

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.

Reel Box Folder 60 21 1445

Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1942-1943.

CCAR February, 1942 - Jewish Army Atlantic City June, 1942 Heller makes effort to prevent meeting. Writes letter October 30th. Offers special session of Conference. They decline. Heller calls special meeting in Pittsburgh May 11, 1942 with Freehof, Goldenson and Wolsey. Makes proposal that if they would call off meeting, he would call special sess on of Conference to have a bi-law on Neutrality on Zionism made part of the constitution of CCAR, He himself favored such a by-law. Following this meeting, the opposition group rejects Heller's proposals. I write a letter to Heller on May 15, 1942, cautioning him against his by-law proposal. Heller makes another attempt at negotiations on January 15, 1943 in Bal timore, attended by fourteen Rabbis. Proposals rejected. Meeting called by Adolph Rosenberg of Zionist and anti-Zionist Rabbis and laymen in Philadelphia. Adopt Philadelphia platform, which neither mentions Balfour Declaration nor Jewish National Home. Executive Committee ZOA disapproves of Heller's actions

November 30, 1943, Eisendrath calls meeting of Rabbis in Cincinnati. Adopt resolution to be presented to Executive of Union: "Union cannot associate itself with Agencies control of immigration and with Jewish Commonwealth" and incorporates Philadelphia resolution.

Eisendrath afraid. Had attempted in September to get Executive to say that it cannot concur in Palestine resolution of Conference.

Meeting with Dr. Goldenson called off.
Temple meeting in Cleveland December 6th called off.

Revised resolution suggested by certain people in reply to my protest.

The resolution is finally adopted.

All along, the anti-Zionists made it clear that they will agree to nothing short of a platform which is non-Nationalistic, non-political. They have been consistent.



RABBI SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, D. D.
RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE
FIFTH AND MOREWOOD AVENUES
PITTSBURGH, PA.

October 12, 1942

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple East 105th Street Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

I know that you will recall our informal conversations about the possibility of your writing a commentary on the Book of Jeremiah for our series of Jewish commentaries. You know how eager I am for you to accept this task. My eagerness is due not only to the fact that you will produce a grand book and thus help establish the value of our commentary series, but also that I personally will be proud to have a commentary by you accompany my commentary on the Psalms.

In addition, I am convinced that you will enjoy doing the work especially since writing a commentary is the sort of work a man can do verse by verse at odd moments and even on trains. I know that I hesitated quite a long time before accepting the task of writing the commentary on the Psalms. I mention that fact because I have a notion that if you hesitate about accepting the task it will be perhaps for the same reason. I feared it would be too much of a nuisance to write for the Union and have to argue with committees, but I found out there is very little trouble involved. All an author has to do is to submit part of the introduction and a sample chapter so that the author and the committee may be both assured that the work is going in the right direction. Then when the manuscript is completed, it is given to a readers' committee who submit their detailed suggestions which the author may or may not accept as he pleases, but generally a good percentage of the suggestions are helpful.

So I can assure you that it will not be much of a nuisance but on the contrary will be a great deal of pleasure. I would be happy to receive your definite acceptance of the task to write a commentary on Jeremiah.

With best wishes,

As ever.

Sol

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> 女 RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
> Administrative Secretary

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THE HERREW UNION COLLEGE THE DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET . CINCINNATI, OHIO . PHONE PArkway 7345

December 3, 1942

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver 10311 Lake Shore Drive Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Rabbi Egelson was in Chicago this week to prepare that community for the annual appeal for support of the Union. The question of a powerful personality that could influence a community like Chicago was discussed by him with Dr. Louis Mann. Dr. Mann said that the only man who could do the job is Dr. Silver of Cleveland!

As you know, we are passing through an important period in the development of the Union. We have made progress, and that progress has been made possible by the consistent and persistent pressure which we have maintained upon our congregations to recognize their responsibility to the national institution.

I have been very much encouraged by the affirmative attitude and the cooperative spirit of the men who have been asked to help us. Among these men have been the President of the CCAR, Dr. Heller, the Vice-President, Dr. Freehof, Dr. Wolsey and Dr. Jonah Wise.

I have previously refrained from asking you to help us until the opportunity arrived where the field would be large enough and promising enough to warrant such a request. I think that Chicago has large potential resources for financial support of the Union. I believe you will agree with this judgment.

Therefore, I am asking you to lend us your support and set aside for the Union in Chicago a Tuesday or Wednesday in January. Please let me have a few tentative dates, and I will try to make the arrangements accordingly.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Addiph Rosenberg Chairman of the Board

AR:RM / who. har

December 7, 1942 Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, Chairman of the Board The Union of American Hebrew Congregations 34 West 6th St. Cincinnatik Ohio My dear Mr. Rosenberg: Thank you for your letter of December 3. Although my program for January is very crowded, due to my activities in connection with the United Jewish Appeal and the United Palestine Appeal, I shall nevertheless make every effort to go to Chicago for the Union. The most convenient dates for me would be Tuesday, January 5 or Wednesday, January 6. Later in the month it will be difficult for me to leave Cleveland as my congregation is planning some celebration in connection with my twenty-fifth anniversary at The Temple. Please let me know the nature of the meeting which is being arranged. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

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RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

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THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE
THE DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

December 11, 1942

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am very thankful to you for your letter of December 7 and for your willingness to cooperate with the Union in our effort in Chicago.

I wired you today, in accordance with enclosed copy of the telegram.

Rabbi Egelson is to be in Chicago next Thursday for a meeting with the rabbis and presidents of the congregations in Chicago, at which time the definite date will be chosen for the meeting.

What we have in mind is an evening dinner meeting at the Standard Club, to which the rabbis and presidents of congregations, members of the Boards of the Congregations, Sisterhoods and Brotherhoods, and a few other leaders in the community would be invited. An announcement will be made that those who do not wish to come to the dinner can come after the dinner.

At that time I hope that you will be good enough to address the group on the need to strengthen religion in the present emergency and to support our national religious institution. It is not planned to have any solicitation that evening.

I hope to write to you further after Rabbi Egelson returns from Chicago next week.

With kind regards and thanking you once more for your helpfulness, I am

Cordially yours, Chairman of the Board

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December 11, 1942 MATTON

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

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

JANUARY PIPTH AND SIXTH OPEN FOR A FEW DAYS, AS WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH CHICAGO FOR A DEFINITE DATE. LETTER FO LOWS.

ADOLPH ROSENBERG

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=DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE =TEMPLE E. 105TH ST AT ANSEL RD=(CLEVELAND OHIO):

=AM VERY HAPPY THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO GO TO CHICAGO. PLEASE
HOLD JANUARY FIFTH AND SIXTH OPEN FOR A FEW DAYS, AS WE ARE
NEGOTIATING WITH CHICAGO FOR A DEFINITE DATE. LETTER FOLLOWS
=ADOLPH ROSENBERG.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

December 18, 1942

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105th & Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

This morning Rabbi Egelson returned from Chicago where he met with the Presidents and Rabbis to arrange for a public meeting in Chicago which you were to address. It was felt at this meeting that the time for preparation was too short to hold a meeting on January 5 or 6. It was therefore decided that it would be much better to hold this meeting in February. Would you be good enough to fix a date - a Tuesday or Wednesday in February - that will be agreeable to you. I have a feeling that your willingness to go to Chicago was influential in making the meeting of yesterday an enthusiastic one. Rabbi Egelson reports that there was a very fine feeling at the meeting. was attended by representatives of every congregation in Chicago, and there was an enthusiasm which strikes a very happy note for us. They are looking forward eagerly to your coming.

I hope to see you at the meeting of the Institute in Cincinnati next week.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Adolph Rosenberg

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The Tract Commission

Under the Joint Auspices of

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

CX

MERCHANTS BUILDING

Cincinnati

December 28, 1942

Committee Chairmen

Editorial
Harry W. Ettelson

Holiday Sermon Pamphlet

Jacob J. Weinstein

Holiday Press Notices
Edward N. Calisch

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

Dear Friend:

It was good to see you last week in Cincinnati.

Gussie told me of your telling her of your experience at Fort Bragg where you did not find one piece of Jewish literature for distribution among the Jewish men. I looked up our records and found that there is an Orthodox Jewish chaplain at Fort Bragg. He probably did not know of our Popular Studies. Had you visited other camps where we have chaplains that are graduates of the H.U.C. and J.I.R. you would have found many of our Popular Studies displayed for free distribution. These chaplains asked for them, and they received them. We have distributed the Popular Studies actually in tens of thousands, and we hear from the chaplains that they are very popular with the men.

The Union is now preparing a receptacle to hold these pamphlets. We shall send a receptacle to every camp where there is a Jewish chaplain, and shall also send him a supply of Popular Studies. Thus, Fort Bragg will likewise be included. Whether that Orthodox Jewish chaplain will wish to display our material is, of course, something that we cannot control.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the New Year to you and yours, in which Gussie joins me, I am

Cordially yours,

Secretary

LE:SG

P. S. I hope you will let us know the date that you receive from the University of Chicago as soon as you get it, because we do want to make adequate preparation in Chicago for a goodly audience to hear you when you speak for the Union.

December 29, 1942 Rabbi Louis I. Egelson, Secretary The Tract Commission Merchants Building Cincinnati, Ohio My dear Rabbi Egelson: Thank you so much for your kind letter of December 28. I am very happy to know that the Union is placing tracts in the army camps and that it is now arranging for a receptacle to hold these pamphlets. When I was at Fort Bragg I reelized with what avidity soldiers scan these pamphlets provided they are very brief and very simply written. A great deal of good can be done through them. With all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, AHS: BK

Leo M. Franklin, Detroit
Chairman

Harry W. Ettelson, Memphis
Vice-Chairman

Israel Bettan, Cincinnati
Edward N. Calisch, Richmond
Sidney S. Tedesche, Brooklyn
Jacob J. Weinstein, Chicago

The Tract Commission

Under the Joint Auspices of

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

MERCHANTS BUILDING

Committee Chairmen

Editorial
Harry W. Ettelson

Holiday Sermon Pamphlet
Jacob J. Weinstein

Holiday Press Notices
Edward N. Calisch

Louis I. Egelson, Cincinnati Secretary

January 4, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

l. I want to acknowledge your letter of December 29. We shall certainly follow through on placing our pamphlets in the hands of the Jewish men in the service.

Cincinnati

2. We recently decided to issue a new set of pamphle ts for the Jewish men in the armed forces. These will be much shorter than our regular Popular Studies (tracts). They are to be more popularly written and are to appeal particularly to the average mind.

We are just now seeking authors to write these pamphlets. We want perhaps ten in the series. Each pamphlet is to be about 2000 words in length. Of course, it is to be distinctly Jewish in character. Would you consent to let us have a short essay on "Judaism in a World at War" or "Jewish Ideals and War Aims?"

I would appreciate very much receiving your acceptance and shortly thereafter the essay itself.

3. Have you heard from the University of Chicago as to the date of your address there? We want to prepare the way in Chicago as far in advance of your coming as possible. If the date for your visit to Chicago has already been set, please be good enough to wire it to me. Soon after I get that word from you, I shall want to run up to Chicago for a meeting with the presidents of the congregations in order to make the necessary arrangements.

With cordial regards and best wishes to you and yours for the new year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

LE:RM

January 4, 1943 Mr. Adolph Rosenberg Union American Hebrew Congregations Merchants Building Cincinnati, Ohio My dear Mr. Rosenberg: My date with the University of Wisconsin has definitely been set for Sunday evening, January 31st. I shall, therefore, be free to come to the meeting which you plan to arrange in Chicago, if the date of the meeting can be set for Monday, February 1st. This would save me a special trip. With all good wishes, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

ADOLPH ROSENBERG Chairman of the Board

ROBERT P. GOLDMAN President

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RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

January 6, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. at Ansel Road
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Silver:

I just received your letter of January 4, in which you were kind enough to give us the date of Monday, February 1, for the Chicago meeting.

Rabbi Egelson reminded me that when he was in Chicago recently he was told that Monday night is a bad night for Chicago, because it is dedicated to open forum. I asked Rabbi Egelson to call up Dr. Louis Mann to confirm that. Dr. Mann said that Monday night is the open forum of Sinai Congregation, and on that very evening which you suggested, namely, February 1, Dr. Freehof will be in Chicago to speak at the forum.

I do not think it would be wise to have that competition on that night.

Could you give us another date a week or so later, and preferably a Tuesday or a Wednesday?

I would appreciate it if you would wire me collect.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg Chairman of the Board

AR:RM

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J. C. WILLEVER

Telephoned BW

January 7

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Adolf Rosenberg

34 West 6th Street

Street and No._

Care of or Apt. No.

Cincinnati, Ohio

Place

A R C H I V E S

WOULD TUESDAY FEBRUARY NINTH BE A CONVENIENT DATE. REGARDS

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Yes- shay-wired reply- Jan. 8 / BW.

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION" or similar phrases may be included without charge.

Sender's address for reference

Sender's telephone

(Vencennate) Ohio Tuesday February 9th is acceptables to Chicago Thanks very much Legardo . O adolph Rosenberg

ADOLPH ROSENBERG Chairman of the Board

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THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE
THE DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

January 25, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105th & Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I did not want to intrude with other matters on your celebration last week. Therefore I postponed writing this letter to you.

We are all delighted to know that you will speak for the Union on Tuesday evening, February 9, at a Dinner Meeting. We are anticipating concrete results following your address.

As you know, Chicago is a wealthy community that should support the Union in a substantial way. In our estimation \$50,000. a year would not be too much for so important a group. And we must get it from individuals rather than from congregations; we have felt for a long time that the support of the Union and the College can only come in that way.

As a member of the Board of Governors of the College, it is frequently called to my attention that within five or six years the funds of the College will be exhausted. A base of support must now be built up which will enable the College to continue its activities at least upon its present level. The College has taken on responsibility to its faculty with reference to pensions - an obligation that must be met with the help of the Jewish community in America.

The Union also requires more funds on a much larger scale. If we are to publish a Reform Magazine worthy of us; if we are to continue to expand the fine educational work which we have been doing; if we are to continue to reach the non-Jew with proper information about Judaism and the Jew; if we are to meet the needs of the men in the armed

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RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver 2. Jan. 25, 1943 forces through pamphlets that we are publishing and plan to publish, we must have more funds at our disposal. Certainly the Bureau of Synagogue Activities is developing to a point where it is not only serving our affiliated congregations but it is also making a genuine contribution to its Committee on Ceremonies. therough Our Youth Work is also progressing, though it is somewhat limited by the fact that many of our young men have gone into the service of our country. Our program of regional activities would naturally be expanded if the chaplaincy were not taking all our younger men. One reason why I am taking this line of thought is because the Committee on Arrangements in Chicago particularly asked for more information about the institutions they are requested to support. It is definitely a problem of education on what we are doing. Rabbi Appelbaum will be in Chicago to look after the details in connection with the meeting. We are very hopeful that our success there will be commensurate with the effort. With kind regards and best wishes, I am Cordially yours, a Roseph Nosuting Adolph Rosenberg -Chairman of the Board AR:SG

LAW OFFICES OF H. N. GOTTLIEB CHARLES K. SCHWARTZ CLAUDE A. ROTH GOTTLIEB AND SCHWARTZ WILLIAM J. FRIEDMAN DÁVID L. BAZELON 231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET HAROLD L. PERLMAN HARRY E. SMOOT CHICAGO LEROY WEIS STANLEY A. KAPLAN PAUL ZIFFREN TELEPHONE ANDOVER 1188 MAURICE ROSENFIELD HERBERT L. STERN, JR. MORTON J. HARRIS HARRY SCHULMAN February 2, 1943 Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. C/o The Temple, Ansel Road and East 105th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. Dear Dr. Silver: --I feel that I may be regarded as in a dual capacity in addressing you -- as a Chicago Jew, and as an officer and director of the Union Board. In both I am happy to know that you will come to Chicago and afford us the privilege of hearing you at our meeting on Tuesday evening, February 9; for Chicago needs your message and the Union will be the beneficiary. We shall look forward to your coming and a warm welcome awaits you. understand that arrangements are being made to have you stay at The Standard Club, which is also the place of the meeting. I shall call upon you there in due time for the meeting, and trust that we shall be able to make your visit a comfortable and pleasant one -- in addition to the great value and inspiration we know it will bestow on us. With kindest personal regards, I am, Sincerely you South beeleck HNG/R

February the 4th 1 9 4 3

My dear Mr. Gottlieb:

Thank you for your kind letter of February second.

I am looking forward with pleasure to my visit to Chicago in behalf of the Union American Hebrew Congress. Thank you for making reservation for me at the Standard Club.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:bw Mr. Henry J. Gottlieb 231 South LaSalle Street Chicago, Illinois



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RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

February 11, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105th & Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

AR:SG

Rabbi Egelson told me of the magnificent address that you delivered Tuesday night at the meeting in Chicago. On behalf of the Union I want to express to you our sincere thanks. You stated in your address that that was the first time that you had spoken for the Union. I certainly hope that we may be able to call on you soon again to present our cause in another city.

We know that the educational process requires more than one stimulating meeting. Rabbi Heller spoke in Chicago last year, and you spoke this year. After a similar meeting next year I hope that we will have gotten Chicago into the habit of considering the Union and the Hebrew Union College as institutions on the "must" list for support.

Thanking you again and with kindest regards, I am

Adolph Rosenberg

Sincerely yours

Chairman of the Board

March 1, 1948 Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath Congregation Holy Blossom 1950 Bathurst St. Toronto, Ontario My dear Maurice: I read with the great joy the announcement that you have been released from your congregational duties to devote yourself for some time at least, to the interests of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. I am sure that no finer choice could have been made. The Union is extremely fortunate in having procured your services, for you will bring to it a quality of leadership, consecration and talent which will prove of great value not alone to the Union, but to American Israel. Most cordially yours, AHS: BK

Holy Blossom Temple TORONTO March 8, 1943.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, The Temple, East 105th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend:

I cannot tell you how deeply I appreciate your warm-hearted and fine-spirited word of felicitation upon my decision to assume, for the time being, the position of Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Nothing has been more gratifying to me than the friendship that you have manifested toward me, and the confidence that you have frequently indicated you have in me. I only hope that in the difficult tasks that lie ahead I may in no wise disappoint you. Such words of commendation, coming from one whom I iesteem in highly as I do yourself, cannot but give me great courage at a time when I desperately need such confidence. It will be almost impossible for me to achieve even the smallest measure of success which you have been gracious enough to anticipate, without the fullest co-operation of such distinguished leaders of American Israel as yourself.

I know how many years of outstanding service you have given not only to American Israel in general, but to the Union in particular, and I was particularly pleased to hear of the fine piece of work which you did in Chicago. I do pray that I may feel free to call upon you to be of similar helpfulness in the future for, I repeat, that without the tangible assistance of such men of far-reaching influence as yourself, I will be unable to do the things which we all feel must be accomplished in this crucial hour.

Once more thanking you so very much for your words, which I shall always prize and which will ever prove most heartening to me, and with warmest personal greetings, I am

Yours most cordially,

Marrie

MNE:TG

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RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

March 9, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have been waiting this long to hear from you because I anticipated receiving from you the bill for your expenses in connection with your visit to Chicago for the Union, which we greatly appreciated. Won't you please be good enough to let me have the statement of your expenses.

I am enclosing two pamphlets that are just off the press. These are intended particularly for the Jewish men in the armed forces. They are part of a new series about which I wrote to you on January 4.

At that time I asked if you would care to write one in that series, and I suggested one or two subjects, "Judaism in a World at War" or "Jewish Ideals and War Aims."

You know, we have been anxious for some time to have you write a pamphlet for us in our regular series of Popular Studies. Another one has just appeared on "Judaism and War" by Professor Cohon, a copy of which will be sent to you shortly with other material.

If you won't write one in the longer series, will you do the one in the shorter series, as suggested above?

With kind regards and trusting to hear from you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Administrative Secretary

LE:RM

March 11, 1943 Rabbi Louis I. Egelson, Administrative Sec'y The Union of American Hebrew Congregations 34 West Sixth Street Cincinnati, Ohio My dear Rabbi Egelson: Thank you so much for your letter. My expenses in connection with my visit to Chicago amounted to \$15. I enjoyed reading the two brief pamphlets which you enclosed. That is the sort of thing that should be made available to all the Army chapels and placed into the hands of all our chaplains. If I have some free time, I will try to write one for you. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

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Dr. Jonah B. Wise, New York

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

March 12, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

In accordance with your letter of March 11, I am enclosing, together with our repeated thanks for your fine cooperation, a check for \$15.00 to reimburse your expenses in connection with your visit to Chicago for the Union.

I appreciate very much your favorable comment regarding the two brief pamphlets that I sent you. I value your opinion very highly.

We are distributing these pamphlets widely. About fifty of the chaplains have already ordered the pamphlets which, of course, we are sending them gratis. The new rack that we prepared to place these and our regular Popular Study series is also in demand. Before long we expect to have our pamphlets in everyone of the army chapels.

I do hope that you will give yourself the compulsion to write a brief pamphlet for us in this series, even though you do not have very much free time.

With kindest regards and looking forward to seeing you at the Union Convention in New York, I am

Cordially yours,

Administrative Secretary

LE:RM

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RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

March 16, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver Cleveland, O.

Dear Dr. Silver:

AR: GS

I am calling a meeting of the Executive Board of the Union for Thursday, April 1, at two P.M., at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. The Convention will begin on Friday, April 2.

There are two main items of business on our schedule:

- 1. The adoption of the budget for 1943-44.
- 2. Our answer to the invitation to join the American Jewish Assembly.

It is needless for me to say that the decision that might be arrived at is of the utmost importance. Therefore, your presence is highly essential.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg

Chairman of the Board

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TENTATIVE PROGRAM - 38TH COUNCIL, U.A.H.C. New York, April 2-4, 1943

THEME OF CONVENTION: MAN'S FAITH AND THIS CRISIS

Friday Morning - April 2, 1943

FORMAL OPENING OF COUNCIL

- 1. OPENING REMARKS Mr. Robert P. Goldman, President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations
- 2. Invocation -
- 3. Appointment of Committees
 - a) On Credentials
 - b) On Permanent Organization
- 4. ADDRESS OF CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD Mr. Adolph Rosenberg
- 5. Reports of Committees
 - a) On Credentials
 - b) On Permanent Organization
- 6. PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT OF 38TH COUNCIL
- 7. Appointment of Council Committees
 - a) On Resolutions
 - b) On Nominations
 - c) On Time and Place of Next Council
 - d) On Thanks

Friday Noon - Brief Religious Service

Friday Afternoon -

- 2:00 P.M. THE PILLARS OF OUR FAITH A Symposium A Layman Presiding
 - 1. Prayer -
 - 2. Study -
 - 3. Charity -
- 4:00 P.M. Round Table of Presidents and Rabbis on Rabbinical Pensions - Mr. Jacob Aronson, New York, presiding.

Friday Evening Service -

Opening Prayer

Sermon - Rabbi James G. Heller, Cincinnati

Benediction

Saturday Morning Service - April 3, 1943

Invocation -

Sermon - Rabbi Louis Binstock, Chicago

Benediction

Saturday Afternoon -

4:00 P.M. - The Chaplain's Service A Layman Presiding

Army Chaplain -

Navy Chaplain -

Saturday Evening .

THE HEALING OF HUMANITY - A Symposium A Layman Presiding

1. The Catholic -

2. The Protestant -

3. The Jew -

Discussion

Sunday Morning - April 4, 1943

10:30 A.M. - Invocation

ISRAEL'S PRESENT AND FUTURE - A Symposium A Layman Presiding

1. A Sociologist-Historian -

2. A Rabbi -

Discussion

Sunday Noon - Brief Religious Service

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

April 13, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

It was so good to have seen you in New York and to have had a few minutes here and there with yourself and your good wife. I was especially thrilled to have listened to your very stirring and convincing comments before the Executive Board of the Union which I am certain had a profound effect in the decision finally reached.

I am very eager to talk with you about a number of important matters and I am wondering whether it would be convenient for you to have me drop by Cleveland on my way back to Cincinnati after being in Toronto for the first day of Passover. I could be in Cleveland on Wednesday, April 21.

Would you mind dropping me a note to Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto, where I will be the end of this week, letting me know whether it will be convenient for you to see me and just what time will be best for you.

Hoping to hear from you soon and again with warmest personal greetings, I am

Yours most cordially,

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath Director

RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON P, f. Share just read your very fine statement an Jewish Education: This is just the word that needs to be stoken now and, as always, you have stated it mind sersuasively.

April 18, 1943 Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath Holy Blossom Temple Toronto, Ontario Canada My dear Maurice: I shall be very pleased to see you in Cleveland on Wednesday. Please telephone before you come to my study so that we can set the exact time. With all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, AHS: BK

COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

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AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

April 19, 1943

Dr. Abba H. Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend:

Under separate cover, I am sending you a marked copy of the last issue of THE JEWISH TEACHER which contains a review by myself of your "World Crisis and Jewish Survival." I trust you will find it of interest.

With best wishes from house to house,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

Educational Director

EG: JM

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DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER THE TEMPLE TOS ANSELCARDOF TELEPHONED TELEGRAP

XXXXXXX XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX CLEVE=

I HAVE THE HONOR TO APPOINT YOU A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION OF RABBIS AND LAYMEN AUTHORIZED BY THE 38TH COUNCIL OF UNION TO CONSIDER THE DIVISION WHICH HAS ARISEN CENTRAL CONFERENCE. I AM SETTING MAY 2ND. NEWYORKCITY AS TENTATIVE PLACE OF MEETING. WILL NOTIFY LATER AS TO NAME OF HOTELAND EXACT TIME. THE MATTER

SUCH GRAVE IMPORTANCETHATO I AM COUNTING ON YOU OF PHILADELPHIA AND JUDGE HORACE STERN LEHMAN NEWYORK, HAVE ALREADY CONSENTED TO SERVE. PLEASE WIRE YOUR ACCEPTANCE

> PRESIDENT UNION OF AMERICAN ADOLP ROSENBERG HEBREW CONGREGATIONS .

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SG 256P

BQA79

APRIL 22, 1943 Dr. Emanuel Gamoran, Educational Director Commission on Jewish Education Merchants Building Cincinnati, Ohio My dear Gamoran: Thank you so much for your kind note and for the copy of the "Jewish Teacher" which you sent me. I read your very lovely review of my book and I appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing of it. With all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, AHS: BK

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

April 22, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

I want to thank you so much for the very helpful conversation of yesterday and to assure you that I appreciate deeply your fine spirit of cooperation. I have thought considerably about your own viewpoint in the matter, and I want to repeat what I said yesterday regarding the validity of your arguments. I was especially impressed by your feeling that it would be more helpful to proceed along more constructive lines than to spend any considerable time in meeting with any particular group. However, in reflecting upon the matter further, an idea came to me which I would like to place before you, for what it may be worth. I hope that you will not consider it in any wise a subterfuge, for I am most sincere in advancing this somewhat different point of view than occurred to me yesterday.

In view of the fact that the Union is going into the American Jewish Conference, I feel that it would be imperative for us to formulate quite clearly our own position with regard to post-war Jewish reconstruction and especially with regard to Palestine. I believe that this positive approach to the problem is a sound one and ought to elicit your indispensable cooperation. I cannot conceive the Union formulating a policy with regard to such vital problems without your personal assistance. Please think this over from this point of view and let me know whether there is any way in which you could actively cooperate.

I might add that Mr. Rosenberg saw Judge Horace Stern when he was East last weekend for the Executive meeting of the American Jewish Conference. He procured Judge Stern's assent to serve Dr. Abba Hillel Silver 2. April 22, 1943 on our proposed Commission, and likewise the acquiescence of Judge Irving Lehman. In view of the cooperation of such laymen who are in no way connected with the Council of American Judaism, our Commission will not be in reality a meeting with the Council but rather an endeavor to find a formula for the guidance of the Union in its participation with the whole of American Jewry. I hope that this present proposal appeals to you more than the somewhat more negative approach which I first placed before you. I would appreciate it deeply if you would let me hear from you at your earliest opportunity. I am looking forward eagerly to being with you on Sunday morning, the 23rd, and I do hope that you have been able to arrange a Board meeting for luncheon the following day. Once more thanking you so very much for your generous cooperation, and with warmest Passover greetings, I am, as ever, Yours most faithfully, Maurine Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath MNE:SG Director

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

April 23, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

I hope that you will not consider me too importunate in writing you this additional letter regarding the matter which you may well know has given me considerable concern. However, in thinking further about this problem, I have this added hope regarding the possible consequence of the Commission, which we discussed together. Is it not likely that if we are successful in formulating a program - not for the Zionist Organization of America, of course - but for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and for Liberal Judaism in America, that this would render superfluous any further discussion at the C.C.A.R., which is the thing which you wish so very much to avoid? I am of the opinion that in the event that we reach some common ground at the Commission meeting, that we could well postpone any further discussion at least until after the American Jewish Conference.

I do not like to contemplate the idea of attempting to fashion a program for the Union on the problem of post-war reconstruction and particularly on the question of our Liberal Jewish attitude toward Palestine without your influence. I do not wish to press you, but I do feel that at this particular juncture it is most imperative for the Union to have a positive, rather than a neutral, policy, and a constructive program. It was with this in mind that I took this position, and I believe that the proposed Commission would help to create such a policy and program.

I do covet your presence at such a meeting, and I pray that you may find some way of altering

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver 2. April 23, 1943 your opinion in view of these additional facts that I have placed before you. Once more with warmest personal greetings, I am, as ever, Yours most faithfully, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath Director MNE:SG

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Director The Union of American Hebrew Congregations 34 West 6th St. Cincinnati. Ohio

My dear Maurice:

I received both of your letters and I read them with the closest attention. I wish I could see my way clear to adopt a different position from the one which I have taken after a rather careful survey of the whole situation.

I do not believe that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations should at this time meet to discuss what its attitudes should be to questions which would arrise at the American Jewish Conference. It would be far better to wait and see what subjects do come up for discussion, whether sharp differences do arise, and when they do, it will be ample time for the Union as well as for all other organizations who are members of the Conference to meet and individually to decide what their attitude should be.

When that time comes and the Union has a definite proposal made at the American Jewish Conference before it to consider and wishes to call in a group of men in order to clarify the Union's position on that concrete proposal, I shall naturally be very happy to serve on such a committee.

This procedure would be far more helpful than the one which is now suggested. Any discussion at the moment would take on the character of another attempt at "appeasement" such as has already been made in Pattsburgh and in Baltimore. It would still further confirm the small group in their self-assumed importance, and if the negotiations break down again as well they might, it would greatly embarrass the Union in the American Jewish Conference.

The best thing for the Union to do is to wait until the Conference meets. And that holds true also as far as the C.C.A.R. is concerned. I regard the prominence given to the subject at the forthcoming meeting of the Conference as most unfortunate.

Rabbi Eisendrath -2-April 27, 1943 I have so expressed myself both to Dr. Heller and to Dr. Freehof. It is not yet too late to revise the Conference program for its next meeting. American Jewry is organizing itself on a democratic basis for concerted action on all the vital subjects confronting world Jewry today. All discussions and opposing viewpoints should be focussed in the American Jewish Conferenced when it meets. All side-shows should be pushed off the stage until the Conference meets. With all good wishes, I remain Most cordially yours, AHS: BK

LIBERAL JUDAISM

Editorial Offices: 506 FT. WASHINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK

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A monthly journal to foster progressive Judaism — for the advancement of the spiritual and cultural ideals of Israel and mankind

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1383

May 12, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple 246 East 105 Street Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Perhaps you have had a preliminary inkling of the Union's forthcoming magazine. I write at this time merely to say that our editorial plans contemplate enlistment of your literary cooperation at some early stage of our progress. You might in the interim wish to reflect on the manner in which you can be most helpful through such collaboration. I enclose a descriptive brochure which may be of some guidance.

The first issue of LIBERAL JUDAISM will be off press in a few days and of course a copy will be mailed you for your scrutiny. I shall be pleased to have your reactions in due time.

Faithfully yours,

Louis Rittenberg

Editor-in-Chief

LR:hrr

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

May 19, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

AR:SG

Encl.

Although you did not accept appointment on the Commission of Rabbis and Laymen, I know your deep interest in this whole matter. I am therefore sending you herewith, for your information, the minutes of the meeting held in New York on May 2, although we are not making them public.

Any reaction that you may care to express will be gratefully received.

With cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg
President

MINUTES OF

COMMISSION OF RABBIS AND LAYMEN

The Commission of Rabbis and Laymen authorized by the 38th Council of the Union met at the Hotel New Yorker on Sunday, May 2, 1943, at 10:30 A.M.

Present were: Rabbis Barnett R. Brickner, Max C. Currick, William H. Fineshriber, James G. Heller, Morris S. Lazaron, Emil W. Leipziger, Felix H. Levy, Julian Morgenstern; Messrs, Robert P. Goldman, Adolph Rosenberg, Joseph Proskauer, Meier Steinbrink, Horace Stern, and Rabbis Maurice N. Eisendrath and Louis I. Egelson.

Regrets at their inability to be present were received from Jacob Aronson, Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, Irving Lehman, Charles S. Simons, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and Rabbi Louis Wolsey.

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg presided and Rabbi Louis I. Egelson acted as Secretary.

At the request of Mr. Rosenberg, the meeting opened with prayer by Rabbi Max C. Currick.

Mr. Rosenberg stated the purpose of the meeting. He reviewed the events leading to his recommendation for the appointment of the Commission. This Commission was to be a consultative body. The laymen are looking to the Union to take a stand on the vital issues of Jewish life. The Union leadership feels that it cannot approach the complex problems by dogmatically asserting any specific philosophy of Jewish life. It prefers to affirm its adherence to a program of concrete action for the expansion and intensification of the influence of Reform Judaism in America, and also a program of concrete action with reference to the Jews in the United States, in Europe, and in Palestine.

He pointed out that a number of programs had been presented from time to time. Judge Charles C. Simons had written a letter suggesting a basis for arriving at a united program. Judge Horace Stern had developed a plan. The American Jewish Committee had announced its program, and Rabbi Eisendrath had also prepared a statement of objectives.

Mr. Rosenberg called on Rabbi Eisendrath to read Judge Simons' letter, and then proposed that there be an informal discussion.

Judge Proskauer said that all programs had a common factor, and that out of the American Jewish Conference there might emerge the desired program. He was impressed with the needs of the Union and the College. There is something vital in Judaism and the Jewish tradition. Judaism will continue as a world force as long as it is a great contributing factor in the development of civiliza-

tion. Therefore, it is a question of preserving for the world what is necessary for civilization. The great compromises of history have been made on conduct and not on principles. The forum where the decision will be made for good or ill, will be the American Jewish Conference. Extremists on both sides will never steer the ship through the troubled waters.

Rabbi Heller expressed agreement with Judge Proskauer's opinion. He declared that some rabbis felt that the difference among the rabbis should be settled by the rabbis. However, the Union has considerable interest in the matter. He reviewed the events that led up to the present situation: the Army resolution at the C.C.A.R. meeting in February, 1941; the creation of the American Council of Judaism; the attempts for peace at Pittsburgh and Baltimore. He stated that many members of the C.C.A.R. felt that the American Council of Judaism was creating another body to parallel the work of the C.C.A.R. - that it was a definite "Chilul Ha Shem" to divide the Jews at this time. He has been urging the Zionists to eschew arguments for a "Jewish State" or Jewish Commonwealth," but the American Council of Judaism has -created an atmosphere that will make moderation on the part of the Zionists very difficult. All that the C.C.A.R. asks is that the American Council of Judaism discuss the issue within the Central Conference and not outside of it.

Rabbi Lazaron declared himself earnestly in favor of trying to find a common platform. He said the Jewish Army resolution was only the last straw, that the non-Zionist rabbis were under constant pressure. He had been accused of throwing a monkey wrench in Zionist plans, but the fact is that when he was in England he had asked Anthony Eden to reaffirm the Balfour Declara-The American Council of Judaism was organized because it was realized that there was truth in the Zionist pronouncements that there was an endeavor to capture American Jewish life for Zionism. At present there is no instrument that will present the point of view of the non-Zionists. The American Council is -not a rabbinic organization. Its dissolution is out of the picture, but a definite program of unity is in the picture. He declared his opposition to a program that is based on the concept of the Jew as a national entity, but he was willing to assist in working out a program that would help our Jewish people.

Judge Stern pointed out that the Commission could choose one of three attitudes:

- 1. We can pass a resolution that the Union should remain neutral; that every rabbi and every group may have and stress its own opinion;
- 2. We can do nothing;
- 3. We can try to arrive at an agreement on a working plan on the Palestine question, a plan to which all groups can give assent.

If we can reach such an agreement, the American Council of Judaism may lose its raison d'etre. He pleaded for an attempt to achieve unanimity.

Judge Steinbrink cited the example of the 38th Council of the Union, which managed to steer its way through harmonious paths.

President Morgenstern stated that this meeting was not a preview for the American Jewish Conference. We are here because we are confronted with a vital issue. There are two aspects to our problem. First, there is the condition of our coreligionists in Europe, for whom Palestine offers a great haven. Secondly, there is the religious destiny of the Jewish people. The responsibility for the continued interpretation of Judaism as a religion has shifted to America. We are concerned with the underlying philosophy of our movement - Judaism as a religion with a definite task to perform in the world. We are concerned with what is going to happen with our Judaism in America. The American Jewish Conference will deal with political and economic problems. Our task here is to deal with religious principles for which we stand. We need a will to unity, and that ought to be affirmed.

Rabbi Brickner said that he came to the meeting in the hope that we would explore each other's minds to find the basis where we meet, and to determine whether we could go on together. He declared his great interest in the future of the Union, the College and the C.C.A.R., and asked: "Is there a basis on which we can all stand?"

Adjournment was taken for lunch.

Rabbi Fineshriber declared that the Central Conference could not decide as to the program of the American Council of Judaism. It is a lay-rabbinical organization and is officered by laymen. There is no desire on the part of the rabbis in the Council to secede from the C.C.A.R. Our purpose here is to achieve unity. We can compose our differences here. If we can arrive here at unity, the American Council will endorse our decision. The American Council will be a tower of strength to the Union. As the Council gains strength, it will give strength to the Union. Let

Cus try to find the principles on which we all can agree.

Rabbi Levy called attention to the fact that the Union and

the Central Conference stand for the religious interpretation of life. Why, then, an American Council of Judaism?

Judge Proskauer said: "Let's try to settle this schism," and stated he would like to clear away some underbrush. He thought that mistakes were made by both sides. The C.C.A.R. was wrong to pass the Army resolution. As to the American Council of Judaism, wisdom would have dictated that that organization should not have

come from the members of the C.C.A.R. The name of the Council seems to impugn the Judaism or Americanism of the Conference of Rabbis. You can't ask the Council to commit hari-kari. When the American Jewish Conference meets, it will decide whether there will be unity or not. If the American Jewish Conference agrees on a moderate program, the American Council of Judaism will have achieved its purpose.

What should be the attitude of the American Council of Judaism in the meantime?

- 1. The American Council of Judaism should seek a name descriptive of its real purpose.
- 2. The American Council of Judaism under its new name, retaining its full right of expression, should endeavor as far as possible to confine its publicity to a statement of its own principles and to recruiting its own membership
- 3. We are all to do our best in the election of delegates to the American Jewish Conference to have the voice of non-Zionists recognized.
 - 4. That the C.C.A.R. accept this modus vivendi.

Judge Proskauer moved the adoption of the above four points as the sense of this meeting. Judge Stern seconded the motion.

Rabbi Fineshriber stated that he personally had no objection to a change of name, but that it would have to be decided by the Council; that he will recommend to the Council that no publicity be given out till the American Jewish Conference meets. He asked for agreement on a statement here, that if the C.C.A.R. would accept it at its meeting in June, it would be very helpful for unity.

Rabbi Heller said the C.C.A.R. does not intend to have public squabbles. The discussion on Zionism at the C.C.A.R. will be in executive session. If the American Council of Judaism would accept Judge Proskauer's suggestions, it would tend to allay the feeling among many rabbis and laymen. It would be a gesture toward American Jewish unity. He expressed the thought that all groups should refrain from statements that may muddy the waters.

Judge Stern asked that the American Council of Judaism issue a statement that they are a lay organization.

Mr. Goldman seconded Judge Proskauer's suggestion for a change of name for the American Council. He asked: "Isn't the U.A.H.C. in reality the American Council for Reform Judaism? If another group comes out and says it is the representative of Reform Judaism, it is confusing to the lay mind." He suggested that if the Council had taken a new name, it would have gotten more adherents. He added that he had been working with many people in the American Jewish Conference and found them willing

Corporate Confession

to work for unity. We must often compromise in our plans for action, not in our ideologies.

Rabbi Lazaron informed the Commission that the suggestion for a change of name will be brought to the American Council group. The Council intends to set its position before the Jews of the country, to build up an organization; and to cooperate with the American Jewish Conference.

Rabbi Fineshriber reiterated that the American Council is not a rabbinical body; that it is a lay-rabbinical group and not in conflict with the C.C.A.R. One of the recently elected officers is a layman, a member of an Orthodox congregation. The Council is preparing a new statement of principles. The Union has no need to fear.

Rabbi Brickner pointed out that fundamentally there is a difference in ideology between the two rabbinic groups. Wherein do we differ; where do we agree? he asked.

Rabbi Heller said that the purpose of this meeting is to allay the difficulties that have arisen. The members of the American Jewish Council can't say they are part of an organization with no religious approach. They regard Zionism as secular and not religious. When they set forth their reasons for existence, they are setting up an organization for the interpretation of Reform Judaism. Finally, he said, he will be obliged to submit the recommendations of the Commission to his own organization, the C.C.A.R.

Judge Proskauer concluded the discussion with the statement that no one was a more devout Jew than Claude Montefiore, yet he was opposed to Zionism. If some people want to form a lay organization, it would not put them in opposition to the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The Commission is to make its recommendations to the two organizations -- the C.C.A.R. and the American Council of Judaism. There is wisdom in this group to make for peace.

Mr. Rosenberg presented the recommendations made by Judge Proskauer as stated above and they were unanimously carried.

Rabbi Heller suggested that the President of the Union appoint a committee to formulate the stand that its delegates should take at the American Jewish Conference. There is need to crystallize what the point of view of the Union should be.

Mr. Rosenberg added that we need to develop our own point of view - a program which we may send to our own congregations.

Rabbi Eisendrath read a statement of aims and purposes for the Union which he had prepared. He urged the formulation of a program because many of our laymen are asking where the Union stands.

It was the consensus that Rabbi Eisendrath's paper be presented to a committee that will be appointed to formulate the Union's program.

Adjourned.

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JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

May 20, 1943

Dr. Abba H. Silver The Temple East 105th at Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

You undoubtedly remember my informal conversation with you during the sessions of the convention of the Union concerning the possibility of your undertaking to prepare a commentary on the Book of Jeremiah in our series of Bible commentaries.

It now gives me great pleasure to extend to you, on behalf of the Committee on Bible Commentaries, a most cordial invitation to undertake this work. I shall greatly appreciate word from you accepting this assignment.

As you know, we are working on a series of popular Bible commentaries for our lay people and for teachers in the Jewish religious schools. These commentaries are to be published together with the text in English, following the version issued by the Jewish Publication Society. They are intended not so much as critical studies, but for edification and inspiration. While based on the best results of modern research, they are to utilize our classical Jewish commentaries and some of our aggadic Midrashic material whenever it is desirable to do so.

We like to think that our men take some time off to devote to Torah, and we are looking forward to having a complete series of Bible commentaries written chiefly by members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

I know full well how very busy you are, not only with your congregation, but with the splendid work which you are doing for the upbuilding of Palestine. Nevertheless, I feel that it is both good and necessary for each one of us to be a and from the result. Let this, then,

be your Torah for two years.

I am enclosing a copy of the statement which our Committee on Bible Commentaries prepared for the guidance of our commentators.

We shall be pleased to hear from you as to whether you can undertake this work.

With all good wishes to Virginia, to the children, and to you, in which Mamie joins me, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Emanuel

Educational Director

EG: JM

P.S. Both Sal and I hope that you can see your voy eleur to accepting this arrangement.

NRHS

AMERICAN REVISES

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THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

May 25, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

I want to thank you so very much for your many kindnesses to me during my recent visit to Cleveland: first of all, for your most generous introduction to the congregation at the Sunday morning service, which I did deeply appreciate; also for your own and your good wife's most gracious hospitality in your lovely home, and finally, for your making it possible for me to have what I thought was a most encouraging meeting with your Board of Trustees. I was especially grateful for the vigorous affirmation that you made regarding the needs of the Union, and the responsibility of your own congregation in meeting them. I shall certainly take full advantage of your most generous offer to be of assistance to the Union and to myself, as I know of no one who can render our cause greater service than yourself.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing herewith a draft of a program which I am going to place before a small committee, which I hope will formulate a satisfactory program for the Union. I would have liked to have you present at such a meeting, but knowing your disinclination to go into this sort of thing, I did not press you further. I would appreciate, however, your private and wholly confidential reaction to this tentative draft. There is no one whose judgment and whose statesmanship I value more than your own, and your recommendations will be carefully considered by myself. I know just how busy you are these days, but if you could just read through this memorandum and perhaps dictate your reaction to it, I know that it will be of great profit to me. I shall be at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, until I go to Philadelphia for this

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver 2. May 25, 1943 meeting, and I would be most grateful if I could hear from you before next Sunday. Once more expressing to you and to your very charming wife my deepest appreciation of your many courtesies and kindnesses, I am, with warmest personal greetings, Yours most cordially, Munice Maurice & Risendrath MNE:SG Director Encl.

Draft of Suggested Program to be Presented to the Special Commission of the U.A.H.C., Meeting in Philadelphia, May 31, 1943.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations was founded to "affirm its faithful attachment to the sublime principles of Judaism, and ... under-4 takes to discharge these effectively, pursuant to the laws of the country 5 and under the protection of benign Providence." I. There has never been a time when this purpose of the Union, as set forth in the presmble to its Constitution, was more direly needed than today. It is universally recognized that the chaotic state in which the world finds itself is due not to superficial political, economic, or social causes, but rather to the failure to apply to human relation-ships the fundamental teachings of religion. The failure of men to recognize the implications of this religious teaching which affirms the Fatherhood of God and its corollary, the brotherhood of man, has resulted in moral anarchy and world-wide devasta- 16 tion. Materialism and secularism, divorced from God and from His moral law, have been made supreme in the affairs of men. In order to rebuild our broken civilization, the spiritual teachings of religion must be-come the dynamic force in our lives. II. The basic truths of religion, pertaining to the unity of God as Father and all men as brothers, the Jew was the first to enunciate, and it is imperative, in this hour of man's extremity, that we should hold fast to these teachings and proclaim them to our fellow men. III.

Especially on the soil of America, where the teachings of Israel

1	have been embodied into the democratic organization of our life, this	1
2	religious emphasis of Judaism is required. Consequently the Union of	2
3	American Hebrew Congregations must affirm as its first principle that	3
4	the Jew has a moral mission and a spiritual purpose in the world. Al-	4
5	though arising out of Jewish life, our message is universal. It seeks	5
6	the Kingdom of God and of His righteousness on earth. It labours for	6
7	justice and peace among men. Reform Judaism, in particular, emphasizing	7
8	the moral mandate of our Hebrew prophets, consciously applies their	8
9	preachments to the life of our time.	9
10	IV.	10
11	The Union of American Hebrew Congregations recognizes that the	11
12	Synagogue has always been the stronghold of Israel and must become	12
13	paramount in Jewish life once again today. Pressing as other causes	13
14	and aspirations of the Jew admittedly are, it must be in the Synagogue -	14
15	expanded and deepened to include all the varied aspects of Jewish life -	15
16	that the contemporary Jew must once again find his own strength and	16
17	inspiration, as well as the challenge to serve his fellow men. Within	17
18	the Synagogue we must rediscover our God, through whom alone we our-	18
19	selves and all mankind will attain that brotherhood which will bring	19
20	healing to humanity.	20
21	V.	21
22	To this end, the Union must translate its profession into concrete	22
23	action by intensifying its objectives, as stated in its Constitution:	23
24	1. "TO ENCOURAGE AND AID THE ORGANIZATION AND	24
25	DEVELOPMENT OF CONGREGATIONS AND SYNAGOGUES."	25
26	Whatever may be the final authoritative verdict concerning our tra-	26
27	ditional attitude toward proselytizing among the gentiles; however we may	27

debate about our historic mission to mankind, we have a duty to gather
the lost sheep of Israel back into the fold. Much has been said about
this problem of the unaffiliated and much has likewise been done about
it. More has been done about it by our Union of American Hebrew Congregations than by any other agency. But we have done not nearly enough.
The unaffiliated masses in our larger cities, demand our immediate
attention and missionary zeal.

2. "TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGE

THE STUDY OF JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE."

The educational program of our Union of American Hebrew Congrega-tions is an outstanding achievement in American Jewish life. Not only have we served our own constituency, but our curricula, our text-books, our study courses have been utilized by all sections of American Jewry. However, these times with their increasing secularization of all contemporary life, demand a far-reaching expansion of our program of education especially in the field of adult education. To this consuming task, the Union must now vigorously direct itself.

To the non-Jewish community likewise we must bring our message of "The Truth About the Jew." By tracts and pamphlets, through the columns of our LIBERAL JUDAISM magazine we must enlighten ever increasing numbers of Jews and Christians likewise as to the spiritual role of Israel in the modern world.

3. "TO MAINTAIN THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE."

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations was founded for the purpose of establishing on the free soil of America a college for the training of rabbis. For many years, Union and College were virtually identical. The one, the soil and seed; the other, the flower and the

1	fruit. They must become similarly unified today. With the extinction	1
2	of the light of learning in so many of the European seminaries and schools	. 2
3	the challenge to uphold this oldest Jewish theological college in Amer-	3
4	ica becomes more pressing than ever.	4
5	4. "TO FOSTER SUCH OTHER ACTIVITIES AS CONTRIBUTE	5
6	TO A PERPETUATION OF JUDAISM."	6
7	Nothing Jewish can be foreign to us. All phases of Jewish spiri-	7
8	tual and cultural aspiration must command our sympathetic interest and,	8
9	wherever possible, our cooperation. We must enter into the mainstream	9
0	of Jewish life; we must lead rather than follow in the moulding of a	10
1	united American Israel. In the words of Isaac Mayor Wise, the Founder	11
2	of our Union, "As God is a unity, so has He charged Israel to unite all	12
3	mankind. But before Israel can proceed with its sacred task, it be-	13
4	hooves us to be united as one man."	14
5	0/65/10	15
6	As Judaism is the soul, so Israel is the body. As our rabbis have	16
7	taught us, both body and soul, God's creation, must be preserved. There-	17
8	fore, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations acknowledges its kin-	18
9	ship with the entire people of Israel and is deeply concerned with its	19
0	tragic plight in so many lands today. Among all the peoples who have	20
1	been victims of contemporary tyranny and aggression, none has suffered	21
2	more than Israel. This unparalleled tragedy summons all Jews, and all	22
3	freedom-loving men as well, to forthright action. It must be recognized,	23
4	however, that in view of the varied conditions under which the widely	24
5	scattered members of the household of Israel have lived, no single pan-	25
6	acea for Israel's ills can be prescribed.	26
7	The Union of American Hebrew Congregations would urge, therefore,	27

1	that Jewish	post-war	reconstruction	be	sought	along	the	following	general	1
2	linesi									2

a. In America, in consonance with the tradition of religious liberty, 3 so largely inherited from our own Hebrew spiritual heritage, the Union 4 must insist that the Jew can express himself most truly and creatively x 5 as a religious community among the various other religious communities 6 within our nation.

B. The Union must support such effort as will assure for Jews in

every country of the world similar conditions of safe living, complete

protection of the law, full citizenship, equal opportunity, and freedom

for religious and cultural development.

C. Both because of the fact that all Jews have been bound by spiritual and historic ties to the Holy Land and because of the unprecedented 13
need of finding a permanent haven for so many uprooted Jews of Europe, 14
the Union today reaffirms its positive sympathy with and cooperation in 15
the upbuilding of Palestine, as stated in its resolution adopted at its 16
35th Riennial Council in New Orleans in 1937.

"The Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Council assembled expresses its satisfaction at the progress made by the Jewish Agency in the upbuilding of Palestine. We see the hand of Providence in the opening of the gates of Palestine for the Jewish people at a time when a large portion of Jewry is so desperately in need of a friendly shelter and a home where a spiritual, cultural center may be developed in ac-cordance with Jewish ideals. The time has now come for Jews, irrespec-tive of ideological differences, to unite in the activities leading to the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, and we urge our constituency to give their financial and moral support to the work of

1	rebuilding Palestine."	1
2	(In such a religious program for our Union in America, further de-	2
3	tail should be unnecessary. This comprehensive resolution urging the	3
4	active support on the part of our constituency, of such "activities	4
5	leading to the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine" should	5
6	suffice. If, however, greater detail is demanded because of the contro-	6
7	versial issues of the present moment; our attitude toward Immigration	7
8	and the future political status of Palestine might well follow the	8
9	moderate and reasoned views of Judge Horace Stern, slong the lines of	9
10	Appendix A and B, on pages 3 and 9.)	10
11	VII.	11
12	But this imperative and pressing task of providing a haven in	12
13	Palestine for our perescuted brothren will not suffice. It must be	13
14	acknowledged that "we live in a real sense of the word only that life	14
15	which we ourselves create and to the extent that WE create it. That	15
16	which we do not create, we do not live. A center of emulation will not	16
17	save us. Everywhere that a Jewish group lives there must be a cen-	17
18	ter of ereativity."	18
19	Unless we live a spiritually creative life in America we shall have	19
10	no destiny or future in this land. In view of the fact that America is	20
11	now the home of the largest and most influential Jewry in the world; in	21
12	view of the fact that the other centers of Jewish creativity throughout	22
23	the earth have been destroyed, it is incumbent upon the American Jew to	23
14	create in America that spiritual life by which alone we can endure.	24
15	This is preeminently the task of the Union of American Hebrew Con-	25
26	gregations. To this and our institution was founded. None is so well	26
17	equipped for this undertaking as are we. But to pursue this explicat	27

2.5%017		
1	role we must not merely continue the excellent work we have already in-	1
2	stituted; we must enlarge and enrich our program. We must make the voice	2
3	of our religion more vigorous and vocal in the land. We call, therefore,	3
4	upon our fellow Jews to rededicate themselves to this vision and task	4
5	so that, in harmony with all men, we may hopefully and courageously	5
6	continue Israel's eternal quest after God and His Kingdom on earth.	6
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1	Appendix A - Immigration	1
2	In accordance with this resolution urging "our constituency to give	2
3	their moral support to the work of rebuilding Palestine," the Union	3
4	seeks to unite its membership in a program with regard to Palestine that	4
5	will lead to common action despite admitted theological and ideological	5
6	differences. All the Jews, whether Zionist or non-Zionist, should be	6
7	able to agree that "Palestine can be a haven for only a part of the Jew-	7
8	ish people. Its development and welfare are of extreme and urgent im-	8
9	portance because of its potentialities as a country in which very large	9
10	numbers of Jews may dwell under favorable conditions of safety, freedom,	10
11	and opportunity for full development, and because of the sentimental and	11
12	emotional urge of large masses of Jews to live in what they regard as	12
13	the land of their fathers,"	13
14	Palestine, however, will be of little value to the Jewish people	14
15	if immigration therein is to be limited to its present insignificant	15
16	trickle. On the other hand, it must be recognized that an unrestrained x	16
17	immigration might plunge the country into economic chaos. It should be	17
18	agreed that there must be a substantial minimum of immigration into	18
19	Palestine annually, and that there must be established some objective,	/19
20	reasonable standard, or guide, by which additional immigration shall be	20
21	governed. This task might be placed into the hands of an appropriate	21
22	commission (preferably of the United Nations.)	22
23		23
24		24
25		25
26		26
		24

Appendix B - Puture Political Status of Palestine

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations reemphasizes its conviction that the Jewish people comprises fundamentally a religious community, with a universal spiritual mission to all mankind, and that this purpose can be achieved principally by the continued residence, both of right and of choice, of the Jew in the various countries of the world. However, there should be no contradiction between this broad vision and purpose of the great body in Israel and the possibility of the establishment of some form of Jewish self-government in Palestine at such a time when the Jews comprise a majority of its population. Such a government there established should be "democratic and non-sectarian, modelled upon that of the United States; the name and flag of the country would indicate its non-scatarian and democratic character." Palestine shall be "Jewish only" in the sense that the Jewish population, protected by being the majority, will without fear or hindrance, have the opportunity for free and full development. There must be attached to its Constitution a Bill of Rights and a "Fourteenth Amendment" as in the Constitution of the United States. There must be complete separation of Church and State. No laws shall be passed giving special rights or privileges of any kind to Jews as distinguished from other citizens. Whatever world or regional governments may be established after the present war shall guarantee these rights and privileges.

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AN AGENCY OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

3 EAST SIXTY-FIFTH STREET



TELEPHONE REGENT 4-1741

NEW YORK CITY

June 2, 1943

Dear Rabbi Silver:

At our Council in New York on April 2nd, approval was given to my recommendation that a Commission of Rabbis and Laymen be appointed to consider the growing division in Reform Judaism and to find a modus vivendi.

I appointed a Commission which met in New York on May 2nd. After much deliberation, certain objectives were outlined, and I was authorized to appoint a sub-Committee to prepare a set of principles.

This sub-Committee met in Philadelphia on May 31st and unanimously agreed on the enclosed declaration regarding post-war European Jewry and Palestine. The Committee consisted of Rabbis Barnett R. Brickner, James G. Heller, Solomon B. Freehof, Julian Morgenstern, William H. Fineshriber, Louis Wolsey, Maurice N. Eisendrath, Louis I. Egelson, and Messrs. Horace Stern and Adolph Rosenberg.

I am asking you to read the proposed Declaration of Principles very carefully and wire me your approval to the office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 32 West 6th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, as I wish to issue this without delay as a public statement expressive of the point of view of the Union.

Another sub-Committee is now preparing a statement with reference to the Union's position on the nature and character of Jewish life in America, which will be sent to you for your approval as soon as it is ready.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg

President, U.A.H.C.

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THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

June 4, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

Ever since I assumed my new and responsible post as Director of the Union, I have felt the pressing need of meeting with a number of my closest friends and leading colleagues whose assistance is indispensable to the work that I seek to accomplish as leader of the Union. I know that I am not mistaken in counting upon you both as such a friend and as such an invaluable and enthusiastic co-worker. I have therefore suggested to Mr. Rosenberg that he appoint you as a member of an enlarged, and I trust even more effective and vigorous, Survey Committee. I hope that you will accept this assignment and that I may count upon your utmost and concrete cooperation in this important Committee.

It is my earnest desire that I meet with the rabbinical members of this Committee at the earliest possible moment, but I do not want to make it necessary for you to make a special trip to such a meeting; consequently, I thought that we could meet together just prior to the sessions of the CCAR. Monday evening, June 21, is free, and I would be most grateful if you could arrange to meet with me at that time, to discuss some of the concrete projects which the Union should undertake in the immediate future.

You know how anxious I am to lend new strength and vigor to the Union. It was the feeling that this was so pressing that persuaded me to accept so great a responsibility as the leadership of the Union in these most difficult times. I realize full well, however, that I am powerless without your valuable and indispensable assistance.

2. June 4, 1943 Dr. Abba Hillel Silver I hope therefore that you will let nothing inter-fere with your arriving in New York a bit earlier than you anticipated and that you will be present at a Supper Meeting at the New Yorker, on Monday evening, June 21. Hoping that you will send me your acceptance at your earliest possible convenience, and looking forward to seeing you at that time, I am, as ever, Yours most cordially,

Maurice N. Eisendrath Director MNE: JA P. S. I imagine that your expenses to the Conference will be taken care of by your own congregation, but I know that the Union will be more than happy to defray the cost of the additional day that this meeting will necessitate. 0,000 M.N.E. T

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI, OHIO · PHONE PArkway 7345

June 7, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver The Temple E. 105th & Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I should like you to serve on the Survey Committee of the Union which is comprised of Rabbis and laymen. The Committee is to consider the future program of activities of our organization. It is a continuation of the Survey Committee which reported to the 37th Council in Detroit in 1941.

May I have your early acceptance? With kind regards. I am

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg

President

AR: RB

June 8, 1943 Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President The Union of American Hebrew Congregations 34 West Sixth Street Cincinnati, Ohio My dear Mr. Rosenberg: Thank you for your kind letter of June 7 inviting me to serve on the Survey Committee of the Union. I shall be very pleased to serve. With all good wishes, I remain O Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

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JOINT AUSPICES

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

July 1, 1943

Dr. Abba H. Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, 6, Ohio

Dear Friend:

I take pleasure in sending you, under separate cover, the completed work on "Jewish Art" by Prof. Landsberger. You will recall, this is the book, sample material and the outline of which was approved two years ago. It ought to make good summer reading. It is, of course, a new subject that has hardly been treated in English.

We are eager to get the book out, if it is satisfactory. Will you be good enough, therefore, to give it your kind attention as soon as you possibly can? I shall greatly appreciate your cooperation.

With all good wishes and kind personal greetings, I am

Faithfully yours,

Educational Director

Ernannel Yamaran

EG: JM

July 22, 1943 Dr. Emanuel Camoran, Educational Director Commission on Jewish Education Merchants Building Cincinnati, Ohio My dear Dr. Gamoran: Under separate cover I am returning to you the manuscript of Professor Landsberger's volume on Jewish Art. I have read it with real pleasure. It is scholarly and comprehensive, and if properly and artistically illustrated, would make a valuable addition to the all too meager library in English on the contribution of our people to the culture of the workd. I assume that you have submitted this book to some authority on Jewish Art to scan it and comment upon it. I find one serious draw-back to the manuscript and that is its style. It is definitely German in idiom and expression, and does not read like a book written in English by one who is thinking in English, nor does it read like a good translation from a foreign language. The manuscript would have to be entirely revised from this point of view. The first part of the volume, "Introduction: The Problem of a Jewishart", seems to me too argumentative. It might perhaps be well to call the volume specifically "Jewish Religious Art" inasmuch as the overwhelming emphasis of the book is on what our people achieved in the realm of art connected with Jewish religious life. I am not suggesting that everything else be excluded. With all good wishes, I remain Very cordially yours, AHS: BK

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THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
MERCHANTS BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O.

August 18, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

On my return to the city I found your letter of July 22, together with the manuscript by Dr. Landsberger which you were good enough to read. I want to thank you for your report on same. I am glad you find the manuscript worthy of publication.

Of course, the manuscript will be gone over very carefully for English. Your suggestion about a possible change in name will be transmitted to the author.

I am wondering whether you have any one to recommend who might go over the book and whom you would consider an authority on Jewish art. I may be in New York soon and I shall there inquire about the possibility of getting Rachel Vishnizer to read it. But outside of her, I really do not know who might qualify in that capacity. It almost seems as if Dr. Landsberger is alone in that field. I know some artists, of course, as we all do, like Newman, Raskin, Leaf, and Geller. Perhaps Geller is the nearest of those that I mentioned, outside of Vishnizer. I confess I am puzzled. Therefore, if you have a suggestion, please drop me a line by return mail.

With kind personal greetings and best wishes to Virginia, to the children, and to you, in which Mamie joins me, I am

Faithfully yours,

Emanuel