



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
84

Box
29

Folder
1854

Zionist Organization of America, Executive Committee,
1946-1947.

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1946 AT 8:30 P.M. AT HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK CITY.

PRESENT: Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, presiding, (Dr. Emanuel Neumann presided until the arrival of the Chairman) Marcus Abramson, Jacob Fishman, Ernest Freudenheim, Daniel Frisch, Abraham Goldstein, Samuel Goldstock, Joseph Goldberg, Abraham Goodman, Israel R. Goodman, Joseph L. Greenleaf, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Milton Pollack, Abraham Redelheim, Charles Ress, Albert D. Schanzer, Judge Jacob Schwolsky, Rudolph G. Sonneborn, David Spiegel, Jacques Torczyner, Herman L. Weisman.

GUESTS: Leon Falk, Mrs. Daniel Frisch, Adolph Hubbard, A. K. Israeli, Abraham Tannenbaum.

STAFF: Carl Alpert, Ernest E. Barbarash, Dr. Simon Bernstein, Isadore Cooperman, Yale Goldberg, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Dr. David Tannenbaum, and Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dr. Sidney Marks stated that the staff of the ZOA was devoting itself wholeheartedly to the shekel and election campaign with very satisfactory results. He reported the sale of 144,263 shekolim to non-members which together with the membership of the ZOA and B'nai Zion, brought the total to over 335,000. Dr. Marks paid tribute to the efforts of Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the ZOA shekel committee and his associates, and expressed appreciation to Charles Ress and Abraham Tannenbaum of the U.S. Central Shekel and Election Board for their cooperation.

Despite the fact that all activities have been concentrated on the election campaign, Dr. Marks announced that the Expansion Fund received a substantial sum in the past month, and that many communities expected to undertake campaigns after the elections.

All departments of the ZOA were carrying out their regular Zionist activities while utilizing every opportunity to implement the election campaign. The Public Relations Department has been giving its undivided efforts to all phases of the elections. Two special election editions of the New Palestine-News Reporter have been issued and the country is virtually being swamped with election material. The Committee on Unity has established valuable contacts with the rabbinate on behalf of the election campaign, and the Radio Department has added six new stations to its outlets including one in Canada.

Dr. Marks stated that adequate machinery has been set up throughout the country to ensure the success of the elections.

Dr. Neumann added his warm commendation of the manner in which the ZOA staff had assumed the heavy burdens of the campaign in addition to carrying on normal activities.

GIFT TO EXPANSION FUND

Dr. Marks reported that the Expansion Fund had received a gift from Nashville, Tenn. of several shares of stock which when sold, would realize approximately \$2600. A motion authorizing the sale and disposition of the stock was unanimously approved.

REPORT ON EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Pending Dr. Silver's arrival, Dr. Neumann reviewed the efforts of the American Zionist Emergency Council to expedite action on the transfer of 100,000 European Jews to Palestine. (Report on file)

POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS: (At this point, Dr. Silver assumed the chair)

The Chairman stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to consider and take action on the situation which had arisen in connection with the demand by other parties for postponement of elections to the World Zionist Congress. He called upon Mr. Ress, chairman of the U.S. Central Shekel and Election Board for a report.

Mr. Ress outlined the developments which had taken place since the postponement of the Congress from August to December, leading up to the present impasse. At no time had any of the parties, other than the Revisionists, raised the question of postponing elections. The Revisionist party had declared it was necessary to postpone elections to October because of the later date of the Congress, but the Election Board agreed there was no such legal obligation. Cables to Palestine announcing that elections in this country would be held as originally scheduled had been acknowledged and no indication had been given that elections should be postponed. In a recent cable to the ZOA, the World Zionist Executive stated it would not interfere with the procedure decided upon by the US Election Board.

Coming to the immediate problem, Mr. Ress reported that at a specially convened meeting of the Election Board, the Poale Zion, supported by Mizrachi, had taken advantage of a legal technicality and demanded postponement of elections until October. That failing, they pressed for a postponement of two weeks. This motion was defeated also, Hadassah voting with the ZOA and the Revisionists abstaining. Despite a majority vote, the Poale Zion and Mizrachi then threatened to boycott elections on the basis that the decision was illegal. They admitted however, they were taking advantage of a purely legal technicality for party interests. (The ruling in question required that a registry of voters be made available for inspection at all polling places two weeks prior to elections. It had been agreed previously by all parties that this technicality was one which could not be fulfilled and certain rules were adopted which unanimously waived this technical regulation. The Mizrachi made the additional point that owing to the Shevuoth holidays and the Sabbath they were unable to distribute all their shekolim).

The Chairman read into the record a telegram which he had sent to the Election Board vigorously opposing postponement. The statement reiterated the ZOA position, mainly, that there had been unanimous agreement to hold elections on June 16-17 and subsequent word from Palestine confirmed the fact that this date would not be affected by the postponement of the Congress. Such action would cause considerable confusion, involve needless expenditure of funds, and prolong partisan campaigning. Dr. Silver also pointed out that the shekel holder should not be deprived of his constitutional right to vote. He expressed deep concern over the unfavorable reaction which would follow if a postponement were forced by the other parties. He concluded with the statement that the ZOA would not be a party to any interference with the original plans to hold elections on June 16-17.

DISCUSSION:

In the lengthy discussion which ensued, the position taken by the ZOA as set forth in Dr. Silver's message was reaffirmed. Ernest Freudenheim, I. R. Goodman, Abraham Goldstein, Louis Falk and other speakers representing all sections of the country, emphasized that the communities were geared for voting on June 16th; they feared any postponement would be a terrific let-down which would adversely affect the voting. The end of June would find schools closed and many people out of town. Doubt was expressed whether voting arrangements set up for June 16-17 could be repeated successfully. They urged the ZOA to oppose firmly any postponement as detrimental to the whole Zionist movement.

Mr. Schanzer pointed out that if the ZOA and Hadassah voted without the other parties participating, the showing would not reflect accurately Zionist strength and cause doubt in the public mind. It was argued that voting by ZOA and Hadassah alone would represent only the General Zionist party and therefore not constitute a real contest. Judge Levinthal feared that a poor showing at the polls would play into the hands of our enemies and counteract the good effect of the widely publicized Roper poll.

While recognizing the validity of the arguments presented, Mr. Frisch felt that unless all parties participated, the voting would be a farce and its legality questioned at the Congress the control of which at this time is in the hands of those who are in favor of postponement. He suggested that a committee of five be appointed of which the President shall be a member, with full power to take whatever action it found necessary. Mr. Frisch felt that if postponement were the only recourse, then the ZOA should make every effort to have a successful turn-out at the polls.

The question of a unified slate which would eliminate the need of voting was mentioned by Mr. Fishman and subsequent speakers. It was agreed that if this matter were raised by one of the other parties, it would be given our consideration, although it was recognized that the other parties would use every means at their disposal to obtain the greatest number of delegates possible.

Dr. Neumann pointed out the almost unsurmountable difficulties entailed in calling off elections at the last moment when the machinery was in full motion. He criticized the tactics of other parties who were willing to jeopardize the very foundations of the whole Zionist movement by this action and stressed the need to revise Congress election rules for the future.

The Chairman asserted that while he was opposed to any consideration of postponement, he did not see how the ZOA and Hadassah could go to the polls unless the other parties participated. Such a vote would be challenged by the Congress; the strength of the other parties would not be registered and would therefore remain untested. The Chairman also warned against the possibility of incidents at the polls which would create an undesirable reaction in the public eye.

Two possibilities remained--postponement for two weeks under threat of intimidation, or a unified slate. Referring to the latter alternative, the Chairman held this would be no true gauge of the strength of the other parties. He doubted whether the number of delegates allotted to the ZOA would be commensurate with either its numbers or political strength. He feared that the total number of delegates finally allotted to the ZOA would be little better than in 1939. This would be a gross injustice to the ZOA to which the eyes of the world now look as the greatest Zionist body. Despite the tremendous disadvantages of postponement, the speaker expressed the conviction that Zionist loyalty and discipline would assert itself at the polls with favorable results.

He therefore recommended that Mr. Frisch's suggestion for the appointment of a committee of five be adopted. This Committee, of which the ZOA president would be a member, will have full power to act in the spirit of the telegram to the U.S. Election Board, making any revision necessary to meet the situation. The resolution was unanimously approved, granting full authority to the committee to accept a two week postponement and did not preclude consideration of any reasonable proposal which may emanate from other parties for a united slate.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was recommended that we notify Hadassah of this decision and invite their cooperation.

In concluding the discussion, Dr. Neumann stressed the need to strengthen General Zionist forces in Europe, Palestine and America. He urged that a special fund be set up for General Zionist activity here and abroad.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE:

Mr. Fishman moved, and it was unanimously approved, that appropriate resolutions be drawn up expressing our sense of loss at the passing of Sigmund Thau and Max Levy, Zionist leaders, and that copies be sent to the respective families of the deceased.

REPORT OF DR. TANNENBAUM:

The Chairman welcomed Dr. David Tannenbaum, director of the Palestine Economic Bureau, who has just returned from the first post-war American business men's tour of Palestine, via Trans-World Airways. Dr. Tannenbaum believed that the venture was most successful both as to immediate results and from a long-range point of view. The delegation was enthusiastic in its reaction and eager to participate in the development of the Yishuv's economy.

Reporting on the political situation, the speaker said that Palestine gave the appearance of any enemy country under occupation. There was growing resentment on the part of the Yishuv against the British rather than the Arabs. While tension was not visible, it did exist under the surface. Dr. Tannenbaum called particular attention to the unsatisfactory situation in Egypt where a new government regulation has been promulgated which discriminates against Jewish tourists.

The delegation visited all of Palestine and had the opportunity to meet important leaders. Dr. Tannenbaum was hopeful that many new business ventures in different fields would materialize. The delegates agreed that there was need in Palestine for substantial American investments. The demand for technical help from America was growing and the Palestinians are turning more frequently to this country for skilled workers. The Jewish Agency has agreed to allot a certain number of immigration certificates to America to meet this need.

COMMITTEE ON ELECTION POSTPONEMENT:

The Chairman announced the following members of the committee to represent the ZOA in negotiations relative to postponement of the Congress elections: Dr. Neumann, Daniel Frisch, Charles Ress, Abraham Goldstein and Dr. Silver.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sidney Marks
Executive Director

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION ¹²⁰⁷

A. N. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

\$	CHECK
S	ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
F	TIME FILED

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

September 24, 19 46

To Staff, Zionist Organization of America

Care of or Apt. No. _____

Street and No. 41 East 42nd Street

Place New York, N. Y.

I SEND YOU ALL MY WARMEST GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR. I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE MAGNIFICENT YEAR OF SERVICE WHICH YOU RENDERED OUR GREAT CAUSE. I PRAY THAT OUR EFFORTS DURING THE COMING YEAR WILL BE BLESSED WITH A LARGE MEASURE OF SUCCESS. A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU.

Abba Hillel Silver

Sender's name and address
(For reference only)

Sender's telephone
number

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION (36)

1220

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

H20 NL PD=NEWYORK NY SEP 23

1946 SEP 24 AM 8 44

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE=

ALARMING SITUATION ARISEN IN ZOA EXECUTIVE AND FIELD STAFF AS RESULT OF REFUSAL BY FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AND NEGOTIATE SALARIES NOW AND BECAUSE OF COMMITTEES COUNTERPROPOSAL TANTAMOUNT TO REDUCTION OF SALARY IN MANY INSTANCES. TREATMENT OF ZOA STAFF PARTICULARLY RESENTED IN FACE OF SKY ROCKETING COST OF LIVING AND CONSISTENT LOYALTY. BECAUSE OF OUR DEEP CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF OUR ORGANIZATION WE EARNESTLY REQUEST YOUR IMMEDIATE INTERCESSION AS PRESIDENT TO AVOID A PUBLIC AIRING OF LABOR DISPUTE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF ENTIRE EXECUTIVE AND FIELD STAFF OF ZOA MEMBERS OF UNION CHAPTER WILL TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER TWENTY FIFTH AT TWO OCLOCK TO CONSIDER ACTION TO BE TAKEN. WE AWAIT FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON OUR DEMAND FOR ADEQUATE SALARY SETTLEMENT NOW BASED UPON OUR JUST PROPOSALS. COPIES THIS TELEGRAM TO NEUMANN POLLACK MARKS=

EXECUTIVE AND NEGOTIATING COMMITTEES ZOA CHAPTER S.S.E.U. LOCAL #19 U.O.P.W.A. C.I.O. URIAH TCHACK PRESIDENT DR SIMON BERNSTEIN, DR HARRY COHEN, JUDITH DANIEL, I G SIMON, ERNEST BARBARASH, CARL ALPERT, MANUEL POSY MARK TARAIL UNION REPRESENTATIVE.

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE Z.O.A. HELD ON
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1947 AT 8:00 P.M. AT HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK CITY

PRESENT: Marcus Abramson, Rev. Martin Adolf, Leo Auerbach, Francis J. Berman, Samuel Berman, Jack B. Cohen, Paul Cohen, Sol Cohen, Thomas Cohen, A. K. Epstein, Louis A. Falk, Mendel Fisher, John J. Fox, Joseph Goldberg, Henry Goldman, Samuel Goldstock, Ellis Goodman, Jacob Goodman, Judah B. Hellman, Jacob Ish-Kishor, Paul Kaminsky, Henry Kislak, Edmund A. Koblenz, William Kapelman, Abraham Krumbein, Robert Lagunoff, Philip Lassar, Dr. Harris J. Levine, Dr. Theodore Lewis, M. Marlowe, Benjamin Rabinowitz, Joseph J. Schickler, Albert Schiff, Jacob Schwalsky, Louis J. Schwefel, Dr. Hyman D. Silver, Jacob Sincoff, Rudolf G. Sonneborn, David Spiegel, Joseph Sternstein, Jacques Torczyner and Leo Wilson.

GUESTS: Milton Arm, Dr. S. W. Boorstein, Joseph Klau, Prof. Gustave Klausner and Louis Michelman.

STAFF: Carl Alpert, Ernest E. Barbarash, Dr. Harry A. Cohen, Dr. Ludwig Lewisohn, Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director and Manuel Posy.

Rabbi Irving Miller, opened the meeting (presiding until the arrival of Dr. Neumann) and greeted this meeting of the Executive Committee, as well as those guests from the metropolitan area who had been invited to attend this meeting in view of the amount of business and information to be disseminated which concerned them directly as representatives of the leadership and people who are carrying the burden and a great share of the responsibility for the organization.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dr. Marks, Executive Director presented the following Report: (attached)

At the conclusion of Dr. Marks' report, Dr. Neumann arrived, and the chair was turned over to him. Dr. Neumann thanked Rabbi Miller, as well as the other members of the Inner Committee, and the National Executive and the staff for having carried on so ably in his absence.

At the conclusion of Dr. Marks' report, a discussion was held, in the course of which, the following point was made:

Fund-raising being one of the major problems of the organization, and the subject so well-covered in the report, it was suggested that a copy of the report be circularized to all the District Presidents and Regional officers for wider distribution of the message therein, with the request that the report be read at meetings of the different districts, in full.

INNER COMMITTEE:

Rabbi Miller reported for the Inner Committee and began by explaining the functions and purposes of the Inner Committee, and explained the work it was now doing. He explained that the Inner Committee is not a policy-making body, that policy is determined by the Executive Committee, the Administrative Committee and the Convention, but within that framework of policy, the Inner Committee conducts the business of the organization. He presented to the group several of the problems, that were presently concerning the Inner Committee, solutions and suggestions for which will have to come from the Inner Committee in the next weeks or months. They are as follows:

3/24/47

1. The problem of Zionist youth and the Youth Commission, and the question of the sums spent on these items and the results. He stressed the importance of studying this problem through the means of a survey.
2. The problem of organization, districts, regions, and recognition, etc. The meeting was informed that the week-end of April 26th-27th has been set aside for a meeting of the presidents of all the Regions throughout the country, and an effort will be made to bring to the city the presidents of every region in the country.
3. Education - New Palestine - He explained some of the problems connected with these items, and stressed, in particular the New Palestine Newsreporter and magazine, in the course of which he made the suggestion that the magazine be a subscription magazine, and posed some of the problems at present.
4. The matter of Expansion Fund, and the raising of monies.

Discussion was held on some of the matters raised in Rabbi Miller's presentation, particularly with regard to the New Palestine News Reporter and Magazine. An accord was reached with the Inner Committee with regard to these publications.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Mr. Joseph Goldberg, of Worcester, Mass., National Membership Chairman, presented this report and began by expressing satisfaction with the present membership but felt that there was much that could be done, and much that must be done in order to really do the job of membership. He suggested that in the future, "we start our membership campaign for new members and re-enrollments immediately after the Convention. I think we ought to have that campaign at least, no later than December." He also expressed the feeling that there is "not an organization on the American scene that is handling the membership job more effectively and efficiently than the Z.O.A.

"I have come to the conclusion, and I have had the privilege of visiting many communities, that those communities who do not wish to do a job, or have not set up the machinery, are resorting to alibis blaming the national organization." He went on to describe the situation and conditions in the various communities, and conclusions he had drawn from his visits. He stressed the fact that the professional staff and the national office had done all that was possible and that could be done, and that the rest of the job lay in the hands of the local communities. He concluded by appealing to the leadership and the communities to do the job now necessary, for in the final analysis they are the ones who can do it effectively.

There was discussion at the conclusion of this report, in the course of which one of the problems of allocating members to their proper districts in the metropolitan area was brought up. Dr. Marks informed the group that the work on assigning these people had already been done.

EXPANSION FUND:

Mr. Posy presented the Expansion Fund, in view of the absence from the meeting of Mr. Dewey Stone. He explained that the conditions and the situation with regard to the Expansion Fund was much the same as that which was outlined by Mr. Goldberg with regard to the Membership situation and with the remarks made by Dr.

Marks in his report - He also stressed the importance of the work to be done by local leaders and communities, and that all that was possible had been done by the staff and by the national office. He went on to present some of the problems facing the Expansion Fund, and appealed to the leaders and to the Executive Committee to pitch in and help with this important work.

Discussion was held on this report, and points were made in the course of the discussion which pointed to the importance of consideration of ways and means for improvement or change with regard to the fund-raising problems of the organization. In the course of the discussion, the suggestion was made that national convention be held at the end of the winter - July 4th week-end - so that plans for the full year can be worked on during the summer.

Prolonged discussion was also held on the matter of the relationship of Expansion Fund with the welfare funds and local funds in the community. Further developments in this regard will be reported to the National Executive Committee.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND:

Dr. Harris J. Levine reported on satisfactory progress with regard to the J.N.F. Committee's work. He expressed confidence in the organization's ability to realize the goal of redemption of 50,000 dunams of land in the next two years. The first part of the J.N.F. Committee's plan, having to do with the reaching of an agreement between the Z.O.A. and the Keren Kayemeth, whereby the land will be set aside for General Zionist colonization, is almost concluded satisfactorily. The other part of the plans had to do with the raising of the J.N.F. money, and he stressed the importance of discipline with regard to allocation of funds raised by Z.O.A. districts and members.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE:

Mr. Louis Lipsky reported on the American Jewish Conference, and explained to those present the history of the Z.O.A.'s relationship with the Conference, its present participation in the Conference, and some of the potentialities, and trends of the Conference, as they relate to the purposes and the principles of the Z.O.A. He appealed to the group for more active participation in the work of the Congress, in the way of financial support, as well as from the point of view of participation in meetings, etc., to get more information on the workings of this important body. He also appealed to the Zionists of New York City and the metropolitan area, to give more of their support, financially and otherwise to this group.

There was discussion of this item, and this item was put on the agenda for more discussion at a further meeting.

REPORT OF ACTING PRESIDENT:

Dr. Neumann devoted the major portion of his report to further information and analysis with regard to the present political scene. He described the London Conference and negotiations with the British Government, and explained the circumstances under which the British Government decided to turn the problem over to the United Nations. He analyzed the various possibilities, and informed the members of the Executive with regard to the latest developments, in the course of which he stressed the importance of the attitude of the United States, and of the State Department. He also expressed the feeling that the new Secretary of State, Marshall was a fair and honest and sincere person, whom we could expect, that he would act on a decision taken. He also discussed the situation with regard to the

recent decisions advocated by the President with regard to Turkey and Greece, He reported that the Agency Executive representatives here were hard at work, and stressed the importance of organizing public opinion further in this country. He asked for unity within the ranks at this point, which is a very critical point in the history of the movement.

There was discussion in the course of which, in reply to a question, Dr. Neumann said that there was as yet no new U.N. activities that districts could engage in, although the usual Zionist work should be continued.

At this point, Dr. Neumann introduced Major Wellesley Aron of Palestine, who gave a few words of greeting to the group.

DISTRICT #95:

This matter was explained and discussed, and it was decided that the Inner Committee bring in a definite recommendation with regard to this matter, to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Before rendering this report to our National Executive Committee, and summarizing the achievements, plans and activities, I want to inject a note of somber moment in my evaluations.

At the outset, I want to generally pay a brief note of tribute to my colleagues on the staff and to a number of our leaders who have wrought miracles in our operations, in scope, activity and intensity of drive despite the gross handicaps under which we are laboring. The tremendous impact of our work upon the American community is a miracle but no business can continue to operate on miracles - and it simply cannot be done. It requires financial resources and we must probe the causes for our inadequate income.

The business of the Zionist Organization of America does not differ from any other business establishment. During the course of the past few years, living costs have risen and salary adjustments, while moderate, have made considerable inroads into our budgets. Costs of operation based upon scarcity of materials and the general rise in overhead have likewise had their impress upon our economy. Coupled with these business-like facts are to be found the increased demands made upon us by pressing political problems. I need not belabor this fact. The sentiments for activity by our leaders and membership throughout the country are quite justified but they are not coupled with a corresponding effort on their part to find the wherewithal for these operations.

Let us analyze the situation. At our last Convention in Atlantic City, our Treasurer, Mr. Abe Goodman, pleaded with the delegates to increase the dues of this organization to \$7.50 which would have given the National Office, the Regions and the Districts an increase in revenue barely sufficient, but nevertheless, feasible for basic operations. You must understand that there is no profit motive in our set-up. It created an occasion for oratory and the enunciation of the democratic principle - that everyone should have the opportunity to join the Z.O.A. - a most laudable viewpoint. What was apparently forgotten was that ideals differ at times from reality. The democratic principle works best in a solvent economy. Nevertheless the request for an increase was defeated, almost unanimously, but the problem of meeting the costs of operation remained.

What really complicated the situation was the singular refusal of our regions and districts to understand that they are the organization; that what they raise in membership and expansion funds provides the meagre budget for our work. Furthermore, there is a significant failure to appreciate the fact that the Z.O.A., or any membership organization, increases its cost of operation with increases in size. In these respects, however, it cannot be compared to a business structure which decreases its cost of operation with an increase in unit volume of sales and production. More servicing, greater decentralization, intensification of the educational process - there are a thousand facets where expenditures are called for and must be met.

Now I would not be as concerned with the problem if a state of affairs had not been reached which has me quite troubled. At the outset, I think it should be quite self-evident that we are doing everything within our power to stimulate membership and expansion funds. Our campaigning has been exemplary in structure and form - extra men, literature, publicity, visits, speakers - everything has been done to arouse our membership - and our work and labors are first-rate.

Look about you and see only some of our educational efforts. There are many others. We are operating at break-neck speed but at this point we are stymied by a lack of financial resources. Milton Pollack will explore this matter further with you. It is not a problem of economical operation; we are watching our

expenditures carefully and our disbursements are quite modest. Every dollar is carefully nurtured by your Office Committee and your Finance Committee.

Our problem is one of insufficient income and it is to that phase that I must finally address myself. Our income is mainly derived from two sources, membership and expansion fund. Our current membership includes 25,000 new enrollments. Campaigns are being conducted in every major city, extra personnel has been employed - we were told if you give us the help we can give you the membership - well - we did - and we haven't come anywhere near promises. Our National Membership Chairman, Mr. Joseph Goldberg, at a sacrifice of his own business affairs, with a sure and firm hand, is travelling from one end of the country to the other. No sacrifice is too great for him. And yet we are not enrolling membership at a rate to ensure financial security or at a rate to justify the enthusiasms of the public. What we have achieved in membership has been in spite of the apathy of our membership. We should have had at least 50,000 additional new members at this time.

I don't know whether you people realize how little we receive from the membership fee. The five dollars net us somewhere between 75¢ and 90¢. One dollar is allocated to the District, one dollar to Regional operations which is badly deficiated, 50¢ for the shekel, approximately \$1.60 for our publications which is going to increase with increases in postal rates.

And if you think that we can continue doing business under these handicaps, you are mistaken.

Our second source of income is the Expansion Fund. This morning's total receipts are \$182,778.88. Our figure as of this time last year was \$116,410.89. We estimate actual accounts receivable as \$169,000, excluding Philadelphia, which has just concluded its campaign. While this is commendable, it does not meet the budgetary needs of our activities. Your convention passed resolutions and appropriations but the money for this work has not been forthcoming. Radio, books, pamphlets, subventions for Youth, Hebrew, General Zionism - Unity Committee - in fact, all of our projects require substantial capital investment as well as operational income. Our districts, our membership, our regions and some of our national people have likewise been derelict in their work in this behalf.

Now where does the crux of the problem lie? It is my opinion that our membership takes the Z.O.A. for granted. It is their opinion that by sleight of hand the organization will grow in size and in affluence. I want to relate the cold but inevitable fact that what the membership itself does in increasing its ranks and providing the financial sinews for widespread public relations, activity is the best measure of its strength.

Our people, our leaders, our districts, our regions, by and large, find every good reason to delay their obligations to the Z.O.A., the parent body. For whatever reason, and I haven't the slightest interest in motive since the Z.O.A. must remain the primary concern of every group in every year, they are finding it expedient to interest themselves in every fragmentation of our movement to the disregard of our own structure. I do not underestimate the needs of resistance funds, the great needs of the United Jewish Appeal, the monumental demands on the American Jewish community but I must offer this single caution - it cannot be done at the expense of the Zionist Organization of America. Others may take issue with me but it is my considered opinion that no structure on the American Zionist scene can effectively exist without a strong Z.O.A. and the collapse or the weakening of our organization brings with it a corresponding weakening of the general structure and the cause of Zionism.

Before proceeding to a review of some of our activities, I make this final appeal to this National Executive Committee and to our guests, do not take my statements lightly. It is a cause for deep concern. The remedy is to be found in what you do in your communities. The strength or weakness of the Z.O.A. depends entirely upon the efforts you extend in its behalf.

The staff can only help and assist. If we appear unable to assist you at times, it is not based upon a lack of willingness - we are doing everything within our power to help - it is the reality of being unable to find funds for this help. We cannot give what we haven't got - no matter how laudable the effort.

Now, I want to proceed somewhat to our organizational work. It should give all of you a measure of keen satisfaction. It is real, genuine accomplishment. I have related to you, somewhat sparingly, the grand membership work of the Goldbergs, Joseph and Yale, and the Expansion Fund operations of Dewey Stone and Manuel Posy. I could also add a list of other effectives but I do wish that the list could be greater. These men are a credit to the organization. Their work in membership and Expansion Fund is of the highest political magnitude.

Our public relations department is a prime activity and Mr. Barbarash performs a monumental job. Here, in short shrift, are some of the activities in the half-year period since our last convention:

Press and Public Relations

(1) Approximately 6000 columns of Z.O.A. items appeared in the general Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish press. This is a very conservative estimate.

(2) Major events which were put on the wires of the Associated Press, United Press and International News Agency, included coverage of important statements by Dr. Silver, resolutions of the Chicago Conference and Administrative Council, addresses at Manhattan Center reception to returning Congress delegates, and many other items covering activities of the Z.O.A.

(3) Publication of Series of Congress Flash Bulletins.

(4) Publication of special "Spot News" Bulletins containing highlights of events in Palestine and on the political arena.

(5) Publication of "Inside Palestine."

(6) Special feature stories on Z.O.A. projects and activities in the Yiddish press.

(7) Furnished background material on Palestine and Zionism to newspapers, institutions and individual columnists.

(8) Drafted letter in answer to anti-Zionist editorials as well as material for radio symposia.

(9) Furnished special Palestine bulletins and photographs to newspapers.

(10) Drafting and layout of advertisements on Zionism and Palestine.

Promotional Material

(11) Prepared and supervised the publication of posters, illustrated literature on Membership and Expansion Fund, series of flyers and various other handouts too numerous to mention.

The News Reporter

(12) Publication of The News Reporter issue of The New Palestine. Continued efforts are being made for its improvement and the enlistment of new contributors.

On the Fire

(13) The coming week will see the publication of large ads in the daily press of major communities throughout the country, similar to the full page ad which appeared in the New York Post. Philadelphia, Norfolk, Los Angeles and other communities republishing them.

(14) Arrangements are now under way to install teletype machines in all regional offices throughout the country for transmission of regular "Flash" Bulletins which are to be relayed by the regional offices to the local press.

(15) It is planned shortly to transform the "Spot News" Bulletin into a regular news bulletin printed by the Monolith process for weekly distribution with enlarged content.

(16) We are distributing a first-printing of two million stamps with a "mailed, shackled fist" containing the legend "Help Save Palestine" and the "Zionist Organization of America."

In the field of education which will be explored more thoroughly later:

One of the most gratifying aspects of the Education Department's activities now being conducted by Carl Alpert is the amazing response from our Districts to the material which is being produced and the assistance which is being rendered. Long one of the most vulnerable activities of the Organization, and subject to the most wide-spread and perhaps justified criticism, the Education Department is today the recipient of warm praise from our people in the field, who have occasion to receive and use its material. I may literally say that the Department is a veritable power-house of activity and almost a dozen major projects, redounding to the credit of the ZOA, are in simultaneous progress.

All of you have seen the Haganah Pamphlet produced by the Education Department. You may be interested to know that Hadassah purchased 3300 copies of that pamphlet from us for circulation among all their key people in the country, and the pamphlet has gone out -- prominently bearing the name of the Zionist Organization of America. Now the second in our new pamphlet series is off the press - Dr. Israel Goldstein's really excellent paper on the General Zionist Program. It is the only comprehensive statement on General Zionism available in English, and we expect a heavy demand for it too. I might point out that the Department is not content merely with printing and distributing these pamphlets. At the same time Mr. Alpert draws up supplementary material based on the pamphlet for the use of study groups and circles which are being formed in our Districts throughout the land in increasing numbers. This means more intensive Zionist education under the guidance of our national office.

Everyone is impatiently awaiting the new Film which the ZOA is producing, I know. I am glad to tell you that it is already in the scenario stage and presents the history of Zionism in America in a unique, dramatic and imaginative form. The film will have its premier at our next Convention and will be regarded as one of the high spots of Zionist educational achievement in this country, I am sure.

It is almost impossible to do justice to the full program activities of the Education Department in a report as brief as this. In passing I might say that the activities of the Speakers' Bureau have been stepped up considerably and the

Department is now sponsoring Special Tours of Pierre Van Paassen, Baron de Meis-Teuffen, Bartley Crum, Dr. Reuben J. Magil, Rabbi Saul E. White, Joseph Goldberg, Maxwell Cohen, Stanley Dixon and Herschel Auerbach, and, of course, Major Aron.

A word might be said about our book publishing program. Both The Zionist Movement and the Palestine Year Book, our two most recent publications, are selling extremely well, and I may tell you, off the record, that a large number of copies of the Palestine Year Book, with all its helpful information and data have been strategically placed in every reference library of every branch and bureau of the United Nations as well as in the hands of every major official. An intensified publishing program calls for the appearance of three new books between now and our next Convention.

I might add at this point that the Yiddish Press, long one of the most severe critics of the ZOA's failure to do a satisfactory educational job, has in recent weeks devoted considerable space to appraisal and commendation of what our Organization is doing today in the field of popular Zionist education.

Speakers, pamphlets, books, radio, films, study groups, programming, magazine -- all these represent but a quick listing of the many facets of our high-powered and yet intensive Zionist educational program. The present function of the Department is a source of great pride and gratification to all of us.

Our Unity Committee operations are exemplary: We are doing a first-rate job here. In addition to the usual activities in connection with the task of spreading the message of Zionism to those segments of the population exposed to the propaganda of the anti-Zionists, Rabbi Unger recently completed an intensive tour of the Southwest Zionist Region. In addition to working in behalf of the Committee on Unity, Rabbi Unger in all of the communities he visited, aided the local leaders in their membership drives and other Zionist activities. He also took occasion to work in behalf of the Expansion Fund with successful results.

As a result of the Committee on Unity activity, the Philadelphia committee made it possible for Rabbi Unger to speak and meet with many of the non-Zionists in that community. As a result of our activity, the St. Louis community is actively at work combating the propaganda of the anti-Zionists.

Rabbi Unger is preparing other tours to begin shortly after Passover.

The Committee on Unity has been active in briefing speakers in local districts in connection with their problems of dealing with anti-Zionists. A notable example of this has been our recent experience in White Plains. As a result of our activities, we were successful in partially upsetting the American Council for Judaism organization there.

Distribution of Unity Committee literature continues to be an important feature of our work. It ought to be said in this connection that we are receiving numerous requests from districts for our literature for their membership and educational work, as well as from IZFA chapters. Limited as we are in our budget, it is very difficult for us to comply with these requests.

Publications recently issued are as follows:

- "A Better Tomorrow" - Nathan Straus III
- "Brandeis Writes the Decision" - pamphlet
- "Unity Committee Bulletin" - winter issues
- February issue - "Briefing It"

In preparation for wide distribution - "Crossroad of Palestine" -
Bartley C. Crum - reprint from Collier's.

Our Palestine Bureau under Dr. Simon Bernstein has made gainful strides in its work. 30% of the 400 tourist visas granted by the Palestine Government has already been exhausted.

In the past ten days there sailed on the Marine Carp, Queen Elizabeth and Saturnia over 250 American Jews leaving for Palestine, for all of whom the Palestine entry permits have been secured through our intermediary. Quite a substantial number of the travellers were returning residents. An interesting feature was the fact that during this month we have received 16 certificates for permanent residence in Palestine for people with children and other near kin there. Some of these cases have been pending for a year and a half.

I want to make particular mention of our Technical Administration. Herschel Auerbach has wrought far-reaching changes in the processing phase of our work. Time-and-motion studies were made - a real industrial engineering job was performed. Our efficiency rating is excellent; our savings are considerable.

Our facilities are also being used by the World Confederation of General Zionists. Mr. Karpman, the Secretary, will explore this facet of our activity. The ZOA has shipped 20,000 food packages to General Zionists in Europe and Palestine. Dr. Goldstein and the ZOA representatives on the Confederation are endeavoring to work out a practical formula for operations. The fact is that these operations are also included in our general scope of activity. Stationary, girls, facilities are ZOA contributions. I doubt whether there would be any structure here without our help and work.

Our Publications Committee is functioning well under Rabbi Theodore Lewis. We are engaged in widespread Chalutzith activity through Plugat Aliyah which has been brought into our physical facilities and is working under the Chairmanship of Mr. Louis Schwefel. We have undertaken a survey of our Youth contributions and unearthed the fact that 165 out of 600 inquiries show that our regions and districts contribute 1/4 million dollars in excess of our \$70,000 allocation. We will undertake a survey of Youth Commission work.

There are many other aspects to our work. The fine working cooperation with my colleagues, Mr. Harry Shapiro of the American Zionist Emergency Council and Mr. Mendel Fisher of the Jewish National Fund is a matter of pardonable pride. It is team work at its best. Our acceleration of their work is in the best interests of our cause.

I would not want to conclude my report without mentioning the work of the Inner Committee, the Finance Committee and the Office Committee. These are the working instruments of our day to day labors. Meeting weekly, the Inner Committee has labored steadily to implement the policies of this Executive. Its work has been outstanding. Dr. Neumann has given his undivided time and attention to the work of the organization, and Rabbi Miller has taken over with the zest for work which is typical of his labors.

My friend, Milton Pollack, labors unceasingly at the task of National Finance Chairman. It is not an enviable job. Daily and almost hourly he applies himself to the difficult problem I have posed to you. It is not easy but his shoulders are very broad. The work of our auditor, Mr. Henry Stern, is exemplary. Mr. Stern is a new but highly devoted servant of our movement. I am proud to call him fellow colleague.

The Office Committee, consisting of my colleagues and myself, have provided the fine coordination and thinking needed for the magnitude of our work. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

I end this report, this rather extended report, on some note of caution. We can do the job - we are doing the job - to my mind the finest Zionist work in the world - but there are limits to human endurance and ingenuity. Give us the tools of war, the financial resources for work; give us the manpower - the force of numbers - and you will enable us to carry out the manifold burdens placed upon us in these trying hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sidney Marks

