right to seek to persuade others to its point of view. But by no extension of the principle of freedom of speech or association can any defense be made of the Council's casting of baseless slurs upon the Americanism of its fellow Jews. In this it violates every principle of truth and decency.

"The national and local Jewish organizations which join in the present statement number among their affiliates the overwhelming majority of American Jews. These organizations vigorously condemn the American Council for Judaism for its unfounded charges and innuendoes and declare them to be gross libels upon American Jewry."



In a statement accompanying the denunciation, Irving Kane, Chairman of the NCRAC, said that it was issued after the Council for Judaism over a period of several months had persistently rejected proffered opportunities to discuss the harmful effects of its propaganda with the NCRAC.

"At the Plenary Session of the NCRAC in April, 1949," Mr. Kane said, "the NCRAC membership expressed their deep concern with the mischief which was being wrought by the publicity of the American Council for Judaism and by the utterance of its spokesmen and of some who spoke under its auspices. At that time, a resolution was adopted directing the Executive Committee to "take appropriate measures with the American Council for Judaism looking toward the discontinuance by the Council for Judaism of its false and unwarranted charges.."

Acting on that resolution of its Plenum, Mr. Kane said, the NCRAC had written to the Council suggesting a meeting for discussion of "such statements and activities of the American Council for Judaism as appear to have contributed -- or have the tendency to contribute -- toward the growth of anti-Semitism in the United States."

In an ensuing exchange of letters, which the NCRAC made available to the Anglo-Jewish press together with its statement for condemnation, the Council for Judaism sought to impose conditions that rendered such a meeting impossible, Mr. Kane said.

In a letter of December 2, Lessing Rosenwald, Council for Judaism president, asserted that his Council "cannot with self-respect participate in a discussion which assumes as a premise that the Council has been guilty of improper conduct in handling its publicity."

"Since this is the only premise on which the NCRAC, having regard for the self-respect of the American Jewish community, could come into a meeting with the Council," Mr. Kane said, "this letter was taken - as it could only have been intended - as a final refusal to meet."

"While this correspondence was in process," Mr. Kane said, "the Council for Judaism continued to promote its propaganda line. In view of this flagrant and obstinate disregard of the manifest interest of the American Jewish community, the organizations comprising the NCRAC unanimously determined to repudiate the Council's fantastic charges and to denounce them as dangerous falsehoods," Mr. Kane declared.

Attachments: Correspondence

Mat of Irving Kane, NCRAC Chairman



*Mail Comm  
Relation  
Advisory Council  
1949-50*

IRVING KANE  
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO

January 23, 1950

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi:

It made me very happy to receive your warm and gracious letter and to know that you found our statement on the Council for Judaism satisfactory. You well know, of course, that in a co-ordinating body such as the NCRAC, it is not easy to achieve such a result. How we were able to get unanimity is a long and lurid story which I shall tell you one day, when next we have breakfast in the diner together.

The real significance of the statement is that this is the first time all of the national and local Jewish agencies concerned primarily with group relations in America (as distinguished from the Zionist bodies) have publicly condemned the council; and that the agencies to which the American Jewish community had entrusted the fight against anti-Semitism, regard the council's activities as contributing to the deterioration of group relations in this country.

The statement, as you suggest, is receiving wide circulation, although confined to the Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish press. The Israeli consulate in New York and the Embassy in Washington have already indicated their deep interest in the matter.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness in writing to me. It meant more to me than any other expression I received. With respect and affection

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