



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

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Gross, Counsellor Joel, 1944.

GROSS & BLUMBERG

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

JOEL GROSS

LEO BLUMBERG

MILTON H. GOLDBERGER

Zone #2

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK, N. J.

MARKET 3-1072

January 3rd, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

I have been feeling terribly, terribly tired and the cold which I caught some several weeks ago is still with me. I am afraid that I have permitted myself to become over-fatigued to the point where my resistance is lower than it has ever been - lower than it ever should be. Therefore, I have decided to let-up gradually on my work at the office and on all other activities in the hope that so soon as Terry and the children can join me I will get away for a really extended rest of two or three months.

The Community Contacts program is well enough under way now, I am sure, to be able to withstand the "shock" of my retirement from the Chairmanship of that Committee. I shouldn't wish to do anything which might even remotely increase the weight of the burden that you are now carrying. (God knows - I don't - how you do it!). I am sure my stepping out now won't make your task any more difficult and I shall be considerably relieved. You know that I can't be simply a "name" Chairman, and I haven't presently the strength and stamina to be anything else. I am enclosing my resignation which please act upon so soon as you think you should.

I have been greatly troubled by Montor's resignation. He is one of the ablest administrators I have come upon and his intellectual integrity is of the highest. You need him. In long association with you he has developed greatly, he senses without the necessity of troubling you at every turn how you would want this matter or the other handled and he can do so many things to relieve you. In being such an asset to you he is an asset to the movement. I do hope you will be able to convince him to change his mind and to stay along with you.

The recent political manipulations which I have noted on the part of some of our "friends" have disgusted me to the point of sickness. Zionism remains for them a vehicle, not a philosophy nor a creed. While you are in Cleveland the scheming apparently goes on in New York as heretofore. My own belief was that through the program we pursued originally in organizing the mass of Jews in this

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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January 3rd, 1944.

country we would "knock out" for once and for all the organized shenanigans that had been so disgracefully carried out through organized Zionist groups and that we would kill off the intrigues which were then and which are presently being incubated. In changing our program to function again through organized Zionist groups, I am sure, in my own mind, that we have done Zionism a great disservice and have increased a thousandfold your own difficulties - which were never few. I hope my analysis is wrong and that my fears are groundless but I have many misgivings.

If you find a chance drop me a note and if not let me hear from you on your next visit to the City.

With kindest regards to Virginia, to yourself, and the boys, I am

Very sincerely yours,

WRHS



JG/lr
Encl.

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January 3rd, 1944.

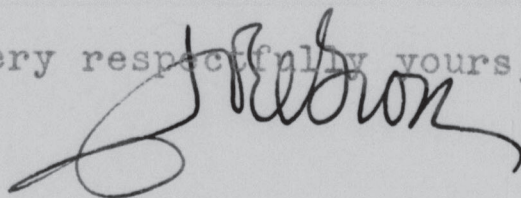
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Chairman Executive Committee
American Zionist Emergency Council
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

Because I am anxious to take an extended rest I am curtailing greatly all of my activities. I find it necessary, therefore, to hand you my resignation as Chairman of the Community Contacts Committee, which I hope you will accept as soon as possible.

It has been a privilege to serve under you in the important work which you have undertaken. I hope, with the cooperation of all of the organizations represented on the Council and with the support of all American Jews, you will carry your assignment through to speedy and successful conclusion.

Very respectfully yours,



JG/lr

January 5, 1944

Mr. Joel Gross
744 Broad Street
Newark, N.J.

My dear Joel:

I found your letter upon my return from New York, and your resignation. I would request you to withhold it until I have a chance to talk to you. As you say, the work of the Community Contacts Committee is now organized and on the way. We have been receiving some very gratifying reports from important centers -- Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago -- where group conferences with Senators and Congressmen have already been held. Rabbi Feuer, as you know, is permanently located now in Washington where the work of the Community Contacts Committee is being centered.

At the meeting, last Monday, the Emergency Council voted to have a Palestine Resolution introduced in Congress. This will be done in the near future. I am going to Washington this coming Sunday to spend a week and canvass the whole situation.

I know how you feel, and I share many of your reactions I assure you. But at this particular point, following Montor's resignation, it would be misunderstood, misinterpreted and capitalized by some of our "friends" as an indication of the break up of the regime which I introduced.

I have had long talks with Mr. Montor and have tried to understand the reason for his resignation. I rather infer that he found himself ill-equipped to head off an activity which is largely political in character. His training and experience have been in the field of conducting campaigns and administration. The job which involved, as you readily understand, much else proved rather distasteful and frightening to him. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Harry Shapiro, one of the best men of the UJA, highly recommended by Mr. Montor, to carry on the administrative work of the Council. We have a very fine staff doing the professional work in all the committees, and

Mr. Joel Gross

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January 5, 1944

Dr. Feuer, Leo Sack and Elihu Stone are permanently in Washington looking after the work there. Mr. Montor is on hand to give his helpful cooperation at all times.

I know how tired you are and that you need a rest. I will not burden you with any work at this time. You take the rest -- you and Terry. I hope to see you in the near future for a good long chat.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK





THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

VINCENT J. MURPHY

MAYOR

January 31, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Doctor Silver:

I am in receipt of your very gracious letter of January 24th, thanking me for whatever efforts I put forth in connection with the proposed Palestine resolution, at the United States Conference of Mayors, held recently in Chicago.

I deplore as much as you do, the fact that the resolution committee of the Conference deemed the introduction of this proposed resolution outside of the scope of the by-laws of the organization.

As Mr. Manson told you, I made a persistent effort to obtain support for the resolution, but obviously the Conference adhered to the view that it could not come up for consideration.

Despite the outcome, I wish to assure you that it was a distinct pleasure for me to cooperate with the American Zionist Emergency Council, and with your National Chairman, Counsellor Joel Gross, of Newark. Mr. Gross was most enlightening in his attitude during this entire situation and I found his influence an invaluable source of information. Please be assured that if there is any other way in which I can be of direct assistance to the Council, or to you personally, I should be only too happy to do so. I realize the seriousness of the issue which the White Paper presents and I feel that all of us who are charged with official responsibility, should do anything within our power to enlist public opinion to the end that possibly there may be a change in the attitude of the Mandatory Power and the gates of Palestine may remain open.

Thanking you for writing me, and assuring you that I consider it a pleasure to hear from such an outstanding leader as yourself, and expressing the hope that we may have the opportunity of meeting in person in the near future, I remain, with kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Vincent J. Murphy
MAYOR

AHS File

February 4, 1944

re: Mayors'
Conference in
Chicago

Mr. Joel Gross,
744 Broad Street,
Newark, N. J.

My dear Joel:

I thought that you would be interested
in the enclosed letter from Mayor Murphy
of your city.

I still think that you ought to stay with
us as head of the Committee until the two
resolutions, introduced in the House and
the Senate, are acted upon. The prospect
of favorable action is bright.

I will get in touch with you when I am in
New York next week. With all good wishes,
I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK

Abba Hillel Silver

AHS File

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744 BROAD STREET
Zone #2 NEWARK, N. J.
MARKET 3-1072

February 7th, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you for your note of February 4th, enclosing copy of letter which you received from Mayor Murphy.

As you have undoubtedly been advised, I have been terribly disturbed by what happened at the U. S. Conference of Mayors. Mayor Murphy had asked me to make certain of the fact that La Guardia was committed. I wouldn't give him this assurance until I in turn had had it very definitely, unequivocally and positively from Shapiro. Then look what happened!

It does seem to me that the matter of La Guardia's attitude, in Chicago, should not be lightly passed by, and I think Dr. Wise ought to give some explanation of the character of commitment he got from La Guardia, and La Guardia ought to be called upon to give some explanation of why he failed to honor his commitment. His remark that "you people don't know how to do these things" should be put before him for further elaboration on his part. Murphy happens to be an Irish Catholic and a very important labor leader in the A. F. of L. It should be a matter of great concern to us to hold the friendship of these people, rather than to have them alienated by the kind of La Guardia hash that was served up at Chicago.

When I got the message that you had telephoned me I called you back but evidently you had already left or were for some other reason unable to get in touch with me. I am anxious to see you.

It is impossible for me to continue as Chairman of the Committee, as you suggest, and I do wish, without harming your own status, that you would have it made clear that I am no longer Chairman of the Committee. In justice to myself I think this should be done. I admire the zeal and energy with which Shapiro has applied himself and I think he is doing as fine a job under the circumstances as any new man could have been expected to do. However, I don't like to get either the credit or the blame for work done by others.

GROSS & BLUMBERG

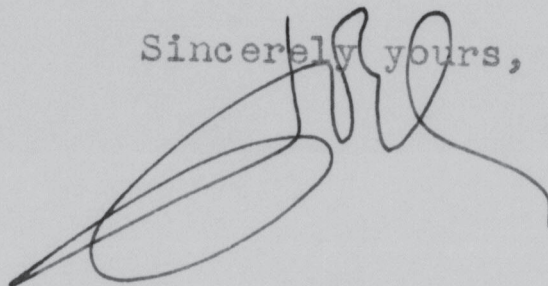
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

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February 7th, 1944

With my very best wishes to Virginia and to
yourself, I am

Sincerely yours,



JG/lr

