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Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1943.

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FARRINGTON'S

Lake Kezar

CENTER LOVELL, ME.



July 25, 1943.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Abba:

I have just heard from the American Jewish Conference that the Central Conference is entitled to two delegates, not one as we had thought hitherto.

Have you been elected or appointed a Delegate to the American Jewish Conference by some other organization? If not, I should like to appoint you as our second Delegate. If you have been appointed or elected previously, what do you think of my appointing Samuel Goldenson as our second delegate?

Please write to me at Pittsburgh, 4905 Fifth Avenue, as I expect to be home by the beginning of next week.

As ever,

Sol.

SBF.lsf



Situated midst stately pines



July 29, 1943

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof
4905 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I was elected a delegate to the American Jewish Conference from the Cleveland Jewish community so that it will not be necessary to appoint me as a second delegate to the Conference.

I do not believe that Dr. Goldenson should be appointed. His appointment would be misunderstood by the members of our Conference. He vigorously opposed, as you will recall, the Conference altogether, and strenuously argued against the Union and the C.C.A.R. joining the Conference. He is a leader of the "protest" Rabbis against whom our Conference recently passed a resolution of condemnation and a request for that group to dissolve itself. That group has not dissolved and is still flouting the majority opinion of our membership. He was the spokesman of that intransigent opposition at the Conference. He can certainly not be regarded as representing the majority opinion of the Conference on what is undoubtedly going to be one of the important issues before the Conference -- namely, Palestine.

I think that you should appoint someone more acceptable, perhaps Emil Leipziger, also a former President of the Conference, or Dr. Morgenstern, or better still Dr. Jacob Marcus, who has for many years been the chairman of our committee on contemporary history and whose historical equipment and acquaintance with the contemporary Jewish scene would be of inestimable value to the Conference which will discuss the very problems in which Marcus is at home.

I am leaving this week-end for a few weeks rest at Bald Mountain Camp, Haines Landing, Maine. I hope that you and Lillian have had a good rest. With all good wishes, I remain

As ever,

AHS:BK

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO • PHONE Parkway 7345

August 6, 1943

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, I am making a request which I hope will meet with your approval and receive your hearty cooperation.

In preparation for the American Jewish Conference, the Union has issued a Declaration of Principles formulated by the leaders of various divergent points of view in Jewish life today. In dealing with the practical problems that may arise at the Conference, it will be helpful for us to know how many of the delegates favor our Declaration. I am enclosing a set of the Principles and will appreciate deeply if you will tell me whether you approve, or if you disapprove, wherein your disagreement lies.

We are most anxious that the Conference find a program that will unify American Jewish opinion because we feel, as most Jews feel, that in unity rests the strength which is needed to cope with the colossal problems which confront us.

Hoping to hear from you by return mail,
I am

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg

Adolph Rosenberg
President

AR:rk
Encl.

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO • PHONE Parkway 7345

September 7, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am calling a meeting of the Executive Board of the Union for Sunday, October 3, at 10:00 A.M. at the Hebrew Union College, Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati.

The main purpose of the meeting will be to consider our attitude toward the resolutions adopted by the American Jewish Conference at its sessions in New York last week.

When the Union decided to adhere to the American Jewish Assembly (as it was then called) it did so in accordance with the following resolution adopted by the Executive Board at its meeting in New York on April 1, 1943:

"RESOLVED, That we adhere to the American Jewish Assembly with the reservation that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations shall not be bound by the conclusions of the American Jewish Assembly without ratification by the Executive Board of the Union. A special meeting of the Executive Board for such purpose shall be called as soon as possible after the adjournment of the American Jewish Assembly."

In accordance with this resolution of the Union, I called a meeting of the Executive Board for Friday, September 3, right after the close of the Conference. However, I was obliged to call off this meeting because I received messages from several members of the Executive Board indicating that they could not come on such short notice.

2.

I have asked you to convene at the later date - October 3. This will give us an opportunity to be more deliberate in our judgment. Furthermore, it will enable us to provide you with copies of the important resolutions adopted by the American Jewish Conference, so that you may study the material in advance of the meeting.

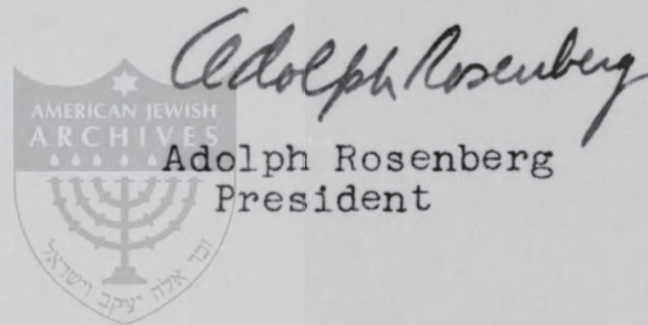
We are faced with one of the gravest issues that has confronted the Union in its long history. We need cool heads and all the wisdom and understanding that we can bring to bear on the issue before us.

I urge you to make every effort to attend. Please let me have your reply on the enclosed postal card.

With kind greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

AR:GS
Encl.



RABBI SAMUEL WOHL
CINCINNATI, OHIO

September 10, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
E. 105th & Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

The letter which I enclose, was written to Mr. Adolph Rosenberg in appreciation of the excellent contribution made by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at the American Jewish Conference.

I need not tell you that this was a great achievement for Reform Judaism. It will win for us many friends in places where there has been a great deal of criticism. It required courage on the part of Mr. Rosenberg and the members of the delegation to rally to the cause of Palestine in the manner in which it was done.

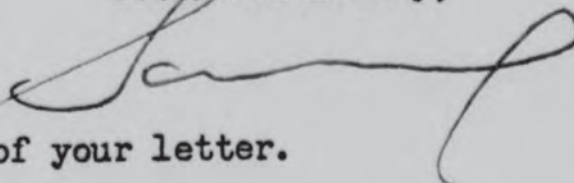
There will be many so called influential people who will criticise the Union, who will threaten to withdraw their support. The "Bourbons" have not learned anything. There will be those of the Council for Judaism who will attack the Union.

It is my hope that we shall all support the Union now more strongly than ever. Let us give encouragement to Mr. Rosenberg and his associates. Let us tell them that we stand by them. That assurance is important to keep the Union on its course of effective service and to establish for it the recognition to which it is entitled.

I would appreciate it very much if you will do these two things immediately: 1. Write a personal letter to Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, telling him that you approve and endorse the action of the Union delegation to the American Jewish Conference, 2. Ask a few of the outstanding lay-leaders in your Congregation to do likewise. I am sure that this will be of tremendous help and will also aid Reform Judaism to win many new friends throughout the country.

May I add my warmest greetings and all good wishes to you for a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,



P.S: Please send me a copy of your letter.

RABBI SAMUEL WOHL
CINCINNATI, OHIO

September 10, 1943

C O P Y

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
Merchants Bldg.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

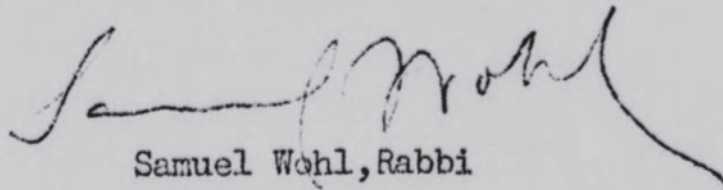
Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I am writing this word to you and to the members of the Union Delegation to the American Jewish Conference, in appreciation of your splendid contribution made at a very critical hour in the life of our people.

It was my privilege, as a delegate to the Conference, to hear words of praise from many outstanding communal leaders for the fine statesmanship and excellent record of the Union delegation. It is my conviction that the Union has won for itself, understanding and friendship which will mean much to the cause of Reform Judaism.

I pledge you to keep the Union in the forefront of my activities and win for it new friends and support.

Yours faithfully,



Samuel Wohl, Rabbi

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO • PHONE Parkway 7345

September 13, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

I can well imagine how exhausted you must be after the strenuous session of the American Jewish Conference and the additional meetings of the Zionist Congress. I know, however, that you must be profoundly pleased with the results obtained, which were so largely due to your own incomparable leadership. You surely must have sensed the feeling of the great gathering in New York in response to your magnificent message, both in the earlier part of the Conference, as well as in the inspiring concluding moments. It was a rare joy to me to have served on the important Palestine Committee, which you so ably charted through exceedingly rough waters. I trust that you may get some opportunity to rest between now and the strain of the Holy Days.

I had a number of matters to take care of in Toronto immediately following the Conference, and have just now returned to Cincinnati. You can well imagine how tense the situation is here following the many conflicting reports growing out of the Conference. It will surely require the utmost statesmanship to guide the Union in these very difficult circumstances. I feel that nothing is so important to me at the present moment than to sit down with you for an hour or so to discuss the situation as it now presents itself to me, as one who is charged with the responsibility, at least at the present crucial hour.

I have to be in Fort Wayne Thursday evening, September 16, and could come back via Cleveland. Could I see you as early ^{this} on Friday morning as possible, as I believe I shall arrive by eight o'clock, and would like to leave by plane around noon?

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

2.

September 13, 1943

I would appreciate an Airmail reply or telegram from you at your very earliest convenience so that I may plan my trip accordingly.

I do hope that you can arrange to see me Friday morning, as it really is most imperative that above all else I talk the matter over with you.

With warmest personal greetings to you and yours,
I am,

Yours faithfully,

Maurice N. Eisendrath

MNE:SG



September 15, 1943

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
34 West 6th Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I regret exceedingly that I shall not be able to attend the meeting of the Executive Board on October 3rd. Our court sits in Pittsburgh from September 27th to October 6th, and I cannot leave there during that period.

I have a very definite opinion as to the action which the Board should take at this meeting, and I hope that you will express it on my behalf, though I realize that my vote, as an absentee, cannot be counted.

I think the Board should pass a resolution substantially as follows:

"In June of this year the Union of American Hebrew Congregations unanimously adopted and promulgated a platform (which it called a Declaration of Principles) concerning the postwar status of the Jews, more particularly with respect to Palestine. The resolutions passed by the American Jewish Conference in September are wholly incompatible with that declaration, in fact are diametrically opposed to it. Therefore the Union, acting in pursuance of the right expressly reserved by it in agreeing to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, herewith announces its dissent from the resolutions of the Conference concerning the postwar status of the Jews in Palestine, and re-affirms the views adopted and published by it in June."

I assume that no one will attempt to controvert the fact that the principles proclaimed by the Union and the platform adopted by the Conference are wholly irreconcilable. The resolutions of the Conference call for exclusive control by the Jewish Agency of immigration into Palestine. Since such control is the highest attribute of sovereignty, this would amount to turning the country over completely to the Jews to do with as they choose. Apart from the fact that even the most visionary and academic Zionist can scarcely believe that such a wild demand will ever be granted by the Allied Nations in the face of the violent Arab opposition which it will provoke, it is in marked contrast to the more reasonable position taken by the Union, namely, that the immigration of the Jews into Palestine should be controlled, in co-operation with the Agency, by the concert of nations to be established after the war. But, - what is of greater and indeed supreme importance, - the Conference announces the purpose to make of Palestine a "Jewish Commonwealth." It promises that the Arabs will be protected in their "religious, linguistic and cultural" rights, which is the accepted and conventional method of indicating that they are to be a "minority group" within the state. They are to have equal "civil and religious" rights, but equal political rights are significantly omitted from this generous grant and are, of course, not intended to be given.* The Conference thus took

* The Jews will, of course, demand of the Allied Nations at the peace table that they be given the same rights and status of citizenship enjoyed by all others in the respective countries in which they shall dwell. Indeed the resolutions of the Conference call, very properly, for "unequivocal equality of rights in law and in fact for all the citizens of every country." It is not only important, but vital, for the security of our people throughout the world, that such rights be obtained. But how can such a demand be justified, or even seriously made, when in the very same breath the Jews announce that, in the Commonwealth which they propose to establish in Palestine, the doctrine of political equality for all citizens is not to be applied?

over the platform of the Zionist Organization of America, lock, stock and barrel, with its uncompromising insistence upon the establishment of a Jewish nation. The platform proclaimed by the Union, on the other hand, calls for a non-sectarian government in Palestine, with complete separation of church and state, - a government modelled on that of the democratic nations, which recognize no races, either majority or minority, and whose pride is, as in our own United States, that the individuals of many races constitute the nation. Whereas no non-Zionist can accept the Conference platform without self-stultification and the surrender of fundamental principle, the platform adopted by the Union was satisfactory to all the members of the committee which drafted it, Zionists and non-Zionists alike, for it involves no ideologies; it is a practical, statesmanlike plan which would permit large numbers of Jews to immigrate every year into Palestine, with the ultimate formation there of a government under which they could live in assured and permanent happiness and freedom.

Apart from all other considerations, it seems to me that for this great and historic Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing as it does the Reform Jews of America, to act like a veritable weather-vane, and, on the most important question ever submitted to it, to depart from the carefully considered platform which it adopted a scant three months ago, announce a complete change of principles, give its assent to the demand of the Conference for a Jewish Commonwealth and acquiesce in the conception of Jewish life and destiny which such a racial commonwealth involves, would be to make it a laughing-stock in the Jewish and non-Jewish world alike, and destroy its prestige and usefulness forever. Moreover, such a change of front would inevitably lead to secessions and dismemberment. On the other hand, to re-affirm the platform

Opposed to
J. Nathan
H. H. H.

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it adopted as recently as last June would be merely adhering to a position with which, as far as I know, every member of the Executive Board of the Union and every one of our constituent synagogues were in complete accord and from which none has since expressed the slightest dissent. I hope and earnestly pray, therefore, that the Board will adopt a resolution of the nature I have suggested.

Sincerely yours,

HORACE STERN



September 22, 1943

Rabbi Louis I. Egelson, Administrative Secretary
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
34 West 6th St.
Cincinnati, Ohio

My Rabbi Egelson:

Pfc. Robert A. Zober, who is at the Army Air Forces Advanced Flying School at Big Spring, Texas, writes me that they have a Jewish congregation at Big Spring which meets every Friday night at the Post Chapel. They have no Jewish Chaplain, but they conduct their own services and the men in uniform from time to time preach the sermons. He requests that some sermons be sent to him to be used by the men. They are now planning their Holyday services. May I suggest that the Union send to Pfc. Zober immediately the Holyday booklet of sermons which has been published, and that you send him from time to time such other helpful sermons which you have available. When you write to him, please mention the fact that I have requested you to assist him.

With all good wishes for a very happy new year,
I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

P.S. Pfc. Zober's address is: 78th B.T.G. Hdq. - A.A.F.B.S. -
Big Spring, Texas.

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Under the Joint Auspices of

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and the CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

*

Merchants Building, CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

September 23, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Your letter of September 22 reached me
today.

I have at once written to Mr. Zober, in
accordance with copy of letter enclosed.

Cordially reciprocating your good wishes
for the New Year and looking forward to seeing
you on October 3, I am

Sincerely yours,

Louis I. Egelson
Secretary

LE:RM

*The Courtesy Cards were
sent today Sp. Delivery*

September 23, 1943

Pfc. Robert A. Zober
78th B.T.G. Hdq.
AAFBS
Big Spring, Texas

Dear Mr. Zober:

At the request of Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, who informs me that you are planning holiday services, I am sending you enclosed a pamphlet of holiday sermons. I trust it will be helpful to you.

I understand that you also plan to conduct services during the year. Therefore, I am sending you under separate cover some general sermons which may be of service to you.

Should you at any time desire additional sermons, please do not hesitate to write to me.

With the prayer that the New Year may bring us the victory which we so ardently desire, and with best wishes for a happy New Year to you and to all the boys at the Advanced Flying School, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Louis I. Egelson
Secretary

LE:RM

P.S. I am also sending you under separate cover six pamphlets that we have thus far published, particularly for the men in the armed forces. I should like to have your reaction to them.

L.E.

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☆

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34 WEST SIXTH STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO • PHONE Parkway 7345

September 24, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am returning to you today your topcoat which I assure you I need very badly during my recent trip East. I am most grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and generosity in suggesting that I take it.

I want to thank you likewise for the time and careful thought which you devoted to the problem that is before us, and I am hopeful that without jeopardizing the gains made at the American Jewish Conference, primarily for Palestine, and likewise for the Union itself, we may be able to arrive at a resolution which will be satisfactory both to the Conference and to our Union constituency.

Ever since talking to you, I have been grappling with this problem, and I am hopeful that on October 3 we will be able to state our position in a manner that will safeguard the Union and at the same time advance the cause that we are seeking to carry out.

I would like very much to know just when you are to arrive in Cincinnati, as I believe that it would be most important for me to talk with you again before the meeting. If you are arriving early in the morning, I will arrange to have breakfast with you and possibly with Sol Freehof. I am to be in Toronto all next week, and would appreciate having just a word from you as to when you expect to arrive in Cincinnati. You may write to me in care of Holy Blossom Temple, Bathurst Street at Ava Road.

With warmest New Year's greetings to your good wife and yourself, and with my most fervent prayers that the many great causes to which you are giving

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

2.

September 24, 1943

such inspiring leadership will find blessing and fulfillment
during the forthcoming year, I am,

Yours most faithfully,

Maurice N. E.
Maurice N. Eisendrath

MNE:SG



HORACE STERN
470 CITY HALL
PHILADELPHIA

September 25, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

As I am unable to attend the meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on October 3rd, I have written a letter to the President, Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, expressing my views in regard to the question to be discussed at the meeting. Because of my earnest interest in this matter which concerns us all so vitally, I am taking the liberty of sending you herewith a copy of that letter for your consideration as a member of the Board.

Yours sincerely,

Horace Stern

Dear Dr. Silver:

I know, of course, that you are not in agreement with the views I have expressed, but I wanted nevertheless to present to you my thoughts in regard to the question so far as the Union is concerned. kindest regards. H.S.

September 27, 1943

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath
Holy Blossom Temple
Bathurst Street at Ava Road
Toronto, Canada

My dear Maurice:

I will arrive in Cincinnati at 7:55 A.M.
Sunday and will go straight to the Hebrew Union
College, where I understand the meeting is to be
held. I would be very happy to have breakfast
with you there.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Holy Blossom Temple

TORONTO

THE RABBI'S STUDY

September 27, 1943.

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

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Friend:

I am most reluctant to intrude upon you on the eve of the Holy Season when I know just how preoccupied you are with the tasks of the Holy Days, as well as the many other responsibilities which are yours. However, as you can well imagine, I have thought of very little else than the action which the Executive Board of the Union might take this coming Sunday, and I feel that I should like to bring you up to date on the various things that have been taking place since I saw you last.

There is a strong movement in the East led, I believe, by Judge Stern, to have the Union vigorously and categorically dissent from the Palestine resolution of the American Jewish Conference, and there are forces likewise that are desirous of having us dissociate ourselves completely from the Conference itself. As the Executive Board is now constituted (and I assure you that one of my first tasks would be to change the complexion of this Board) such a resolution as Judge Stern suggests might have a fair chance of passing, if a very definite compromise resolution is not presented.

On the other hand, as a result of personal contacts with a number of the individuals comprising our Board, both in New York and in Cincinnati, I do not believe that there would be more than ten persons out of some thirty who will be present on October 3rd, who would be in favour of an unqualified ratification of the Conference resolution. A number of those whom you and I had placed in the column of "neutrals" would be opposed to such ratification. For example, Bob Goldman, Lester Jaffe, Mr. Rosenberg himself, Jesse Cohen as President of the Brotherhood, while by no manner of means unsympathetic to Zionism, are of the opinion that such ratification would be fatal for the Union. A couple of others, such as Ephroymson Sr. of Indianapolis and Wurzburg of Memphis, whom we had likewise placed in the "neutral" column, I have since discovered are definitely anti-Zionist. I have also learned that Frederick Greenman, to whom Wise dictated a very strong letter in my presence, is one of those who believes that the Union as a religious organization

Holy Blossom Temple

TORONTO

THE RABBI'S STUDY

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER - 2

should not join such a political institution as the American Jewish Conference.

All this, in my judgment, means that any attempt to pass a resolution ratifying the position that the Conference took on Palestine would bring outright repudiation. This, of course, is the very thing which we want least because it would bring dramatic attention to the divergence of opinion in American Jewry on the Palestine question. It was to avoid thus hurting or opposing the cause of Palestine that prompted us in New York to refrain from open opposition, because I do believe that the Union, even if it is not ready to accept the whole of the Palestine resolution, will want to do nothing to injure the cause of Palestine and of the Jewish people today. Even if it were possible to ratify the Palestine resolution with a slight majority -- and this I believe to be absolutely impossible -- it would lead to such a split in the Union as once again to draw dramatic attention to such disagreement.

Nor is the policy of silence or of deferring any action until the Biennial Council meets feasible now. Had an announcement been made at the Conference specifically mentioning the fact that the Union had deferred action on the resolution, we could well afford to wait for a considerable period of time before reviewing the findings of the Conference. However, due to the fact that the Union was not mentioned specifically, and due likewise to the fact that so much publicity was given to the mere four negative votes against the resolution, the impression has gone out that the Union, by its silence, did consent. Therefore, the Union must give voice to its judgment now.

After the most careful deliberation and following lengthy conversations with individuals on both sides, Freehof and I drew up a resolution in Pittsburgh which I feel should be the policy of the Union at the present moment. I have phrased and re-phrased this resolution and I expect that many more amendments will be made before it is wholly satisfactory. However, I think that in spirit it expresses the only possible way that the Union can go at this present juncture. I do not feel that the Zionist cause will in any wise be hurt by this resolution, and as a matter of fact, it is expressive of such marked progress on the part of the Union and bespeaks so eager a desire to co-operate with K'lal Yisroel in the attainment of

Holy Blossom Temple

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THE RABBI'S STUDY

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER - 3

its immediate objectives that it should be helpful. On the other hand, a number of Zionists with whom I have spoken concur that any attempt to carry the full resolution would so weaken the Union and strengthen the American Council for Judaism that the Zionist cause itself might be harmed.

You will note that ^{in my resolution} I have based the Union's inability to concur in the Palestine resolution upon the fact that "the only official action thus far taken by the Union" was its resolution at the New Orleans Convention in 1937. By indicating that our Philadelphia Declaration and our present position are based "on the only official action thus far taken," I believe any misinterpretation of the Union as being at the present time anti-Zionistic or in open opposition to Zionist aspirations can be avoided, as this formulation of the Union resolution indicates that the Union has gone as far as it constitutionally can go at the present time, in view of the fact that our Biennial Council is supreme insofar as the matter of policy and program are concerned.

I should like you also to take note of the fact that the resolution which I presented to the New York Conference stated our position much less ambiguously than did the Philadelphia Declaration and indicates clearly our affirmation for the fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration, not as presently defined by Great Britain, but as in consonance with our own Jewish aspirations.

I would like very much to have your frank reaction to this resolution, knowing, of course, that you cannot personally agree with it, but hoping that you might concur in my conviction that considering all the circumstances involved and the present status of the Union, you will be prepared to accept something along this line as a final compromise, not for the American Jewish Conference or the Zionist cause, but for the Union which, if I am to assume its leadership, I shall pledge myself to bring ever closer to the heart and hopes of the Jewish people, as well as of the Jewish faith.

To achieve this latter end, I will, ~~of course~~, have to have a free hand in the refashioning of the Union. This has, of course, been offered me but I think that because of your intense interest in reaching the same objective, it might be just as well, when the question of my election comes up for

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DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER - 4

consideration on Sunday, that someone such as yourself should raise this question, so that the answer be written into the records.

Hoping that despite the overwhelming duties that must at the moment confront you, I may hear from you at the above address at your very earliest convenience, and again with warmest New Year greetings to you and yours, I am

As Ever,

Yours most faithfully,

MNE:TG
Enclosure.



September 29, 1948

Dr. Maurice Eisendrath
Congregation Holy Blossom
1950 Bathurst St.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

My dear Dr. Eisendrath:

I was amazed and bewildered by your letter of September 27. What you suggest is a complete repudiation of the action taken by Union spokesmen at the Conference, including yourself, Freehof, Rosenberg and Goldman. You agreed to the withdrawal of your own resolution and you cooperated in the formulation of the joint resolution. To declare now "Therefore the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations cannot concur in the resolution on Palestine adopted by the American Jewish Conference", is a bald repudiation of your own action as well as the action of the Conference on Palestine. It is to put the Union in opposition to it. It is to put the Union squarely in the Proskauer camp and against the overwhelming majority of American Jewry.

All the gains which might accrue, in the future, to Reform Judaism as a result of an whole-hearted collaboration with the rest of American Israel will be sacrificed, and it will again remain an isolated sect within the stream of American Jewish life.

It would be disastrous for the Executive Committee to adopt any such resolution as you propose, and if you believe that you are serving the cause either of Reform Judaism or of Zionism by maneuvering such a resolution through the Executive Board, you are greatly mistaken. I shall personally feel constrained to resign from the Union Board if any such resolution is adopted, and I am persuaded that others will follow suit. You have unconsciously been intimidated by the determined opposition group within the Executive Board. You are overlooking the clear fact that the Executive Board does not now represent the sentiments and convictions of the rank and file of Reform Jewry on the subject of Palestine. To permit the Executive Board, as presently constituted, to speak on this burning issue for the rank and file, and speak in repudiation of a position taken by American Jewry, is a colossal blunder which will make your future work with the Union doomed to failure.

J You quote over and over again the fact that the Biennial Council of the Union, in 1937, declared itself on Palestine. The least you can do, under the circumstances, is to insist that no action be taken at

Dr. Eisendrath

-2-

September 30, 1943

present by the Executive Board on this sharply controversial subject, and that it be referred to the next Biennial meeting of the Council so that the rank and file of Reform Jewry may have a chance to express itself on this subject. In the meantime it is well understood by everyone that no organization is bound by the decisions of the Conference until it chooses to ratify them. The Union is not at all compromised if it defers such action. Quite the contrary. It serves notice that it is not yet prepared to speak on the resolution. It wishes to canvass its membership. It was made abundantly clear on the floor of the Conference by myself and others that no action taken at the Conference binds the organizations attending the Conference.

Do not beguile yourself into the belief that any other interpretation will be put either by the Jewish press or by government officials on such an action of the Executive of the Union than that of a clear repudiation of the idea of the Jewish commonwealth, and you will be quoted as precedent and authority by every anti-Zionist group -- Jewish, non-Jewish and Arab in the United States. This would do irreparable injury to the cause of the Jewish commonwealth in this critical hour of decision.

With all good wishes for a happy new year, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ANS:BK

P.S. Inasmuch as you mention that you have consulted Freehof in drafting this resolution, I am sending a copy of this letter to him.

October 1, 1943

The Honorable Judge Horace Stern
470 City Hall
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Judge Stern:

Thank you for your letter of September 25 enclosing a copy of the letter which you sent to Mr. Adolph Rosenberg.

In the first place, I should like to correct a statement in your last paragraph. You say that as far as you know, every member of the Executive Board of the Union and every one of our constituent synagogues were in complete accord with the platform which was adopted last June. I, as a member of the Executive Board, did not approve of the platform, and so indicated. Furthermore, the synagogues who are members of the Union were never canvassed on the subject. It would have been highly desirable if such a canvass had been made.

You refer to the fact that the Zionist members of the committee which Mr. Adolph Rosenberg convoked in an attempt to reconcile the differences between the "ionists and non-Zionists in the Conference and in the Union approved of the platform. I am inclined to believe that they would not have approved it if they thought that it carried the kind of interpretation which your letter of September 15 places upon it. No Zionist in his right senses could endorse such a position. I can not speak for Rabbi Heller and Rabbi Brickner who were members of that committee. They must speak for themselves.

You suggest in your postscript that your position represents the one which is to be taken "so far as the Union is concerned". The Zionist position is either valid or invalid. If it is valid, it is valid for the whole of the Jewish people. If it is invalid, it is invalid for the whole of the Jewish people and not merely for a segment of Jewry -- the Reform congregations which comprise the Union.

You are violently opposed to Zionism and you would like the Union to adopt your viewpoint. You do not wish to see the re-establishment of the Jewish people as a nation in its national homeland in Palestine. You do not want Palestine to become a Jewish country in the same sense as England is an English country and France

October 1, 1943

a French country. You just want it to be a country where Jews will have the right to immigrate in the same way as you hope they will have the right to immigrate to any other country. And yet, strangely enough you harbor the delusion that your position involves no ideology and that it can become the basis for an agreement between Zionists and non-Zionists. Agreement as to what? That Jews should have the right of free immigration into Palestine? Is it that which sharply divided Zionists from non-Zionists all these years? Or that Palestine shall ~~be~~ have a democratic country from which Jews shall not be excluded?

recent

You completely brush aside the facts of history. There does exist such a thing as a Balfour Declaration and a Palestine Mandate which recognizes a unique status for the Jewish people in Palestine along with the right to establish there a national homeland - a right which they do not ask for nor have been offered in any other country. This national right was sanctioned by 52 nations and endorsed by the Congress of the United States. Have you tried to correlate the implications of the Balfour Declaration and the terms of the Mandate with your position? Winston Churchill, Lloyd George, President Wilson and many other world statesmen who were instrumental in the first place in formulating those documents understood them to mean the creation of a Jewish Commonwealth or a Jewish State in Palestine.

In this connection may I suggest that the point which you raise in your letter about the omission in the Palestine resolution of "political rights" for the Arabs has no merit whatsoever. The resolution embodied the wording of the Balfour Declaration which speaks of the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people (no mention of a National Home in Palestine for the Arab people), and states that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing Jewish communities in Palestine." Arab National Homelands, it was understood, would be established in other parts of the Near East, in Syria, Iraq, Saudia-Arabia and elsewhere.

At the Conference, the Reform Religious group constituted itself into a definite bloc and brought into the Committee on Palestine the platform to which you refer. The non-partisan group, headed by Mr. Edgar J. Kaufmann also brought a platform, as did the Zionists. These various platforms were discussed in greatest detail for two days. Leaders of the Reform Religious group, such as Dr. Freehof, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Rabbi Eisendrath, Executive Director of the Union, Robert P. Goldman, former President of the Union, Dr. Heller of Cincinnati, and Dr. Julius Gordon of St. Louis participated in the discussion. As a result of the discussion it ~~would~~ ^{was} found possible to work out a joint resolution. In the working out of it, members of the non-partisan group and of the Reform Religious group actively participated.

The Reform group presented a preamble to the resolution which was a notable contribution and which was adopted. It also insisted upon a significant revision of the Zionist platform, calling for the attainment of a Jewish majority in the country as a prerequisite for the creation of the Jewish Commonwealth. The Zionists yielded on this point, although it was never part of the basic considerations underlying the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate. As a result of this mutual give and take, it was found possible to present one joint resolution to the Conference, both the non-partisan group and the Reform Religious group as well as the Zionist group withdrawing their original resolutions.

While of course the action of the leaders of the Reform Religious group at the Conference did not and could not commit the Union -- no organization was committed to the resolutions adopted at the Conference -- it was naturally assumed that these men, occupying as they did, such high positions in Reform Judaism knew what they were about, and entered into the negotiations with a complete understanding of the implications and the consequences of their actions.

To follow the suggestion contained in your letter and have the Executive of the Union now express its dissent from the resolution of the Conference would be not only to repudiate these men, but to invite the leveling of charges of disingenuousness, trifling, and mental confusion against the Union. The Executive of the Union should certainly refrain from taking such serious action without first consulting the parent body.

Please remember that the Union was not content to keep the so-called platform solely for the guidance of its own constituency. Prior to the conference, Mr. Adolph Rosenberg circularized the 500 chosen delegates to the Conference with this platform. In other words, the Union wanted the whole of American Israel, Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and all its other groupings to accept its platform. It then carried its platform into the Conference and urged its adoption. Seeking a basis of understanding with other groups it entered upon deliberate negotiations and found it possible, without doing violence to its essential religious position, to accept the joint resolution which was finally approved by the Conference with such an overwhelming vote.

I am persuaded that by so doing, the Union evidenced the highest kind of statesmanship. It brought Reform Judaism back into the main stream of American Jewish life. It destroyed that ideologic wall which set us apart from the rest of Jewry and doomed us to a progressively diminishing minority sect within American Jewish life. That peculiar ideology was imported into this country by German-Jewish immigrants decades ago. It represented the thinking of an age which no longer

October 1, 1943

exists. It is a fatal blunder to shackle Reform Judaism forever with a complex of ideas, which were always foreign to historic Judaism and to the historic aspirations of the Jewish people, and which having had their brief day among sections of Jews in Western Europe, finally suffered defeat with the destruction of Jewry itself.

I regret that you did not attend the Conference. Like so many heretofore non-Zionists or anti-Zionists who did attend it you might have had a change of mind. A change of heart, in your case, is not called for, because your heart has always been true to the best and noblest interests in Jewish life.

Quite apart from the merits of the case, if you are persuaded as I am, that a matter of such great moment affecting the future of the Union and of the College, which are dear to all of us, should not be decided without giving the member congregations of the Union and the rank and file a chance to express themselves, I think that a telegram from you to the Executive meeting, next Sunday, urging the postponement of action would be highly desirable. It is clear, of course, that until the Union ratifies the resolution, it is not bound by it.

With all good wishes for a very happy new year, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Holy Blossom Temple

TORONTO

October 1, 1943.

THE RABBI'S STUDY

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I was not altogether surprised at the contents of your letter just received. I cannot tell you how much I disliked sending it to you, because I appreciate profoundly your own deep-rooted convictions on the subject at issue. I likewise admire you for your uncompromising attitude with regard to the principles that you believe to be involved and I would much prefer to be in your own position on this subject than in mine.

However, I do feel that you do not completely grasp the position that the Union finds itself in today. I have a strong conviction that it will not find itself in a similar position a year or so hence, after I am given the opportunity of changing some of the unhappy features of our organization which, as I pointed out to you when I saw you last, no one has really been interested in doing heretofore.

I thoroughly agree with you that the happiest solution to the problem would have been to "insist that no action be taken at present by the Executive Board on this sharply controversial subject." You will recall that this was my own idea of the best solution. However, the thing that makes this so impossible at the present is the fact that it has been almost universally accepted that the Union completely concurred in the Conference resolution. Now, there are individuals and congregations within the Union that cannot conscientiously concur in this resolution, even though I believe that -- had this not been the general impression -- we could have avoided any declaration of dissent. Such deferment of any action would have been easily possible if only Mr. Rosenberg's desire to have the announcement regarding the fact that the Union had refrained from voting had been carried out. It is the present situation which has led so many to believe that we are in thorough agreement with the Conference resolution that gives so much cogency to the demand on the part of so many of our Executive

not true

Holy Blossom Temple

TORONTO

THE RABBI'S STUDY

DR. ABBA HILEEL SILVER - 2

Board that we make our position unequivocally clear. I cannot tell you how much I wish that this announcement had been made at the Conference, so that we could defer action indefinitely.

I am wondering whether there may not be some phrase which will soften the "cannot concur" as found in my resolution and which will indicate that our resolution is not the "bald repudiation" as you interpret it. What I really want to state is that in view of the declaration of the Biennial Council in 1937, we cannot go farther now, or until such time as the Biennial Council meets. Perhaps we can put this in plainer language so that our position will not be interpreted in the light of your letter.

I assure you that as long as I have anything to do with the Union, it shall be the farthest thing that I desire "to put the Union squarely in the Proskauer camp and against the overwhelming majority of American Jewry." The fact that because of our Union constituency we cannot go as far as the Palestine resolution, does not mean that we will be in opposition to it. I assure you that I will do everything in my power to prevent any such misinterpretation.

I likewise am inclined to agree with you that "the Executive Board does not now represent the sentiments and convictions of the rank and file of Reform Jewry on the subject of Palestine." Unfortunately, however, this happens to be at the present time our Executive Board, and I do not believe that it would be possible to have them, at this juncture, defer action in view of the general belief that we have assented to the Palestine resolution.

As far as some such compromise resolution as I suggest being a repudiation of the action taken by the Union spokesmen at the Conference, I really do not think that this is the case, as you will recall that I sought to indicate to you the impossibility of having that resolution pass our Executive Board. That is precisely why I wanted it amended still further. I understood, of course, how impossible it was for a minority such as ourselves to insist upon these further amendments, and in the interests of unity I did not want the Union to be placed in a position of openly opposing the majority resolution. Had our position been made explicitly

Holy Blossom Temple

TORONTO

THE RABBI'S STUDY

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER - 3

clear, the present dilemma could have been avoided.

I am convinced that given a reasonable period of time, the Union will come around to a point where it is no longer frightened by certain words and phrases, but I do not think that such a revolution can be accomplished in a day and the only result, I repeat, of failing to make clear now that the entire Union constituency is not committed, without any qualification, to the Palestine resolution would be to split the Union, to strengthen the American Council for Judaism, and even more dramatically to call attention to the "clear repudiation of the idea of the Jewish commonwealth" by a large portion of the Union constituency.

I am still hopeful that we will find a formula which will save the Union, retain the ground that we have gained, so that there will be no danger whatsoever of our becoming "an isolated sect within the stream of American Jewish life" and at the same time dissipate your fears that we will do "irreparable injury to the cause of the Jewish commonwealth" which, I assure you, is farthest from my heart and mind.

I hope that we may still meet at breakfast Sunday morning together with Freehof and try to work out some more satisfactory position.

Once more with warmest greetings for the New Year to you and yours, I am

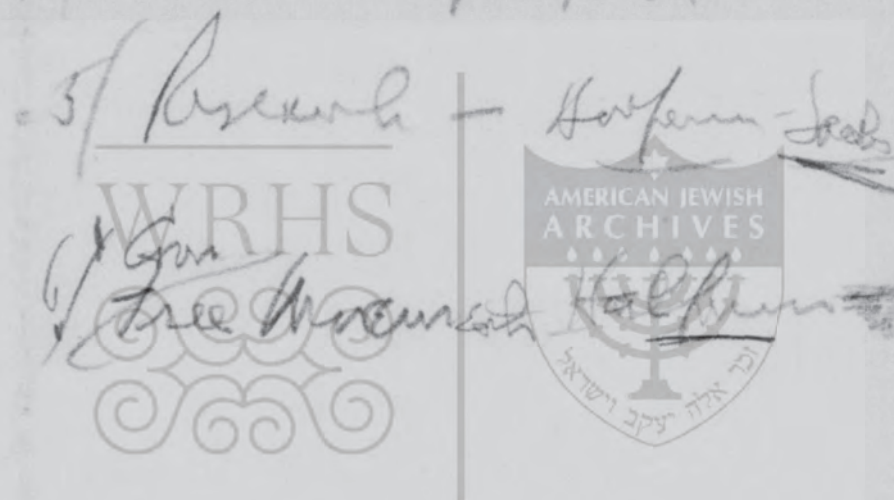
As Ever,

Yours most faithfully,

Maurice

MNE:TG

- 1/ Pres - Erenby
- 2/ Econ. - Kerman
- 3/ Pol - Shulman
- 4/ Post. W. Pol - Syrd -
Kerker



DRAFT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION
For
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
October 3, 1943.

The call for the American Jewish Conference was issued in a time of tragic emergency for world Israel. It was deemed essential for all parties and groups to meet in order to find a way to express the united demands of American Jewry for the rescue and rehabilitation of our stricken brethren all over the world. The Union, representing as it does the voice of Liberal Judaism in America, felt a strong moral imperative to unite in this great endeavour, even though it was well aware that its own point of view on certain controversial questions might, in such a conference, prove to be a minority point of view. We, therefore, reserved the right to review the decisions of the Conference, as far as we ourselves were concerned, but our primary purpose in entering the Conference was to unite with all our fellow-Jews for the benefit of world Israel.

The Conference met and our Union delegates (and others who affiliated themselves with them in order to form the Reform Religious Group) participated actively in all the deliberations of the Conference.

The Union heartily concurs in a number of the resolutions unanimously passed by the Conference. It gladly expresses its solidarity with this unanimous voice of American Israel on the pressing problems of Rescue, Post-War Rehabilitation, on the Call to Faith, and the pledge of loyalty to our cherished country and the United Nations -- all of which have found worthy and timely expression in the resolutions adopted by the Conference on these subjects. In relation to the resolution on Organization, the Union wishes to refer this resolution to a committee for further study.

With regard to the resolution on Palestine, concerning which the Union, along with a number of other member organizations decided to exercise its right of review at some later date, the Union at this time declares that its point of view on this controversial question was precisely expressed in the Declaration of Principles drawn up by a committee of the Union in Philadelphia on May 31, 1943. This Declaration, subsequently ratified by the Executive Board of the Union, was based upon the only official action thus far taken by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations with regard to Palestine. This official attitude of the Union toward Palestine was expressed in a resolution adopted at its 35th Biennial Council in New Orleans, in 1937, and declared:

"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 fates 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 accordance with Jewish ideals. The time has now come for Jews, irrespective 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 rebuilding Palestine."

The essence of this declaration was presented by our Reform Religious Group to the Palestine Committee of the American Jewish Conference in the form of the following resolution, which was tentatively accepted by other groups also. It reads as follows:

"Because of the fact that Jews have been bound by historic and spiritual ties to the Holy Land and because of the legal right which the Balfour Declaration and Mandate have given to the Jews to establish a homeland in Palestine, the American Jewish Conference solemnly declares that the time has now come for all Jews, irrespective of ideological differences, to unite their efforts toward the establishment of such a Jewish homeland in Palestine."

Therefore, today, when the situation of world Jewry has so tragically deteriorated and the part that Palestine must now play has become correspondingly more significant, we urge:

1. That the White Paper of 1939 be immediately abrogated.

2. That large-scale Jewish Immigration into Palestine, without which a legally assured Jewish homeland in Palestine cannot be achieved, shall be provided for in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine by such a concert of nations as shall be established after the war. X

3. Palestine shall remain under the stewardship of this concert of nations until it shall become possible to establish self-government without jeopardizing the rights or status of any group in Palestine.

4. Such a government shall be democratic and non-sectarian, modeled upon the governments of the democratic nations. There shall be complete separation of Church and State. The inviolability of the holy places of the various religions shall be guaranteed. X

The Executive Board believes that this resolution still expresses the attitude of the Union on the question of Palestine. Therefore, ^{the Executive} ~~we~~ cannot concur in the resolution on Palestine adopted by the American Board of the U.A.H.C. X

Jewish Conference insofar as it goes beyond the previous expression of the Union's attitude at its Biennial Council in New Orleans in 1937. We affirm our continued adherence to the resolution adopted at the Biennial Council of the Union in New Orleans in 1937 as interpreted and implemented in the Declaration of Principles adopted in Philadelphia on May 31, 1943, and approved by the Executive Board. XX

Because of the valuable achievements which resulted from the collaboration of the many divergent groups represented in the Conference, the Union is happy to have participated in this emergency conference; and we affirm our resolution to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brother-Jews in the present task of rescue and rehabilitation which confronts the Conference.

October 6, 1943

I want to share with you the results of our most important meeting of the Executive Board of the Union which was held last Sunday, October 3, in the historic halls of the Hebrew Union College here in Cincinnati. This was undoubtedly one of the most significant meetings of our Board in many years. Thirty out of fifty-seven members of our Executive Board were in attendance. All others gave cogent reasons for their inability to be present. We were all deeply conscious of the seriousness of the problem before us, and I am certain that you will be interested in the action taken.

As you know, the Union entered the American Jewish Conference last April because we felt a strong moral imperative to join with our fellow-Jews in seeking some united program of rescue and rehabilitation for our stricken brethren in this most tragic hour for world Israel. Recognizing, however, that we would represent but a small minority in this conference of all American Jewry, the Executive Board reserved the right to review all resolutions of the Conference before committing the Union to any decisions at which the Conference might arrive.

The meeting held last Sunday was for the purpose of reviewing the findings of the American Jewish Conference. With most of the resolutions, we found ourselves in heartiest agreement. With regard to the resolution on Organization, our Board resolved to appoint a special committee to study this matter further and report back its findings to the Board.

The resolution on Palestine, as was to have been expected, evoked a long and vigorous debate. Strong arguments were advanced on both sides. On the one hand, there were those who wished to have us ratify the Palestine resolution of the Conference; on the other side, were those who desired to have our Board

dissent from this resolution and to reaffirm instead our Union position as stated in the Declaration of Principles drawn up in Philadelphia by representatives of the various opposing viewpoints. This Declaration of Principles expressed in essence the spirit of the resolution passed by our Biennial Council in New-Orleans in 1937, and in brief declared: "The time has now come for Jews, irrespective 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 rebuilding Palestine."

As the debate proceeded, it became clear that our Executive Board was almost evenly divided on this contentious question. One or two votes either way would have carried a motion either to ratify the Palestine resolution of the American Jewish Conference or to express the Union's dissent therefrom. Not more than a majority of one or two could have been procured for either side. In such an impasse, and with so grave a matter before it, the Executive Board conscious of its great responsibility and of the far-reaching significance of this issue, decided that it could not take definitive action and that there was but one body that could determine what the Union's policy should be on such an issue that might involve the future of our Union and that might well affect one way or another the welfare of American Jewry as well. That one body is, of course, the supreme governing body of our Union, the Council itself. It was decided therefore, by a vote in ratio of three to one, to refer this question on the Palestine resolution of the American Jewish Conference to the next Council meeting of the Union.

This will give each congregation the opportunity of discussing this vital issue on what we hope will be the same high plane of appreciation for opposing viewpoints as was evident in our Executive Board meeting. To this end, the Executive Board resolved that a special committee be appointed to plan an educational program on this subject, which should prove most helpful to our individual congregations and their members, so that as a consequence, this effort would acquaint our people with all issues involved, so that by the time we convene at our next Council meeting we will be able to determine - as our Board was in no position at this time to determine - just what are the thought and feeling of our constituency on this controversial subject.

I hope that you concur in the judgment of your Executive Board, which in due appreciation of the autonomy of each of the congregations which comprise our Union, felt impelled to refer this question to you and your congregation.

I should like to receive from you at your earliest convenience your personal reaction to the above.

Another important matter which our Executive Board acted upon on Sunday was the resignation of Dr. Nelson Glueck, the Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Dr. Glueck found it necessary to resign his position due to his inability to assume the duties of his office at this time. The Board was compelled to accept his resignation with deepest regret. I am sure that you will be interested to learn that Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, who has been serving as Interim Director, was unanimously elected to succeed Dr. Glueck as Director of the Union. I know that Rabbi Eisendrath is eager to serve you and that he would appreciate hearing from you whenever you feel that there is some service that may be rendered to your congregation.

With warmest season's greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg

Adolph Rosenberg
President

AR:GS



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OF
AMERICAN RABBIS

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October 11, 1943

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

Dear Abba:

The Food For Freedom group is apparently a large organization of semi-official status. It may have great influence with regard to feeding Europe and, therefore, is of interest to us. Would you be kind enough to attend its convention in Cleveland for a short time on October 27th and 28th representing the Central Conference of American Rabbis?

With best wishes,

As ever,

Sol

SBF:GK

Enclosure

P. S. If you can attend, please write to them and tell them that you are our representative.



October 13, 1943

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
4905 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I have already been asked to represent
the American Academy of Political and Social Science
at the Food for Freedom Convention, in Cleveland.
You might designate one of the other Reform Rabbis
in town to represent the Conference.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

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☆

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Honorary Secretary

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

October 20, 1943

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I presume that you will be attending the Executive Board of the CCAR next Tuesday. I believe that there is a late sleeper out of Cincinnati which would get you into Cleveland early the following morning. I trust that you will be able to stay over until that time, as Mr. Rosenberg and I would very much like to have you take dinner with us and discuss some of our pressing mutual problems.

Please let me know if you can be with us at that time.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours most faithfully,

Maurice

Maurice N. Eisendrath

MNE:SG

October 22, 1943

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

My dear Rabbi Eisendrath:

Thank you for your kind note. I am afraid that I will not be able to stay over after the meeting of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. I have made arrangements to take the late afternoon train to get me into New York Wednesday morning. I have some very important engagements in New York on that day.

Morgenstern's outbreak has made an awful impression in our circles. I am being deluged with letters and telegrams of protest and I am afraid that for the time being, at least, you will find your work in connection with the campaign for the Union and the College among pro-Zionist Rabbis extremely difficult.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

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OF
AMERICAN RABBIS

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November 5, 1943

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

Dear Abba:

I shall write today to Marcuson to send you a complete copy of the program as it was passed and then you will be able to invite the various participants.

I am coming to Cleveland from Chicago where I am going to address the Triennial of the Council of Jewish Women in an effort to keep them from following the lead of the American Jewish Committee and leaving the Conference. I do not think that I shall be able to stand one more night on the sleeper and so I shall leave soon after my afternoon address. Can't we lunch together? We have a great deal to talk over.

With best wishes,

As ever,

Sol

SBF:GK

P. S. With regard to your resolution on Morgenstern's statement, the committee adopted another resolution of the same purport but less denunciatory. You will find its skeleton in the report of the Executive Board which you very likely have received by now.



November 5, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th st. at Ansel rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

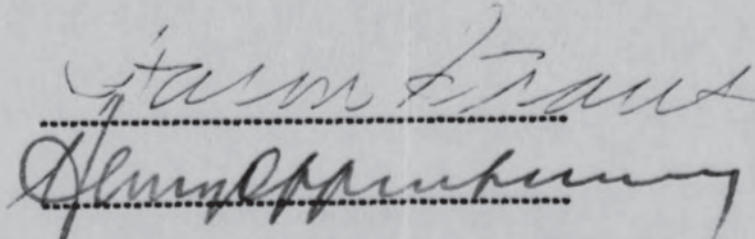
Dear Dr. Silver:

Unfortunately, we were unable to be present at the Executive Board meeting of the Union held on Sunday, October 3rd. We are, however, deeply concerned at the action taken because of our many years of interest in the Union. We very much doubt that the action taken at the Board meeting represents the opinion of the majority of the Board members. For that reason we are writing everyone of our colleagues on the Board of the Union, to ask the following questions:

1. Do you approve the Palestine resolution passed by the American Jewish Conference?
2. Do you approve the delay until the next Biennial?
3. Do you approve the suggestion to make this subject a matter of congregational debate, with the possible danger of dissension within the congregation?
4. What do you think should be the stand of the Union in the matter of continued association with the American Jewish Conference?
5. What steps do you think the Executive Board should take at the present time?

We need hardly assure you of our profound interest in the welfare of this organization representative of liberal Judaism in the United States. We are prompted to write this letter because of our deep concern at the direction which affairs in American Jewish life are taking.

Cordially yours,


Isaac L. Straus
Isaac L. Straus

Members of the Executive Board

Please address reply to #1 S. Howard Street, Baltimore, Md.

C O P Y

RABBI EDGAR F. MAGNIN
WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE
WILSHIRE BOULEVARD AT HOBART
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

November 8, 1943

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Merchants Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I am home again after my trip to Cincinnati, and have given much thought to our conversation. I am terribly worried about the status of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College, and my loyalty to and interest in both of these great religious institutions prompts my sending you this letter.

The College and the Union were founded to propagate and perpetuate Liberal Judaism. As such, they are religious institutions solely, and have rendered a great service to American Jewry. They should under no circumstances be drawn into an unfortunate battle on the subject of Zionism. This is especially so since the rabbis of the congregations, as well as the memberships of those congregations who comprise the Union, are of all shades of opinion on the subject. Some are ardent Zionists; some are lukewarm Zionists; others are non-Zionists and still others are anti-Zionists.

In such a situation, the Union is in no position to take an affirmative stand on the subject of Zionism or anti-Zionism. To do so would be to split the organization into two, and probably to destroy both the Union and the College. No true and sincere lover of either one of these great institutions or of Liberal Judaism itself would want to see such a situation exist, much less help to create it.

I do hope and pray that in these tense and strenuous days, when people's nerves are keyed up to the pitch of hysteria, that our religious and lay leaders may have the good judgment to preserve our religious institutions, however strong their convictions may be, either for or against Zionism.

With best wishes, believe me, I am

Sincerely and cordially,

(Signed) EDGAR F. MAGNIN

November 9, 1943

Mr. Aaron Straus
#1 South Howard Street
Baltimore 1, Maryland

My dear Mr. Straus:

In reply to your letter of November 5 permit me to state that I did attend the Executive Board Meeting of the Union on October 3. I am sorry that you did not. Had you attended the meeting, you would probably have refrained from curricularizing the membership of the Board in the manner in which you did.

The action of the Board, I deem very wise. The Reform Jewish bloc had actively participated in the sessions of the American Jewish Conference and helped to draw up the Palestine Resolution. This, of course, did not commit the Union, and the question came up in the Executive whether the Union was prepared to ratify the Palestine Resolution which some of its representatives helped to draft. There was a sharp division of opinion. As the official records of the meeting show, a vote for or against ratification might have been put through by one or two votes. It appeared to the overwhelming number of the Board members present that this would be unwise — to commit the rank and file of Reform Jews who had not had an opportunity to express themselves on the subject, especially since the Board, itself, was so closely divided on the subject. It was therefore decided, by an overwhelming vote, to refer the matter to the next Biennial of the Union.

The Union will remain in the Conference as it should. No organization is compelled to ratify every resolution passed by the Conference, and dissent from a resolution does not warrant bolting the Conference.

I am afraid, my dear Mr. Straus, that you have been unduly agitated over this issue and that you are perhaps being imposed upon by some members of the American Council for Judaism whose position, you will recall, was repudiated by

Mr. A. Straus

-2-

November 9, 1943

the Central Conference of American Rabbis at its last convention. The Central Conference of American Rabbis represents the spiritual leadership of Reform Judaism in the United States.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



November 11, 1943

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

My dear Rabbi Eisendrath:

I am sending on to you a copy of the letter which I received from Rabbi Theodore N. Lewis. It is self-explanatory. Why Jonah Wise found it necessary to invite Sulzberger to address the Maccabbean Rally under the auspices of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues at a time when Sulzberger resigns from the Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations is something which I and others can not understand. There seems to be a peculiar logic directing the actions of certain anti-Zionist individuals.

I am wondering, too, what you are doing about the situation in the Houston Reform Congregation. Freehof, who was here yesterday, said that you were going down there. I am persuaded that if that congregation, under the leadership of a few laymen and Schachtel will adopt the kind of resolutions and two-type members which is contemplated, it would have a very unfortunate effect upon the progress of Reform Judaism in that part of the country, and may give us a black eye elsewhere. It might be desirable for Freehof, as President of the Conference, to be invited to Houston by the B'nai B'rith or by some other city-wide organization prior to the meeting of the Houston Congregation where he can explain to the community just what the attitude of Reform Judaism really is to the subject of Zionism, etc.

I have received quite a number of communications from Houston Jews, and the situation unless corrected, may lead to considerable bad blood affecting the future life of that community.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc.

MISSING PAGE (S)



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

2.

November 12, 1943

P. S. Since dictating the above, your letter has just been received. I have no explanation to offer as to why Sulzberger was invited to address the Maccabean Rally. All I can tell you is this: that in subsequent conversation with Jonah Wise he admitted that in view of the reaction that had been evoked, it was undoubtedly a mistake, and that he would seek some means of rectifying it. A meeting of the Program Committee was called for this week, but I have not as yet heard just what happened. I trust that they may have been able to undo whatever harm might have been done.

I have written to Houston asking to come down there, but as yet have had no reply. I am hoping that I may have a favorable response soon, as I am most eager to go to bat with them on this deplorable situation. I too have been trying to urge Freehof to accompany me to Houston, but as yet I have not been successful. Perhaps you can add the necessary push. I will keep you constantly informed.



M.N.E.



Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, D.D.
The Ruskin Apartments
120 Ruskin Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

November 13, 1943

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg
Union of American
Hebrew Congregations
Merchants Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Adolph:

The dispute between our anti-Zionists and our Zionists has seriously disturbed the peace of the U.A.H.C. and is now beginning to endanger its existence. It seems difficult to understand why this should be. The same dispute is raging in the ranks of American Orthodoxy. The Orthodox dispute on Zionism does not seem to be doing any harm to anybody and certainly it is not creating any stir. Yet the Orthodox are supposed to be absolutists and intolerant! But we, the liberals, who are presumed to be tolerant, do not seem to know how to get along with each other when we differ on this question.

Of course, the Orthodox Jews of America do not possess one all-inclusive Orthodox union of congregations. Therefore the dispute is fragmentized into small neighborhood arguments. But with us, precisely because we have an all-inclusive national organization of congregations, our dispute on this question assumes national dimensions. Each of the two parties wishes to conquer the entire Union. Each threatens either to secede or to neglect the Union if the other side wins.

In this dangerous situation, we will need to call upon our whole reserves of patience and mutual tolerance. Why must the Union come to a choice between the two philosophies? Is such a choice essential to the performance of its specific tasks? Surely not. There are, of course, extremists among Zionists who will say that unless Judaism is nationalistic, it is not true Judaism. And there are extremists among the anti-Zionists who say that unless Reform is anti-Zionistic, it is not Reform. I am strongly of the opinion that the overwhelming majority of the rabbis will not hold with either extreme. The majority of our Zionists will agree that an anti-Zionist can be a good religious Jew and the majority of our anti-Zionists will agree that a Zionist can be a loyal adherent of Reform Judaism.

Then why must we permit these extremists to wreck the Union of American Hebrew Congregations? There are really only a few of them on either side. Let us find some way of eliciting the opinion of the majority of the rabbis and of the congregations and I am sure we will find that the overwhelming majority will

agree that we can continue our religious work, successfully and progressively, without being driven to take one extreme view or the other. Let us once and for all get a strong majority statement expressing the disgust of the American Reform Jew with those who would capture the Union for a specific party view.

Sincerely,

(Signed) SOLOMON B. FREEHOF



C O P Y

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE
55th Street and Lexington Avenue

RABBI JONAH B. WISE
35 East 62nd Street
New York 21, N. Y.

November 17, 1943

Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
34 West Sixth Street
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Dear Colleague:

I consider it of great importance that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations should not allow its program to be impaired because of the clashes in our American Jewish scene. I don't think any of them are really inside the Synagogue. If they do get in, it will be because they are tracked in by zealots on one side or the other.

I have plenty of zeal myself in this matter. I feel as deeply about the Zionist program and propaganda as any man in our ministry. However, I do not preach on this subject in my own Synagogue, although I do not know that there is a single Zionist in my congregation, and I do not wish it to become a part of the agenda of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

It is the business of the Union to build up Reform Judaism. With the obvious decay of all other forms of Judaism in the United States and the hundred year development of the Reform Movement, it seems that its responsibility is pretty well established. If there is anything which a liberal religious program involves, it certainly must be freedom of opinion. It must stand for that freedom in every area, and for it to legislate on matters of opinion seems to me to be contrary to its fundamental program.

I trust the Union will not make any effort to find a solution for this matter, either in resolutions for or against the Palestine program, but will give perfect freedom to its individual members to express themselves as they choose in the matter.

I hope such a stand can be taken and maintained.
Very sincerely yours,

Enc:

(Signed) JONAH B. WISE

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Honorary Secretary

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

November 19, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

The high hopes with which I entered upon my task as Director of the Union have been greatly disturbed by increasing evidences of a growing disunity within our Reform Jewish ranks. I have been greatly handicapped in the assumption of my new responsibilities by deepening ill will in certain quarters growing out of our divergent viewpoint on those controversial issues which are now being debated throughout the American Jewish scene. You can well imagine how profoundly concerned I am and how my own distress is shared by our President, Mr. Adolph Rosenberg. We both believe that the time has come to take some definite action with regard to the situation as it seems to be developing. We believe that there is even grave danger that our Reform Jewish movement may be not alone weakened but possibly disrupted by the present controversy. Our opinion appears to be shared by a number of our leaders in the rabbinate, as we have been receiving quite a number of letters along the line of the three that I am attaching herewith. These letters, coming as they do from the East and the West, from the President of our Conference, from one of our non-Zionist, as well as from one of our Zionist colleagues, are indicative of the growing conviction that the Union must make a decision which will enable it to rally all our progressive forces to the constructive tasks of Reform Judaism. We cannot permit the Union to be the battleground of the present conflict in Jewish life. Our own religious program should be sufficient to unite us and free us as congregations and as individuals to express our Zionist or non-Zionist convictions elsewhere.

To achieve this concrete end and to save our Reform Jewish institutions - the Union and the College - from the serious consequences that our present disunity cannot but make inevitable, I am asking some of my

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

2.

November 19, 1943

colleagues, representing both sides of this question, to an informal meeting here in Cincinnati on Tuesday, November 30. It is the day that our Administrative Committee meeting is scheduled to be held, and I am hopeful that out of this meeting of minds and hearts we may be able to recommend some program of action to the Administrative Committee and to sound, for our entire constituency, a clarion call to our constructive and common purposes.

In view of the fact that our Administrative Committee is to meet on the afternoon of November 30, I am calling this meeting for nine o'clock Tuesday morning, at the Netherland Plaza Hotel. I really cannot over-emphasize the importance of this meeting. I think that the whole future of our Reform Jewish movement is at stake. I hope that you will permit no previous engagements or commitments to prevent your being present with us at this crucial hour. Your expenses will, of course, be borne by the Union.

Please use the enclosed card to indicate whether or not you will be present.

Hoping that you will let nothing interfere with being here on the 30th, and looking forward to seeing you at that time, I am, with warmest personal greetings,

Yours most faithfully,

Maurice

Maurice N. Eisendrath
Director

MNE:JA

P.S. Please note that Cincinnati is now on Eastern Standard Time. That means that if your train arrives in Cincinnati at 8:30 A.M. railroad time, it will be 7:30 Cincinnati time. Similarly in arranging to return home, if the time of departure of your train is, let us say, 6:00 o'clock railroad time, it will be 5:00 o'clock Cincinnati time.

M.N.E.

November 26, 1943

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

My dear Rabbi Eisendrath:

Thank you for your letter of November 19. I regret that I do not feel free to attend the meeting which you have called for November 30. I have read your letter through a few times and I am still at a loss to understand (1) by what authority this informal meeting of Rabbis to recommend some program of action to the Administrative Committee is called, (2) what authority such an informal gathering of Rabbis will have to recommend such a program of action and (3) what authority the Administrative Committee will have to act in such an important matter.

At the last meeting of the Executive of the Union, it was decided by an overwhelming vote to permit the membership of the Union to express itself on this controversial subject at the next biennial meeting. The members of the Executive felt that they did not know just how the constituency of the Union really felt about Zionism, the Jewish Commonwealth, etc. etc. They wanted to be guided by the judgment of the official representatives of the congregations who make up the Union.

I know that an effort has since been made by members of the American Council for Judaism, working through Mr. Straus and Mr. Oppenheimer of Baltimore, to force a reconsideration of its decision by the Executive, and to railroad through a declaration which they hope will be hostile to Zionism.

You are evidently greatly perturbed by this as well as by other manifestations of sharp differences of opinion in the ranks of Reform Judaism, such as that of the Houston Congregation, and you wish to meet the situation by some formal declaration of "neutrality" on Zionism. To that end you have obtained letters from Wise, Freehof and Magnin which are to serve as one of the excuses for calling a meeting of Rabbis to propose such a course of action to the Administration Committee.

November 26, 1943

I can only say that you are getting yourself and the Union deeper and deeper into a fog and a morass.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis has already declared itself on this subject -- fully and very helpfully -- at its last convention to wit, that Zionism is not incompatible with Reform Judaism. This means, if it means anything, that a Reform Jew may be a Zionist or a non-Zionist as his convictions dictate without bringing into the question his loyalty to fundamental principles of Reform Judaism. It is not necessary again to call together a small and informal group of Reform Rabbis to reiterate this position which was taken by the entire body of Reform Rabbis and which may well serve as a guide for all of our Reform congregations.

As far as the Union itself is concerned, it, too, has made its position clear. For the time being and until the next biennial of the Union, it will take no action on the subject. At the next biennial it will elicit an expression from the delegates appointed by its constituent congregations on the Palestine Resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference. The biennial convention may choose to ratify that resolution or to substitute one of its own for it as was the case with the Council of Jewish Women, or it may simply reaffirm the position taken by the C.C.A.R. -- which would seem to be the logical step to take.

The Administrative Committee of the Union, whose functions are limited to purely administrative matters, should not undertake to speak for the Union on such fundamental matter, especially since the Executive itself has refrained from expressing an opinion on it.

May I remind you that the Zionists are not crowding the Union at this time for a new declaration on Palestine. We are perfectly content to abide by the decision of the Executive. It is the bitter anti-Zionist minority in the Conference and the Union -- the constituency of the American Council for Judaism -- which is attempting to force the hand of the Union. They are opposed to the declaration of the C.C.A.R. They wish it to be made known that Zionism is not compatible with Reform Judaism. This is at the very heart of the controversy and I am afraid that no neutrality resolution which you are likely to adopt now or in the future will satisfy this intransigent group and will put an end to their agitation.

I do not agree with you that Reform Judaism is in danger of disruption or that the future of our Reform Jewish Movement is at stake. I have far greater confidence in the inner strength and

Rabbi Eisendrath

-3-

November 26, 1943

stability of our great religious movement. Like every other movement, we have in these troubled times of upheaval entered one of those periodic crises which with intelligence, sound judgment and courage, we shall weather quite successfully.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



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REGRET NOT HAVING HEARD FROM YOU REGARDING YOUR ATTENDING
TUESDAY MEETING OF RABBIS. BELIEVE FUTURE EXISTENCE OF
COLLEGE AND UNION IS AT STAKE AND IT IS MOST IMPERATIVE BOTH
SIDES BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED FOR THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF
PROBLEM, YOUR HELP IS INDISPENSABLE. PLEASE WIRE COLLECT THAT
YOU ARE COMING=

MAURICE N EISENDRATH.

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Nov. 26 1943

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19810 SHAKER BLVD CLEVELAND

BELIEVE YOUR LETTER EVIDENCES MISUNDERSTANDING MY MOTIVES IN
CALLING MEETING. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD I WISH UNION TO
ADOPT POSITION YOUR LETTER INDICATES OPPOSITION DESIRES.
I FEEL YOU UNDERESTIMATE DANGER TO UNION UNLESS SUCH AN
INFORMAL CONFERENCE IS HELD AND STILL HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE
TO COME LETTER FOLLOWS:

MAURICE N. EISENDRATH.

MINUTES

MEETING OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF UAHC

Cincinnati, Ohio
November 30, 1943

Pursuant to the call of the President, Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, a meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations was held at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Tuesday, November 30, at 3:00 P.M.

The following members of the Committee were present: Adolph Rosenberg, President, Jesse Cohen, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Solomon Elsner, Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, Robert P. Goldman, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Lester A. Jaffe, David F. Kahn, Jacob W. Mack, Melvin S. Meyers, Philip Meyers, Rabbi Julian Morgenstern, and Melville S. Welt.

Regrets for non-attendance were received from Rabbi Jonah B. Wise.

Messrs. Louis L. Kaufman, Herbert C. Oettinger, and Dr. Hiram B. Weiss, members of the Executive Board living in Cincinnati, were present on invitation of the President.

Rabbis Samuel M. Gup and George Zepin were present at the meeting, at the invitation of the President, to present the report from the Committee on Rabbinical Pensions.

The following rabbis, who were in Cincinnati for another meeting, were present on invitation: Rabbis Max C. Currick, Abraham J. Feldman, B. Benedict Glazer, Morris S. Lazaron, Jacob R. Marcus, Harry S. Margolis, and Hyman J. Schachtel.

Mr. Rosenberg presided, and Rabbi Louis I. Egelson, Administrative Secretary, recorded the Minutes. Mr. Hyman Kanter, Accountant of the UAHC, was also present.

Committee on Rabbinical Pensions

In the absence of Mr. Jacob Aronson, Chairman of the Committee on Rabbinical Pensions, Rabbi Samuel M. Gup presented the report of the Joint Committee (Appendix A), and explained the difference between the old plan and the new plan.

Judge Elsner pointed out that because this is a joint effort of the Union and the Conference, he looked with disfavor upon the creation of a separate entity. He would like to see the pension plan operated by a joint board, the Union members of which shall be members of the Executive Board of the Union, and report to the

Executive Board of the Union.

After a lengthy discussion by members of the Administrative Committee, Rabbi Zepin presented the following resolution which was adopted.

Resolution Regarding Pension Plan

RESOLVED, That the Report of the Joint Committee on Rabbinical Pensions be accepted and approved, and'

Furthermore, That the following specific action requested in the report be authorized:

1. That the President of the Union be authorized to appoint six members who should be members of the Executive Board of the Union on the Rabbinical Pension Board for terms of three years, as outlined in the Report and that this Board submit annual reports to both of the parent bodies.

2. That the officers of the Union, be authorized to execute a formal agreement between the Union and the Conference providing:

(a) for the payment of each organization of \$5,000.00 annually, the first such annual payment to be made on the execution of the Trust Agreement to be submitted with the formal agreement (the contract) and succeeding contributions to be made annually thereafter, subject to the terms and conditions of same.

(b) an annual appropriation of \$1,500 by each of the two contracting organizations, the said funds to be available for office and administration expense of the Pension Board; any unexpended balances at the end of any year to be returned to the contributing organizations;

(c) the transfer by the Union to the Rabbinical Pension Board or to duly constituted Trustees, as may be found appropriate, of that portion of the Schiff Pension Fund which has already been allocated to the Reform Group, together with the total of the Schonthal Pension Fund; and contemporaneous transfer by the Central Conference of \$150,000 of its existing Pension Fund.

(d) the inclusion of appropriate provisions in respect of Trust Agreement and administration, as may be found desirable.

3. That authorization be given to the Rabbinical Pension Board to take all appropriate steps for the consummation and successful administration of the pension program.

4. That the Pension Board be authorized not only to administer the pension plan but to take over any unfinished business of the Joint Committee on Rabbinical Pensions, and

5. That the Joint Committee on Rabbinical Pensions be discharged with the thanks and appreciation of the Union.

American Jewish Conference

Mr. Rosenberg stated that at the last meeting of the Executive Board, it was decided that consideration of the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference be left to the next Council of the Union. Immediately after that decision was announced, communications were received from various sources questioning the advisability of this long delay. Rabbis Freehof, Magnin and Jonah Wise wrote and urged us to take action which would lift the Union out of this controversial area and prevent a possible split. These rabbis urged us to devote ourselves completely to the religious purposes of the Union. Mr. Rosenberg then called on Rabbi Eisendrath to continue the presentation of the problem.

Rabbi Eisendrath stated that there was a considerable opinion from rabbis and laymen indicating that the action of the Executive Board at its October 3 meeting was not satisfactory, that the Union must clarify its position on this controversial issue. Unless the Union frees itself from this controversy, it is apparent that the Union would become the principal battle-ground for this issue. Other organizations seem to escape it, but because the leadership on both sides of the question is found in the ranks of the Union, the Union faces a grave danger.

With the letters from three leading rabbis in the country before us, from the President of the CCAR, from a leading Zionist on the West Coast, and a leading non-Zionist from the East Coast, Rabbi Eisendrath stated that he wrote to twenty-six rabbis asking them to meet in Cincinnati the morning before the Administrative Committee meeting, to try to resolve the difficulty. Eighteen rabbis came to this meeting and grappled with the problem the entire day. As a result, we reached a compromise which ought to be acceptable to practically our entire rabbinical leadership and to a great majority of the laymen in the Union.

In addition to sending the letters from the three rabbis to those that were invited for the meeting in Cincinnati, Rabbi Eisendrath reported that he had sent a similar letter to all the rabbis of the Union, asking for their reaction. He received between fifty and sixty replies, and these, with one or two exceptions, urged that the Union take a neutral position with regard to Zionism.

Rabbi Eisendrath reported further that we are in receipt of an official communication from the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, urging us to declare our neutrality now, and not to wait until the next Council of the Union.

The resolution prepared by the rabbis is simply a recommendation for action by the Executive Board of the Union. Should the Executive Board of the Union approve the resolution, it will do much to bring about unity in our organization.

Rabbi Eisendrath asked Rabbi Freehof to read the resolution recommended by the committee of rabbis that had met earlier in the day.

Before reading the resolution Rabbi Freehof stated that Rabbi Eisendrath had acted in such a way as to greatly enhearten everyone with regard to his future service for the Union. Rabbi Eisendrath would not let the rabbis adjourn until they had reached a definite agreement. The anti-Zionist group objected to our remaining in the American Jewish Conference because they felt that this was an acceptance of the whole program of political Zionism, inasmuch as the Palestine Resolution was not repudiated. The conclusion that we reached was to stay in the Conference, to evidence our association with and our determination to stand by our fellow Jews in the present crisis, but that we very specifically state our dissociation from the Palestine Resolution. Rabbi Freehof added that the vote on the resolution presented by the rabbis was unanimous. He submitted the resolution to the Administrative Committee and hoped for its acceptance.

The resolution is as follows:

"The Union declares that its function is to interpret, maintain and promote Reform Judaism and reaffirms its loyalty to its spiritual purposes.

"The Union declares its sense of fellowship with all Israel and will associate itself with all worthy and practical efforts designed to ameliorate the tragic plight of world Jewry and, therefore, continues to be a member of the American Jewish Conference, upon the conditions mentioned below.

"Because in the congregations of the Union there are divergent opinions on the question of Zionism, the Union recognizes the right of each individual to determine his own attitude on this controversial question.

"Therefore, the Union as an organization, is unable to associate itself with those parts of the Palestine Resolution/the American Jewish Conference which call for exclusive Jewish control of immigration into Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth.

"The Union's position on Palestine has been stated, and we herewith reaffirm the Resolution passed at the Committee meeting on May 30, 1943, whose recommendations were subsequently ratified by the Executive Board of the Union, as follows:

- "1. Provision shall be made for large-scale immigration into Palestine regulated in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine by such a concert of nations as shall be established after the war.

"2. Palestine shall remain under the stewardship of this concert of nations until it shall become possible to establish self-government without jeopardizing the rights or status of any group in Palestine.

"3. Such a government shall be democratic and non-sectarian, modelled upon the governments of the democratic nations. There shall be complete separation of Church and State. The inviolability of the Holy Places of the various religions shall be guaranteed.

"We call upon our congregations and their members to rally loyally to the support of the Union.

"We further resolve that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the American Jewish Conference with the request that they communicate it to the constituent members of the American Jewish Conference and make it known through their publications."

Judge Elsner moved that the resolution be accepted by the Administrative Committee, and that the recommendation be made to the Executive Board of the Union to reconsider its action on October 3 and approve this resolution.

Mr. Mack called attention to the fact that the resolution from the rabbis ignored the resolution with regard to Palestine that was passed by the Council of the Union in New Orleans.

Both Rabbis Freehof and Eisendrath pointed out that the committee that met in Philadelphia in May based its Declaration of Principles on the resolution that was adopted in New Orleans and quoted the New Orleans resolution in the Declaration of Principles. The resolution of the rabbis specifically mentions the Declaration of Principles. Therefore, the New Orleans resolution is not disregarded.

Mr. Rosenberg pointed out that the resolution from the rabbis represents a program that was adopted after considerable discussion and weighing of words and shifting of paragraphs, that this resolution was agreeable to all groups attending the rabbinical meeting. He urged its adoption in the form presented, because if we were to change the resolution, that might release those men who committed themselves to it by voting for it.

Mrs. Hartmann suggested that in sending the resolution from the rabbis to the members of the Executive Board, in advance of the next meeting, we include a copy of the Declaration of Principles.

Mr. Jaffe suggested that there be a preamble to the resolution from the rabbis indicating that a group of rabbis gathered in Cincinnati, and after long deliberation unanimously agreed that

the resolution they recommend is the best possible solution. He also suggested that the names of the rabbis attending the meeting might be mentioned in the preamble.

The motion to approve the rabbinical resolution for transmission to the Executive Board of the Union was passed unanimously.

The Palestine Commission

Mr. Rosenberg read a letter from the American Jewish Conference asking the Union to designate a member for the Palestine Commission. Mr. Rosenberg asked the advice of the Administrative Committee. The consensus was that this be referred to the meeting of the Executive Board.

Interim Committee and Presidium

Mr. Rosenberg stated that he and Mrs. Hartmann had been co-opted by the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, and he asked whether the invitation shall be accepted. The consensus was that they should accept the appointment.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that he had been informed indirectly that it is the intention of the Interim Committee to nominate him as a co-chairman of the Interim Committee. It was the consensus that the invitation be accepted.

Mr. Rosenberg suggested that before accepting this appointment, he would await the action of the Executive Board of the Union.

Next Meeting of the Executive Board

Mr. Rosenberg asked whether the vote of the Executive Board should be secured by mail. It was the consensus that a meeting of the Executive Board be called in Chicago on Tuesday, January 18.

Educational Project

Mr. Rosenberg called attention to the fact that at the last meeting of the Executive Board, we were asked to prepare an educational project on Zionism in advance of action to be taken at the next Council. In the light of the decision of the Administrative Committee to present the resolution to the next meeting of the Executive Board and recommend the reconsideration of its former action, Mr. Rosenberg inquired whether the educational program should be inaugurated now.

It was recommended that consideration of the inauguration of the educational project be deferred until after the next meeting of the Executive Board.

The Houston Congregation

Mr. Rosenberg called attention to the fact that Congregation

Beth Israel of Houston had adopted a set of requirements for admission to membership in the congregation, and had passed resolutions condemning the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Hebrew Union College and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He asked Rabbi Eisendrath to state the case in more detail.

Rabbi Eisendrath indicated that the matter had not as yet come before us officially, that we had not yet received the resolution condemning the Union. We do know, however, that the resolution was passed, and that a membership form was adopted containing a set of principles, the acceptance of which alone entitles a member to full membership rights in that congregation.

This matter was brought to our attention by members of the Houston congregation who sought to defeat the adoption of the membership form and the resolutions condemning the Union, the College and the CCAR.

The Union's help was solicited by this group. Rabbi Eisendrath stated that he wrote to the president of the congregation and expressed a desire to come to Houston to discuss the matter with the congregation. The president of the congregation wrote in reply that it would serve no purpose for Rabbi Eisendrath to come to Houston on that mission.

The question is what action, if any, the Administrative Committee might take or might recommend to the Executive Board to take under the circumstances.

The members of the Committee called attention to the fact that the Union had not received any resolutions from Houston as yet. It was, therefore, suggested that when the resolutions do reach us, they should be acknowledged and the congregation be told that they will be referred to the Executive Board of the Union. In the meantime, if we learn that these resolutions have been circulated among our constituent congregations by Houston, the Director of the Union is authorized to write to those congregations and reply to any misstatements of fact made in the resolutions. However, the policy to be pursued by the Union with reference to the Houston congregation should be referred to the Executive Board.

The meeting recessed for dinner and resumed its session at eight o'clock.

Chicago Federation of Reform Synagogues

Rabbi Eisendrath reported that at the meeting of the Administrative Committee last June, he called attention to the situation in Chicago, with particular reference to the problem of the large number of unaffiliated in the West Side of Chicago, that thousands of Jewish children are without religious or Jewish instruction of any kind.

At that time the Administrative Committee authorized the Director to look into the entire Chicago situation. Rabbi Eisen-

drath did so, and in the middle of October he had a meeting with the presidents of all the Chicago congregations, looking to the establishment of a Chicago Federation of Reform Congregations similar to that which we have in New York.

The presidents of the Chicago congregations agreed to the program, and a subcommittee was appointed to consider plans of organization. Further meetings were held in Chicago on November 15-16. We have now reached the stage where we may launch a Chicago Federation of Reform Congregations. We will need an office in Chicago, a director similar to the one we have in New York, to serve the thirteen congregations in Chicago at the beginning and later on to take in the communities adjacent to Chicago.

Rabbi Eisendrath recommended that the Union subsidize the formation of the Chicago Federation and authorize him to proceed along the lines suggested. He estimated that the entire cost would be in the neighborhood of \$7,500.00, and that it would include the salary of a director, a stenographer, office rental, and incidental expenses.

Mr. Rosenberg pointed out that our experience with the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues has been exceedingly good, that the New York Federation has taken the responsibility of raising funds for the Union in New York. He felt that the Chicago Federation would not turn out to be a burden on us. We are hopeful that Chicago will raise about \$50,000 for the Union annually.

It was moved and duly carried that Rabbi Eisendrath's recommendation be approved, that a Chicago Federation of Reform Synagogues be established, and that authorization be given for the expenditure of \$7,500 for the first year.

Philadelphia Federation of Reform Synagogues

Rabbi Eisendrath informed the Administrative Committee that the three Reform congregations in Philadelphia have formed a federation. They wish to organize a new congregation in the Wynnefield section, and they asked for a grant from the Union for one year in order to supplement the salary of Rabbi Samuel Glasner, who would have charge of the new congregation. The Philadelphia congregations believe that after one year, the new congregation would become self-sustaining.

Judge Elsner called attention to the fact that the Philadelphia federation should become a subsidiary of the Union, just as the New York Federation, that it should be organized under our auspices with a constitution like that of the New York Federation, and that it should comprise an area adjacent to Philadelphia, in addition to the three Philadelphia congregations.

Dr. Weiss pointed out that if we want Reform Judaism to grow, the sooner we take more daring steps in the organization and perhaps subsidizing of new congregations, the sooner will we achieve our goal.

It was moved and duly carried that Rabbi Eisendrath should go to Philadelphia, confer with the leaders of the federation, investigate procedures, and if everything is satisfactory, he be authorized to subsidize the new congregation to the extent of \$1,000 for one year.

Report of Committee on Nominations

Mr. Goldman read the report of the Committee on Nominations. (Appendix B)

It was moved and duly carried that the nominations be confirmed.

Resolution to Open Account with Peoples Bank

The following resolution was adopted:

"RESOLVED, That the Peoples Bank and Savings Company of Cincinnati, Ohio be designated as a depository of funds of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and

"That funds of this corporation deposited in said bank be subject to withdrawal by checks, drafts, or other instruments for the withdrawal of funds when signed, made, drawn, accepted or endorsed on behalf of this organization by the Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations or the Administrative Secretary or the Director of the Bureau of Synagogue Activities, together with any one of the persons then holding any one of the following offices: President, Chairman of the Board, any Vice-President, Treasurer or Chairman of the Committee on Endowment and Trust Funds."

Report on Jonesboro, Ark.

Mr. Herbert C. Oettinger read the report on the status of the situation at Jonesboro. (Appendix C)

It was moved and duly carried that the report be accepted and placed in the records.

Mr. Rosenberg pointed out that the project is turning out satisfactorily; that the committee has done a very fine job; particularly Mr. Kanter, our Chief Accountant, who made several trips to Jonesboro.

Financial Campaign

Mr. Philip Meyers reported that plans are now being prepared for a national campaign in every city where we have a congregation, that national sponsors are being enrolled, as well as members of an executive and of a campaign committee.

Rabbi Freehof called attention to the fact that in Pittsburgh the people were devoted to the churches and indicated their devotion in concrete form through bequests. Two years ago he spoke to his congregation and told them that when a man is interested in any particular project, he shows it in his will, in his last statement. Since then some people have willed money to the congregation. The lawyers in Pittsburgh receive a list of fifteen activities in the congregation, so that the members of the congregation may remember these projects in their wills. He suggested that the Union draw up an attractive booklet listing and describing the activities of the Union and the College, with a few pages left blank for listing local congregational activities, and that this booklet be sent to the Union congregations to be given to the Jewish lawyers in their communities.

Dr. Morgenstern suggested that the list of bequests to the College and the Union be published, that such publicity would stimulate bequests. He moved that Rabbi Freehof's suggestion, together with other methods and procedures, be referred to the campaign committee.

This was carried.

ADJOURNED



ADOLPH ROSENBERG,
President

RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON,
Secretary

APPENDIX A

November 23, 1943

To Dr. Solomon B. Freehof, President
Central Conference of American Rabbis

Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Dear Sirs:

The Joint Committee on Rabbinical Pensions begs to submit this report to the Administrative Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and to the Executive Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Pursuant to authority extended by the governing bodies of both parent organizations, the Joint Committee has progressed its work in the direction of formulating and perfecting the amended pension plan. It will be recalled that this amended plan provides for the issuance of individual life insurance policies with retirement annuities for those who are under sixty years of age and who are insurable, and for retirement annuity contracts for other eligible rabbis who, with the cooperation of their employing congregations, avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by our program. In all cases, the amount recoverable by the beneficiaries of the insured rabbi upon occasion of death is never less than the aggregate of all premium payments theretofore made to the insurance company (including not only the share of such premiums paid by the rabbi but, as well, those shares of the premiums contributed by employing congregations and the Union and Conference). In the case of those who are insurable and under sixty years of age at the time of entrance into the plan, the life insurance coverage from the date of issuance of the policy is substantial.

The plan contemplates that annual premiums shall be made up, generally speaking, of contributions of not less than 7 per cent of annual salary by the employing congregation, of 3 per cent of salary by the individual rabbi, and of primary grants by the Union and Conference of 1 per cent of the first \$3,000.00 of each participating rabbi's salary plus supplementary grants by the Conference and Union out of its pension capital funds in increasing percentages related to the age of the participating rabbis at the time of entrance into the plan. The purpose of these supplementary grants is to offset, in part at least, the fact that allexcept the youngest individuals do now have not before them the opportunity of accumulating in future years a sufficient reservoir for the payment of adequate annuities. In a sense, these supplementary grants by the Union-Conference out of pension capital funds will serve to compensate in part for years of prior service.

We have made arrangements for the issuance of policies by the Northwestern Life Insurance Company and have designated Mr. Ralph W. Mack as insurance underwriter. We are now about

to circularize eligible rabbis and constituent congregations in an effort to secure applications for the issuance of policies and annuity contracts. The details of the plan will be set forth in our printed literature, and we are hopeful that general, and even enthusiastic, approval will be forthcoming.

The Conference having already taken action, it becomes appropriate at this time to ask for formal action at the hands of the Administrative Committee of the Union to the end that we may proceed and advance step by step toward the ultimate goal of actual and complete consummation of this salutary and wholesome accomplishment. Formal action at the hands of the Administrative Committee which is now appropriate and which is now sought is, as follows:

1. The appointment of six members of the Rabbinical Pension Board (the other six members to be appointed by the Central Conference), to serve for the term of three years, such appointments to be made initially for periods of one, two and three years. It is suggested that not less than two of these designees of the Union be residents of Cincinnati or nearby communities, who have investment and financial experience, to the end that they may be available for service in connection with the investment of capital funds and other financial matters. In addition to twelve members, constituted as above set forth, the President of the Union and the President of the Conference shall be ex-officio members of the Board.

2. Authorization to appropriate officers of the Union to execute formal agreement between the Union and the Conference which will embody the understanding heretofore approved by the governing bodies of both organizations, to wit:

- (a) Annual appropriation by each of the two contracting organizations of the sum of \$5,000.00, the first such annual contributions to be made at the time of the execution of a trust agreement, and succeeding contributions to be made annually thereafter.

- (b) An annual appropriation of \$1,500.00 by each of the two contracting organizations, the said funds to be available for office and administrative expense of the Pension Board; any unexpended balances at the end of any year to be returned to the contributing organizations.

- (c) Transfer by the Union to the Rabbinical Pension Board or to duly constituted Trustees, as may be found appropriate, of that portion of the Schiff Pension Fund which has been allocated to the Reform Group, together with the total of the Schonthal Pension Fund; and contemporaneous transfer by the Central Conference of \$150,000.00 of its existing Pension Fund.

3.

(d) The inclusion of appropriate provisions in respect of Trust Agreement and administration, as may be found desirable.

3. Authorization to the Rabbinical Pension Board to take all appropriate steps for the consummation and successful administration of the pension program.

In addition to its primary function of administering the pension plan, the Rabbinical Pension Board will take over any unfinished business of the existing Joint Committee on Rabbinical Pensions, and as of that time this Joint Committee, having completed its work, asks that it be discharged.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Joint Committee on Rabbinical
Pensions by its Executive
Committee

JACOB ARONSON, Chairman



SAMUEL M. GUP

GEORGE ZEPIN, Secretary



APPENDIX B

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

October 26, 1943

I. NOMINATIONS FOR JOINT UAHC AND CCAR COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

The Joint Nominating Committee representing the Conference and the Union met at the Sinton Hotel on Tuesday, October 26, 1943.

Those present were: Rabbis James G. Heller, Abba Hillel Silver and Phineas Smoller, representing the C.C.A.R.; Messrs. Robert P. Goldman, Jacob W. Mack, Adolph Rosenberg and Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath representing the U.A.H.C.

Rabbi Heller presided, and Rabbi Egelson acted as Secretary.

A. Commission on Jewish Education

Rabbi Louis L. Mann, whose term expires December 31, 1943 is renominated for a three year term.

Rabbi Julius Gordon of St. Louis, and Rabbi Isaac Landman of Brooklyn are nominated for a three year term beginning January 1, 1944.

B. Commission on Information about Judaism

The following members whose terms expire December 31, 1943 are renominated for a three year term: Rabbis Harry W. Ettelson, Memphis, Jacob J. Weinstein, Chicago.

C. Commission on Synagogue Activities

Rabbi Samuel Wohl of Cincinnati whose term expires December 31, 1943 is renominated for a three year term beginning January 1, 1944.

D. The Joint Committee on Ceremonies

The following members whose terms expire December 31, 1943 are renominated for a three year term: Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman, Hartford, Rabbi James G. Heller, Cincinnati, Rabbi David Polish, Waterbury, Conn.

Rabbi Phineas Smoller of Joplin, Mo. is nominated for a three year term beginning January 1, 1944.

All the above nominations are to be confirmed also by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

II. NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

The following nominations are made by the Union representatives. The Conference nominates its own members to these organizations.

A. World Union for Progressive Judaism

The following are renominated for one year term beginning January 1, 1944: Mrs. J. Walter Freiberg, Cincinnati; Harry N. Gottlieb, Chicago; Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Chicago; Adolph Rosenberg, Cincinnati; Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Cincinnati.

The following are nominated for one year term beginning January 1, 1944: Jesse Cohen, Brooklyn; Eugene B. Strassburger, Pittsburgh.

B. Synagogue Council of America

The following are renominated for a three year term beginning January 1, 1944: Robert P. Goldman, Cincinnati; Charles P. Kramer, New York; Maximilian Moss, New York; Roger W. Straus, New York.

Judge Meier Steinbrink is nominated for a three year term beginning January 1, 1944.

C. Commission on Synagogue Activities

The following members whose terms expire December 31, 1943 are renominated for a three year term: Alex Frieder, Cincinnati; Philip Meyers, Cincinnati; James H. Miller, Cleveland; Mrs. Edgar Warner, Erie.

Mr. Mortimer May of Nashville is nominated for a three year term beginning January 1, 1944.

D. Commission on Information about Judaism

The Survey Committee recommended that a number of laymen be added to the Commission on Information about Judaism. It is suggested that the number of laymen shall equal the number of Rabbis on the Commission, namely, seven.

At this time we are prepared to nominate for membership on the Commission for a period of three years beginning January 1, 1944: Gilbert Ades, Louisville; Haskell Kramer, Los Angeles; and Gilbert Sanders of Trinidad, Colo.

We recommend that the President of the Union be authorized to appoint additional lay members on this Commission.

Respectfully submitted
For the Nominating Committee

ROBERT P. GOLDMAN

Chairman

APPENDIX C

REPORT ON JONESBORO ARKANSAS PROPERTY

Beginning November 1, 1942, the Committee on Endowment and Trust Funds assumed full charge of the Union property in Jonesboro. Mr. Meyer, the donor and agent agreed to accept an annuity of \$2,000 a year and gave the Union the right to appoint an agent to handle and sell any of the property in Jonesboro excepting the nine houses in North Jonesboro which are to be turned over to Mrs. May Meyer upon the death of Mr. Meyer.

Mr. Meyer sued the Union on a breach of contract, but just recently, I am happy to announce, Mr. Meyer dropped this suit and is now accepting his monthly annuity. Mr. Kanter, chief accountant of the Union, has made several trips to Jonesboro for the purpose of inspecting and selling the property.

The Union's original investment in Jonesboro, Arkansas amounted to

\$36,364.11

During the period 11/1/42-10/31/43 we realized from the sale of properties \$15,390.54

Less: Commissions and Cost of Abstracts

980.39 14,410.15

Net Investment 10/31/43 \$21,953.96

At present we have two prospective customers for two pieces of property for which we have asked \$8,250.00

For the twelve month period ended October 31, 1943:

Total Gross Rent Receipts \$ 7,028.61

Expenses:

Repairs, Replacements	\$421.26	
Insurance Premiums	477.98	
Commissions	634.02	
Taxes and Street Assessments	1,279.50	
Miscellaneous	17.36	2,830.12

Net Rent Receipts \$ 4,198.49

Less: Annuity Paid to Mr. Meyer \$2,000.00

Delinquent Taxes & Street Assessments	840.68	2,840.68
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Net Receipts for period ending October 31, 1943 \$ 1,357.81

At present we still own 11 houses and 4 pieces of unimproved property. A conservative estimate of the value of these remaining pieces of property would be about \$38,000.00.

HERBERT C. OETTINGER,
Chairman

Committee on Endowment and Trust Funds

MINUTES OF
INFORMAL MEETING OF RABBIS

Cincinnati, Ohio
November 30, 1943

An informal meeting of rabbis was held at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, on Tuesday, November 30, 1943, at 9:00 A.M.

Present were: Rabbis Abraham J. Feldman, Joseph L. Fink, James G. Heller, Felix A. Levy, Joshua L. Liebman, Jacob R. Marcus, Harry S. Margolis; Louis Binstock, Norman Gerstenfeld, B. Benedict Glazer, Morris S. Lazaron, Victor E. Reichert, Hyman J. Schachtel; Bernard J. Bamberger, Max C. Currick, Solomon B. Freehof, Julian Morgenstern, Abraham Shusterman, and Rabbis Maurice N. Eisendrath and Louis I. Egelson, the latter acting as Secretary.

The following rabbis who had been invited regretted their inability to be present: Edgar F. Magnin, Abba Hillel Silver, Jacob J. Weinstein, Samuel Wohl; William H. Fineshriber, Samuel H. Goldenson, Samuel S. Mayerberg, Jonah B. Wise, Louis Wolsey; Louis L. Mann.

Rabbi Samuel M. Gup, who was in Cincinnati to attend the meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Union, was invited to be present.

The following members of the Administrative Committee of the Union attended the meeting: Jesse Cohen, Solomon Elsnor, Mrs. Hugo Hartmann, Lester A. Jaffe, Adolph Rosenberg, and Melville S. Welt.

Rabbi Eisendrath called the meeting to order, and asked Rabbi Currick to invoke God's blessing upon the deliberations.

Purpose of the Meeting

Rabbi Eisendrath stated the purpose of the meeting; a divisiveness was rising in our ranks that might lead to serious consequences. The breach has become far more grave than we imagine, and threatens to disrupt our Reform Jewish ranks. The Union felt impelled to call together some of our rabbis representing both sides of the controversy, as well as a number of neutral rabbis. In some quarters opinions were expressed as to the futility of this meeting. If we do not succeed today in arriving at a formula, Reform Judaism will be split into two bitterly opposing factions. They will be fighting each other instead of fighting together for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Eisendrath suggested that within the Union we can agree to disagree on Zionism, but we can work together on a definite program for the strengthening and expansion of Reform Judaism.

Rabbi Eisendrath presented the following statement as the terms of reference for this meeting:

"To consider and to recommend to the Administrative Committee of the Union a policy and a program that will rally the divergent groups within the Union to its constructive religious program and will remove from its own ranks the present controversy that is dividing and threatens to disrupt our Reform Jewish movement. Anything beyond this specific task as it relates to the policy and program to be adopted by the Union shall be considered outside the purview of this gathering. The meeting shall have no authority except that of recommendation to the Administrative Committee of the Union. This common program, in theory and action, shall be sought by consensus rather than by vote."

Rabbi Eisendrath then asked Rabbi Freehof to serve as presiding officer.

Discussion

Rabbi Freehof accepted because he said he felt a sense of obligation to Rabbi Eisendrath and to the Union, and expressed the hope that we could arrive at a modus vivendi.

A number of the rabbis expressed themselves as desirous of achieving unity within the ranks of the Union.

Rabbi Lazon said that while it is true that we are representing different points of view, they are subsidiary to our object in coming together. We are here as men who have received our education from an institution that we love, and we are here to see if we can preserve that institution. We are facing a crisis in the Union and must take steps to preserve the Union.

Rabbis Marcus, Currick, Levy and Fink indicated that there is no difference of opinion regarding the main purpose of the meeting, namely, to save the Union and the College, and that this is implied in the presence of the rabbis at the meeting.

Rabbi Liebman pointed out that we ought to get to the heart of the question at issue and he asked, does anyone object to the stand of the Union and why.

Rabbi Heller pointed out that anyone is entitled to take issue with the opinions of an organization *without seceding from it.*

Rabbis Binstock and Morgenstern inquired whether Rabbi Eisendrath had a plan to present.

Rabbi Eisendrath stated that in addition to writing to the group present, he also wrote to all the other rabbis and sent them copies of the letters that had been received from Rabbis Freehof, Magnin and Wise.

In reply to this communication, fifty rabbis responded, and forty-eight of them stated that the Union must take steps to keep the congregations from inner disruption, that Zionism should not be permitted to disrupt the Union.

He indicated that it would be simple to get an agreement in theory, both from congregations and rabbis, but practical application would be difficult. He then read a statement that he had prepared on the Union's position on Palestine. (Appendix A)

Rabbi Bamberger stated that the statement represents substantially what we have in mind.

Rabbi Heller declared that he believed in the neutrality of the Conference and the Union on this whole subject. He spoke of the action taken by the Houston congregation and the reported intention of the San Francisco congregation toward the Union. He added that we have to appeal to the rabbinate and to the members of our congregations to concentrate on certain things on which there can be unity in spite of differences of opinion. He pleaded for an agreement to abandon disruptive strife in the Union and within our congregations.

Rabbi Lazon expressed agreement with Rabbi Heller's statement. He pointed out that there is discontent and dissatisfaction because of the continued association of the Union with the American Jewish Conference. This discontent is not limited to a small group. It is not rabbis alone but laymen also who are discontented. The issue has been forced by the Zionists to put the Union on record. If there is real intent to be neutral, then the Union should withdraw from the American Jewish Conference, reaffirm the Philadelphia Declaration, and leave it to our membership to be Zionists or non-Zionists.

Dr. Freehof declared that if we pass the resolution which Rabbi Eisendrath read, we must implement it, otherwise it is a mere empty statement.

Rabbi Gerstenfeld pointed out that forces are moving ahead toward committing the Union to a Zionist program. He thought that there ought to be first an agreement on the platform read by Rabbi Eisendrath. He expressed himself as shocked at the situation in Houston.

Rabbi Binstock stated that we are agreed as to the general thought in the platform read by Rabbi Eisendrath, but we might disagree as to the verbiage.

Rabbi Freehof said that we ought to declare the Union neutral, even though it may not altogether solve our problem.

Rabbi Lazon thought that the Union should discontinue association with the American Jewish Conference and reaffirm the New Orleans Resolution, as well as the Philadelphia Declaration of Principles.

Dr. Morgenstern pointed out that the situation now is different than it was in Philadelphia when the Declaration of Principles was prepared. At that time we thought that they offered a realistic basis for real unity in American Jewish life. Our Declaration of Principles did not come before the plenary session of the American Jewish Conference. The American Jewish Conference adopted a maximal Zionist program and said - take it as a whole or reject it. The Union is compelled to take a stand. The matter was referred to the next Council of the Union, but this has not satisfied the constituency of the Union, some of whom asked that we approve the Palestine resolution in its entirety, and others that we repudiate it and withdraw from the American Jewish Conference. Rabbi Eisendrath has offered a platform of neutrality. There is one type of neutrality that is negative, that is, to say nothing. On the other hand, there is a positive attitude of neutrality as expressed in Rabbi Eisendrath's platform, namely, that while the Union is unwilling to commit itself to the Palestine resolution, it does not want to be silent but reaffirms its Declaration of Principles. The effect of this would be that we declare ourselves as willing to do everything in our power that seems reasonable toward helping our coreligionists in Europe and elsewhere.

Rabbi Eisendrath asked: Can we remain in the American Jewish Conference and still be neutral? He suggested that we first pass the resolution and then discuss the question of our staying in the American Jewish Conference and its implications.

✓ Rabbi Schachtel stated that in his opinion the New Orleans resolution passed by the Union Council is Zionism.

Rabbi Eisendrath pointed out that both Rabbis Fineshriber and Wolsey signed the Declaration of Principles prepared in Philadelphia which reiterated the New Orleans resolution.

Dr. Morgenstern moved that a committee be appointed to edit the platform which Rabbi Eisendrath read. This was carried. Rabbis Heller, Lazaron, Liebman and Schachtel abstained from voting.

11. Rabbi Bamberger stated that what has happened in the last year was a combination of irritation and counter-irritation, denial and affirmation. The degree of inflammation among the laymen is a reflection of the heat of the rabbis. He stated that the laymen of his congregation are not at all excited about the whole matter. To him and to them the cause of Judaism is greater than Zionism or anti-Zionism. He had wished that the Union's Declaration of Principles had been adopted by the American Jewish Conference. He declared himself shocked and horrified by the actions of men on both sides of the Zionist issue, and declared that we cannot ask the Union to withdraw from the American Jewish Conference, nor can we ask it to pass the Palestine resolution. The Union has many problems before it, to strengthen religion, to overcome irreligion. We should pledge ourselves to cooperate in the religious work of the Union and refrain from disrupting it.

Rabbi Glazer spoke of the attitude of his congregation, and said that most of his members do not occupy an intransigent position, but they are hopelessly confused on this whole issue. He agreed with Rabbi Bamberger that the laity can be stirred up on almost any problem, but that when the rabbi takes a moderate approach, his congregation will be moderate. He stated that we are doing a distinct disservice to the Jews of Europe in our present fight among ourselves. We are not helping the people abroad, but are more interested in winning a point.

Rabbi Heller stated that it would be a tragedy to dissociate ourselves from the American Jewish Conference. We ought to stay in until we are forced out. Perhaps the Union has to serve in the role of a leader of the minority. There is great danger for Reform Judaism if the Union withdraws from the Conference. It would mean that Reform Judaism would be forced into the position of a separatist Jewish sect. The Union can lead in constructive Jewish life, but we must participate in Jewish life actively.

Rabbi Margolis expressed agreement with Rabbis Bamberger and Glazer, and stressed the point that there is too much confusion now in Reform Jewish ranks. He thought that we should definitely remain in the American Jewish Conference.

Rabbi Schachtel stated that there is a powerful layman's revolt against the position of the Union. He would be glad to promise to remain silent on this question if the Zionists promised to be silent also. We are witnessing a definite uprising in American Jewish life. The laity will not be silent because they are becoming disturbed by the controversy that is taking place.

Rabbi Heller declared that he had always been in favor of a moderate program, that at the American Jewish Conference he worked to make the Palestine resolution more moderate. The Union has great influence which it can exercise by staying in the American Jewish Conference. There are other ideals expressed by the American Jewish Conference which are apart from Zionism, and we cannot divorce ourselves from these ideals.

Rabbi Lazon stated that he is just as anxious to have Jewish unity as anyone. "You are asking us to go along with the political program of the American Jewish Conference. You are asking us to take a position that is completely untenable to us. There are many organizations with which the Union can cooperate to achieve rescue and rehabilitation. You are asking us to stultify ourselves for a peace that is no peace. The chief aim of the Union should be the enrichment of American Jewish life."

Rabbi Liebman spoke of the Houston affair and of his visit to Houston. He expressed the fear that it is the beginning of a movement that might prove exceedingly harmful.

Rabbi Shusterman indicated that he stands with Rabbis Bamberger and Glazer ideologically. Reform Judaism has a program larger than Zionism or anti-Zionism. He would like to be able to return to Baltimore and join with his fellow rabbis there in a pro-Union campaign. He declared himself definitely for the College and for the Union and would back any reasonable compromise.

Rabbi Feldman spoke of the Houston situation and mentioned what had happened recently in Hartford when a number of hoodlums came into the Temple to disrupt the service. The tragic aspect of our problem is that we fiddle here while a flame is rising and growing. He asked - how can we stay away from K'lal Yisroel? To speak of getting out of the American Jewish Conference is ludicrous.

Rabbi Freehof stated his belief that the American Jewish Conference involves much more than Zionism. It has a great value in itself. He also pointed out that we need not force the Union to commit itself on the issue. The Union might reiterate its stand on Palestine as contained in its Philadelphia platform. He proposed the following resolution as the sense of this meeting:

— "The UAHC reiterates its stand on Palestine as drawn up by its committee in Philadelphia and accepted by its Executive Board. Although this attitude of the Union differs in certain significant particulars from the Palestine resolution passed by the American Jewish Conference, nevertheless since the American Jewish Conference is the only available instrument for united Jewish action in this time of world tragedy, we continue to participate as members in the work of the Conference."

Rabbi Fink said that many of us have been appalled by what has happened in the last year or so. "I have the friendliest feeling toward both sides. I am heartily for the Union and the College. What bothers some of us is this: We might pass a resolution here by a majority vote to support the College and the Union, and then the minority will still act and agitate disruptively. Will you seek to secede from the Union and continue the disruptive work? Will you go back to your homes from here and continue to plan secession?"

Addressing Rabbi Schachtel, Rabbi Fink said: "We have laymen who disagree with us rabbis, but we try to guide them toward right thinking. You should try to guide your laymen in the right spirit."

Rabbi Lazaron stated: "I cannot say what my community will do. My urging the Union's withdrawal from the American Jewish Conference is not on the basis of anti-Palestine, but from the point of view of the Union."

Rabbi Schachtel stated that the people in Houston had been greatly disturbed in the last three years, since the Detroit Convention of the Union. A group in Houston then organized themselves and met and discussed Jewish problems. When the American Jewish Conference met, then the group in Houston saw that the Union delegates did not win out at the American Jewish Conference, and the Houston people were greatly upset and decided on steps to preserve Reform Judaism as they understood it.

Houston says to an applicant for membership: "You want to join a Reform congregation. Here are the principles of Reform Judaism." Rabbi Schachtel added: "I came here to see that the Union and the College are preserved, that the Union focus its attention on Jewish religious life, and that we have no connection with the political point of view on Palestine."

Mr. Rosenberg pointed out that the action of the Union delegates to the American Jewish Conference had been misrepresented.

Rabbi Eisendrath stated that much could be said about the Houston situation, but that we should deal with one thing at a time. It is true that many laymen desire our withdrawal from the American Jewish Conference. Those on the Zionist side are prepared that the Union shall dissociate itself from the Zionist program, but that we should not divorce ourselves from K'lal Yisroel. Once the laymen see the complex character of the picture they are prepared for compromise. Rabbi Eisendrath read the substance of letters that he had received from Rabbis Silver, Wolsey, Fineshriber, Landman and Goldenson. Some formula along the line of Rabbi Goldenson's letter ought to be possible. Withdrawal from the Conference would alienate many rabbis and laymen.

Rabbi Levy asked: "What good is it to pass any resolution here if the anti-Zionists present will continue to act as they will?"

Rabbi Heller stated that he was not in favor of unilateral action.

Rabbi Lazon pointed out that since the Union has representation on the Interim Committee, the Union will be asked to work with the American Jewish Conference on Palestine.

Dr. Morgenstern stated that on that particular question the Union and its representatives must be guided by the resolutions that we adopt.

Rabbis Binstock and Gerstenfeld stated that no matter what the Union would do as an organization, both the College and the Union would continue to have the support of their congregations.

It was suggested that Rabbi Freehof appoint a committee to meet during the lunch hour to draw up a resolution expressing the sense of the meeting. Rabbi Freehof appointed Rabbis Bamberger, Currick, Eisendrath, Glazer and Lazon.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

On reconvening after lunch, Rabbi Egelson, who had sat in with the committee, read the resolution approved by the subcommittee. (Appendix B)

Rabbi Lazaron stated: "We reached a compromise which does not satisfy me, but I would agree to it solely from the point of view of the Union. I reserve the right to take issue with the Jewish national forces in American Jewish life."

After much discussion, in which most of those present participated, the resolution as drafted by the subcommittee was unanimously carried. It was voted to transmit the resolution to the Administrative Committee of the Union, which was to meet that afternoon, with the recommendation that the Administrative Committee approve it.

ADJOURNED



SOLOMON B. FREEHOF, Chairman

LOUIS I. EGELSON, Secretary



The Union declares that its function is to interpret, maintain and promote Reform Judaism and reaffirms its loyalty to its spiritual purposes.

The Union declares its sense of fellowship with all Israel and will associate itself with all worthy and practical efforts designed to ameliorate the tragic plight of world Jewry and, therefore, continues to be a member of the American Jewish Conference, upon the conditions mentioned below.

Because in the congregations of the Union there are divergent opinions on the question of Zionism, the Union recognizes the right of each individual to determine his own attitude on this controversial question.

Therefore, the Union as an organization, is unable to associate itself with those parts of the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference which call for exclusive Jewish control of immigration into Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth.

The Union's position on Palestine has been stated, and we herewith reaffirm the Resolution passed at the Committee meeting on May 30, 1943, whose recommendations were subsequently ratified by the Executive Board of the Union, as follows:

1. Provision shall be made for large-scale immigration into Palestine regulated in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Palestine by such a concert of nations as shall be established after the war.
2. Palestine shall remain under the stewardship of this concert of nations until it shall become possible to establish self-government without jeopardizing the rights or status of any group in Palestine.
3. Such a government shall be democratic and non-sectarian, modelled upon the governments of the democratic nations. There shall be complete separation of Church and State. The inviolability of the Holy Places of the various religions shall be guaranteed.

We call upon our congregations and their members to rally loyally to the support of the Union.

We further resolve that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the American Jewish Conference with the request that they communicate it to the constituent members of the American Jewish Conference and make it known through their publications.

INTERIM REPORT

1943-44 COMBINED CAMPAIGN OF UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS AND THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CAMPAIGN RESULTS -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1943 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 1943

<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>1942-43 PAID</u>		<u>QUOTED ACCEPTED</u>
San Antonio, Texas	\$ 1,623.00	Campaign in Progress	\$ 5,000.00
Savannah Georgia	216.00	" " "	750.00
Augusta, Georgia	50.00	" " "	500.00
Columbus, Georgia	00.00	" " "	500.00
Austin, Texas	10.00	" " "	750.00
Ft. Worth, Texas	375.00	" " "	1,000.00
Galveston, Texas	175.00	" " "	1,000.00
Waco, Texas	100.00	" " "	750.00
Oklahoma City, Okla.	300.00	" " "	1,200.00
Chicago, Ill.	12,093.00	Campaign to open February	50,000.00
Cincinnati, Ohio	9,695.00	Campaign to open January	15,000.00
Cleveland, Ohio	8,400.00	Rabbi MNE to open Dec. 7	17,500.00
Des Moines, Iowa	375.00	Changed to Annual Basis	450.00
Minneapolis, Minn.	800.00	Opens December 1	2,000.00
St. Paul, Minn.	450.00	Opens March 15	1,250.00
Pittsburgh, Pa.	5,977.00	Opens January	12,500.00
Omaha, Nebraska	1,000.00	April-May	1,500.00
Washington, D. C.	2,021.00	Opens Jan. 15	5,000.00
Hazleton, Pa.	200.00		565.00
TOTALS	\$43,860.00		\$117,215.00

1. New York - Most congregations are holding their campaigns now. Five of the smaller congregations which have completed their fund raising have increased 58 per cent from \$1,499.00 to \$2,548.00.
2. Receipts as of November 30, 1943 \$69,642.31 compared with November 30, 1942, \$70,143.33.
3. IMPORTANT COMMUNITIES TO BE VISITED BEFORE JUNE 30, 1944.

Boston	Philadelphia	Syracuse	Portland
Detroit	Providence	Hartford	Seattle
Indianapolis	Saint Louis	Tampa	Denver
Memphis	Miami	New Haven	Birmingham
Atlanta	Buffalo	Los Angeles	Nashville
Milwaukee	Rochester	San Francisco	AND MANY OTHERS

INTERIM REPORT

1943-44 COMBINED CAMPAIGN OF UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AND THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN PERSONNEL SECURED SEPTEMBER 1, TO NOVEMBER 30, 1943.

SPONSORS (IN FORMATION)

Marcus Aaron - Pittsburgh

Paul Baerwald - New York

Fred Florence - Dallas

Major Frederick F. Greenman - New York

Alfred Shemanski - Seattle

Paul Uhlmann - Kansas City

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN

(To be filled)

VICE-CHAIRMEN (IN FORMATION)

Day J. Apte - Tampa, Florida - Southeast Region (North Carolina, South
Carolina, Georgia and Florida)

Jacob Aronson - New York - New York and New England

Eugene Strassburger - Pittsburgh - Western Pennsylvania

TREASURER

(To be filled)

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Louis Caplan
Alfred M. Cohen
Jesse Cohen
Rabbi Louis I. Egelson
Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath
Irvin Fane
Dr. Solomon B. Freehof
Joseph J. Greenberg
Mrs. Hugo Hartmann
Dr. James G. Heller
Dr. S. S. Hollender
Lester A. Jaffe
David F. Kahn
Louis L. Kaufman
Eldon S. Lazarus
Simon Lazarus

Leon Lederer
Dr. Joshua L. Liebman
Ralph Mack
Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin
Dr. Louis L. Mann
Rabbi Harry Margolis
Philip Meyers
James H. Miller
Dr. Julian Morgenstern
Carl Pritz
Louis A. Rosett
Louis F. Rothschild
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
H. Hiram Weisberg
Dr. H. B. Weiss
Sidney N. Weitz
Louis Wellhouse, Jr.
Dr. Jonah B. Wise

GENERAL COMMITTEE (IN FORMATION)

Thirty-seven men whose names have been submitted by their respective congregations. Many more are expected shortly.

VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN WORKERS

Rabbi Daniel L. Davis - Lancaster, Pa.
Rabbi Allan Tarshish - Hazleton, Pa.
Rabbi Alfred Wolf - Dothan, Ala.
Rabbi David L. Zielonka - Tampa, Fla.

All these men are now traveling for the campaign or will be doing so shortly.

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Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, *New York*
Abe Wurzburg, *Memphis*

☆

RABBI LOUIS I. EGELSON
Administrative Secretary

RABBI GEORGE ZEPIN
Honorary Secretary

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

December 1, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

I cannot tell you how deeply I regret that you were unable to be present at the informal meeting which I called for yesterday. Most of those whom I had invited were present, and we had a thorough discussion of the problem involved from the viewpoint of the Union and our Reform Movement. Before telling you of the final result, I would like to deal specifically with some of the questions raised in your letter.

In the first place, I will admit that the meeting had no authority whatsoever except that of informal counsel. Surely it is proper, in the midst of what anyone can discern as a sharp controversy, to call the leaders of the divergent viewpoints together, in the hope of arriving at some formula that might be satisfactory to both groups; in the hope, ^{like wise} that such a recommendation might be considered favorably by the official body of which such individuals are members.

I had invited the leaders of every possible viewpoint on the controversial issue of Zionism to this meeting, and it was unfortunate that some did not attend, as those who were absent would undoubtedly have contributed much to the discussion and might have affected one way or another the result obtained. However, I repeat that the gathering was purely consultative and has no official authority whatsoever. The Administrative Committee likewise has no ^{further} authority, as you suggest, but it may also recommend to the Executive Board a certain line of action which in its judgment is feasible.

You state that there is a group seeking to "railroad through a declaration which they hope will be hostile to Zionism." I feel that I can definitely assure you that the Union will not take a position

"hostile to Zionism," but that the farthest that it will go will be a position of neutrality - a position that will frankly recognize that the Union, because of its mixed constituency, cannot commit itself as an organization either for or against a Zionist program, leaving to the individual the democratic right to determine for himself whether he is a Zionist or a non-Zionist.

You have always minimized what I regard as a grave threat to the Union and to our Reform Movement. I do not think that one can exaggerate the danger involved in an actual schism within our ranks. We are not a strong enough movement to permit this to come about if it can possibly be avoided. That there is danger of such a schism no one who has been in touch with all our constituent congregations can possibly deny. I know whereof I speak when I say that there are those laymen and rabbis, as well as entire congregations, that are prepared to break with the Union, particularly if they feel that any action on the part of the Union commits them to the Zionist philosophy and the whole Zionist program. I admit that we do not know "just how the constituency of the Union really feels about Zionism, the Jewish commonwealth, etc." I do know, however, that there is at least a fairly substantial minority that is bitterly opposed to both, and I do not think that the Union, as an organization, has a right to commit these persons to that which violates their conscientious principles. They feel that in view of the fact that the Union was silent at the American Jewish Conference that our remaining in the Conference is indicative of our assent to the full Palestine resolution. This could have been avoided had Mr. Rosenberg been permitted, as he desired, to indicate publicly at the Conference that the Union had not assented to the Palestine resolution. Since this was not done, this group - and it is not inconsiderable - has been insisting that the Union withdraw from the Conference. It is not merely a question of securing the financial support of these congregations during this period when they are adamant in their insistence that the Union cease to be identified with the American Jewish Conference, but there is the far more serious consideration that during this interim period, until the next meeting of the Biennial Council, they will gather strength on the basis of our alleged assent to the Palestine resolution and that by virtue of such strength the Union will be split.

I do not think that the assent or non-assent of the Union to the Palestine resolution will in any way affect the program of Zionism itself, especially now that the disunity of American Jewry on this subject has been so dramatically and vividly demonstrated by the withdrawal of the American Jewish Committee from the American Jewish Conference. For that

December 1, 1943

reason I feel that it is more important to keep the Union in the Conference and to have it wholeheartedly cooperate in those areas to which we can commit the Union. Thus the Union will play precisely the role that you yourself designated as proper for such a group as could not accept the complete program of the Conference. It will become, in your own words, "loyal opposition" with regard to those few aspects of the Conference's program to which the Union cannot conscientiously commit its entire constituency. Unless we were able to satisfy those who had been insisting upon our withdrawal, I fear that the Union would not have been able to have held itself together or to cooperate with the American Jewish Conference in a manner that both you and I desire. For this reason, I feel that it is far better to clear the atmosphere and define the Union's position. It is really the only alternative for an organization with as mixed a constituency as our own. If the American Jewish Conference were composed exclusively of individual representatives, then those individuals would of course have to yield to the majority decision. However, comprised as the Conference is of organizations as well, it is impossible to bind such an organization, as an organization, to a program with which even a small measure of its membership may violently disagree. Consequently, since October 3rd it has become increasingly clear that if the Union were to remain in the Conference and at the same time to avoid a definite cleavage in its ranks, it would have to make its position unambiguous with regard to the controversial questions involved in the Palestine resolution.

This situation was recognized by all those - Zionists, non-Zionists and neutrals - who met here in Cincinnati yesterday, and as a result the attached resolution was recommended to the Administrative Committee. I know that you will be profoundly concerned by its character. However, I feel that it must be recognized that something of this nature is the only way in which we can at one and the same time preserve the Union and remain in the American Jewish Conference. Of course, all of this is absolutely unofficial, and will have to be considered by the Executive Board - which will meet in Chicago on January 18th

I would like very much to have your reactions to this letter and I look forward to discussing this tangled problem with you at greater length when I am in Cleveland next week.

With warmest personal greetings, I am,

Yours most cordially,

Maurice N. Eisendrath
Director

MNE:SG

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

4.

December 1, 1943

P.S. I wish to underscore the fact that this resolution is absolutely unofficial and that it is for your private and confidential information only, and consequently is not to be given any further circulation or publicity.

M.N.E.



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WESTERN UNION

1207

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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F	TIME FILED

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

December 2, 1943 19

To Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, Director

Care of or Apt. No. Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Street and No. 34 West 6th St.

Place Cincinnati, Ohio

WANT A REPLY?

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

IN VIEW OF YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 1st YOU LEAVE US NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO

POSTPONE THE MEETING WHICH YOU WERE TO ADDRESS NEXT TUESDAY TO A LATER DATE.

A H SILVER

SIDNEY N. WEITZ

Same sent P.a Hotel - n. y

12 - 3 - 43

Sender's Name

Address

Tel. No.

December 3, 1943

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
Merchants Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Maurice :

I feel that I ought to summarize my impressions of the interesting and important meeting that you called in Cincinnati on November the 30th. It was a timely and necessary meeting and I feel sure that it accomplished the major purpose for which it was intended. We probed the minds of the threatening secessionists. It is hard for some of us to follow the reasoning and machinations of minds that work in directions totally different from our own, but that meeting of minds in Cincinnati was helpful to us as it must have been helpful to the gentlemen with whom we disagreed.

The gentlemen with the grievance know that we do not want them to leave us. The area of the Union is broad enough to include all types of minds that are rooted in liberal Judaism. Some of the men, operating within the group working toward secession, are merely misguided. Some are misinformed; only a few, if any, are disguised enemies of our broad and historic cause. Even these latter ones we seek to hold. They know now the sincerity and fervor of our eagerness to hold them. If they continue to persist in their mistaken and tragedy-laden course, then it may be necessary to hold another meeting with them and reach a final settlement or statement of terms.

I want to add this general thought. We must, it seems to me, operate not on a program of neutrality with reference to the question of Zionism, but on a program of democratic tolerance of differences of opinion. The history of the Union and the College has been identified too long with anti-Zionism for us even to assume an attitude of benevolent neutrality toward this vital problem. If the "separatists" are really reform in their thinking, they must be tolerant even of the Zionists with whom they disagree, and that very disagreement should make them eager to support the Union in order to capture it again, in time, to their way of thinking. The field is open. Let them agitate within

Rabbi Eisendrath

-2-

the field with all their power. The guilt is not in their disagreement; it is in their seeking to disrupt, because of their disagreement, a cause and an organization which rightfully ought to claim their full devotion. I do not like what they are doing in Houston, Texas. I am even appalled by it, but I would certainly be opposed to their expulsion from the Union. On the contrary, like Lincoln with reference to the southern states (secession seems to be native to the south!) I would even fight to hold them in the Union. They should not be expelled nor be permitted to leave! On the principle of reform Judaism they must remain and democratically express their convictions within the body of our Union. I know that our union is a voluntary one, but the degree of voluntariness is, in these times, limited. As an organized body we do have great moral power to persuade and to hold.

You did a frank and helpful service in calling that meeting. It may yet prove to be historic. In any case I am with you to the limit to support the Union and to preserve it through these critical times. I support heartily the resolution as it was passed.

Sincerely yours,

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WESTERN UNION

1207

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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\$	ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Rabbi Maurice Eisenbach

12-6-43 1943

Care of or Apt. No. 70 N. Y. Federation of Synagogues

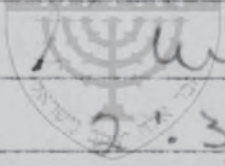
Street and No. 3 E. 65 St N. Y.

WANT A REPLY?
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Place

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Mr. Weitz  will be pleased
to meet with you
afternoon at office of Mr. Weitz
Leader Building
A. H. Silver

Sender's Name

Address

Tel. No.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

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DR A H SILVER=

THE TEMPLE EAST 105 ST CLEVELAND

1943 DEC 3 PM 9 35

FLIGHT OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAMS

2d 0150

CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY TENTATIVE SUGGESTION TO EXECUTIVE BOARD SHOULD PRECLUDE MY ADDRESSING YOUR BOARD HOPE YOU AND MR WEITZ WILL RECONSIDER AS THERE IS MUCH WORK FOR UNION OUTSIDE PRESENT CONTROVERSY AT ALL EVENTS WANT TO SEE YOU AND WEITZ INFORMALLY TUESDAY WIRE REPLY PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL= MAURICE.

Try Ye 1820
wrgphy 12/1

SK 3740 To Dr S
95 AI 1421 To Dr Mld
DR 1201/11/11
12/11/11 12.59
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Form 16

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER THE TEMPLE

EAST 105TH ST AND ANSEL RD (CLEVELAND OHIO)

REPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

DEC 6 AM 11 52



ARRIVING CLEVELAND 11:10 TOMORROW MORNING. BELIEVE IT
IMPORTANT TO SEE YOU, WEITZ AND MILLER EITHER INDIVIDUALLY
OR TOGETHER. PLEASE WIRE ME CARE OF NEW YORK FEDERATION OF
REFORM SYNAGOGUES, 3 EAST 65TH STREET IMMEDIATELY HOW EARLY I
CAN SEE YOU AS WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE IN AFTERNOON FOR CINCINNATI
MANY THANKS.

MAURICE N EISENDRATH

1110 SYNAGOGUES RPT SYNAGOGUES 3 65TH

14.

290150

IT	1256P	BK	RB
		NLD	

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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

December 6, 1943 noon
19

To Rabbi Silver

Care of or Apt. No.

Street and No.

Place

WANT A REPLY?

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

ARRIVING CLEVELAND 11:10 tomorrow MORNING. BELIEVE THAT IMPORTANT TO SEE YOU
WEITZ AND MILLER EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR TOGETHER. PLEASE WIRE ME CARE OF
NEW YORK FEDERATION OF REFORM SYNAGOGUES 3 EAST 65th STREET IMMEDIATELY HOW EARLY
I CAN SEE YOU AS WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE IN AFTERNOON FOR CINCINNATI. MANY THANKS.

MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
New York, N.Y.

Sender's Name

Address

Tel. No.

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OF
AMERICAN RABBIS

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Dec. 9, 1943

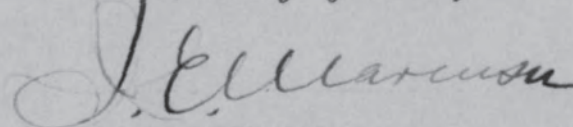
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Colleague:

I am in receipt of a letter from Dr. Freehof in which he quotes a paragraph from your letter as follows: "I have not received the list of Conference members who are to be invited to participate in the program of the next Conference, and the subjects which are to discuss. We ought not to delay sending out the invitations much longer."

I am afraid someone did not read the minutes, a copy of which was sent to you. It gave the program in full together with the subjects and the Conference members who are to participate therein. In case you have mislaid the minutes, I am enclosing a copy of the program in full.

Cordially yours,



Isaac E. Marcuson
Secretary



PROGRAM: Rabbi Silver reported for the Program Committee for the next convention. It was moved and adopted that there shall be a panel discussion on Practical Problems of the Ministry lead by Rabbis Silver, Abraham Feinstein, Fram, George B. Lieberman, Alfred Wolf. A paper on the Rights of the Individual and the Rights of the States to be prepared by Bernard J. Bamberger and a paper on Judaism and Property and Profits, John J. Tepfer. That on Saturday afternoon there shall be a program of Synagog Music. Rabbi Braude was to prepare the program of music.

That there was to be no Conference Lecture but the President's Message was to be presented in place thereof at the Sabbath Evening Service. That the Conference Sermon be delivered by Jacob J. Weinstein.

It was decided that the Convention shall begin on Friday morning, June 23rd and end Monday noon.

TIME AND PLACE OF CONVENTION: Rabbi Margolis reported for Committee on Time and Place of the Convention. He stated that he had inquired of many resorts but was unable to get hotel accommodations. It was moved and adopted that the Committee shall try whether accommodations can be secured at Atlantic City and if not that we meet in Cincinnati, it being the 60th anniversary of the Alumnae Association of the Hebrew Union College.

T E L E G R A M

DECEMBER 14, 1943

A. H. SILVER

JUST RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FOR APPOINTMENT WITH GOLDENSON
3:00 O'CLOCK THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT HIS STUDY. HOPE YOU
WILL LET NOTHING INTERFERE WITH THIS ATTEMPT TO REACH
SOME MORE SATISFACTORY FORMULA FOR UNION. BELIEVE EVERYTHING
DEPENDS UPON OUT-COME OF THIS PARTICULAR INFORMAL MEETING.
WIRE REPLY COLLECT.

MAURICE N. EISENDRATH

lmw



December 16, 1943

Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein
Congregation Kehillath Anshe Mayriv
920 E. 50th St.
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Rabbi Weinstein:

At the last Executive Board meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the program for the forthcoming convention was discussed, and it was unanimously resolved to extend to you an invitation to deliver the Conference Sermon on Saturday morning, June 24th. We will all be delighted if you will see your way clear to accept our invitation. I know that you always bring to the pulpit a message both thoughtful and inspiring.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

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

My dear Rabbi Eisendrath:

I regret that a confusion of dates made it impossible for me and Dr. Goldenson to meet this week. I shall be in New York again on Monday, the third of January. Please find out from Dr. Goldenson whether he is free on that day. I shall be very pleased to see him either for lunch, or at two o'clock in the afternoon.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

Rabbi John J. Tepfer
Jewish Institute of Religion
681 W. 193rd St.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Tepfer:

At the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the program of the next convention was discussed, and it was decided to include as part of the program, a paper on "The Rights of Private Property and Private Profit" from the point of view of Jewish law and tradition. You readily realize how tremendously vital is the subject at this particular time when the major social conflicts of our day are raging around them. It would be tremendously helpful to present Judaism's juridical position on these subjects as well as the higher ranges of Judaism's ethical idealism. I know that it is not an easy subject, but we all felt confident that you would do full justice to it. I trust that you will be able to accept the assignment.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

Rabbi Alfred Wolf
Congregation Emanu-El
1401 W. Main St.
Dothan, Alabama

My dear Rabbi Wolf:

At the last Executive Board meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the program of the next convention was discussed. It was decided to include in the program a panel discussion on "Practical Problems of the Ministry". You, along with Rabbis Abraham Feinstein, Leon Fram, George B. Lieberman and myself, were chosen to participate in the panel discussion. The exact time of the meeting has not been set, but the convention of the C.C.A.R. will begin on Friday, June 23rd, and will end the following Monday noon.

I would appreciate first, if you would indicate your acceptance of the invitation to participate in the discussion, and secondly, if you would suggest to me the practical problems which you believe should be discussed. After I hear from the other members of the panel, I will assign to each one a specific subject which he is to deal with as his introduction to the discussion.

Trusting to hear from you at your earliest opportunity, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

Rabbi Bernard J. Bamberger
Congregation Beth Emeth
106 Melrose Ave.
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Bamberger:

At the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the program of the next convention was discussed, and it was decided to include as part of the program, a paper on "The Rights of the Individual and the Rights of the State" from the point of view of Jewish law and tradition. You can readily understand the significance of a discussion of this subject at this particular time when the sharp conflict as to the status of the individual in the modern state as come so prominently to the fore. What was in the mind of the members of the Board was to present whatever there is of classic Jewish thinking on the subject as well as the juridical aspect. I know of no one as qualified as you are to handle this difficult subject, and I trust that you will see your way clear to accept the assignment.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Eoff Street Temple
P.O. Box 124
Wheeling, W. Va.

My dear Rabbi Lieberman:

At the last Executive Board meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the program of the next convention was discussed. It was decided to include in the program a panel discussion on "Practical Problems of the Ministry". You, along with Rabbis Abraham Feinstein, Leon Fram, Alfred Wolf and myself, were chosen to participate in the panel discussion. The exact time of the meeting has not been set, but the convention of the C.C.A.R. will begin on Friday, June 23rd, and will end the following Monday noon.

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Trusting to hear from you at your earliest opportunity, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

Rabbi Leon Fram
Temple Israel
610 Boulevard Bldg.
Detroit, Michigan

My dear Rabbi Fram:

At the last Executive Board meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the program of the next convention was discussed. It was decided to include in the program a panel discussion on "Practical Problems of the Ministry". You, along with Rabbis Abraham Feinstein, George Lieberman, Alfred Wolf and myself, were chosen to participate in the panel discussion. The exact time of the meeting has not been set, but the convention of the C.C.A.R. will begin on Friday, June 23rd, and will end the following Monday noon.

I would appreciate first, if you would indicate your acceptance of the invitation to participate in the discussion, and secondly, if you would suggest to me the practical problems which you believe should be discussed. After I hear from the other members of the panel, I will assign to each one a specific subject which he is to deal with as his introduction to the discussion.

Trusting to hear from you at your earliest opportunity,
I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

Rabbi Abraham Feinstein
Congregation Mizpah
325 McCallie Ave.
Chattanooga, Tenn.

My dear Rabbi Feinstein:

At the last Executive Board meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the program of the next convention was discussed. It was decided to include in the program a panel discussion on "Practical Problems of the Ministry". You, along with Rabbis Leon Fram, George Lieberman, Alfred Wolf and myself were chosen to participate in the panel discussion. The exact time of the meeting has not been set, but the convention of the C.C.A.R. will begin on Friday, June 23rd and will end the following Monday noon.

I would appreciate (1) if you would indicate your acceptance of the invitation to participate in the discussion, and (2) if you would suggest to me the practical problems which you believe should be discussed. After I hear from the other members of the panel, I will assign to each one a specific subject which he is to deal with as his introduction to the discussion.

Trusting to hear from you at your earliest opportunity, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 16, 1943

Rabbi William G. Braude
Temple Beth El
160 Brown St.
Providence, R. I.

My dear Rabbi Braude:

You were present at the last meeting of the Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and you will recall that the Board decided to devote the Saturday afternoon of the Convention to a program of synagogue music, and that the Board requested you to present the program. I trust that you are proceeding with the work. When you are ready, I would appreciate it if you would let me know the nature of the program.

With all good wishes, and trusting that you are well, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

December 17, 1943

Dr. Felix A. Levy
Congregation Emanuel
433 Briar Place
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Felix:

I understand that you attended the conference called by Rabbi Eisendrath in Cincinnati, and that you approved of the resolution which was adopted by the group of Rabbis in attendance. The heart of the resolution as far as Zionism is concerned is that the Union does not associate itself with the idea of the Jewish Commonwealth and Jewish control of immigration, -- which were the heart of the Palestine Resolution adopted at the Conference. I am unable to see how you voted for such a resolution, assuming that you did, and I would appreciate it if you would tell me just what took place.

It is one thing for the Executive Committee to say that on the controversial features of the Palestine Resolution it can take no position until the parent body at the Biennial convention has declared itself one way or another. This is exactly what the Executive Committee of the Union decided at its last meeting, and wisely decided. It is quite another thing to proclaim now that the Union is "unable to associate itself with those parts of the Palestine Resolution which call for the exclusive Jewish control of immigration into Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth," which leaves the clear and unmistakable implication that the Union is opposed to them, and thereby, by inference, commits the Union to an anti-Zionist position. The proposed resolution to which you have presumably assented, does not even include a reference to the Balfour Declaration which the resolution introduced by the Reform Religious Group at the American Jewish Conference did include.

The proposed resolution is by no stretch of the imagination a "neutral" resolution. In specifically calling attention to those parts of the Palestine Resolution with which it refuses to associate itself -- the essentially Zionist parts -- the Union takes not a neutral, but a negative position.

The Council of Jewish Women, confronted by a similar situation,

since its membership is also sharply divided on the issue of Zionism, adopted at its recent convention a much wiser resolution. It neither ratified the Palestine Resolution, nor refused to ratify it. It did not dissociate itself from any specified parts of it. It simply substituted a resolution of its own -- one which, however, did not present a new solution for Palestine or a new definition of what the future status of Palestine shall be. After expressing its opposition to the White Paper, and in favor of unrestricted immigration into Palestine, it declared itself "in favor of the uninterrupted and continued upbuilding Palestine in the spirit of the Balfour Declaration".

The American Council for Judaism, and all anti-Zionists, will not fail to interpret the proposed resolution as a repudiation of Zionism. This is exactly what the foes of Zionism have been angling for. You know, of course, that following the last Executive meeting of the Union, two anti-Zionist members of the Executive from Baltimore circularized all the members of the Executive in the hope of getting a reconsideration of the action taken by the Executive to refer action on the Palestine Resolution to the next meeting of the Biennial. Rabbi Fineshriber's congregation, in Philadelphia, recently passed a resolution calling upon the Executive to reconvene in order that it might disapprove of the Palestine Resolution adopted by the Conference, and substitute for it the resolution of June, 1943, which is now incorporated in the proposed resolution adopted by the Rabbis.

The few and vociferous anti-Zionists, mostly rabbinical, are not satisfied with the fact that the President of the Union, following the last Executive meeting, wrote to all the congregations notifying them that the Union was not committed to the Palestine Resolution and that "the Executive Board, conscious of its great responsibility, and of the far-reaching significance of this issue, decided that it could not take definitive action and that there was but one body that could determine what the Union policy could be on such an issue that might involve the future of the Union and that might affect one way or another the welfare of American Jewry as well. That one body is of course the supreme governing body of our Union, the parent itself."

There are two things which anti-Zionists, whether in the

American Jewish Committee or the American Council for Judaism, are fighting today — the Jewish Commonwealth and Jewish control of immigration which would make possible a Jewish Commonwealth. I am afraid that the Zionist Rabbis who attended the Cincinnati meeting have been maneuvered into a movement to bring pressure on the Union to declare itself in immediate opposition to these two basic Zionist principles.

We are all eager to serve the Union and the College. Zionists are not desirous of dragging the Union or the College forcibly into the ranks of Zionism and thus embarrassing them. Please remember that the Reform Religious Group shared in the drafting of the Palestine Resolution which was adopted by the American Jewish Conference. Concessions were made to the Reform Religious Group by the Zionists at the Conference in order that a single resolution on Palestine might emerge. Rabbi Eisendrath, Rabbi Freshhof and Mr. Adolph Rosenberg had a hand in drafting the final resolution. By the terms of the basic agreement of the Conference, neither the Union nor any other organization is bound by the Palestine Resolution or by any other resolution adopted by the Conference. A statement to this effect was also made by me with special reference to the Palestine Resolution on the floor of the Conference. It was made doubly clear at the last meeting of the Executive Board. Mr. Adolph Rosenberg, by his communication to the congregations, reiterated this fact again. The Union, as such, is not committed to the Palestine Resolution unless the Biennial Council at its forthcoming session chooses to ratify it.

The country knows very well where the Union stands. We must not permit a determined and ruthless anti-Zionist minority in the Union to exploit our loyalty to the Union and the College so as to involve us in declarations on Palestine which as Zionists we cannot consistently make and which if made by Zionists are exploited by the same forces to confound and confuse our Zionist ranks.

I am persuaded that the action of the Executive which was taken at its last meeting was wise and in the best democratic tradition. If, however, action to reconsider is forced then the only position that the Executive can take which will not do violence to the sentiments of Zionist members of congregations affiliated with the Union, of whom there are legion, and which will not be open to any misinter-

Dr. Levy

-4-

December 17, 1943

pretation, is to state as the third paragraph of the proposed resolution does state: "Because in the congregations of the Union there are divergent opinions on the question of Zionism, the Union recognizes the right of each individual to determine his own attitude on this controversial question." To this should be added as a logical sequitur a brief statement: "The Union therefore takes no action on the Palestine Resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference." Nothing more is needed. The Union's opposition to the White Paper has already been widely publicized. Its friendly attitude towards the upbuilding of Palestine was already expressed at the Biennial Council of the Union as far back as 1937.

If, after due consideration, you find yourself in agreement with me, I feel that it would be very helpful if you would make your sentiments known to Rabbi Eisendrath with whom I have discussed the matter at considerable length.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Please address your reply to Dr. Silver to
The Temple
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Letter sent to:

Dr. S. B. Freehof

Dr. Joshua Liebman

Dr. Jacob Marcus

Rabbi Harry Margolis

Rabbi G. J. Feldman

Dr. Jos. L. Funk

Dr. Bernard Heller

Rabbi Samuel Isup

COPY

December 17, 1943

Rabbi James G. Heller
Isaac M. Wise Temple
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Heller:

I understand that you attended the conference called by Rabbi Eisendrath in Cincinnati, and that you approved of the resolution which was adopted by the group of Rabbis in attendance. The heart of the resolution as far as Zionism is concerned is that the Union does not associate itself with the idea of the Jewish Commonwealth and Jewish control of immigration, -- which were the heart of the Palestine Resolution adopted at the Conference. I am unable to see how you voted for such a resolution, assuming that you did, and I would appreciate it if you would tell me just what took place.

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Dr. Heller

-4-

December 17, 1943

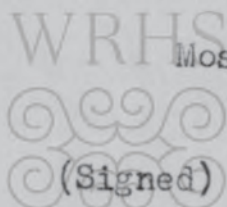
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If, after due consideration, you find yourself in agreement with me, I feel that it would be very helpful if you would make your sentiments known to Rabbi Eisendrath with whom I have discussed the matter at considerable length.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



(Signed)

Abba Hillel Silver



TEMPLE ISRAEL

OFFICES • 610 BOULEVARD BUILDING
PHONE TRINITY 1-5110
DETROIT

December 20, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

I have your letter inviting me to participate in the panel on Practical Problems of the Ministry, to be held at the coming Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

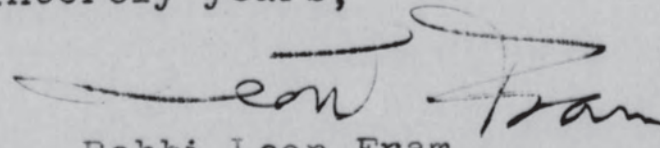
I am writing, first of all, to accept the invitation.

You ask also for suggestions as to the practical problems that I believe should be discussed. I shall write these to you in a subsequent letter in the near future.

Meantime, I call to your attention that while in your letter you give the date of the next Convention, namely, June 23rd, you do not give the place.

Perhaps that has already been announced in the bulletin from the Conference and I have over-looked it. If it has not yet been announced and you are able to tell me, I shall be glad to hear from you as to the place of the Convention.

Sincerely yours,


Rabbi Leon Fram

LF/ek

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Administrative Secretary

RABBI GEORGE ZEPIN
Honorary Secretary

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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

December 20, 1943

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

Dear Friend:

I am hastening to reply to your letter just received because Monday, January 3rd, is just about the only January date on which I cannot possibly be in New York. I have a very important commitment here in Cincinnati the previous day and evening. Although I might be able to fly to New York that Monday morning, I would not want to gamble on it, as it is too important for me to be present with you and Goldenson.

Is there any likelihood that you will be remaining in New York that Tuesday, the 4th, in which event I will undertake to come especially to New York just to meet with both of you? If your remaining over is absolutely out of question, I would of course gamble on flying to New York Monday morning, but as I say, one can never be certain of reaching his destination under such circumstances.

I have one other alternative to suggest: I am going to be in New York on the 28th and 29th of December. If there is any chance of your being there at that time, I am certain that I can arrange a meeting with Goldenson.

Please let me hear from you by return mail, as you know how anxious I am to explore further the matter between you and Goldenson.

With warmest personal greetings, I am, as ever,

Most cordially yours,

Maurice
Maurice N. Eisendrath
Director

MNE:SG

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RABBI GEORGE ZEPIN
Honorary Secretary

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

December 21, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Silver:

At the meeting of our Executive Board, on October 3, we decided to refer to the next Council of the Union, the consideration of the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference.

Since that decision of our Executive Board, we have received many remonstrances from both sides of the controversy, indicating that the date of the next Council is too far away. Congregational leaders throughout the country are urging the Executive Board to remove the entire question as a source of controversy in the Union.

I am, therefore, calling a meeting of the Executive Board to consider the situation in the light of these developments.

I will also present to the Executive Board the resolutions passed by Congregation Beth Israel of Houston, Texas.

The meeting will be held in Chicago at the Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth, on Tuesday, January 18, 1944, at 10:00 A.M.

You will recognize the great importance of this meeting for the future of the Union. I am, therefore, urging you to make every effort to attend. Please let me have your reply on the enclosed card.

With kind greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Rosenberg

Adolph Rosenberg
President

AR:rk

JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
WEST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEAR CENTRAL PARK
NEW YORK

December 22, 1943

Dear Dr. Silver,

Much as I am gratified and indeed honored by your invitation to prepare a paper on Property etc., I am afraid it's a bit beyond my scope at this moment, and I haven't the time to launch into serious research. Besides, I rather suspect that the results will not favour our preconceptions touching "Stewardship of property" etc. and is it advisable? - *אולי כן*

Yours very sincerely,

John I. Pfeffer

P.S. I don't want to burden you with explanations of my last statement, but I shall be glad to give them if you'd want me to.

J.T.

December 22, 1943

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

My dear Maurice:

I will remain over in New York for
Tuesday the 4th and I will be very happy to meet
with you and Goldenson on that day for luncheon
or say at two o'clock in the afternoon.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Temple Israel

BRYDEN ROAD AND 19TH ST.

COLUMBUS, OHIO

TELEPHONE FAIRFAX 7838

December 23, 1943

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

Dear Abba:-

Replying to your letter of December 19, just at hand, I wish to inform you that I was not an integral part of the group meeting called by Rabbi Eisendrath in Cincinnati. It so happened that I was present in Cincinnati on that day to attend the Administrative Committee meeting of the Union, by special invitation, in order to bring this Committee up to date on the matter of pensions for the Conference. I was invited by Mr. Rosenberg, as an act of courtesy, I am sure, on his part, to attend the conference to which you refer. I received no invitation from Rabbi Eisendrath whatsoever to take part in it, I considered myself merely as a spectator to the proceedings, I did not vote.

Upon my return home, I wrote to Rabbi Eisendrath and told him that the group which he had called into session had exercised tremendous patience, that the attitude of the Zionists toward the non-Zionists was one of extreme kindness and self-restraint; I added that I did not think that under any circumstances would the congregations in the East (Philadelphia) withdraw from the Union, and that insofar as the congregation in Houston remaining a member of the Union was concerned, I could offer no opinion.

I felt that in reaffirming the Philadelphia resolution and the New Orleans resolution in the final draft of the total resolution adopted at this conference the Union was repeating in spirit and in principle just what the Union should do at the present moment. These resolutions refer in essence to the "legal rights which the Balfour Declaration and Mandate have given to the Jews to establish a home land in Palestine." This is the interpretation of the New Orleans resolution by the Reform Religious Group to the Palestine Committee of the American Jewish Conference contained in a resolution tentatively accepted by other groups. (I am practically quoting here from the Report of this Group.) It advocated the abrogation of the White Paper, and supported "large scale immigration into Palestine without which a legally assured home in Palestine cannot be achieved"....."in cooperation with the Jewish agency." (See Appendix D, Report of the Union Executive Board, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 3, 1943.) "This resolution still expresses the official attitude of the Union on the question of Palestine."

Mizpah Congregation
Julius and Bertha Ochs Memorial Temple
McCallie and Fairview Avenues
Chattanooga 3, Tennessee

ABRAHAM FEINSTEIN, RABBI
RES. 925 MCCALLIE AVE.
TELEPHONE 7-1894

December 23, 1943.

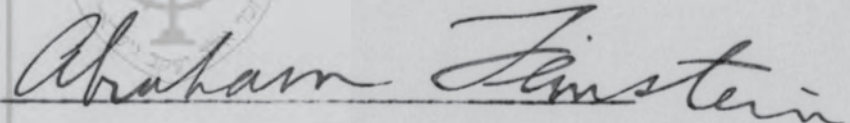
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
% The Temple ,
East 105 St. and Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My Dear Dr. Silver,-

I shall be happy to participate in the panel discussion on "Practical Problems of the Ministry", at the next convention of the C. C. A. R.

I am sure it is not necessary for me to tell you what these problems are. However, I would like to be assigned the topic of the organization of a study group, in a medium sized congregation.

Cordially yours,



(Rabbi) Abraham Feinstein.

AF:a

Temple Israel

BRYDEN ROAD AND 19TH ST.
COLUMBUS, OHIO
TELEPHONE FAIRFAX 7838

December 23, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
Page #2.

I agree with you wholeheartedly in your suggestion concerning the third paragraph of the proposed resolution, namely, that it shall be stated, and concerning your suggestion to add as a brief statement to the resolution "The Union, therefore, takes no action on the Palestine resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference."

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbi Eisendrath.

With heartfelt greetings, I am,

Cordially,


Samuel M. Gup

SMG:dr

JACOB J. WEINSTEIN

K. A. M. TEMPLE

CHICAGO

December 24, 1943

RABBI'S STUDY
920 E. 50TH ST.

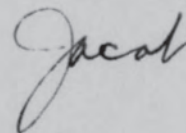
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Colleague:

I am indeed honored by the invitation of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to deliver the Conference Sermon on Saturday morning, June 24th. I am happy to accept the invitation and hope that my message will prove worthwhile.

With most cordial Chanukah greetings, I remain

Sincerely,



JJW:CM

TEMPLE ISRAEL

OFFICES • 610 BOULEVARD BUILDING
PHONE TRINITY 1-5110
DETROIT

December 24, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

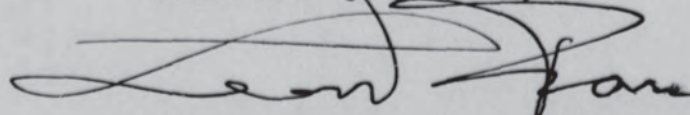
In order that I might be helpful in suggesting the problems to be discussed by the symposium on Practical Problems of the Ministry in which I have been appointed to participate, I find that I need to know what the Program Committee had in mind when they decided that such a symposium was needed.

Did they have in mind the principal problems of the Rabbinate, the need of Religious Education, preaching and pastoral service, or did they have in mind the discussion of some of the special problems that arise in the work of the Rabbi, such as mixed marriages, Jewish Community activities, and civic activities? Did they have in mind such things as promoting attendance at Religious services or promoting Congregational participation in the service or promoting Congregational singing?

I have in mind a problem with which I have been uniquely associated, both in Chicago and Detroit. It is the matter of pioneering in behalf of Reform Judaism; bringing Reform Judaism to the masses of the people, as I did in Chicago, or creating a new large Congregation for Reform Judaism, such as I did in Detroit. If this latter is included among the things the committee had in mind, I shall be glad to handle it.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Leon Fram

LF/ek

DR. JOSHUA LOTH LIEBMAN
TEMPLE ISRAEL
BOSTON 15, MASS.

STUDY OF THE RABBI
LONGWOOD AVE. AT PLYMOUTH ST.

December
24th
1943

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

Dear Friend:

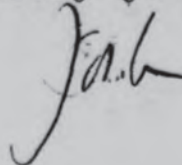
I am up today for the first time after an eight day siege of acute laryngitis and bronchitis and I hasten to drop you this brief note concerning the Union matter.

I attended the meeting in Cincinnati but I had to leave to catch the afternoon train and so was not present when the vote was taken and the final resolution drafted. I was very happy indeed to receive some of the facts which you so ably presented in your letter, and which I did not know. I spoke to Maurice Eisendrath on the phone, long distance, on the issues which you have raised and I told him how much impressed I was with the cogency of your arguments. He told me that he was meeting you next week in New York and suggested that I come to no decision until after the two of you had had a further chance to discuss the matter. I am as you probably know, going to Cincinnati for the Regional U P A Conference on January 9th and Eisy has arranged for me to spend Saturday evening, January 8th, to talk over the whole matter with him.

By the way, I will be in Cleveland for a few hours on January 7th occupying Barney Brickner's pulpit that Shabbos evening. Could we have a half-hour or an hour together some time Friday afternoon?

Fan joins in warmest personal greetings to you and all of your dear ones. How is the "Erev Rav"? Give him my best. As always -

Cordially your friend,



JLL:brb

Emanuel Congregation

Seven - O - One Buckingham Place
Chicago

FELIX A. LEVY
Rabbi

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	H M	DEC 27 1943
	AHS	
ANSWERED		

December 24, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York, 17, New York

Dear Abba:

It is true that I was present at the meeting in Cincinnati but not when the final statement was drawn up and passed by the group. In all fairness, however, I shall say that for the sake of peace in our ranks I probably would have voted for it.

I wrote to Eisendrath after I received it that I objected to it but if it meant saving our group from splitting I would endorse it. However, I agree with your point of view and am writing to Eisendrath today to add the brief statement that you made in your letter to me.

With warmest greetings from house to house,
I am,

Cordially yours,

Felix

FELIX A. LEVY
Rabbi

FAL:RK



TEMPLE EMANU-EL

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ALFRED WOLF, RABBI

December 27, 1943

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You and the Executive Board of the Central Conference honored me indeed by including me among the participants in the program of our next convention. I shall be very glad to take part in the panel discussion, provided, of course, that neither CANRA nor any other higher power interfere with our plans.

Most of the practical problems of which I was able to think after receiving your letter have probably been discussed at length in previous programs. Some of them might bear a new exposition: "Music in the Service", "Lay Participation in the Synagogue", "Attendance Problems", "Adult Education through Preaching."

There is one problem, however, about which, I believe, we have not heard enough: The Problem of the Smallest Congregation. It is, at the same time, a problem, about which I thought much even during my College days and which I had to tackle during the few years of my rabbinical practice. While I do not know if I could say anything on the problems listed above that has not occurred to each and every one of us, I do believe that I might express a new idea concerning the small-town community. I would, therefore, appreciate it if you could assign to my on the panel a subject connected with the small-town congregation, its organization or its administration.

I hope to hear from you again soon and send you my most sincere greetings.

Cordially yours,

Alfred Wolf

Mount Zion Temple
Holly at Avon Street
Saint Paul

HARRY S. MARGOLIS
RABBI

Dec. 27, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Friend:

I have your letter of Dec. 17th in which you set forth your reasons for opposing the action taken at Cincinnati some weeks ago. No doubt Rabbi Eisendrath has given you a complete picture of what took place. All that I can add is that I was invited by the officers of the Union to attend the meeting in the hope that some measure of unity could be effected on the matter of the Palestine Resolution. Those that voted in support of the Resolution did so because they were deeply interested in maintaining the Union and the College and securing the widest possible support for these institutions. It may be that the Resolution by inference, "commits the Union to an anti-Zionist position." If this is so, this was not the intention of the majority present at the meeting.

I might say that many of us who voted for the Resolution were not happy about the matter and were somewhat disturbed about the implication of that part which might be interpreted as a negative point of view.

After reading and re-reading your communication, I for one am in complete accord with your substitute resolution. I believe it covers adequately the whole situation and does not make it necessary for the Union to reaffirm its Philadelphia Resolution.

As I understand it, your suggestion is as follows: we should begin our statement with the third paragraph which reads, "Because in the congregations of the Union there are divergent opinions on the question of Zionism, the Union recognizes the right of each individual to determine his own attitude on this controversial question." This would then be followed by the statement, "The Union, therefore, takes no action on the Palestine Resolution adopted by the American Jewish Conference." If I am correct, then I am in complete accord with this revised statement. I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbi Eisendrath.

Your substitute resolution is short and concise. Moreover, it covers the whole question adequately and should satisfy every element. Even if the extreme anti-Zionist objects to this resolution, it appears to me that he has ~~not~~ solid ground upon which to stand.

With warmest greetings and best wishes, I am

HSM:EB

Sincerely yours,

December 28, 1943

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof
4905 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Sol:

I am enclosing herewith a letter
from Rabbi Braude. What shall I say to him?

I am also enclosing a letter from
Dr. Tepper who was asked to write the Paper on
Property. Have you someone else to suggest
in his place?

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK
Enc. - 2

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OF
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December 29, 1943

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

Dear Abba:

With regard to Braude, the cantorial program has been postponed for a year owing to the fact that this is the sixtieth anniversary of the Alumni Association and the Alumni will need Saturday afternoon as part of its celebration. You and I had some correspondence about this a month ago. Please tell Braude that it has to be postponed one year. He is already prepared for that fact.

As for the man to take Tepfer's place, I have given the matter some thought and I am unable to find anybody of whom I am absolutely sure. I am told that Professor Sonne, of the Hebrew Union College, is a fine Talmudist and an intelligent man. His articles that have appeared so far are very promising. It might be a fine thing to give him his introduction to the Conference through the means of a paper.

With best wishes,

As ever,
Sol

SBF:GK



THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

December 29, 1943

Dr. A. H. Silver,
342 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr.Silver:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of the nineteenth. The group of rabbis which met at the recent Union--American Council conference in Cincinnati was, as you know, composed of older and thoughtful men. By far the majority of those present was either active or "benevolent" Zionists. They took the action they did only after the most careful reflection and deliberation and with the best interests of the Union and the College in mind.

With kindest personal regards and all good wishes for the coming year, I am

Cordially yours,

Jacob R. Marcus

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December 30, 1943

Dr. Abba H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

I mentioned Dr. Sonne to you
in my letter yesterday as the possible writer
of the paper on the Talmudic idea of property.
I want to add the name of Dr. Samuel Atlas,
who lectured in Cambridge before coming to
the Hebrew Union College. That ought to
give him a Polish Cockney accent.

With best wishes,

As ever,

Sol

SBF:GK



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Dec. 30, 1943

Dr. Abba H. Silver
E. 105th St. & Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

Last November I wrote to Sol Freehof requesting that the Saturday afternoon session of the Conference be either postponed or be embodied in the Friday evening or Saturday morning service. This request was made so that the Alumni Association of the College could commemorate the 60th anniversary of its founding with a serious program in the afternoon and a program of entertainment in the evening.

You will recall that at the Executive Board meeting it was suggested that a recital of Jewish music be held on the Saturday afternoon of the Conference. Sol Freehof ~~was~~ in favor of granting the request of the Alumni Association and wrote me he was sending you a copy of my letter. Up to this time I have not heard from you and am wondering if you are in agreement with the suggestion. I believe this is the only time that the Alumni Association has asked for ~~morning and evening~~ *an afternoon* sessions but the occasion merits the request. Furthermore, there have been very few meetings of the Conference where any set program has been scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

Will you be good enough to let me hear from you at your earliest convenience so that the Alumni Association can make its plans accordingly?

With warmest greetings and best wishes to you and your dear ones in which Clara joins me, I am

As ever,

Harry

HSM:EB

