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

Series 1: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

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

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Sacco-Vanzetti, 1925-1927.

# CLEVELAND SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE CONFERENCE

5927 Euclid Ave. Room 13

108

Phone Randolph 4065

Cleveland, O. Feb. 16, 1925

## Executive Committee

MAX J. SILLINSKY, Chairman  
Journeyman Tailors No. 162

A. V. SEVERINO, Sec'y-Treas.  
Workers Party

Herbert Benjamin  
Workers Party

Carl Hacker  
Labor Defense Council

George Papcun  
Young Workers League

Wm. Polk  
Street Railway Employees No. 268

John Steele  
Painters No. 867

## AFFILIATIONS

### Joint Board

Amalgamated Clothing  
Workers

Auto Workers No. 195

Journeyman Tailors No. 162

Lathers No. 2

Labor Defense Council

Painters No. 867

Paper Hangers No. 128

Plumbers No. 55

Street Railway Employees No. 268

Structural Iron Workers No. 17

Upholsterers No. 48

Workers Party

Workmen's Circle No. 334

Young Workers League

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Cleveland, O.

Dear Sir:-

The enclosed letter, which is being sent to the various Labor organizations in the city, explains the objects of this Conference.

The Secretary was instructed to write to you in order to ascertain your attitude on the Sacco-Vanzetti case, and whether you are in a position to be considered by the Conference as one of the speakers at the March 1 demonstration.

The question of speakers must be decided at the Conference Friday next, and we would appreciate an immediate reply.

Yours truly

A V Severino  
Secy.-Treas.

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Feb. 16, 1925

Dear Sirs and Brothers:-

The Cleveland Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Conference, a delegate body representing the herein-mentioned trade-union, fraternal, and political organizations of Labor, and formed on Feb. 13, in response to the call issued by the Workers Party of Cleveland, earnestly invites your co-operation to the end that we may stage an impressive demonstration of Labor for the release of Sacco and Vanzetti and against all persecutions of the workers.

We respectfully submit the following suggestions which have been adopted by the delegates of the already participating organizations as means to that end:-

(1) Send at least one delegate to the next meeting of the Conference which will be held in the Labor Temple, Room 320, on Friday, Feb. 20, 8 P.M.

(2) Adopt the enclosed resolution and send it at once to the undersigned at 5927 Euclid Ave.

(3) Circularize your membership, urgently requesting them to be present at the Labor Demonstration for the release of Sacco and Vanzetti, to be held in the Engineers Auditorium, Ontario and St. Clair, Sunday March 1, at 8 P.M. The Committee is arranging for speakers of local and national prominence in the Labor Movement. Let us make this one of the most effective among the many that will be held on that day by Labor in all parts of the world.

(4) Vote as large a contribution as possible to the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Fund and present same at the demonstration March 1.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to act on the call issued by the Workers Party for the formation of this Conference, we respectfully urge that you take immediate action as requested above.

Yours for

A UNITED FRONT OF LABOR AGAINST ALL PERSECUTIONS OF THE WORKERS

CLEVELAND SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE CONFERENCE

*A. V. Severino*  
Secy.-Treas.



[1925]

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Two workers, Sacco and Vanzetti, have been in prison in Massachusetts, for nearly five years, under sentence of death, and

WHEREAS, All impartial investigators, including the American Federation of Labor, are unanimous in their opinion that these two brothers are innocent of any crime but have been framed by the tools of the industrial barons of Massachusetts, and convicted by a prejudiced jury under the direction of a corporation-owned judge, and

WHEREAS, in spite of the testimony of eye witnesses and of scientific experts, proving their innocence; in spite of the retractions of principal witnesses; in spite of the world-wide demand of Labor for their release; Sacco and Vanzetti have been denied a new trial by the same prejudiced judge who sentenced them, and

WHEREAS, this is one of the most odious of a long series of similar frame-ups and persecutions of workers, including Tom Mooney; many members of the I.W.W.; Wm. Z. Foster, C.E. Ruthenberg, and other Communists involved in the Michigan cases; numerous workers jailed under anti-Labor Injunctions; and many others; such persecutions being direct attacks against the entire working-class intended to remove and intimidate the most active and militant leaders, thereby discouraging and hindering the efforts of Labor to improve its conditions, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we demand the immediate and unconditional release of Sacco and Vanzetti who are guilty of no crime but persecuted only for their valiant and life-long fight in the interests of Labor, and that we demand a cessation of the persecution of the workers thru frame-ups, injunctions, unjust convictions, deportations, criminal syndicalism laws, and all such perversions of the governmental power in the interests of the employing classes, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we endorse the activities in this direction of the Cleveland Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Conference, and that we urge all workers to attend the March 1st Demonstration at the Engineers Auditorium, Cleveland, for the release of Sacco and Vanzetti and against all persecutions of the workers, and be it

RESOLVED, that this resolution be given the widest publicity  
Adopted by Local No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Organization  
of Cleveland, O. on \_\_\_\_\_ 1925.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary.

CREDENTIAL

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ has been elected by

Local no. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Sacco-Vanzetti

Conference. at the Labor Temple Feb. 20.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



[Undated]



CORRESPONDENCE  
TABLES  
CLEVELAND

Rabbi A. H. Silver:-

Dear Sir:- There are two well-known  
rabbis in town. One is a publicity  
hound. You are the other.

Have you guts enough to  
tackle the Racco-Varetti case in  
a sermon?

Atheist,

Rabbi Silver.

[undated]

I take this liberty of writing to you because I know you understand what a terrible thing mob. hysteria is. Will you please use your influence in helping to free Sacco and Vanzetti. I am not a member of any party or group, but I fear that the reaction of electrocuting two innocent men of the radical group may change the view point of most radicals to one of revenge. Trusting you will lend your weight toward the side of Justice I remain a Liberal Citizen

A. Bolek  
Gladstone Rd.  
Warrensville, O.



[undated]

Alvin T.

Governor, Fuller,  
Boston, Mass.

*Vanzetti*

May I not join with numerous other loyal Americans in petitioning Your Excellency to exercise your executive clemency in the case of the two condemned men, Sacco and ~~Beneetti~~. Millions, both here and abroad, feel that these men were condemned under conditions which did not insure them a trial compatible with the high traditions of impartial justice of which America is proud.