



## 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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National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1957-1958.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, Inc.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

43 West 57 St  
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October 11, 1957

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, D. D.  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

Samuel D. Leidesdorf talked with Admiral Lewis L. Strauss about succeeding Roger as our Co-Chairman. The head of the Atomic Energy Commission is by all odds the first choice of our Board and Regional leaders. Until he nods affirmatively, we do not want to extend an invitation formally. Thus far the approach to Lewis is confidential.

Abe Luntz believes that you will see Mr. Strauss or 'phone to him on our behalf, and urge him to accept. We can elect him at our Annual Meeting November 11th, or we are willing to wait for him, if he will indicate that he will serve beginning in the near future.

Your help will be appreciated.

With warm regard.

Faithfully,

*Everett R. Clinchy*

Everett R. Clinchy

ERC:ea

Dr. AHS - showed Adm L. 10/15/57

BUILDING FOR BROTHERHOOD

43 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1958

Dear Dr. Clinchy:

As you know, your letter of December 2, 1957 to Mr. Allen Dulles has been referred to the Department of State.

I think Dr. Bonnell's suggestion that a minister, a rabbi and a priest make a trip together to the Soviet Union is an altogether desirable idea. It is also in keeping with our policy. You may remember that the Western Governments proposed freer exchanges with the Soviet Union at the Conference of Foreign Ministers in Geneva in 1955 and that the President reiterated this policy for the United States in 1956.

We have been carrying on negotiations with the USSR with the idea of obtaining a greater relaxation of artificial barriers between the East and West. During the course of these negotiations, it has been agreed that exchanges of religious leaders should be reciprocal and should be arranged on our side by the World Council of Churches. The World Council of Churches is in touch with the Metropolitan of Moscow. I suggest, therefore, that Dr. Bonnell consult with the World Council at his earliest convenience.

I would be very much interested in knowing how plans for the trip develop; I would also appreciate receiving a brief report on the trip after the group returns from the Soviet Union.

Sincerely yours,

*Christian L. Herter*

Acting Secretary

Dr. Everett R. Clinchy,  
The National Conference of  
Christians and Jews, Inc.,  
43 West 57th Street,  
New York 19, New York.





TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 8-7530

# THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS, INC.

*Founded 1928*

43 WEST 57TH STREET

NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

NATIONAL CO-CHAIRMEN  
BENJAMIN F. FAIRLESS  
JAMES F. TWOHY  
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PRESIDENT  
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EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT  
STERLING W. BROWN

TREASURER  
HERBERT J. OSBORNE

SECRETARY  
OSCAR M. LAZRUS

February 4, 1958

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, co-chairman of our Commission on Religious Organizations, has proposed that a small group of religious leaders make a visit to the Soviet Union this spring or summer. The purpose of the trip would be to explore the religious situation in Russia at the present time. The group would be principally interested in religious liberty in the Soviet Union, as it relates to Jews, Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants. The group would probably also want to interview some of the top political leaders of Russia, as well as several of the leading rabbis in Europe, stop at the World Council of Churches' headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and visit the Vatican in Rome and possibly stop in Israel. When they returned to the United States, they would issue a report to the American people, as to their observations and findings.

Such a journey would be very much in harmony with recent governmental (U.S. and USSR) suggestions to encourage cultural exchange between our people. Our State Department has indicated to me, personally, that they would like to see Dr. Bonnell's idea go through. This should be an interfaith group and we would wish to include, Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, Msgr. Edward G. Murray, an Eastern Orthodox leader, and, if it is at all possible, we would want you to join the group.

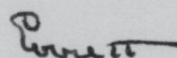
The Executive Committee of the Commission on Religious Organizations, at its last meeting, heartily endorsed this idea and Msgr. Murray has indicated that he could find the money to defray his expenses. We would also ask Dr. Bonnell, if he could obtain the money for his expenses, and we believe there would be a good chance of finding someone in the Orthodox community to cover those of an Orthodox priest. Would it be possible for the Beaumont Foundation, or some other source you may know, to underwrite the cost that would be involved if you should consent to make the journey?



There is a new urgency in this space invasion era to encourage more friendly relationships and to advance understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union, particularly at this crucial time when a race in military weapons threatens. We feel strongly that Dr. Bonnell's proposal is especially relevant now and would receive widespread attention. We would, of course want to make careful preparation for this journey. We shall get the best counsel available so that it can be of maximum benefit. Roy McCorkel, Director of the Commission, will make detailed arrangements.

We hope very much that you like the idea and that you will want to go.

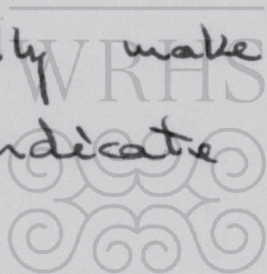
Ever sincerely,



Everett R. Clinchy

ERC:r

I will gladly make any approach you  
wish to indicate to a foundation,





June 20, 1958

National Conference of Christians & Jews, Inc.  
686 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your recent request you will find enclosed  
a glossy print of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.

Sincerely yours,

/sl

Miss Sophia Levine  
Secretary to Dr. Silver



# IN THESE WORDS

*Statements By*

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

DR. JOHN S. MILLIS

LOUIS B. SELTZER



MEANY

ERNEST R. BREECH

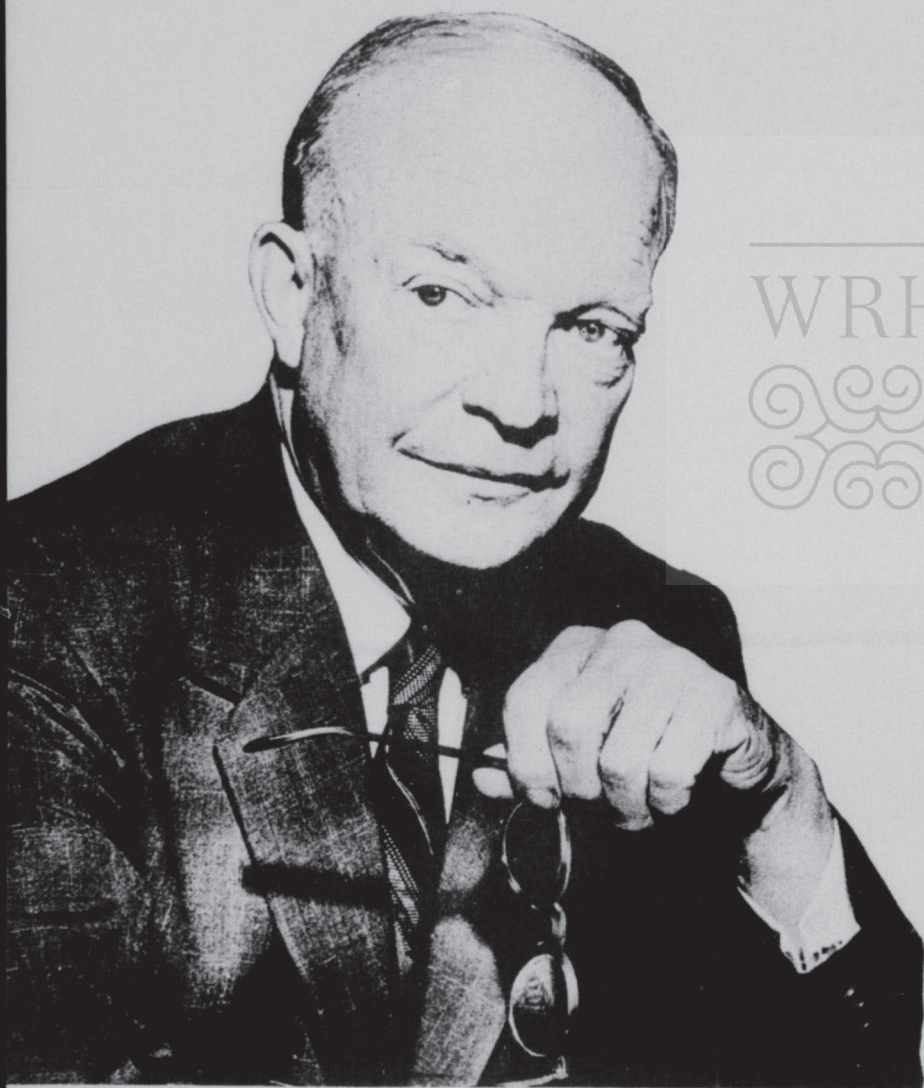
*And*

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

*In Support Of*

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS





*"As the National  
Conference of Christians  
and Jews seeks  
to promote the welfare  
of all people in the  
Family of Man, it has my  
complete support and  
determined participation."*

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

*Honorary Chairman, Brotherhood Week,*

in a special message to NCCJ: "The fight for freedom today is in a real sense, a fight for the idea of Brotherhood . . . Bigotry and intolerance, racial or religious hate and discrimination are spiritual acts of treason . . . I extend to the National Conference of Christians and Jews my fervent wish that the next 25 years may match, in honorable accomplishment, the brilliant quarter of a century you have now completed."



From An Address Before  
The Northern Ohio  
Region, NCCJ.

I am happy to bear testimony to the scope and effectiveness of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. I have observed its expanding program in the betterment of human relations through the years and I have witnessed its fine work among all sections of our population—all age groups—all professional and industrial groups—and all civic organizations. I have watched with increasing admiration the numerous institutes which it has established—the teacher's work shops, the conferences and the work on college campuses—a veritable network directed by more than sixty regional offices both in the United States and Canada, and the more recent extension of its activities in Europe and Asia.

For nearly thirty years, in one of the most turbulent eras in human history, the National Conference of Christians and Jews has carried on its quiet, patient, intelligent and dedicated work—not in behalf of any one specific piece of social legislation or any one plank of social reform, but in behalf of the total program of human brotherhood—the basic program of teaching men of all races and religions how to work together for their common good and how to remove those barriers which defeat their common purposes and retard human progress.

The National Conference has been a supremely activist movement in one field—the fields of education. It has endeavored to create a climate of mutual understanding and sympathy wherein all specific and desirable objectives of social progress and reform could the more readily be achieved. It has not attempted—and in my judgment wisely so—to usurp or duplicate the functions of other important organizations on the American scene which are dedicated to specific purposes and directed towards the achievement of this or that "next-step" in social progress.

The intensive educational program of the National Conference is predicated on the belief that all forward steps in the realization of the American dream of justice and equality would be materially hastened if prejudices of all kinds were eliminated from the human situation and from the inter-relationship of our citizens, if all our problems were approached purely on their merit and were not bedeviled at the outset by group fears and hates and by the sundry dark legacies of the past.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver



There is room for the activist organizations on the American scene, geared to achieve specific objectives and employing all the legitimate weapons of political action. But there is room also for the educative organization dedicated to the long-range program of changing group attitudes—of building highways of communication between those who have been isolated and estranged too long, of teaching all of us the obligations of a common citizenship in a free society. I still think that this is the most important task which confronts our society today.

We have all become considerably disturbed by recent events and our thoughts have become centered by what is happening in outer space. Satellites and inter-continental ballistic missiles obsess us today. There is taking place a considerable soul-searching among our people and the beating of breasts over our scientific lag in those fields.

Such a soul-searching is fully warranted and it may prove all to the good if it will sober us as a people and destroy our complacency—if it will teach us—and especially the leaders of our government—humility in our international relations, if it will eliminate duplication, waste and rivalry in our military services and if it will help us to raise a new generation of men and women who will be more reverent of learning and more devoted to the exacting disciplines of the mind, not only in the fields of science, but in the humanities as well.

The human problem remains what it was before the Russians launched their artificial moon into outer space—how to accommodate ourselves one to another, nation to nation, system to system, race to race, religion to religion. I submit that we should turn our attentions ever more earnestly than before to these constructive tasks.

Any organization therefore, which helps men and nations to find their way to this road of mutual accommodation, reconcilia-



tion and cooperation is an instrument of civilization—an instrument of God. The National Conference of Christians and Jews is such an organization.

By teaching us how to live together in unity in spite of our diversities—and these diversities and differences are not unimportant—The National Conference is not only serving us as individuals, helping to make our lives less narrow and more noble, but it is serving our country in helping it to maintain its moral position in the world.

We have always stood as a beacon of light and hope to mankind because of the principles of freedom, democracy, equality and human dignity upon which our political life was based—principles which are being challenged in the world today. The free world still looks to us for leadership in these directions. But our moral professions will not long retain the allegiance of peoples if we deny them at home in practice. Any manifestation of bigotry and intolerance in our national life is an undermining of our moral leadership in the world.

We charge our enemies with materialistic atheism. But what is more grossly materialistic and more nakedly atheistic than laws, customs and practices which segregate and degrade fellow human beings because of the color of their skin or their mode of worshipping God.

If we believe in God then assuredly He is the God of all men alike, and if we believe in a divine law of justice and compassion then it clearly must be one law for all men alike.

Some of the most impenitent materialistic atheists of our day are to be found in the pews of our churches where their sin of Godlessness is compounded with the black sin of hypocrisy.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews helps us to eliminate the beam in our own eye so that with clearer vision we will not look for the mote in our brother's eye . . . It helps to weld us together into one strong fellowship in the face of the dangers which threaten us and our free world.

If it did not exist, it would have to be created. Fortunately it does exist and it should be strengthened and implemented so that it may be able to work even more effectively and on a larger scale in the days to come.

"NCCJ IS DEDICATED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN."

Dr. John S. Millis

An Address Before  
The Northern Ohio  
Region, NCCJ.



To me, the ideal of the Brotherhood of Man without the basic belief in the Fatherhood of God, seems to remain a pious hope, beyond attainment in the competitive world in which we live. Tolerance and forbearance are undoubtedly virtues which we wish all men to possess. But both are negative concepts describing the human moral responsibility to put up with the evil, the ugly, and the objectionable aspects of our fellow men.

The Christian and the Jew hold, as the most fundamental belief, that God is the Creator and the Father of all men. They believe that God is the source of life for each man born into this world. They believe that every man is endowed with God-like capacities of intelligence, of spirit, of free will which are his to be developed in accordance with God's purpose. As we are all the sons of God, so are we all brothers, and as brothers we must find the means by which we may live together in love and therefore in peace and brotherhood. The ideal of the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God should perhaps be stated as "because of the Fatherhood of God."

The National Conference of Christians and Jews is dedicated to achieving the Brotherhood of Man. But this dedication is not to a pious hope of achieving mere tolerance or forbearance. Rather this dedication is to the task of bringing all men to the realization of the beneficent Fatherhood of God. If man will but know the Father, he may then know and love his brother. Then, and then alone, may we expect to see the dream of the Brotherhood of Man become a reality.



When time and the events of history place the twentieth century in its proper perspective chroniclers of the future will mark as a turning point in the social and cultural development of the United States and of the world the advent of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Historians when they analyze the circumstances out of which the Conference grew, the progress it made and the work and good it accomplished will point to this unique organization as one of the strongest moral forces in our pluralistic society.

These are the reasons why. From the times of the ancients, the days of the Jewish prophets, the seers of the non-Judaeo peoples, the teachings of Christ and the prophets of the non-Christians there have been voices raised that echoed the predominate thought, "God Is The Father — All Men Are Brothers." Religious leaders, poets, writers, statesmen, humanitarians, scientists, "Everyman" himself, have known and felt this truth.

It remained for the National Conference to focus on common social, welfare and civic problems the tremendous forces for good that held this common ground. This is the outward sign that has made the Conference the telling force it is and it is the touchstone that has helped it succeed and endure.

Still more wonderful and amazing is that the Conference has succeeded in accomplishing this feat **without comprising or watering down religious or philosophical beliefs** but has in fact buttressed all beliefs with the basic premise that we respect the differences and recognize the moral good in all men.

Coming as it did out of the tensions of the late twenties, growing through the depression and war years and now continuing to expand in these times of cold and luke-warm wars the Conference has utilized the most effective and enduring tool to bring to all peoples the message of the Brotherhood of Man under God's Fatherhood. This tool is

Louis B. Seltzer, 1957-58  
Brotherhood Week  
Chairman



education, schools, colleges, civic groups, youth organizations, farm, labor and management groups, wherever and whenever an opportunity has presented itself the Conference has created an atmosphere of understanding out of which has come FEPC laws, desegregation in schools, non-discriminatory business and commercial practices, better children, more informed adults and more democratic minded Americans.

True, the process of education is not flamboyant, dramatic nor sensational. It is also a lengthy process, needing time and circumstance to help it achieve its goal. But the end result is more dramatic and sensational than immediate some-time methods. For from this action through education comes an informed and believing society that recognizes its responsibilities to their fellow men.

This then, is why I believe in the work of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Because it has brought to our society an awareness of the need for the practice of brotherhood; it has held fast to the principle of the equality of men; it has marshalled the moral forces of all philosophies; and it has given to the watching nations of the world an example of how a free and democratic people can work together to solve common intergroup problems. I respect the work it has done in the past. I recognize its present effectiveness, I believe in its future.

The world will long note and remember well the National Conference of Christians and Jews.



## "NO WORK MORE IMPORTANT"

Benjamin F. Fairless

My thoughts, my prayers and deepest beliefs are bound up in the great work you are doing. To me there is no more important task today than the effort of the Conference to seek justice and foster amity, understanding and cooperation among the Protestants, Catholics and Jews of America.



This work is all the more important now. Each day we see America's leadership in the free world facing some new strain—some new testing of the strength of our great principles and beliefs. The Conference stands for the greatest of these—an attitude toward fellow human beings that says there must be no distinction made between one group and another, one race and another or one faith and another.

The Conference will need that kind of thinking in planning for the future. In this age where science has created such horrible and such vast powers of destruction we need as never before a world-wide enlistment of every moral resource. All of mankind is involved and every living religion can help. Perhaps we can find in the moral strength of a world-wide brotherhood the greatest defense against man's capacity to destroy.

## "NCCJ IS ON GOD'S SIDE"

George Meany

It is a real privilege to take part in even a small way in the highly important work being done by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In these trying days when practically all mankind is praying for peace under the shadow of an ever present threat of another world conflagration, the spiritual and moral value of an organization such as this cannot be overestimated. We must never forget that the godless fanatics of the Kremlin are determined not only to create division among the free nations of the world but also to divide the peoples within those nations if they can possibly do so by propaganda and infiltration. From the Communist point of view world domination is impossible unless the United States is either destroyed or rendered impotent by internal strife and discord.

There is perhaps no greater threat to our unity as a people than bigotry and its vicious by-products. Racial and religious discrimination is not only morally wrong at all times but it is today practically an act of treason. The National Conference of Christians and Jews is truly an organization that is on our country's side as well as on God's side.



## "NCCJ IS A VITAL FORCE"

Ernest R. Breech

I believe in the National Conference of Christians and Jews because I subscribe wholeheartedly to the principles upon which the organization was founded and because I have faith in the sound and reasoned way it works toward achieving the ideals to which it is dedicated.



Its very existence is visible and comforting proof of the common spiritual heritage that has been passed on through generation after generation of Americans.

I believe in the NCCJ because it has demonstrated that the concept of brotherhood is a workable reality of today.

I admire the NCCJ for its rational and effective approach to the task at hand. I respect its consistency and its unswerving determination. I place high value on its willingness to face up calmly and confidently to the problems which confront it.

While battling bigotry and prejudice, the NCCJ has not allowed itself to be entrapped in negativism. It has won notable success by emphasizing the good that man derives from his Creator and by maintaining a positive perspective as it deals with the misunderstandings that lead to distrust and finally to hatred. By first fighting for what is right, the NCCJ has been most effective in fighting against the evils that foment discord.

Respect for the inalienable rights of the human being is the foundation upon which the NCCJ builds toward brotherhood. Underlying the entire NCCJ program is a fundamental belief in the dignity and worth of the individual.

The NCCJ is more than an institution of high purpose. It is a vital force which constantly exercises a tremendous influence for good in every phase of our national life. It welds together in the strong bonds of mutual understanding and provides a common ground on which men of totally different persuasions and origins may meet in peace and friendship.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews is a great asset to all of us. The moral strength it represents is a powerful defense against any force which would subvert the principles laid down by the founding fathers. The Conference and its work deserve the active interest and support of every American.



## A program that has earned universal support



**GENERAL DAVID SARNOFF:** "The educational activities of the National Conference of Christians and Jews are of prime importance . . . you seek to enrich and strengthen the spirit of men by breaking down the barriers which now divide them. And in seeking to promote understanding, freedom and tolerance, you are demonstrating the part that science plays in the solution as well as the creation of human problems."



**HENRY R. LUCE:** "We can be thankful for the voluntary efforts by which Americans organize themselves to improve their own standards of behavior. Of all these efforts the National Conference of Christians and Jews is both an outstanding and a unique example."



**DR. REINHOLD NIEBUHR,** Union Theological Seminary: "The work toward mutual understanding of religious groups conducted by the National Conference is of inestimable value."



**FATHER EDWARD V. CARDINAL, C.S.V.:** "In doing its work, the NCCJ has been activating the philosophy of St. Vincent de Paul, who once said in a conference of his priests, 'we must love all God's creatures but we must love those who differ from us a little more.'"



**RAYMOND GARY,** Governor of Oklahoma: "We are making progress toward better human and group relations in Oklahoma. I know this progress is largely due to persistent efforts of the National Conference which consistently strives for a better understanding between all men."



**PHILIP J. HICKEY,** Superintendent of Instruction, St. Louis Public Schools: "The National Conference of Christians and Jews with its spirit of goodwill coupled with its skills to work with diverse groups has played a unique role in making St. Louis a wholesome place to educate and bring up our children."



**SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF:** "This year NCCJ will spend two and one-half million dollars. But as a conservative estimate this money will multiply itself to 25 million dollars because NCCJ enlists the volunteer help of thousands of other organizations and hundreds of thousands of people who work and give assistance on a voluntary basis. I commend NCCJ for its efficient operation and its highly effective program."



**DR. LOUIS FINKELSTEIN,** President, Jewish Theological Seminary of America: "All of us have every reason to be grateful to the National Conference for the great contribution which it has made toward the goal of a united humanity."



**PAUL HOFFMAN:** "It is a privilege to participate in the National Conference. Its work at home is vitally important in combatting Communism abroad."

The oldest and most  
effective organization  
in the field of  
brotherhood

—BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU



# THE RECORD OF THE NORTHERN OHIO CHAPTER

Organized in 1933, an early office of NCCJ, the Northern Ohio Region services all of Ohio south to Columbus. The fourth largest Conference operation it has amassed a proud and successful record.

## IN EDUCATION

Developed the Human Relations Workshop programs with regular summer sessions at Western Reserve University, Kent State University, Ohio State University, University of Toledo. The University of Akron, Baldwin-Wallace College have also held similar sessions.

Granted more than \$40,000 in scholarships to workshops and other training courses to qualified teachers, students, police and firemen, welfare and social workers.

Developed "In-Service Training" program whereby teachers continue their human relations training on-the-job in their schools.

Work with all school systems, public, parochial and private on elementary and high school levels and with all colleges and universities on both under-graduate and graduate levels.

Held over 3,000 institutes, scholarship programs, youth programs, adult leadership sessions.

Conducted research, teacher training, textbook revision: prepared teaching materials.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Worked with every community organization, service group, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, women's clubs, professional groups, veterans, fraternal organizations and youth groups. 350 programs annually.

## IN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Created and developed the Moral and Spiritual Values workshops and institutes. Held clergy conferences, youth training, seminary lectures; create special publications. 200 annual projects.

Every organized denomination and organization has been included.

## IN MASS MEDIA

Press, radio, television, magazines, motion pictures, publishers are utilized year-round to marshal public opinion. Over 40,000 column inches annually and 600 hours of radio and television time.

## IN LABOR MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Created the Human Relations in Industry projects. Held film showings, work with industrial concerns and labor groups to promote understanding of intergroup problems and the contribution of sound human relations to the national economy.

Extend help to 1,100 cities and communities in this region in the annual observance of Brotherhood Week.

## SPECIAL AREAS

Public meetings and dinners gather thousands to hear national leaders such as John Foster Dulles, Sen. John Kennedy, Vice President Richard Nixon, Benjamin Fairless, Benson Ford, Paul Hoffman.

Consultative Services available to other organizations and local governments.

Speakers Bureau maintained with active volunteers to service the hundreds of public programs.

Development and Expansion activity that has seen the organization of chapters and citizen committees in Columbus, Toledo, Akron, Youngstown, Ashtabula, Canton, Hudson, Sandusky.

Religious News Service supplies a weekly international wire and photo service to all media.

## AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE

Expansion and involvement of more of the public is the keynote. Some of the plans include:

- . . . A Human Relations Center.
- . . . A 13 week television show, locally produced but using national talent.
- . . . An international research study to be conducted at Western Reserve University.
- . . . Expanded police and firemen training.
- . . . Preparation of local films, pamphlets and publications.
- . . . Special projects with labor and management.

## OUR LEADERSHIP

### NATIONAL OFFICERS

James F. Twohy, Benjamin F. Fairless, Lewis L. Straus, *National Co-Chairmen*  
Everett R. Clinchy, *President* Sterling W. Brown, *Executive Vice President* James M. Eagan, *Vice-President*

### NATIONAL OFFICERS FOR NORTHERN OHIO

Louis B. Seltzer, *National Chairman, Brotherhood Week*  
A. M. Luntz, *Vice-Chairman, Northeastern United States*  
Leroy Crayton, Ernest H. Siegler, David H. Scholl, *National Board Members*

### NORTHERN OHIO OFFICERS

Thomas A. Burke, LeRoy Crayton, Dr. John S. Millis, Mrs. Louis B. Seltzer, Ernest H. Siegler, *Co-Chairmen*  
Alex J. Brady, *Treasurer*

### NORTHERN OHIO STAFF

Earl S. Kalp, *Regional Director*, Robert L. Beda, *Public Relations Director*

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS, INC.

793 UNION COMMERCE BLDG.

CLEVELAND 14, OHIO