



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

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

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

---

Reel  
77

Box  
27

Folder  
1685

Voice of Democracy, 1954-1955.



Chairman  
**JAMES D. SECREST**  
Radio-Electronics-Television  
Manufacturers Association

★  
**ROBERT K. RICHARDS**  
National Association of  
Radio & Television Broadcasters

★  
**E. F. TRUMBLE**  
U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce


★  
**JOHN H. LLOYD**  
Office of Education  
DHEW

★  
**DR. G. KERRY SMITH**  
National Education Association

★  
**JOHN H. SMITH, JR.**  
National Association of  
Radio & Television Broadcasters

★  
**DR. ELLSWORTH TOMPKINS**  
Office of Education  
DHEW

★  
**PETER H. COUSINS**  
Radio-Electronics-Television  
Manufacturers Association



# *the Voice of Democracy*

1771 N Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

December 14, 1954

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
Congregation Tifereth Israel  
E. 105th Street and Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Reverend Sir:

On behalf of the Voice of Democracy Committee I am pleased to extend a cordial invitation to you to serve as one of the national judges in the eighth annual Voice of Democracy contest.

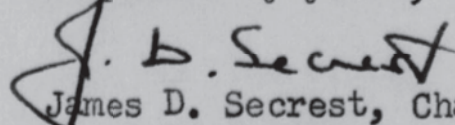
No doubt you have heard of this contest because of the widespread participation of students from public, private and parochial high schools throughout the United States and its territories. The contest, which is recognized as the outstanding competition for American youths of high school age, is actively supported by the U. S. Office of Education. It is co-sponsored by the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce and organizations representing American broadcasters and the nation's radio-television manufacturers, distributors, and dealers. I am enclosing a folder explaining the contest in more detail.

Each year the four co-equal national winners are entertained in Washington where they are customarily received by the President of the United States and other high ranking officials in the three branches of our Federal Government. At an Awards Luncheon each of the winners is given a \$500 contribution toward a university or college scholarship. The contest, which annually draws more than one million high school participants, is strictly non-commercial.

Your service as a national judge will require very little time as state and territorial winners are screened before transcriptions are submitted to the national judges. You will be asked to audition only three five-minute scripts and we will make arrangements for you to listen to these recordings at a time and place convenient to you.

I do hope that you will accept our invitation to serve as a national judge in this very worth while contest. I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience after which I will send you additional information. The national judging will occur shortly after the first of the year.

Respectfully yours,



James D. Secrest, Chairman

Voice of Democracy Committee

Enc.

SPONSORED BY THE U. S. JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — RADIO-ELECTRONICS-TELEVISION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RADIO & TELEVISION BROADCASTERS

Endorsed by the Office of Education—Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare—Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, Commissioner of Education



# *Eighth Annual* **Voice of Democracy** *Contest*



---

## **WHAT IS THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST?**

The Voice of Democracy Contest is a broadcast script writing and voicing competition. Now in its eighth year, the contest is sponsored by the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association and the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. It has the endorsement of the Office of Education, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The sole purpose of the contest is to give youth an opportunity to consider seriously, and to speak in behalf of, the blessings, and the freedoms and opportunities traditional to this nation.

### **AWARDS**

Following in-school, community and state eliminations, a panel of eminent Americans selects four co-equal national winners. These four winners are given week-long, all-expense trips to Washington, D.C. Before a distinguished gathering at the annual Awards luncheon in Washington on Feb. 23, 1955, each will receive a \$500 college scholarship check and either a radio or a television receiver. While in the national capital the winners will tour historic shrines, observe Congress and other government agencies in action and will meet many of the nation's leaders.

The national winners will also participate in the Democracy Workshop, a national youth forum staged in historic Williamsburg, Va., on the Washington's Birthday weekend. State winners of the contest are eligible to participate in the Workshop if their sponsoring organizations provide transportation to and from the restored Colonial capital. In the famous city where great American patriots argued for independence, the winners will join with distinguished guest authorities for three days of roundtable discussions, sightseeing and special entertainment.

Through the courtesy of the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association, all state and territorial winners will be awarded either radio or television receivers.

### **GROWTH OF THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

The Voice of Democracy has enabled more than five million high school students to express themselves since

its origin in 1947-48. Entries have been received from schools throughout the 48 states, Alaska, District of Columbia, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Each of the past three contests has attracted more than one million students.

The contest is approved by the National Association of Secondary-School Principals, as well as many state educational organizations.

Community, state and national winners have presented their scripts before numerous civic and professional groups, including the American Bar Association, the National Conference on Citizenship and state broadcasters' associations.

### **MECHANICS OF THE CONTEST**

The competition is open to all tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students of any public, private or parochial school within the United States or its Territories. Each contestant prepares, preferably as a classroom assignment, a five-minute broadcast script on the subject, "I Speak for Democracy." Students then deliver their scripts orally in school and community eliminations to determine the entrants in the state and territorial contests. These first eliminations may be staged "live" as are public speaking contests.

The community winner's script is transcribed by a participating broadcasting station. The transcription is then sent to state headquarters for judging to determine the state winner. At this competitive level the transcriptions should be identified only by code number, the procedure followed in the national judging.

Refer contest entry problems to VOD headquarters, 1771 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.



State and territorial winners' transcriptions are forwarded to national contest headquarters in Washington, D. C. The national committee auditions the 52 recordings to select finalists. The finalists' transcriptions are referred to a panel of nationally-known citizens who hear the transcriptions, identified only by code number, and choose four co-equal national winners.

## ORGANIZING THE CONTEST

The initial step at both the community and state levels is to form Contest Committees. These should be comprised of representatives of the sponsoring organizations—broadcasters, radio-television dealers and distributors, and members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Areas of responsibility are established at the first meeting. Broadcasters program the model transcriptions and promotional "spots" at hours permitting in-school listening, provide all publicity possible and transcribe the voices of the community winners. Dealers and distributors assist with the publicity and the development of prizes for community winners. Jaycees do much of the legwork in familiarizing school authorities with the contest, securing the cooperation of educators and arranging the judging.

Successful committees usually activate the following subcommittees: School Contact; Publicity; Prizes; Judging; and Awards Banquet.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONTEST CHAIRMAN

In most cases the chairman is a Jaycee. However, where Jaycee organizations do not exist, it is urged that a radio or television station (or a group of stations) undertake the operation of the contest.

A local committee, patterned after the state and national bodies, should be formed. The superintendent of education and/or high school principals should be invited to the organizational meeting in order to become personally aware of the purpose and scope of the contest. Plans should be formulated and necessary subcommittees appointed. The chairman should arrange to receive a series of progress reports from those working on the project.

Be sure to consider the possibility of including in the contest those schools in surrounding communities not having Jaycee organizations. This may mean conducting several contests through a single committee. Results justify this effort if additional schools, which might otherwise be barred, are enabled to participate in the Voice of Democracy.

## DUTIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES

The School Contact Committee calls on the school authorities, explains the contest and requests the support and participation of the community's schools. The teachers who will work with competing students are also visited and liaison is established between teachers and committeemen for purposes of solving any contest problems that might arise.

The Publicity Committee coordinates the efforts of other subcommittees in order to secure maximum publicity. This group prepares and distributes news re-

leases to all media. Remember that the contest is a tripartite sponsorship and be sure that all publicity adequately identifies all sponsors.

The Prize Committee secures awards for school and community winners. Prizes should be publicly displayed in advance of the contest finals, and the Publicity Committee should feature these along with the state and national awards in all publicity.

Be sure all dealers and distributors know that RETMA is a sponsor, and enlist their aid in securing prizes and window displays.

The Judging Committee has the responsibility of handling judging in the school and community eliminations. The advice and aid of the educators should be sought in this endeavor in order to prevent criticism of the methods by which winners are chosen. It is vitally important to the Voice of Democracy's future to be sure that this phase of the contest has the approval of school authorities. Select judges who are experienced in evaluating the content and delivery of the students' scripts.

This committee also has the responsibility of seeing that the winner's transcription is made and forwarded to the state chairman along with all necessary data pertaining to the winner. Deadlines must be observed if the winner is to qualify for state and national judging.

The Awards Banquet Committee should stage a luncheon honoring the community winner and finalists. It need not be on an elaborate scale. The event can be highly successful in "selling" students and educators on this and future Voice of Democracy contests. There are many possibilities for expense-sharing tie-ins on the luncheon. In some cases local business firms have shared sponsorship and expense. Such a luncheon spotlights the contest and its sponsors and offers excellent publicity opportunities. Prizes and certificates of merit can be awarded the winners and finalists by local dignitaries.

## HOW BROADCASTERS CAN HELP

Radio and television stations can assist greatly in staging the contest. When the Voice of Democracy gets under way in conjunction with the observance of National Radio and Television Week, November 7-13, 1954, the stations can schedule the model transcriptions at periods in which they can be heard by the students during classroom periods.

Publicity and promotion through the broadcasting of spot announcements and special programs, including a pickup of the community finals, will give impetus to the contest and gain prestige and good will for the station.

Assistance can be rendered to schools lacking broadcasting courses and equipment. Station personnel can offer valuable advice concerning preparation of scripts and microphone techniques.

Broadcasters can conduct the contest in communities not having Jaycee organizations. Those who have done this in the past report that the undertaking has been well worth the effort.

In the closing phase of the contest broadcasters can aid materially in cutting the best transcription possible for the winner. Since the contestant will be judged solely by this transcription at the state and national levels, the student's chances for final selection as a national winner are greatly strengthened if the broadcasting station will exercise care in observing the highest recording standards in transcribing the talk.



# RULES OF THE CONTEST

1. The contest is open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students of all public, private and parochial high schools in the United States and its territories.

2. Broadcast scripts are to be original; source material may be used, if identified.

3. Voice script must not exceed delivery time of five minutes.

4. Students who have been national winners previously are not eligible to compete again. State and local winners are eligible.

5. Broadcast scripts should approach subject positively, speaking *for* democracy and not *against* other governmental processes.

6. Composition of the script must be by the student, although supervision (i.e., in classroom exercises) is encouraged.

7. Judging deadlines at the school, community and state levels must be observed.

8. All entries become the property of the sponsors.

## BASIS OF JUDGING

Scripts will be judged as follows:

Content ..... 40 points

Delivery ..... 40 points

Originality ..... 20 points

The delivery element of the weighing will depend upon suitability for broadcast, not for oratorical or ordinary public speaking purposes.



## TIME OF THE CONTEST

Broadcasting stations in your area will schedule six five-minute "model" talks by eminent Americans on the following subjects during National Radio and Television Week (November 7-13):

1. Platform for Democracy
2. Freedom of Expression
3. Freedom of Religion
4. Freedom to Learn
5. America Tomorrow
6. How to Speak for Democracy

Ask your broadcasting stations when these programs will be scheduled. It is suggested that students wishing to compete be advised to listen to these programs before writing their broadcast scripts.

High school executives may wish to assign members of their staff to act as judges in selecting the school winners. Such runoffs can be held during school assemblies—and possibly the broadcast character can be sustained, if equipment is available, by having the contestants heard and judged over a public address system.



These are deadlines which  
must be observed:

November 15 to 20: High school students will prepare their broadcast scripts.

November 22 to 30: In-school and community wide eliminations. All community winners to be announced by December 1.

December 15: Deadline date for delivery of community level winning transcriptions to State Judging Headquarters. (Your broadcasters or Jaycees will handle this detail.)

January 3: All state level winners must be in hands of national Voice of Democracy Committee.

## IMPORTANT:

If there is no Jaycee chapter in your community or no broadcasting station, write to James D. Secrest, Chairman, Voice of Democracy Committee, 1771 N Street NW, Washington 6, D. C. The Committee will help you in arranging for participation by your students.



# VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST ORGANIZATIONAL CALENDAR

- August 23**—First meeting of the Community Committee.
- August 24**—Announce contest plans through radio, television and press.
- September 13**—All schools will have been sent special announcements of contest by this date. Mailing to schools to be made by the Office of Education, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
- October 5**—The National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters will send to the nation's broadcasters six five-minute model transcriptions broadcast by eminent Americans. The transcriptions are to be scheduled during National Radio and Television Week, November 7-13, 1954.
- October 19**—Stations not yet receiving model transcriptions should notify national Voice of Democracy Committee, 1771 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Duplicates will be forwarded immediately.
- November 7-13**—The model transcriptions should be aired during this week, National Radio and Television Week. Students should be encouraged to listen to complete series as a classroom assignment. It is important that broadcasters work with school authorities in scheduling broadcasts at periods when they can be heard by the students.
- November 15-20**—During this period the students will prepare their broadcast scripts. Broadcasting stations should be prepared to aid those students needing assistance.
- November 22-30**—In-school and community eliminations to be held. All community winners should be announced by Wednesday, December 1.
- December 15**—Deadline for delivery of community winners' transcriptions to state judging headquarters. Community Committee will handle cutting of transcriptions, packaging and mailing. State and territorial eliminations to be completed by December 28.
- January 3**—State and territorial winners' transcriptions shall be at national contest committee headquarters by this date.
- January 4**—National judging commences.
- February 7**—Four co-equal national winners will be announced by national contest committee.
- February 18-25**—National Awards Week. National winners will spend this period in Washington and Williamsburg, Va. In Washington they will visit national shrines, observe Congress and other governmental agencies in action and meet many ranking members of political and public life. Week-end of February 18-20 will be spent in Williamsburg as guests of Colonial Williamsburg. Climax of Awards Week will be Wednesday, February 23, when winners will receive scholarship checks and radio or television receivers before a distinguished gathering at the annual Awards Luncheon.

Refer contest entry problems to VOD headquarters, 1771 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.



December 17, 1954

Mr. James D. Secrest, Chairman  
Voice of Democracy Committee  
1771 N Street, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secrest:

Permit me to thank you for your letter of  
December 14th and for your invitation to serve  
as one of the national judges in the Voice of  
Democracy contest. I shall be pleased to do so.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms



Chairman  
**JAMES D. SECREST**  
Radio-Electronics-Television  
Manufacturers Association

**ROBERT K. RICHARDS**  
National Association of  
Radio & Television Broadcasters

**E. F. TRUMBLE**  
U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce


**JOHN H. LLOYD**  
Office of Education  
DHEW

**DR. G. KERRY SMITH**  
National Education Association

**JOHN H. SMITH, JR.**  
National Association of  
Radio & Television Broadcasters

**DR. ELLSWORTH TOMPKINS**  
Office of Education  
DHEW

**PETER H. COUSINS**  
Radio-Electronics-Television  
Manufacturers Association



# the Voice of Democracy

1771 N Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

December 30, 1954

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
THE TEMPLE  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Reverend Sir:

Thank you for your letter of December 17 and your acceptance of our invitation to serve as one of the national judges in the Voice of Democracy contest. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to take time from a busy schedule for this event, but feel confident you will recognize the worthiness of this contest when you listen to recordings of the entries which will be sent to you for judging.

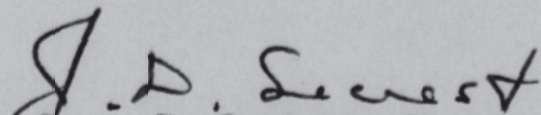
I am enclosing a copy of a news release announcing the judges so that you may know the names of other persons who will serve with you on this national panel.

Preliminary screening of the winners from the 48 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii and Puerto Rico will take place early in January after which recordings of the voices of the 12 finalists will be submitted to the national judges for selection of the four national winners.

As I explained in my previous letter, you will be asked to listen to only three of these five-minute transcriptions and to grade them according to a formula which will be furnished to you. A member of the Committee, Mr. Peter H. Cousins, will make arrangements for your auditioning of these recordings at your convenience.

If your schedule will permit, the Voice of Democracy Committee should like very much to have you attend the Awards Luncheon for the four national winners to be held on February 23 at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington. I will send you a formal invitation prior to the event.

Cordially,

  
James D. Secrest, Chairman  
Voice of Democracy Committee

Enc.

SPONSORED BY THE U. S. JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — RADIO-ELECTRONICS-TELEVISION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RADIO & TELEVISION BROADCASTERS

Endorsed by the Office of Education—Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare—Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, Commissioner of Education



# NEWS : FROM :

## *the Voice of Democracy*



SPONSORED BY THE U. S. JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — RADIO-ELECTRONICS-TELEVISION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RADIO & TELEVISION BROADCASTERS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Outstanding Americans To Judge Voice of Democracy Contest

Washington, Jan. 4 - Selection of 12 nationally-known persons as judges in the eighth annual Voice of Democracy contest was announced today by James D. Secrest, chairman of the VOD Committee, as the national competition for high school students throughout the United States and its territories entered its final stage.

As the transcribed voices of state and territorial winners were being sent to Washington for judging, Mr. Secrest said the following notables had accepted invitations of the Voice of Democracy Committee to serve as national judges:

E. LaMar Buckner, president, U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce  
Miss Elizabeth Ellen Evans, national winner, 1953-54 Voice of  
Democracy Contest  
Harold Fellows, president, National Association of Radio and  
Television Broadcasters  
Reverend Timothy J. Flynn, director, Radio and Television Communi-  
cations for the Archdiocese of New York  
J. Edgar Hoover, director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S.  
Department of Justice  
Clement Johnston, president, Chamber of Commerce of the United States  
George C. McConaughy, chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
Glen McDaniel, president, Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers  
Association  
Drew Pearson, commentator and columnist  
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Cleveland, Ohio  
Miss Waurine Walker, president, National Education Association  
J. Ernest Wilkins, Assistant Secretary, U. S. Department of Labor

The Voice of Democracy contest, which this year set a new record in participation of students, is co-sponsored by the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association. It has the endorsement of the Office of Education of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Four co-equal national winners will be chosen from the state and territorial winners and be brought to Washington in mid-February for a week of activities including a week-end participation in the Democracy Workshop at Colonial Williamsburg. Each winner will be given \$500 toward a college scholarship at an Awards Luncheon on Feb. 23. State and territorial winners, as well as the national winners, also will receive television sets.

(continued)



The contest is open to all tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students in public, parochial and private schools throughout the 48 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. First eliminations are at the participating schools, then at the community level after which state and territory winners are judged via transcription to select 12 semifinalists. Four national winners are chosen, also by transcription, from among these winners. This year's contest began in mid-November.

Each contestant prepares and recites a 5-minute broadcast script on the topic, "I Speak for Democracy." For the past several years more than a million students have participated annually in the contest.



#54-1092(159)



Chairman  
**JAMES D. SECREST** ★  
*Radio-Electronics-Television  
 Manufacturers Association*  
  
**ROBERT K. RICHARDS** ★  
*National Association of  
 Radio & Television Broadcasters*  
  
**E. F. TRUMBLE** ★  
*U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce*  
  
**JOHN H. LLOYD** ★  
*Office of Education  
 DHEW*  
  
**DR. G. KERRY SMITH** ★  
*National Education Association*  
  
**JOHN H. SMITH, JR.** ★  
*National Association of  
 Radio & Television Broadcasters*  
  
**DR. ELLSWORTH TOMPKINS** ★  
*Office of Education  
 DHEW*  
  
**PETER H. COUSINS** ★  
*Radio-Electronics-Television  
 Manufacturers Association*



# *the Voice of Democracy*

1771 N Street, N. W.  
 Washington 6, D. C.

January 18, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
 THE TEMPLE  
 East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
 Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

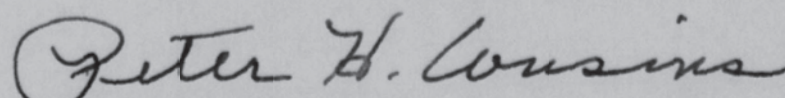
Since you very generously agreed to serve as one of the national judges in the Eighth Annual Voice of Democracy Contest, we are enclosing three of the finalists' transcriptions for your consideration.

As we explained in our original letter, this judging will require no more than fifteen minutes of your time since each of the three discs you are to appraise is a maximum of five minutes in length. You will note that these addresses are recorded on the usual 78 RPM recordings which may be played back on most any home phonograph record player.

We should be most appreciative if you will listen to these youngsters' recordings at your earliest convenience and return the scoring sheets containing your numerical ratings for each of them. Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. It is not necessary to return the recordings, but we would like the scoring sheets returned as soon as possible since our target date for announcing the winners is February 1.

In undertaking this task, you have been most helpful to the sponsors of the Contest - but more importantly, you have served the youth of the nation.

Cordially yours,

  
 Peter H. Cousins,  
 Assistant to Chairman,  
 Voice of Democracy Committee

Enclosures  
 PHC:kp



# NEWS : FROM :

*the Voice of Democracy*



SPONSORED BY THE U. S. JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — RADIO-ELECTRONICS-TELEVISION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RADIO & TELEVISION BROADCASTERS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Four Students National Winners Of Voice of Democracy Contest

Washington, Feb. 4 - Four high school students who surpassed a field of a million and a half entries were declared co-equal national winners of the 1954-55 Voice of Democracy contest today by James D. Secrest, chairman of the committee representing the three sponsoring organizations.

The winners, chosen by a panel of eminent judges from finalists in a contest which included high school students from public, private and parochial schools in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, are:

Judy Abramson, 17, 859 Taber Ave., Yuba City, Calif.  
Yuba City Union High School

Avron Joseph Maletzky, 16, 1189 Ardsley Road, Schenectady, N. Y.  
Nott Terrace High School

Catherine Esther Styles, 18, 3 Red Cedar Lane, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Southwest High School

Dwight David Walker, 17, 111 "B" Avenue East, Oskaloosa, Iowa  
Oskaloosa High School

One of the four winners, Catherine Esther Styles, while entered as the Minnesota state winner, is an international exchange student from Auckland, New Zealand.

The Voice of Democracy contest is sponsored annually by the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association and the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. It is endorsed by the Office of Education of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The contest winners will be guests of the sponsors during a week's visit in Washington and week-end trips to Colonial Williamsburg and New York City. They will come to Washington on Feb. 17, and at an Awards Luncheon at the Shoreham Hotel on Feb. 23 each will receive a \$500 check toward a college scholarship, a television receiver, and other awards.

(continued)



While in the National Capital the VOD winners will visit national shrines and call on Washington notables. Prior to their week in Washington, on Feb. 18-20, they will participate in the "Democracy Workshop" at Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, Va. Following their stay in Washington they will go to New York to take part in a television broadcast, "Youth Takes a Stand," on Saturday, Feb. 26, on the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Each contestant who participated in the contest wrote and voiced a 5-minute script on the subject "I Speak for Democracy." The voices of local winners were recorded after which state and national winners were selected from the recordings without identification until after the judging.

The national judges of the 1954-55 contest were:

E. LaMar Buckner, president, U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce  
Miss Elizabeth Ellen Evans, national winner, 1953-54 Voice of  
Democracy contest

Harold Fellows, president, National Association of Radio and  
Television Broadcasters

Reverend Timothy J. Flynn, director, Radio and Television Com-  
munications for the Archdiocese of New York

J. Edgar Hoover, director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice

Clement Johnston, president, Chamber of Commerce of the United States

George C. McConnaughey, chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Glen McDaniel, president, Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers  
Association

Drew Pearson, commentator and columnist

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Cleveland, Ohio

Miss Waurine Walker, president, National Education Association

J. Ernest Wilkins, Assistant Secretary, U. S. Department of Labor

Members of the national Voice of Democracy Committee, in addition to the chairman, are: Robert K. Richards and Oscar Elder, National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters; John H. Lloyd and Dr. Ellsworth Tompkins, U. S. Office of Education; Dean Borton, U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce; Dr. G. Kerry Smith, National Education Association, and Peter H. Cousins, Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association. Mr. Secrest is executive vice president of RETMA.

All four states represented by the winners have produced VOD winners in earlier contests and both California and New York have each had three winners. All state and territorial winners receive either a television or radio receiver in addition to local prizes. In the seven previous contests more than five million students have spoken for democracy. Nineteen boys and 13 girls have emerged as national winners in the eight Voice of Democracy contests to date.



Chairman  
**JAMES D. SECREST**  
Radio-Electronics-Television  
Manufacturers Association

**ROBERT K. RICHARDS**  
National Association of  
Radio & Television Broadcasters

**E. F. TRUMBLE**  
U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce


**JOHN H. LLOYD**  
Office of Education  
DHEW

**DR. G. KERRY SMITH**  
National Education Association

**JOHN H. SMITH, JR.**  
National Association of  
Radio & Television Broadcasters

**DR. ELLSWORTH TOMPKINS**  
Office of Education  
DHEW

**PETER H. COUSINS**  
Radio-Electronics-Television  
Manufacturers Association



# *the Voice of Democracy*

1771 N Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

February 8, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
THE TEMPLE  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

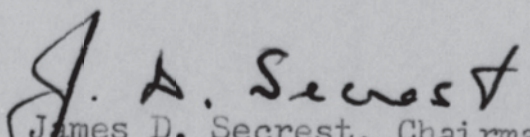
Dear Rabbi:

On behalf of the Voice of Democracy Committee I wish to thank you for serving as a national judge in the 1954-55 Voice of Democracy contest. As you may have noted in the press, the four winners, selected on the basis of your scoring and that of the other judges, have been announced in the enclosed press release.

These four students will be in Washington the week of February 21, following a week-end at Colonial Williamsburg, and will receive their scholarship awards at a luncheon on February 23 at the Shoreham Hotel. They also will appear in a television broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System on "Youth Takes a Stand" at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 26. I hope it will be possible for you to see and hear these young people on one of these occasions.

We are extremely grateful to you for taking the time and effort to help select these national winners, and I feel sure that the voices you heard impressed you with the worthiness of this contest.

Cordially,

  
James D. Secrest, Chairman  
Voice of Democracy Committee

Enc.  
JDS/mjb

SPONSORED BY THE U. S. JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — RADIO-ELECTRONICS-TELEVISION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RADIO & TELEVISION BROADCASTERS

Endorsed by the Office of Education—Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare—Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, Commissioner of Education