



## 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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Oxnam, Bishop, churchman dinner honoring, 1949.

HAROLD L. ICKES

425 FOURTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

January 13, 1949

Dear Rabbi Silver:

On the evening of February 23 at the Hotel Astor, New York, before a gathering of over 1000 people, The Churchman Award will be presented to Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of the New York Area of the Methodist Church. This award is given annually by The Churchman to one outstanding in "the promotion of goodwill and better understanding among all peoples." Among those who have received this award have been Franklin D. Roosevelt, William Allen White, Wendell L. Willkie, Bernard Baruch and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The theme of the evening, "Decision for Tomorrow," will deal primarily with peace. Because of your significant contributions in behalf of this ideal for which The Churchman, now 145 years old, has always stood, I am writing to invite you to be one of the speakers on this occasion.

Many bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, nearly all of the Methodist Church, and a distinguished list of laymen have already accented their pleasure in the choice of Dr. Oxnam by becoming sponsors of the dinner. As chairman of the dinner, I can assure you that all these and many others will be grateful if you say "yes" to this invitation.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

*Harold L. Ickes*

Harold L. Ickes  
Chairman

CLERGY MEMBERS  
HONORARY COMMITTEE  
CHURCHMAN AWARD DINNER  
TO BISHOP G. BROMLEY OXNAM

*(Committee in Formation)*

RT. REV. DONALD B. ALDRICH, D.D.	BISHOP RALPH SPAULDING CUSHMAN
RT. REV. HUGO BLANKINGSHIP, D.D.	BISHOP HOYT M. DOBBS
RT. REV. KARL M. BLOCK, D.D.	BISHOP CHARLES W. FLINT
RT. REV. WILLIAM A. BROWN, D.D.	BISHOP MARVIN A. FRANKLIN
RT. REV. THOMAS CASADY, D.D.	BISHOP PAUL N. GARBER
RT. REV. CAMERON J. DAVIS, D.D.	BISHOP W. E. HAMMAKER
RT. REV. EDWARD THOMAS DENBY, D.D.	BISHOP COSTEN J. HARRELL
RT. REV. ANGUS DUN, D.D.	BISHOP LEWIS O. HARTMAN
RT. REV. RICHARD S. M. EMRICH, Ph.D.	BISHOP IVAN LEE HOLT
RT. REV. CHARLES K. GILBERT, D.D.	BISHOP EDWIN HOLT HUGHES
RT. REV. ROBERT B. GOODEN, D.D.	BISHOP EDWARD W. KELLY, SR.
RT. REV. JOHN J. GRAVATT, D.D.	BISHOP GERALD H. KENNEDY
RT. REV. JOHN THOMAS HEISTAND, D.D.	BISHOP PAUL B. KERN
RT. REV. RAYMOND ADAMS HERON, D.D.	BISHOP W. EARL LEDDEN
RT. REV. HENRY WISE HOBSON, D.D.	BISHOP JOHN WESLEY LORD
RT. REV. S. ARTHUR HUSTON, D.D.	BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN
RT. REV. FRED INGLEY, D.D.	BISHOP WM. C. MARTIN
RT. REV. STEPHEN E. KEELER, D.D.	BISHOP FRANCIS J. MCCONNELL
RT. REV. HARRY S. KENNEDY, D.D.	BISHOP H. CLIFFORD NORTHCOTT
RT. REV. ARTHUR B. KINSOLVING, 2ND, D.D.	BISHOP W. W. PEELE
RT. REV. RICHARD AINSLIE KIRCHHOFFER, S.T.D.	BISHOP GLENN RANDALL PHILLIPS
RT. REV. S. HARRINGTON LITTELL, D.D.	BISHOP CLARE PURCELL
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RT. REV. WILEY ROY MASON, D.D.	BISHOP ROY H. SHORT
RT. REV. ARTHUR R. MCKINSTRY, D.D.	BISHOP A. FRANK SMITH
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RT. REV. ARTHUR W. MOULTON, S.T.D.	BISHOP DONALD HARVEY TIPPETT
RT. REV. NORMAN BURDETT NASH, S.T.D.	BISHOP RAYMOND J. WADE
RT. REV. G. ASHTON OLDHAM, D.D.	BISHOP HERBERT WELCH
RT. REV. A. W. NOEL PORTER, D.D.	BISHOP HAZEN G. WERNER
RT. REV. CHARLES SHRIVER REIFSNIDER, D.D.	BISHOP LLOYD C. WICKE
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RT. REV. W. BLAIR ROBERTS, D.D.	REV. THEODORE C. BOBILIN, D.D.
RT. REV. HAROLD EVERETT SAWYER, S.T.D.	REV. HAROLD W. BUCKLAND
RT. REV. WILLIAM SCARLETT, D.D.	REV. MARION J. CREEGER
RT. REV. ROBERT NELSON SPENCER, D.D.	REV. GEORGE Y. FLINT, D.D.
RT. REV. FRANK WILLIAM STERRETT, D.D.	REV. RALPH M. HOUSTON, D.D.
RT. REV. ERNEST M. STIRES, D.D.	REV. E. A. POLLARD JONES, D.D.
RT. REV. JAMES M. STONEY, D.D.	REV. HOWARD D. McGRATH
RT. REV. HENRY ST. GEORGE TUCKER, D.D.	REV. L. BURLIN MAIN
RT. REV. SUMNER WALTERS, S.T.D.	REV. LeROY ALBERT MARTIN, D.D.
RT. REV. THOMAS H. WRIGHT, D.D.	REV. KARL F. MOORE, D.D.
BISHOP THEODORE ARVIDSON	REV. GEORGE P. T. SARGENT, D.D.
BISHOP JAMES CHAMBERLAIN BAKER	REV. HAROLD N. SMITH
BISHOP J. W. E. BOWEN	REV. BURTON F. TARR
BISHOP FRED PIERCE CORSON	REV. ERNEST F. TRIPP, D.D.



January 17, 1949

Mr. Harold L. Ickes  
425 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Ickes:

Rabbi Silver is at present out of the city, and I am, therefore, acknowledging your kind letter of January 13th. Upon his return the latter part of this week, the matter will be brought to his attention, and I am sure that you will hear from him shortly thereafter.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Rabbi Silver

er



January 20, 1949

Mr. Harold L. Ickes  
425 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, New York

My dear Mr. Ickes:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of January 13th and for your gracious invitation to address the meeting to be held under the auspices of The Churchman in honor of Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam. I have known Bishop Oxnam for many years and of his distinguished and consecrated service to the cause of peace and goodwill, and I shall regard it a great pleasure to have a share in the testimonial which is to be tendered to him.

With all good wishes and looking forward with pleasure to seeing you, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



G. Bromley Oxnam  
Bishop of the Methodist Church  
The N. Y. Area

January 20, 1949

Mr. T. C. Kirkpatrick, Managing Editor  
Counterattack  
55 W. 42 Street  
New York 18, New York

My dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

I appreciate your letter of January 17th. I did write a letter in response to the announcement from "The Churchman" that I had been elected as the recipient of its Award. This is an award that has been regarded as a high honor. The list of those who have received it includes many of our most significant citizens. Consequently, I made reference to the honor, and assured "The Churchman" that I would treasure the Award through the years.

I have no intention of taking any action in connection with The Churchman Award Dinner, other than to be present and to receive the Award. The information that has reached me is not in any sense convincing. It is of the same kind used to discredit such distinguished citizens as President Frank Graham of North Carolina, Bishop McConnell, Bishop Hartman and scores of others. I have just finished reading a very interesting study published by the Harvard Law School concerning one of the organizations attacked by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It would appear that when we get down to facts, a great many of these attacks have no basis in truth. It simply will not do to say that because a man has given his name to some organization, which may or may not have been taken over by the Communists or which is a hidden front affair, that the man himself, therefore, is a Communist. I have heard Dr. Guy Emery Shipler condemn Communism in no uncertain terms. Until information of a very different nature to that presented reaches me, I shall continue to hold Dr. Shipler in mind as a patriotic American.

I appreciated meeting you personally, and, as I said, particularly appreciated your spirit and sincerity. I think, however, your organization might devote itself to the task of securing information that is evidence, instead of circulating information that in part is hearsay, and, as far as inferences are concerned, may result in misrepresentation.

Very sincerely yours,

G. Bromley Oxnam



January 27, 1949

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am delighted, as I am sure you must know, that you are to be one of our speakers at the Oxnam dinner.

I am sure you will recall that we were attacked last year at the time of the Marshall episode. The news letter which spearheaded it has already attempted to frighten Bishop Oxnam. Of course, they picked the wrong man. I am enclosing a copy of his letter to "Counter Attack." I do so because it is possible that they may attempt to do the same sort of thing with our speakers.

You will probably be glad to know who the other speakers are. They are as follows: Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Herbert C. Pell, Harlow Shapley, William L. Shirer, Halfred E. Luccock and myself.

With every good wish and sincerest gratitude,  
I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Guy Emery Shipler*  
Guy Emery Shipler  
EDITOR

GES:is

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105 St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio





HAROLD L. ICKES

425 FOURTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

February 4, 1949

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for accepting my invitation to speak at the Churchman Award Dinner to Bishop Oxnam.

On the chance that you may not have seen it, I am enclosing a copy of the bishop's letter of acceptance.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Harold L. Ickes*

Harold L. Ickes

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

C O P Y

G. BROMLEY OXNAM

BISHOP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH  
THE NEW YORK AREA  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N.Y.

November 30, 1948

Dr. Guy Emery Shipler, Editor  
The Churchman  
425 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Shipler:

Your letter announcing that I have been chosen to receive the Churchman Award for 1948 brings me great joy. I count this a high honor and shall treasure the Award through the years. I realize full well that I do not deserve such signal recognition, and am particularly humble when I note the names of the distinguished recipients in days gone by, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, William Allen White, Wendell L. Willkie, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, Bernard M. Baruch, Henry A. Wallace and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Churchman has stood courageously and creatively for our Christian faith and likewise for our democratic principles. In such an hour with both our Christian faith and our democratic principles under severe attack by ideologies that repudiate freedom, it is good to know that there are fearless journals that believe in liberty enough to stand resolutely for it, who believe in justice enough to labor to see it established, and who believe in brotherhood enough to call for its practice in all social relations. Such leadership will preserve our American heritage and enthrone our Christian faith.

Ever sincerely yours,

G. Bromley Oxnam

GBO:md



# COUNTERATTACK

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF

FACTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM

55 WEST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y. LONGACRE 4-1458

Letter No. 89  
February 4, 1949

Dear Subscriber:

HAROLD L. ICKES TALKED BENJAMIN F. FAIRLESS INTO BECOMING A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF REV. GUY EMERY SHIPLER'S DINNER. Shipler is ardent supporter of a long, long list of Communist fronts. He led half a dozen other clergymen on whitewashing expedition to Communist Yugoslavia in summer of 1947.

Shipler gives a big dinner every year to raise money for his magazine, "The Churchman", which he uses to propagandize for his political ideology. Each year Shipler picks some leading person to get magazine's "award" ...and to attract a crowd. Last year he picked Sec'y of State Marshall, who accepted...but then Counterattack disclosed the plan and urged its subscribers to wire their protests to Marshall. They did...and Marshall withdrew his acceptance. Shipler assailed Marshall and Counterattack in a speech at the \$25 a plate dinner...which was a flop (Counterattack 6/11/48, p 2).

This year Bishop G Bromley Oxnam is receiving Shipler's "award", at a dinner Feb 23. Although Bishop Oxnam has backed some Communist fronts, he has also withdrawn from a couple when their nature has been convincingly exposed. Chairman of dinner is former Sec'y of Interior Harold L Ickes, who has also joined some fronts and broken with some, as Bishop Oxnam has done.

Shipler is planning to get an immense crowd this year. He has cut dinner price to \$10, but hopes to raise a big sum in gifts by the guests. And he has lined up a huge "honorary committee" for his dinner.

Along with many Communists & fellow-travelers on this committee, there are some people who are widely known as distinctly non-Communist, in fact conservative. Among them are Harper Sibley, former Pres of U S Chamber of Commerce, and Wm L Clayton, former Ass't Sec'y of State. Also on the committee are Pres Jacob S Potofsky & V-P Hyman Blumberg of Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO. Both Potofsky & Blumberg know the score. How come they support Shipler's dinner? That's something they ought to explain.

Harold L Ickes wrote Pres Benjamin F Fairless of U S Steel Corp, requesting him to sponsor the Shipler dinner. Fairless is well acquainted with Ickes, having done business with him when he was Sec'y of the Interior. But Fairless didn't know anything about Shipler, and ignored Ickes' letter. Then Ickes phoned Fairless, telling him the dinner was for a religious purpose and deserved support. Fairless yielded, agreed to sponsor it.

One man or one name brings in another. Ickes brings in Fairless. Fairless's name on Shipler's dinner circular will bring in many other people, who'll think the affair must be OK if Ben Fairless is a vice-chairman.

It all goes to show the necessity of being very, very cautious.

A lawyer for J P Morgan & Co is another vice-chairman...but his case is different from Fairless's. He's Allen Wardwell, partner of John W Davis, 1924 Democratic Presidential nominee. Their firm is Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland & Kiendl. And one of their clients is Morgan.



Allen Wardwell has long supported organizations friendly to Moscow. This Wall Street lawyer, with a home on Park Ave, has been doing this ever since Bolshevik Revolution, which occurred while he was a member of American Red Cross Mission to Russia in First World War. Now 75 years old, Wardwell has had the following affiliations, according to Congressional documents:

He was a member of Advisory Board of Russian Reconstruction Farms, Inc, in mid-1920's. Sec'y of this outfit was A A Heller, millionaire Communist angel (who resigned from party when Earl Browder was expelled in 1945).

In 1920's Wardwell was an officer of American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia. In more recent years he has given financial and other support to a big front, American Russian Institute. Its executive director is Henry H Collins, Jr, former Govt official whom Whittaker Chambers named as treasurer of Communist apparatus, and who refused to tell Congress whether he belonged to Communist Party (Counterattack Aug 20 '48, pp 1 & 2).

Now Allen Wardwell is a vice-chairman of Rev Guy Emery Shippler's dinner for support of Shippler's propagandist magazine, "The Churchman".

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PAYS GOV'T MONEY TO A PARTY-LINER'S SCHOOL. One of the private schools accredited for training of veterans under GI Bill of Rights is Robt Louis Stevenson School, in NYCity, which gives high school & vocational training courses.

Dr Annette T Rubinstein, owner & principal of this school, is now the candidate of the Communists' Third Party to fill a vacancy in state assembly, lower house of legislature. Election will be held Feb 15.

Dr Rubinstein doesn't admit she's a Communist Party member. She's on faculty of Communist Party's biggest school, Jefferson School of Social Science. She was also an officer of CP's top front during Stalin-Hitler Pact, American Peace Mobilization, which picketed White House, calling Pres Roosevelt a warmonger. Dr Rubinstein herself was a leader in arranging the picketing of home of Rep Sol Bloom because he favored aid to England. But the moment Hitler attacked Stalin Russia, Dr Rubinstein switched with her comrades and demanded prompt American action against Hitler.

WHAT TO DO: Wire, write, phone, or visit your congressman and your two senators, urging withdrawal of Veterans Administration money from Robt Louis Stevenson School. And sound off to Veterans Administration as well.

COMMUNIST RADIO FRONT WILL PICK A PARTY-LINER AS "NEGRO COMMENTATOR" and will start a campaign to put him or her on one of the four national networks. Motives: to win friends among Negroes and to plug party line on air.

Front is Voice of Freedom Committee (known as VOF), which ought to be called Voice of Slavery Committee. It promotes Communist propaganda on radio...and it boasts it has 2,000 "monitors", who listen to programs and then phone or write to stations & networks to praise or knock what they hear.

Right now the VOF is preparing a transcribed radio show that it will send to stations in many parts of U S during Negro History Week, Feb 6-13. Voice of Freedom Committee says its monitors will help it get nationwide radio coverage for this show.

But its prize idea is to pick a Negro to be a radio commentator on a network. It doesn't really expect to succeed, but it might get such a commentator on one or more stations...and he would follow the party line. And anyhow the VOF campaign for him may deceive a lot of Negroes, who won't know the whole thing is just another Communist swindle.

Who will the commentator be? Well, the VOF has probably made its choice already. But it's disguising this by submitting a list of 13 persons



to be voted on by readers of Negro papers. Some of these 13 are non-Communists or even anti-Communists. VOF is just using these names as camouflage. Other persons on the list are secret Communist Party members or are fellow-travelers, including Paul Robeson, Chas Collins, W E B DuBois, Alphaeus Hunton, Rev Ben Richardson, and Shirley Graham (a script by Shirley Graham was broadcast by CBS on Jan 25).

Paul Robeson, a secret member of Communist Party, would clearly be strongest choice of the bunch. If Robeson is willing to be a regular commentator, you can bet he's the one the VOF will choose. Then there'll be a loud campaign to get him on a network.

WHAT TO DO: Phone or write your local stations AT ONCE. Urge them to reject VOF transcription during Negro History Week. And before a station or network accepts a Negro commentator, it should consult Natl Assn for the Advancement of Colored People, which is great mass organization of Negroes (though it has white members too) and is supported by Negroes everywhere.

WHAT'S BEEN THE BEST PIECE OF DOMESTIC NEWS FOR ANTI-COMMUNISTS in the past few days? It's a death...the death of a newspaper.

This death has its unhappy side, of course. Four hundred people have been thrown out of work, and a lot of them will find it hard to get jobs for which their specialized training has fitted them. But the plain fact is that the country is better off with their newspaper out of the way.

The newspaper had national importance because it had readers all over the country, notably in Govt offices and colleges & unions.

Name of this newspaper was PM, but last June it was changed to NYStar. Although the paper wasn't Communist, it had a strong Stalinoid tinge from its start in 1940 till its death last week.

The man who conceived & launched it was Ralph McAllister Ingersoll, a close friend of such writers as Dashiell Hammett, Lillian Hellman & Dorothy Parker, prominent figures in Communist fronts.

The man who sank millions into it after Ingersoll's other angels withdrew was the fabulously rich Marshall Field, who also owns Chicago Sun-Times. Field isn't pro-Communist, but oh how he has been used!

The men who took over active management of it last April, when Marshall Field was about to kill it, were Bartley C Crum & Joseph Barnes.

Bartley Crum has backed a number of Communist fronts, including Harry Bridges' Calif Labor School, which Dept of Justice describes as subversive. Crum is on school's roster of trustees. He's a San Francisco lawyer and for a year and a half has represented the 10 "unfriendly" Hollywood witnesses who refuse to tell Congress whether they're Communist Party members.

Joseph Barnes has also backed some Communist fronts. He used to work for Institute of Pacific Relations, where he collaborated with Frederick Vanderbilt Field. For example, they were co-authors of "Behind the Far Eastern Conflict". In recent years Field has come out OPENLY as a CP member. Barnes became foreign editor of NYHerald Tribune and acquired much influence there. For a long time afterwards the policy of that paper on Stalin Russia was distinctly sympathetic. But lately it has changed for the better.

Under the Crum-Barnes management of PM (or the Star) the old editorial line was essentially continued. Communists & fellow-travelers held some key positions. The newspaper's cartoons depicted Sec'y Marshall as a ridiculous 19th century general wearing a big "Kingfish" button and having a fool's cap on his head. The most influential writers on the paper were two columnists, Jennings Perry & I F Stone. Both supported Wallace. Both



persistently plugged a policy of appeasing Stalin. Both used clever, adroit, indirect techniques to cover up the hollowness of their arguments. Both had a marked influence on minds of readers.

Marshall Field was still main owner of the paper, but this fact was concealed from the time that Crum & Barnes took over last April. The paper was still losing money, because most advertisers wanted nothing to do with it. Last week Field decided to end his losses. He killed the paper.

The country and humanity are better off now that this paper is dead, now that it's no longer manufacturing a daily stream of specious arguments for a phony peace with Stalin and the world Communist conspiracy.

THE MONEY THAT ONE COMMUNIST-LED UNION ADMITTEDLY GAVE TO COMMUNIST FRONTS in 1946 & 1947 is listed below. It gave other sums in concealed ways. Union is International Fur & Leather Workers Union, CIO. Admitted gifts are:

American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.....	\$1,075.00
Amer Labor Party (NY State Section of Communists' Third Party)	10,151.67
American Relief for Greek Democracy.....	1,093.00
American Slav Congress.....	1,135.00
Civil Rights Congress.....	500.00
Congress of American Women.....	165.00
Council on African Affairs.....	1,000.00
Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee.....	4,014.00
May Day Committee.....	1,445.19
National Negro Congress.....	1,000.00
School of Jewish Studies.....	1,110.00
Southern Negro Youth Congress.....	500.00
United Negro & Allied Veterans of America.....	1,254.00
Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.....	620.00
Win the Peace Committee.....	2,000.00

The union also made a gift costing \$459.35 to Ilya Ehrenberg, the Russian writer who was sent over here on a propaganda tour.

WHAT'S THE STORY THEY TELL ABOUT YALE? We learn from the weekly newsletter, Public Relations News, that the public relations office at Yale has fixed up a 70-foot visual exhibit to show to Yale faculty members & administrators, and tell them the story of Yale's contributions to the world. Theme of exhibit: "There's a Story Being Told About Yale."

That's fine. For Yale certainly has a great story to tell. And it's so diversified & complicated that many faculty members & administrators & leading alumni don't know much about it.

But there's another story being told about Yale, especially the Yale Law School. It doesn't help Yale's public relations at all. It's the story of some faculty members who support Stalinoid causes. Lately Dean Wesley A Sturges of Yale Law School announced that 510 students who had come from 114 colleges & universities were enrolled in the school. Suppose Dean Sturges were able to say: "510 students...and not one of them taught by a professor with a Communist record!" Wouldn't that be a wonderful story?

Yours faithfully,

February 4, 1949

*Counterattack*



GUY EMERY SHIPLER  
*Office of THE CHURCHMAN*

Feb. 10, 1949

Dear Dr. Silver:

The attached, which has been sent to our 100 sponsors who are Methodist and Episcopal bishops, and to the 200 other clerical sponsors, is sent to you for your information. May I particularly call your attention to the letter (page 2) from Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, one of the most distinguished clergymen in America, formerly pastor of the Famous City Temple, London.

GES



### TO OUR OXNAM DINNER SPONSORS

I am sending you the following statement which appears in the newsletter "Counterattack" of Feb. 4, since I previously informed you that such a statement would no doubt appear. Please note the assertions about Bishop Oxnam, Mr. Ickes and Mr. Wardwell of the John W. Davis firm and a vestryman of St. George's Episcopal Church, New York. Also that, following the usual method of such attacks, only a few names are mentioned, with the purpose of building up news stories. You will note that there is no mention of the fact that there are 98 Methodist and Episcopal bishops and 175 clergymen, in addition to a long list of laymen, as sponsors. That would hardly have served the publisher's purpose! I need not point out the trick writing, the deliberate distortion and innuendo, nor the falsehoods, except one, by way of illustration, to wit, the statement that our annual dinners have been "to raise money for his magazine." We have never made a cent out of any one of our eight annual award dinners, though we may now follow their suggestion and ask for an offering at the Oxnam dinner out of necessity, due to the attacks made on The Churchman. In the same issue of "Counterattack" is the following: "What is the best piece of domestic news for anti-communists in the past few days? It's a death-- the death of a newspaper." This refers to the New York Star (formerly PM). Bartley Crum, the publisher, and Joseph Barnes, its editor and the distinguished former foreign correspondent and later foreign editor of the New York Herald Tribune, are both attacked in the same fashion as The Churchman. All of this just for your further information on the kind of methods used to smear decent and loyal Americans. I am also adding quotations from three of the many letters received from our dinner sponsors for whose support along with yours I am deeply grateful.

COUNTERATTACK, February 4, 1949, Letter #89

Harold L. Ickes talked Benjamin F. Fairless into becoming a vice-chairman of Rev. Guy Emery Shipler's dinner. Shipler is ardent supporter of a long, long list of Communist fronts. He led half a dozen other clergymen on whitewashing expedition to Communist Yugoslavia in summer of 1947. Shipler gives a big dinner every year to raise money for his magazine, "The Churchman", which he uses to propagandize for his political ideology. Each year Shipler picks some leading person to get magazine's "award" and to attract a crowd. Last year he picked Sec'y of State Marshall who accepted, but then Counterattack disclosed the plan and urged its subscribers to wire their protests to Marshall. They did and Marshall withdrew his acceptance. Shipler assailed Marshall and Counterattack in a speech at the \$25 a plate dinner which was a flop (Counterattack 6/11/48, p 2). This year Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam is receiving Shipler's "award", at a dinner Feb. 23. Although Bishop Oxnam has backed some Communist fronts, he has also withdrawn from a couple when their nature has been convincingly exposed. Chairman of dinner is former Sec'y of Interior Harold L. Ickes, who has also joined some fronts and broken with some, as Bishop Oxnam has done. Shipler is planning to get an immense crowd this year. He has cut dinner price to \$10, but hopes to raise a big sum in gifts by the guests. And he has lined up a huge "honorary committee" for his dinner. Along with many communists and fellow-travelers on this committee, there are some people who are widely known as distinctly non-Communist, in fact conservative. Among them are Harper Sibley, former Pres. of U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and Wm. L. Clayton, former Ass't Sec'y of State. Also on the committee are Pres. Jacob S. Potofsky and V-P Hyman Blumberg of Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO. Both Potofsky and Blumberg know the score. How come they support Shipler's dinner? That's something they ought to explain. Harold L. Ickes wrote Pres. Benjamin F. Fairless of U. S. Steel Corp., requesting him to sponsor the Shipler dinner. Fairless is well acquainted with Ickes, having done business with him when he was Sec'y of the Interior. But Fairless didn't know anything about Shipler, and ignored Ickes' letter. Then Ickes phoned Fairless, telling him the dinner was for a religious purpose and deserved support. Fairless yielded, agreed to sponsor it. One man or one name brings in another. Ickes brings in Fairless. Fairless's name on Shipler's dinner circular will bring in many other people, who'll think the affair must be OK if Ben Fairless is a vice-chairman. It all goes to show the necessity of being very, very cautious. A lawyer for J.P. Morgan and Co. is another vice-chairman, but his case is different from Fairless's. He's Allen Wardwell, partner of John W. Davis, 1924 Democratic Presidential nominee. Their firm is Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland and Kiendl. And one of their clients is Morgan. Allen Wardwell has long supported organizations friendly to Moscow. This Wall Street lawyer, with a home on Park Ave., has been doing this ever since Bolshevik Revolution, which occurred while he was a member of American Red Cross Mission to Russia in First World War. Now 75 years old, Wardwell has had the following affiliations, according to Congressional documents: He was a member of Advisory Board of Russian Reconstruction Farms, Inc., in mid-1920's. Sec'y of this outfit was A. A. Heller, millionaire Communist angel (who resigned from party when



Earl Browder was expelled in 1945) In 1920's Wardwell was an officer of American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia. In more recent years he has given financial and other support to a big front, American Russian Institute. Its executive director is Henry H. Collins, Jr., former Govt. official whom Whittaker Chambers named as treasurer of Communist apparatus, and who refused to tell Congress whether he belonged to Communist Party (Counterattack Aug. 20 1948, pp 1 & 2.) Now Allen Wardwell is a vice-chairman of Rev. Guy Emery Shipler's dinner for support of Shipler's propagandist magazine, "The Churchman."

. . . .

THREE LETTERS

Dear Dr. Shipler:

Replying to your letter of February 3rd, there is not the slightest doubt that there is effort afoot to ruin the Churchman and to wreck the Churchman Award Dinner, or at least cripple it. There was considerable backfire to the meeting last year, and the fact that I was present, and that my picture appeared in The Churchman, all of which was re-produced in the Brooklyn Catholic Paper, brought a great many letters to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, protesting against allowing me to write the Saturday Sermon, so that is how carefully and thoroughly they follow things up. Of course, it made no difference to the Bulletin, and did no harm to me, but they stop at nothing, and do not seem to have too many scruples. All of which means that we need to realize, if we do not already know, the kind of influences that are against The Churchman and the things for which it stands. I have pleasure in enclosing a little contribution to The Churchman Associates, and with it my personal affection and abiding good will.

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, Rector  
Church of St. Luke and the Epiphany  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Shipler:

I am deeply grateful for your letter of February 4 citing the action of the New Letter "Counterattack." I am sure you are aware that there is implicit in this attack on The Churchman, a compliment of a very high order, namely, that The Churchman is interpreting Christianity in a vivid way, in an area where decisions count. I hope you will not let these and similar attacks deter you from your prophetic leadership in the field of Christian Social Action today.

T. K. Thompson, Secretary of Christian  
Stewardship, Missions Council of the  
Congregational Christian Churches

Dear Shipler:

You certainly have to bear the brunt of many attacks and your friends are ready to help whenever possible. I do not know just what I can do about the new effort at sabotage but count on me for what you would like. Unfortunately, the particular devils in all this are not on my calling list.

Theodore Fiske Savage, Executive  
Secretary and Stated Clerk, the  
Presbytery of New York

. . . .

Perhaps you would be interested to know that Fredric March is suing Counterattack for libel, and that two other suits are pending. You might also be interested in the following statement from the President's Civil Rights Committee:

"Public excitement about "Communists" has gone far beyond the dictates of "good judgment" and "calmness" of which Holmes and Brandeis spoke. A state of near-hysteria now threatens to inhibit the freedom of genuine democrats."

Guy Emery Shipler



# COUNTERATTACK

FACTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM

FEBRUARY 16, 1949

RABBI HILLEL SILVER  
HOTEL SULGRAVE  
60 E. 67TH ST.  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

DEAR DR. SILVER:

INASMUCH AS YOUR NAME HAS BEEN USED TO ATTRACT OTHER PEOPLE TO THE DINNER TO BE GIVEN FEBRUARY 23 BY "THE CHURCHMAN", I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE ENCLOSED COPY OF THE FEBRUARY 4 ISSUE OF COUNTERATTACK, OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER WHICH COMMENTS ON THE DINNER AND DR. GUY EMMERY SHIPLER.

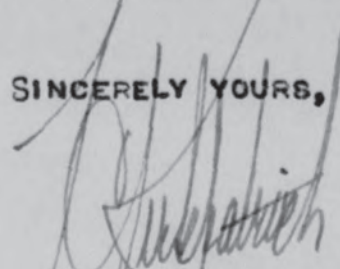
IF YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH COUNTERATTACK, MAY I SAY THAT IT IS PUBLISHED BY A GROUP OF FORMER AGENTS OF THE FBI, INCLUDING MYSELF. OUR ORGANIZATION IS INDEPENDENT AND FREE OF ANY INFLUENCE, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, OR OTHERWISE. OUR PURPOSE IS TO GIVE THE FACTS ON COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES AS OBJECTIVELY AND ACCURATELY AS IT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO DO SO.

I AM SURE THAT YOU ARE NEITHER A COMMUNIST NOR COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER. CONSEQUENTLY, MAY I SUGGEST YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT IT IS MORALLY CORRECT FOR YOU TO LEND YOUR NAME TO A DINNER SPONSORED BY A PUBLICATION WHICH HAS RATHER CONSISTENTLY FOLLOWED THE COMMUNIST PARTY LINE AND WHICH IS EDITED BY A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH AT LEAST TWENTY COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS OVER A PERIOD OF THE PAST TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS.

IF YOU SHOULD LIKE SPECIFIC FACTS FROM US TO BACK UP THE STATEMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE, I SHALL BE GLAD TO FURNISH THEM TO YOU.

MAY WE ANTICIPATE THAT YOU WILL ADVISE US PROMPTLY WHETHER YOUR NAME HAS BEEN USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCHMAN DINNER WITH YOUR PERMISSION AND IF SO, WHETHER YOU STILL DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE DINNER OR WHETHER YOU WILL WITHDRAW.

SINCERELY YOURS,

  
T. C. KIRKPATRICK  
MANAGING EDITOR

TCK:CB



# Churchman Dinner Stirs Stalinist Row

By **FREDERICK WOLTMAN**,  
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

Dr. L. M. Birkhead, head of a liberal organization which specializes in combating anti-Semitism and native Fascism, charged today that the Rev. Guy Emery Shippler and The Churchman magazine are among those serving as "very helpful agencies by which the Communist party does its work in America."

Dr. Birkhead, national director of Friends of Democracy, also charged the editor and the magazine, which is Episcopal but unaffiliated, with promoting anti-Catholicism "akin to the old-fashioned Ku Klux Klan line."

The charges were made in connection with The Churchman's annual dinner in the Hotel Astor next Wednesday which lists on its honorary committee 88 Methodist and Episcopal bishops and hundreds of laymen whose names read like "Who's Who in America."

In support of the charges, Friends of Democracy, 137 E. 57th St., has prepared and is distributing a 12-page report on the record of Dr. Shippler and The Churchman.

## Dinner Honors Bishop Oxnam.

The avowed purpose of the \$10-a-plate dinner is to honor Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of the New York Methodist area. Chairman of the dinner is Harold L. Ickes, New Deal Secretary of the Interior.

The report was conceived after Mr. Ickes invited Dr. Birkhead, a Unitarian clergyman, to serve as a sponsor.

The FOD director refused. "The Churchman," he wrote Mr. Ickes, "has become so involved with the Communist party line that it is quite impossible for me any longer to participate in its activities."

As a result, The Churchman's editor accused Dr. Birkhead of following "the Vatican way of life" and challenged him to produce proof.

## Names Subversive Groups.

The resulting FOD report documents more than 45 alleged instances in which Dr. Shippler and his magazine, according to Dr. Birkhead, "gave aid and comfort to the Communist party line." The report names five organizations listed as Communist and subversive by the Department of Justice which were sponsored or backed by Dr. Shippler, and four more with which he had "a significant affiliation."

One is the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, foremost pro-Soviet propaganda agency in this country, to which Dr. Shippler lent his name and on which he put "his blessing" the report states.

In its invitations sent out broadside, the Churchman office, 425 Fourth Ave., lists Benjamin Fairless, president of United States Steel, as a vice chairman. Mr. Fairless recently withdrew, however, declaring he had accepted, thinking the Churchman dinner "was a church movement, and, therefore, having no connection with non-Americanism."

## Rebuffed by Marshall.

Last year former Secretary of State George C. Marshall declined the award. As one reason he cited the political nature of Churchman editorials. A last-minute switch failed when Maj. Aubrey E. Eban, U.N. representative of the new State of Israel, also turned down the citation.

Discussing the "ideological line" of The Churchman, the report declares its "weight . . . is always on the side of Russia, against the Truman foreign policy. When there is disagreement, the United States is always to blame."

"Two of Shippler's favorite writers are Communist party members—Rev. Eliot White and Rev. William H. Melish," national chairman of the pro-Soviet National Council of American-Soviet Friendship.

"Worldwide Soviet policy is defended," according to the Friends of Democracy report. One Churchman article said: "Nothing less than Christianity and Communism coming together around the person of Christ can save the future of the world."

"Perhaps in the belief that he has found the only alternative to the Vatican," says the report, "Dr. Shippler 'has gone over to the side

of the frontiers of the world Communist movement.

"He could not be more helpful to the Kremlin policy if he were a member of the party."

## Charges Electioneering.

In a letter to the Rev. Mr. Shippler and Mr. Ickes, which accompanied the report, Dr. Birkhead said The Churchman accused the Roman Catholic Church of "being un-American and antidemocratic and urged Protestants to 'alert themselves' to 'electing a Protestant President.'"

"This is reminiscent," the FOD director declared, "of the days of the anti-Al Smith campaign."

Dr. Shippler denied in a letter to the FOD that he ever belonged to any front group. The Churchman, he added, was not communistic but stood for "the social implications of the Gospel."

## Editor Explains Stand.

Dr. Shippler asserted also that "we stand for the democracy laid down by the founding fathers and don't fall for the dilemma in which the Vatican and pussyfooting Protestants would put us."

The speakers listed for next Wednesday night's award dinner include Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Halford E. Luccock, Yale University professor; Herbert C. Pell, former Minister to Hungary; William L. Shirer, Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory and chairman of the Communist front National Council of the Arts, Sciences and the Professions, and Bishop Oxnam.



# American Jewish League Against Communism, Inc.

220 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

ALFRED KOHLBERG, Chairman  
HARRY PASTERNAK, Treasurer

RABBI BENJAMIN SCHULTZ  
Executive Director

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RABBI DAVID L. ZIELONKA, Tampa, Fla.  
RABBI ASCHER M. YAGER, Bronx  
EMILE ZWIRN, Brooklyn

February 17, 1949

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

You are listed as a speaker at the Churchman Dinner next Wednesday night. The magazine has long since been exposed as a pro-Soviet propaganda organ. The annual dinner is meant to entice well-meaning Americans into support of this pro-Soviet organ, and the means used every year is to give an award to some person with a famous name.

This year Bishop Oxnam is being used. Last year Secretary of State Marshall very wisely declined the award, after having accepted it, for reasons implicit in the first paragraph of this letter.

A few days ago, Dr. L. M. Birkhead, national director of Friends of Democracy, a liberal organization which fights anti-Semitism and Fascism, stated, "The Churchman has become so involved with the Communist party line that it is quite impossible for me any longer to participate in its activities". Dr. Birkhead proceeded to expose the pro-Communist nature of the publication, and intimated that liberals should not allow this dinner to be held unchallenged.

Dr. Birkhead's report names five organizations listed as Communist and subversive by the Department of Justice which were sponsored or backed by Dr. G. E. Shipper, the Churchman's editor, and four more fronts with which Shipper had "a significant affiliation".

Today, Senator Humphrey, a liberal, withdrew as a speaker at the dinner. Previously, Benjamin Fairless, president of United States Steel, had withdrawn as a vice-chairman, declaring he had understood erroneously that the Churchman dinner "was a church movement, and therefore, having no connection with non-Americanism".



To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

2/17/49  
Page 2

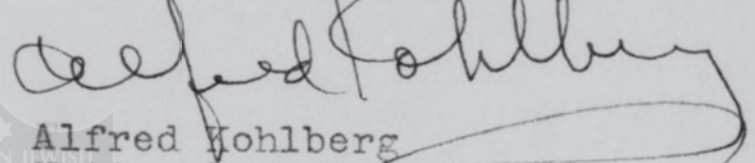
We have been informed that Mr. Sylvan Gotshal, a leader in the United Jewish Appeal, has withdrawn as a vice-chairman of the dinner.

You, sir, were obviously invited to speak as a Jewish leader, in order to involve the Jews with this questionable affair. Knowing of your opposition to all forms of totalitarianism, knowing of your conviction that Judaism is opposed to both Communism and Fascism and that Judaism cannot be linked with apologists for the Soviet ideology, we strongly urge you to withdraw from any connection with this dinner at once.

Your withdrawal would be a blow for Americanism in the present cold war in which confusion and misunderstanding are weapons of totalitarian propaganda. Your withdrawal would also put Americans of Jewish faith in the proper light as opposed to such machinations.

We are hoping to hear from you by return mail.

Very faithfully yours,

  
Alfred Kohlberg  
National Chairman





# Third Official Renounces Churchman Dinner

A third vice chairman of the annual Churchman dinner to be held next Wednesday in the Hotel Astor today revealed to the World-Telegram that he will not attend. Two other vice chairmen already have announced their withdrawal on the grounds that the magazine and its editor, Dr. Guy Emory Shippler, have been promoting the Communist party line.

Sylvan Gotschal, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, was the latest official to decline to attend.

"I have been a friend of Dr. Shippler's for many years so I don't like to withdraw but I'm flabbergasted by this whole thing," said Mr. Gotschal. "My own anti-Communist views are very definite. I got into this perfectly innocently, but I won't be here next week."

**Ask Silver to Withdraw.**

Meanwhile Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, national Zionist leader, was urged by the American-Jewish League Against Communism to cancel his scheduled speech at the dinner.

"Your withdrawal from any connection with this dinner would be a blow for Americanism in

the present cold war in which confusion and misunderstanding are weapons of totalitarian propaganda," the league's chairman, Alfred Kohlberg, informed Rabbi Silver.

"It would also put Americans of Jewish faith in the proper light as opposed to such machinations."

**Cites Birkhead Charges.**

Mr. Kohlberg's letter cited the recent disclosure of the unaffiliated religious magazine and its editor, the Rev. Guy Emory Shippler, as allegedly pro-Soviet by Dr. L. M. Birkhead, director of the Friends of Democracy, a group which combats anti-Semitism and Fascism.

Among the league's directors are Councilman Walter R. Hart, Rep. Abraham Moulter (D., Bklyn.), Charles Kreindler, vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and Eugene Lyons.

Two of the dinner's vice chairmen have withdrawn, Benjamin Fairless, president of United States Steel, and Cass Canfield, publisher. One of the featured

speakers, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.), also withdrew.

Allen Wardwell, the remaining vice chairman, has not announced his intentions as yet. Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, of the New York Methodist area, who will receive an award at the dinner, said he "certainly will" attend the dinner.

## Debut for '87 Suite By Victor Herbert

For the first time since Victor Herbert, himself, played it in 1887, the composer's Suite for Cello and Orchestra will be presented tonight by the Queens Symphonic Society in the Forest Hills High School auditorium—with the aid of photostats.

The suite was never published, and the original manuscript is in the Library of Congress. Howard Shanet, who will conduct tonight's concert, obtained photostatic copies at the library. The cello soloist tonight will be Maurice Bialkin.

## Police Force Laid Up

PATCHOGUE, L. I., Feb. 18.—Capt. John Hewitt, 72, the one-man police force of Harbor Village, was injured yesterday when the automobile he was driving was in collision with an oil tank truck on East Main St. He was taken to Southside Hospital with a possible fractured skull.

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Tea

WEDNESDAYS, 8:30 PM

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R. C.

ROULTMAN & CO.



February 19, 1949

Dear Dr. Silver:

I suspect you are familiar with some of the organized campaign against The Churchman and the Oxnam dinner. The "secret police" of "Counterattack", Mrs. Paine of Common Cause, and Rabbi Schultz, to name only a few, have been approaching our sponsors in an attempt to have them withdraw their names. So far only seven, out of more than 500, have done so. I think you can guess what organization is spearheading the attack. Why would any other wish to put The Churchman out of business? And this campaign, I happen to know, is for that purpose. The "Fordham boys" of Counterattack, as they are called here, Birkhead, and the others are all working together.

I have just received from Halford Luccock a copy of his address for the dinner--as rollicking as his addresses always are. He is making the presentation speech.

Since I thought you might like to see what some of our sponsors think of Bishop Oxnam I am sending copies and one or two other documents.

With all good wishes and looking forward to seeing you, I am

Gratefully and sincerely yours,

*Guy Emery Shipler*  
Guy Emery Shipler



PS-The New York Times told me that Schultz was the one who sent them the story that Fairless had withdrawn. It was forwarded from Indianapolis. (Please excuse the machine!)



February 21, 1949

Mr. Guy Emery Sipler, Editor  
The Churchman  
425 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, New York

My dear Mr. Sipler:

I am sending herewith at your request a few paragraphs which you might use in connection with the dinner Wednesday evening. I am sorry I have delayed sending this to you but I have been under considerable pressure of work.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

Enc.

Via Air Mail Special



I take it that we are to work for the One World under all circumstances, and with increased fervor, ~~especially~~ in those periods of human history when the prospect of the One World is dimmest. Prophetic religion has never accepted the concept of an ~~irrepressible~~ <sup>never to be and</sup> conflict between classes, nations or races in spite of surface indications to the contrary. Athwart <sup>the</sup> dark and obdurate irreconcilabilities of systems and ideologies, the spirit of religion beamed steadfastly the light of reconciliation. It ~~favoured~~ <sup>took no</sup> neither side, ~~craft~~ <sup>only</sup> the side of God. Is it <sup>hardly</sup> to the best interests of mankind that religion, too, should in our day take sides violently with the East or the West and contribute to the <sup>hardening, the</sup> disastrous division of our world? Are we not more loyal to our religious inspirations if we try to act as a bridge of understanding, seeking <sup>between groups & nations</sup> to interpret one to the other, calling each to repentance when their ways are not the ways of God? <sup>and</sup> <sup>unwillingly</sup> ~~and pleading~~ ~~betimes~~ and often as the prophet of old pleaded: "Are we not all <sup>from</sup> ~~brothers~~ <sup>one father</sup>? Hath not one God created us all? Why ~~do we~~ <sup>do we</sup> ~~then~~ <sup>then</sup> should we deal treacherously one with the other?" <sup>every man against</sup> his brother?"



I concede that in an atomic age and in the kind of a world in which we live, this seems very naive. But every great moral teaching of our religions and every utterance of Moses, Isaiah or Jesus appears amazingly naive against the background of the very <sup>involved</sup> ~~intricate~~ and sophisticated ~~real-politische~~ <sup>to</sup> of the highly practical statesmen which have twice within our lifetime hurled our world into the bloodiest wars known to history.

I take it, too, that it is not our duty as spokesmen of religion to align ourselves with a propaganda for one specific economic system as against another. Our religions have never asked of us to involve ourselves in economic dogmatism. Organized religion should not be expected either to champion existing economic orders in spite of their many and sundry flaws, or some imaginary order which might fail even to approximate the virtues which are claimed for it. The Church and the Synagogue are not concerned with systems, but with safeguarding <sup>of</sup> ~~and~~ principles which each age must be challenged to work into such a system as will best meet its economic needs. Whether it be Capitalism, Socialism, or Communism, there are basic principles of human rights and essential human ideals at stake in each, and the Church and Synagogue must under all conditions remain free to defend these ideals for which no system is adequate guarantee. Neither the rule of ~~king~~ <sup>king</sup>, people or proletariat is sufficient insurance against abuse of power, exploitation of men and the defeat of the spiritual promises of human life.

There are great evils in our democratic society which must be eradicated. There are great evils in the Soviet system which must be eradicated. The task of religion is not to align mankind for or against one or the other, but to assist both in eliminating their social weaknesses and <sup>in</sup> perfecting their social strengths.



I take it finally that as spokesmen of religion, we are opposed to war and the war machine. The evils of which we suffer cannot be done away with by war. The long debate which will continue for generations on ~~the subject of~~ authority versus freedom, ~~on~~ social controls to insure economic security versus constitutional liberties to protect the individual will not be settled by the atomic bomb. Regional security pacts and armament races have always led to war - not to peace.

It is only through the very patient and heartbreakingly slow processes of working together, through such available agencies as the organs of the United Nations, that nations may find their way ultimately through the labyrinth of suspicion, fear and hatred to the open fields of cooperation and peace.

It is because the man whom you have chosen to honor this evening, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, has in my judgment represented in his consecrated life's ministry these basic purposes of religion that I am delighted to be here this evening and to pay my meed of tribute to him.



# *The* **CHURCHMAN DINNER**

A NATIONAL JOURNAL



ESTABLISHED 1804

**1949**

**AWARD**

**TO**

**G. BROMLEY OXNAM**

**Bishop, New York Area, The Methodist Church**

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Churchman Dinner, when Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam will be presented The Churchman Award "for the promotion of goodwill and better understanding among all peoples," on Wednesday, February 23, 1949, at six-thirty o'clock in the Grand Ballroom of the Astor Hotel, New York.

**HAROLD L. ICKES**

*Chairman, Dinner Committee*

**Dress Optional**

**\$10 per person**

Under the auspices of The Churchman Associates, Inc.

## **"DECISION FOR TOMORROW"**

*(Speakers and Committee listed on inside pages)*



# THEME

## “DECISION FOR TOMORROW”

HAROLD L. ICKES, *Chairman*

### *Vice-Chairmen*

CASS CANFIELD

BENJAMIN F. FAIRLESS

SYLVAN GOTSHAL

ROBERT McCURDY MARSH

JAMES N. ROSENBERG

ALLEN WARDWELL

### SPEAKERS

HALFORD E. LUCCOCK

*Professor of Homiletics*

*Yale University, Divinity School*

G. BROMLEY OXNAM

HERBERT C. PELL

*Former Minister to Portugal and Hungary*

HARLOW SHAPLEY

*Director, Harvard University Observatory*

GUY EMERY SHIPLER

*Editor, The Churchman*

WILLIAM L. SHIRER

*Foreign correspondent and news commentator*

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

*Rabbi, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio*



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March 3 - 1949.

Mrs. Helen M. Kennerley - 471 Park  
Av. - has asked us to send this  
book to you because of her deep  
appreciation of your speech at the  
Churchmen's Dinner. She feels  
you will appreciate Judge  
Troward's approach to Moses  
and Christ as prophets.



March 9, 1949

Mrs. Helen M. Kennerley  
471 Park Avenue  
New York, New York

My dear Mrs. Kennerley:

From the Sutton Manor Bookstore I received a volume and a note that you asked the Bookstore to send it to me in appreciation of the address which I delivered at the Churchman's Dinner. Permit me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me Judge Troward's book which I know I shall read with a great deal of interest.

I enjoyed the Churchman's Dinner very much indeed. I was happy to have had an opportunity to participate in the program.

Again thanking you for your gift, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



peared in *THE CHURCHMAN*, all of which was re-produced in the Brooklyn Catholic paper [*The Tablet*], brought a great many letters to the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin*, protesting against allowing me to write the Saturday Sermon, so that is how carefully and thoroughly they follow things up. Of course, it made no difference to the *Bulletin*, and did no harm to me, but they stop at nothing, and do not seem to have too many scruples. All of which means that we need to realize, if we do not already know, the kind of influences

**W**E ARE standing at the crossroads. This has been whispered to you confidentially in many a private conference; it has been shouted from every platform. By one of those brutal coincidences produced by pure chance, the word trivial comes from the Latin word for crossroads.

We are at the crossroads. True, but we always have been. It is one of the advantages of being an old man who has seen something and read more. He knows that what is, has been. The first crossroads that I can remember was when Admiral Schley landed an American armed force in Chile; I remember when Queen Liliuokalani was deposed in Hawaii by the descendants of those missionaries who had been welcomed by her ancestors and who objected to her efforts to protect her people from their rapacity and guile. These were crossroads, too.

All four of my grandparents in New York and in the Deep South cheered the election of Polk and the annexation of Texas. More crossroads: more historical trivia. Let me beg the enthusiastic and serious-minded youth and that very large proportion of older people who are forgetful, stupid, and excitable, that history did not begin yesterday and will not end tomorrow.

The chronicle of mankind is a series of crises—an unending succession of crossroads. All my life I have seen them everywhere and in all my reading of the past, I found a succession of crossroads and of crises.

I am not urging apathy, I am not suggesting a flippant attitude toward the problems of today which must be met. I am suggesting that we should know that the problems of today are not unique. Our fathers also found themselves at the crossroads, as will our children. It is only the dead who have no need of decision; we must not imagine that the road prepared for all other generations was straight, smooth, beautifully marked and that we only have seen a crossroad. Let me show you the wisdom of our wisest of men. "The thing that hath been, it is that

that are against *THE CHURCHMAN* and the things for which it stands. I have pleasure in enclosing a little contribution to The Churchman Associates, and with it my personal affection and abiding goodwill."

Bishop Oxnam, by resisting dishonest pressures, has taught us all a richer, truer spirit of Americanism. Though he told of a friend who said, "I don't think the trouble with the Methodist ministers is liturgy; it's lethargy!" he is not among the lethargic.

E. R. J.

## Herbert Pell

which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there anything whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us. There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is van-

**I** REGARD it as a high privilege to join the many friends and admirers of Bishop Oxnam on the occasion of his receiving the annual Churchman Award for his contribution to the promotion of goodwill and better understanding among all peoples. I salute him as a noble Christian, a great American, and a faithful servant of humanity.

I take it that there are three fundamental purposes to which men in our calling must devote themselves if they are to be faithful to the inspiration and challenge of their religious traditions which, in the case of Jews and Christians, stem from one common source—the spiritual and ethical teachings of the Bible.

I take it that we are to work for the One World under all circumstances, and with increased fervor in those periods of human history when the prospect of the One World is dimmest. Prophetic religion has never accepted the concept of an inevitable and irrepressible conflict between classes, nations or races in spite of surface indications to the

ity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight; and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. I communed with my own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." (Eccl. Ch. 1.)

There is nothing more dangerous than overestimating our own problems, believing that nothing like today has ever happened in the past, that our problems are unique, and unlike those which have been met in times gone by, and those which our grandchildren will face.

Don't let us be flippant, but it is even more important not to be overwhelmed with solemnity and fear.

Remember the words of an old man—crossroads are trivia.

## Abba Hillel Silver

contrary. Athwart the dark and obdurate irreconcilabilities of systems and ideologies, the spirit of religion beamed steadfastly the light of reconciliation. It took no sides, except the side of God. Is it really to the best interests of mankind that religion, too, should in our day take sides violently with the East or the West and contribute to the hardening of the disastrous division of our world? Are we not more loyal to our religious inspirations if we try to act as a bridge of understanding between groups of nations seeking to interpret one to the other, calling each to repentance when their ways are not the ways of God? And pleading unremittingly as the prophet of old pleaded: "Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us all? Why do we deal treacherously, every man against his brother?"

Mr. Pell, Mrs. Oxnam, Bishop Lowe





I concede that in an atomic age and in the kind of a world in which we live, this seems very naive. But every great moral teaching of our religions and every utterance of Moses, Isaiah or Jesus appears amazingly naive against the background of the very involved and sophisticated *real-politik* of the highly practical statesmen which have twice within our lifetime hurled our world into the bloodiest wars known to history.

I take it, too, that it is not our duty as spokesmen of religion to align ourselves with a propaganda for one specific economic system as against another. Our religions have never asked of us to involve ourselves in economic dogmatism. Organized religion should not be expected either to champion existing economic orders in spite of their many and sundry flaws, or some imaginary order which might fail even to approximate the virtues which are claimed for it. The church and the synagogue are not concerned with systems, but with safeguarding of principles which each age must be challenged to work into such a system as will best meet its economic needs. Whether it be capitalism, socialism, or communism, there are basic principles of human rights and essential human ideals at stake in each, and the church and synagogue must under all conditions remain free to defend these ideals for which no system is adequate guarantee. Neither the rule of king, people or proletariat is sufficient insurance against abuse of power, exploitation of men and the defeat of the spiritual promises of human life.

There are great evils in our democratic society which must be eradicated. There are great evils in the Soviet system which must be eradicated. The task of religion is not to align mankind for or against one or the other, but to assist both in eliminating their social weaknesses and in perfecting their social strengths.

**I** TAKE it finally that as spokesmen of religion, we are opposed to war and the war machine. The evils of which we suffer cannot be done away with by war. The long debate which will continue for generations on authority versus freedom, on social controls to insure economic security versus constitutional liberties to protect the individual will not be settled by the atomic bomb. Regional security pacts and armament races have always led to war—not to peace.

It is only through the very patient and heartbreakingly slow processes of working together, through such available agencies as the organs of the United Nations, that nations may find their way ultimately through the laby-

rinth of suspicion, fear and hatred to the open fields of cooperation and peace.

It is because the man whom you have chosen to honor this evening, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, has in my

**I**N THIS gathering at which an award for the promotion of goodwill and better understanding is to be presented, no one should indulge in the now popular game of red-baiting, but I shall. I am embarrassed to expose one of my most beloved and admired friends of many years who, in a few moments, will present The Churchman Award to one of America's most fearless and prophetic Protestants, Bishop Oxnam. I first knew Dr. Halford E. Luccock years ago when he was a distinguished editor in the field of religious journalism. That was before the strange insanity which at present leads so many Americans to believe, providing the newspaper headlines say so, that any Protestant liberal who stands for the social implications of his religion is a madman bent on overthrowing the U. S. government. But Dr. Luccock is really dangerous: he carries an atom bomb in every pocket. The discovery came in a letter which arrived on my desk two days ago, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, and is signed by one Robert Donner. Said the letter: "It will interest your readers to know that this man Luccock has twelve Communist front affiliations since Jan. 31, 1939. He is one of more than 50 Yale University professors who have un-American front affiliations, which have been officially desig-

*Rabbi Silver*



judgment represented in his consecrated life's ministry these basic purposes of religion that I am delighted to be here this evening to pay my meed of tribute to him.

## The Editor

nated as subversive and/or Communist fronts by various federal agencies and investigating committees."

Hal—I admit that I am doing this out of a sense of superiority—I had always thought you were quite a remarkable fellow. Now I read that you are accused of being "affiliated," to use the common trick word, with only a dozen communist fronts, while I am accused of being "affiliated" with twice as many by such notable authorities as Leon Birkhead, Rabbi Benjamin Schultz, Natalie Wales Paine, the Brooklyn Roman Catholic Tablet and the Hearst, Howard-McCormick press and the Catholic owned Brooklyn Eagle. As you have read the headlines of the gutter press, Hal, perhaps you have wondered for a long time, as I have, what is a communist fronter. The flaming Pentecostal fire of revelation came a few days ago. It was near the end of an elaborate twelve page document distributed to the newspapers and elsewhere by Leon Birkhead, of the so-called Friends of Democracy, who is now wandering aimlessly in a topsy-turvy red-tinged world. Please listen carefully, Hal, for it is a warning to you and to every American. Here it is: "By definition a communist fronter is one who denies being associated with the communist political or propaganda movement." Bewildering, but it gives Leon top place as a logical, competent judge of his fellow American Protestants.

In the past few weeks I have received many letters from crimson Protestant bishops and other leaders. I will read just one, which is typical. I hope Bishop Oxnam and my other Methodist friends will bear with me, for it comes from a bishop of the one true church—I mean my own Episcopal church. The Rt. Rev. James M. Stoney, Bishop of New Mexico and Southwest Texas, writes:

"I have received your open letter relative to the Oxnam dinner. I have crossed swords with you on former occasions but this time I am with you. This is as it should be for when the time comes, as it seems to be coming rapidly, when people do not dare to speak their opinions we will indeed be in a sad state. The present national hysteria over Russian Communism is getting out of bounds. Definitely I am not a Communist but I do not consider it any worse than the more insidious threat of Roman Fascism. I



March 16, 1949

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am sorry not to have written you sooner to tell you how grateful we were for your splendid cooperation at the Oxnam dinner. I don't want to spoil you at this late date, but I am bound to tell you that we have had many enthusiastic comments about your address.

I am mailing you a copy of the dinner issue containing all the addresses. I hope that you won't overlook the story of the dinner in that same issue which is reprinted in the Brooklyn Tablet.

Also, please send me a statement of your expenses.

With all good wishes always, and sincerest gratitude, I am

Very cordially yours,

*Guy Emery Shipler*

Guy Emery Shipler

EDITOR

GES:is

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





March 18, 1949

Mr. Guy Emery Shipler, Editor  
The Churchman  
425 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, New York

My dear Mr. Shipler:

Permit me to acknowledge your kind letter of March 16th. I enjoyed very much participating in the dinner for Bishop Oxnham. Thank you for sending me a copy of the dinner issue of "The Churchman" which I have already received and read with much interest.

My expenses in connection with my trip to New York amounted to \$75.00.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



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The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

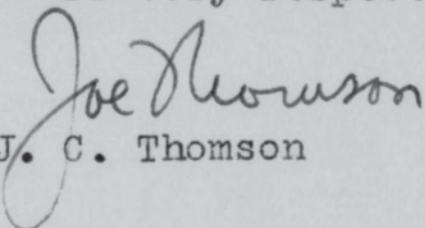
Dear Dr. Silver:

Truth was on the march Sunday morning at  
the Communion Breakfast.

Here is a letter from a Brother in Queens  
wherein he states the same things which you told so  
eloquently to your Brothers in the State of New York.

I would not have missed your address for  
anything.

Yours very respectfully,

  
J. C. Thomson

JCT:mr  
enc.



New York City Veterans Cntr  
500 Park Ave, NYC  
- PL-31705 Ext 100

15 March 49

Joseph C. Thomson, Esq.  
17 John Street, New York  
New York

10 10 49  
T  
THOMSON & SUGINTV

Dear Sir and Brother Thomson:

Your letter dated 14 Mar 49 received and deeply appreciated.

I can think of no greater pleasure than to at some future time repair to the Sanctum Sanctorum and sit on the Third with a man like yourself.

You have given me the impression that you're the type of fellow who applies daily the principles you have learned at the Altar of Freemasonry. So many men have only received the Degrees but have ignored the Wisdom that was also offered to them if only they would look within their own hearts and let their light so shine from the same.

I want you to know a few facts about my Masonic life so that you know just where I stand.

I was raised in June 1946 in Alpha Lodge #116, F.&A.M. subordinate lodge to the Grand Lodge of the State of New Jersey. Our lodge is 78 years old. It was a lodge consisting of White Brethern only at its inception. It was the only lodge at that time that had the courage to follow the true precepts of Masonry and ask of any petitioner that he need only be Worthy and Well Qualified to seek admission to its lodge. It did not ask what is your Race. The lodge at present has Negro members .

We have visited many lodges in the New York Jurisdiction. I personally have sat on the first and third degree at Garibaldi Lodge #542. I have also sat on the third at Shakespeare Lodge #750, both lodges meet at 23rd street.

I am a member of the Library at 23rd Street and Brother Robinson, the Librarian can vouch for me since we have sat on the third together in a Brooklyn Lodge.

I tell you all the above information , my Brother, to let you know that it will not be anything novel for me to sit in your lodge. I wish to prove no point. It approaches certainty that you, too, are looking for the day to come when men like Louis Fair can sit besides you



in any lodge that calls itself Masonic. I cannot visit his group because I would suffer expulsion from my lodge if I were to do so. I, too, hope for the Dawn that will find all men regardless of Color searching for the True Word side by side.

When you first approached me you did not know from whence I came, you observed the symbol of the Word on my lapel and you called me Brother. You thought that I was a Prince Hall Mason and calling me Brother meant that all men who were traveling in the same direction were your brothers, because you know and I know that God is the Father of us all and because one brother denies his own brother is no evidence that God denies him also.

You have been very kind to me and I shall not forget it. Let me know when you are to have a third degree and I shall be there.

I will be attending the First Degree of Garibaldi Lodge on April 1, 1949 at 7:30 PM. It would be nice if you could make that your dues card is your admission. I will also be visiting Shakespeare Lodge on April 7, 1949 at 6PM .

I hope you and yours are well and happy.

Fraternally ,



Philly H Reed  
Alpha Lodge #116  
Newark, New Jersey



Voucher No. E 4755

# CHVRCHMAN COMPANY

425 Fourth Avenue, New York

To Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, D.D.  
The Temple  
East 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

ATTACHED FIND CHECK WHICH WHEN DETACHED IS PAYABLE AT  
YOUR BANK. IT IS IN FULL PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNT HERE STATED.  
NO RECEIPT OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS REQUIRED.

INVOICE DATE		DESCRIPTION	INVOICE AMOUNT	
		<i>Deposited</i> <i>3/28/49</i> To defray expenses on trip to New York on Feb. 23, 1949 to Church- man Dinner honoring Bishop Oxnam	75	00

Please Detach and Keep This Statement



March 29, 1949

Mr. J. C. Thomson  
Thomson & McGinty  
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Thomson:

Thank you for your letter of March 23rd and for the enclosures which I read with deep interest. The meeting which I was privileged to attend was truly inspiring.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er