



## 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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The Temple, Pre-induction services, 1942.



EXACT COPY

April 12, 1942

Selective Board #21  
9917 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

Gentlemen:

Just a line of appreciation for your efforts in behalf of my buddies and myself in arrangeing the pre-induction ceremony.

At its best, Sir! Your operation is one of sincere patriotism, but lacking in universal public support. We can thank the newspapers and periodicals whom seem to forget in their scramble for headline war news, that without Local Board and inductee's there would be no headline news.

Tonight, your combined efforts along with those of your distinguished guests, namely-Rabbi Silver, Dr. Bird, Rev. O'Donnell and Mr. Dewhirst have shaped what I would like to beleive to be a model throughout our country.

The undeßsigned, is particularley proud of being a member of Local Board No. 21 and haveing had the pleasure of attending the "Original pre-Induction Services." Both superb and demodratie.

In closing Sir! your efforts are commendable and worthy of a debt of public gratitude.

Very truly yours

Thomas C. McGuire Jr.



# Pre-induction by Local Board No. 21

## THE TEMPLE

April 12, 1942

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7.30 p.m.

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### PROGRAM

Music—Mr. Alfred R. Willard, Director of Music, The Temple

Introductory remarks by William A. Maher, Vice Chairman, Local Board No. 21

Greeting by Reverend William O'Donnell, Pastor, Mt. Carmel Church

Roll Call of Inductees

Pre-induction Ceremony—Mr. Maher (all standing)

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag—

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Instructions to Inductees—Mr. Maher

Group Singing led by Mr. Don Dewhirst, Soloist, Temple Choir and W H K

Address—Reverend Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi, The Temple

Music—Mr. Dewhirst

Prayer—Reverend Philip Smead Bird, Pastor, Church of the Covenant

"The Star Spangled Banner" (all standing and singing)

Dismissal

Music—Mr. Willard

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INDUCTEES will report to the Induction Center, 1250 Ontario Street, on Saturday, April 18th, at 8 a.m. for final medical examination. They will be under military orders from that time, and may expect to leave for camp that afternoon.

DEPARTURE for camp is usually scheduled to start from Induction Center about 40 minutes before the trains leave, by marching to the Union Passenger Station on Public Square, where men are allowed 15 minutes with their families and friends.

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF INDUCTEES ARE INVITED to be at the terminal to see the men off.

WATCH THE NEWSPAPERS for the hours of the Saturday schedule.

(over)



### THE CAISSONS GO ROLLING ALONG

Over hill, over dale, we have hit the dusty trail,  
And those caissons go rolling along  
"Counter march, Right about," Hear those wagon soldiers shout  
While those caissons go rolling along.

#### CHORUS

For it's "Hi! Hi! Hee!" in the field artillery  
Call off your numbers loud and strong

*(Call off!)*

And where-e'er we go, You will always know  
That those caissons are rolling along,

*(Keep 'em rolling!)*

That those caissons are rolling along.

### REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

History in every century records an act that lives forevermore.  
We'll recall, as into line we fall, the thing that happened  
on Hawaii's shore.

#### CHORUS

Let's REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR as we go to meet the foe.

Let's REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR as we did the Alamo.

We will always remember how they died for Liberty.

Let's REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR, and go on to victory.

Let's REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR, and go on to victory.

### AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plain.  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears;  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

### THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh say, can you see by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming:  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

#### CHORUS

Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?



The families and friends  
of men who are about to join the armed forces of  
**The United States of America**  
are cordially invited to attend the Induction Ceremonies  
of Selective Service Local Board 21  
to be held at the Temple  
East 105th Street and Ansel Road, Cleveland  
Sunday evening, April 12, 1942  
at seven - thirty o'clock

**Rabbi A. H. Silver**  
who has just returned from England  
will address the inductees

*The inductees will leave for camp  
later in the week*



SUGGESTED PROGRAM

BOARD #21 INDUCTION - APRIL 13, 1942

Invite

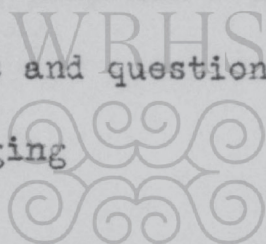
Families and friends of Inductees  
Families and friends of past Inductees  
Neighborhood ministers  
Advisory Board  
Appeal Agent  
Volunteer workers

Seating

Inductees front center  
Board Members and speakers on stage  
Guests elsewhere

Program

Music  
Roll call and collection of notices  
Induction by Chairman - all standing  
Music  
Instructions and questions  
Speaker  
Music - singing  
Invocation  
"America"  
Dismissal (With reminder of instructions and invitation to family and friends to be at Terminal)  
Music as they leave





RAYMOND T. CRAGIN & Co.

March 11, 1942

Skeleton plan for using the induction of soldiers as a step toward developing interest in the war, improved morale and pride of military service in the families and friends of those who go.

Many draft officials feel that the present local procedure is having a dangerously depressing effect upon the families and friends of the registrants. The following is intended to counteract the points which seem to cause that effect, and to instill patriotism and pride.

Unless augmented by some program such as is proposed, the procedure to be adopted March 30th (Plain Dealer 3/10/42, pages 1 and 2) may be even more depressing, for the men will quit their jobs and leave home without knowing whether they will pass their final physical examination, and then (if accepted) will have but 15 minutes "for saying farewell at the point of departure". Thus the turmoil and uncertainty will increase.

Many draft officials say that they have more trouble with the families and friends than with the registrants.

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Basic Plan

(1) A meeting on each day of induction, inviting the inductees, their families and friends, with programs which instill pride of service and, so far as possible,

- (a) send the men to camp with a feeling that their service is appreciated;
- (b) send their families and friends home with pride that their men have gone.

This is in contrast to the impersonal way the men now leave.

(2) A monthly public meeting for inductees, their families and friends, preparing them for future induction by stimulating their pride and patriotism.

The programs to be short, snappy, sincere, and strictly first class - with an absence of cant, politics, and promotion of selfish interests.

The programs to be built around the historical stagings for departing troops.  
"Flying flags - Martial music - Cheering friends"

By the quality of the programs and the persons participating, indicate that their nation cares.

This is in contrast to disorderly march with schoolboy bands through naked streets to an impersonal station.



March 11, 1942

(3) Assembly and distribution of information (of non-military value) regarding branches of the various services, variety of work, ratings and commissions, and other elementals of military life; early days in camp, clothes to take, and what not to take, opportunities for advancement and for selection of service, etc., which each inductee wants to know and discuss with family and friends before he goes.

And information which a mother wants about the future of her son.

This in contract to the present pathetic lack of information except as sent back by boys in service.

(4) Creation of an organization for such purposes.

In my opinion the organization should be created (possibly under sponsorship of one or more organizations) and not be the program of any single group, so that the registrants and their families feel that the meetings represent the interest and good will of the community.

\* \* \* \* \*

Obviously the possibility of induction is the chief topic of conversation, from the date of registration to that of induction, in the home and social life of each registrant.

It proposes to terminate - for an uncertain time - his family life, his social life, his work, and all his plans.

Whether he will ever return - or, if he does return, whether he will be maimed - is uncertain.

At best it is the most critical event in his life and thus in the lives of his parents.

At best it cannot help but be depressing - and now is additionally so by the pathetic lack of elemental information and of evidence that society recognizes his service.

So it is proposed to, so far as possible, substitute information for uncertainty, and ceremony for disinterest.

It is hoped that, in a small way, this will convert unhappiness into pride, and resentfulness into patriotism; and that such changes will gradually extend to others, and thus help change the attitude toward the war.

The distance of the present scenes of action, the strangeness and unpronounceability of the names of places and people, cause our people to feel that this is not our war. It is said that this will change when, and only when, we are attacked. However, the disinterest in the shelling of California and sinking ships off our Atlantic coast indicate that our own distances restrain realization of our danger. And to wait for attack may be too late.

Disinterest in preparedness for Home Defense indicates lack of realization.

And our continued talk of "Defense" instead of "War" is in line with "waiting



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March 11, 1942

until we see".

The rapid loss of other countries clearly shows that unless people are awakened to the danger long before it occurs the awakening comes too late.

And it is said that our men will not willingly go until labor is handled more vigorously.

My own opinion is that

- (a) America can be aroused.
- (b) But only by continuous, frank and friendly effort.
- (c) That, once aroused, public demand will settle labor and production problems.
- (d) That if the foregoing are not true, we cannot win and do not deserve to.
- (e) Nor can a conscripted army be expected to win for a disheartened, apathetic, or apparently unappreciative people.





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PROGRAM (Rough Suggestion)  
For each day of Induction

Assemble in Public Hall, one of its chambers, or other central hall such as  
B.of L.E.

Time a convenient hour.

Inductees in orderly arrangement upon the main floor - grouped by the Selective  
Service Boards whose men are going that day, each indicated by a standard having its  
number.

S.S. Board a member of each Board whose men are going always present.

Families and friends invited.

On stage Orchestra or Band  
Flags waving  
Speakers  
NO BRASS HATS

Program

(1)	Martial music
(2)	Induction 2 minutes
(3)	Martial music
(4)	Invocation 5 minutes
(5)	Martial music
(6)	Speaker 15 minutes
(7)	Martial music
(8)	Instructions
(9)	Escort to busses or train with martial music which continues until last has left.



Gifts If there are any gifts such as cigarets or toilet kits they can be given as  
the boys embark.

They should not be distributed on the floor for that breaks the continuity of a dig-  
nified program.

The tenor of the program should be "the dignity of service" and while the chief pur-  
pose is to instill pride and patriotism in the families and friends, that should be  
accomplished by talking to them through talking to the inductees.

Always treat the inductees as though they had enlisted - that is, without discrimina-  
tion between those who enlist and those who are drafted - upon the theory that ours  
is the democratic way of building an army, dwelling upon the present military prin-  
ciple of Selective Service in which each man is to be used where his training is of  
greatest value and new officers are to be trained from the ranks.

THE DIGNITY OF DEMOCRACY



RAYMOND T. CRAGIN & Co.

March 11, 1942

MONTHLY MEETING

Time Sunday afternoon

Place Public Hall

Inviting (a) The families and friends of those in service.  
(b) Those home on furlough.  
(c) The families and friends of those who may go.  
(d) Those who may go.

Program Generally similar to the daily program (omitting Induction, Instructions and Embarkment), but with more speaking and with a musical program which by itself would attract attendance.

Possibly motion pictures of life in training centers - such as the film shown this week at Telenews Theatre.

NO SALES OF DEFENSE BONDS at the meetings. The families will buy bonds - for their own men - if their patriotism is aroused.

NO POLITICS - NO SUBTERFUGE - NO DOGMA - NON SECTARIAN - NON RACIAL

- - - - -

THE ARMY OF DEMOCRACY



## RAYMOND T. CRAGIN & Co.

### Assembly and distribution of information

Most of the information desired by Registrants is available but not centralized.

Most of the Registrants do not know where to go for it, nor have the time.

Separate enlistment quarters are maintained by the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, etc., and some (very little) data is furnished by the Draft Boards.

There should be a central place, conveniently located, where any pertinent information can be secured, so that those who want to volunteer may understand the difference between that and the Draft, choice of services, viz. Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, etc., and subdivisions of each, such as various work in ground crews of air service, branches of Navy which offer opportunity for warrants or commissions without knowledge of navigation, technical work for engineers, lawyers, mechanics, stenographers, etc., in each branch, etc.

Clothes to take and disposition of same after receiving issued clothing. What clothing is issued. Toilet articles. Whether to take electric razors, radios, books, etc. How much money to take. Type of shoes and socks to wear. Type of luggage. (These questions are asked at every induction.)

### Summary

- (1) Assemble information.
- (2) Establish central point for distribution.
- (3) Have staff to answer inquiries.
- (4) Furnish material to Draft Boards for distribution.

Comment There is no uniformity in Draft Boards. The members were selected without previous discussion (drafted for the job) and generally are busy in their own affairs and attend to Board business part time and usually at night after their own strenuous days.

Direct contract with Registrants and their families is largely through the understaffed and underpaid clerical forces of the Boards.

The intent and integrity of Boards is astonishingly high, but their fundamental job is to be "selective" and they are not expected, nor have the time to be promotive. They themselves are not furnished much of the information which Registrants naturally desire.

Nothing is more harmful to morale than for Registrants to not be able to quickly secure information about the most serious step in their lives, but to be sent from place to place, secure contradictory information, and frequently no information at all on matters which to them are very important.



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Skeleton for Military Induction Organization  
(Select a good name)

Committee in charge

- Chairman - A good organizer, preferably one who entered last war as a private.
- Secretary - Man or woman willing to serve for the duration - volunteer or services donated by employer.
- Music - Small committee; or one person, such as Musical Director of a radio station. If a committee, then one or more from radio stations and Edgar A. Hahn of Cleveland Orchestra, and possibly manager of Wurlitzer Company. (People familiar with bands and orchestras.)
- Speakers - One man or small committee to select best local orators (non-political).
- Clergy - Representatives of Ministerial Association.
- Transportation - Robt. W. Budd, President of Central Greyhound Lines; officer of a Railroad (preferably New York Central); and F.R. Hanrahan (until Cleveland Railway becomes municipal).
- Press - One from each recognized paper, including foreign and colored. (They to choose chairman)
- Citizens - Small group including patriotic mothers and fathers, and some representatives of such organizations as Advertising Club, American Legion, Rotary, etc.
- OMIT - Politicians and people "with something to sell".



THE NATIONAL CITY BANK  
OF CLEVELAND



DALE BROWN  
ASSISTANT CASHIER

CLEVELAND, OHIO

April 13, 1942

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
The Temple,  
Corner E. 105th and Ansel,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi:

I attended the induction services Sunday evening  
at the Temple for the inductees of Board 21.

I found the entire service inspiring, especially  
from the standpoint of the morale of the folks left at home,  
in which subject I was interested.

Please accept my congratulations on a very splendid  
presentation of the reasons why we must send men to war in  
the preservation of our way of life. I tried to think what  
would have been the effect on me twenty-four years ago, had  
I been sent away with some such talk ringing in my ears. It  
certainly would have given me then a clear conception of why  
I was fighting, as it did those young men Sunday night.

Thank you very much for what you have done.

Very truly yours,

DALE BROWN



# RAYMOND T. CRAGIN & Co.

*Real Estate*

BROKERAGE - MANAGEMENT - APPRAISALS - MORTGAGE LOANS

NATIONAL CITY BANK BUILDING

EAST SIXTH STREET AT EUCLID AVENUE

CLEVELAND

April 15, 1942

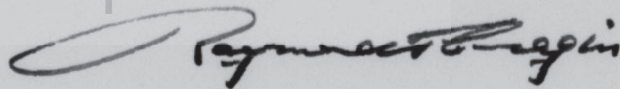
Reverend Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi  
The Temple  
East 105th & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I very much appreciate your participation in the meeting held last Sunday evening for the Inductees by Local Board No.21.

Considering that it was an experimental meeting, it seems to have been very successful, and you contributed largely to that.

Sincerely,



Raymond T. Cragin

RTC:WL



# SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Local Board No. 21 53  
Cuyahoga County 035

APR 15 1942 021

Rm. 250, 9917 Euclid Ave.  
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)  
Cleveland, Ohio

April 15th, 1942

Rabbi A. H. Silver  
The Temple  
Ansel Road and East 105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a letter from one of our men who is to be inducted next Saturday.

We believe that this letter will express our appreciation for the splendid cooperation you have afforded us, far better than we could in our own words.

We are deeply grateful to you.

Very truly yours  
LOCAL BOARD NO. 21

W. J. Harshaw  
W. J. Harshaw-Chairman

LHT:AFE



April 20, 1942

Mr. Dale Brown  
The National City Bank  
Euclid & E. 6th St.  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in writing to me about the induction services which were held at The Temple a week ago Sunday. I am pleased to know that the exercises impressed you and that you were pleased with the address which I delivered to the young people. I have received similar letters from others who attended. This leads me to the belief that such ceremonies are highly welcome and should be encouraged throughout the city and the nation.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK