



## 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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National Budgeting, 1944.



After careful consideration we have reached the view that the proposal for a National Budgeting Committee, which is to be recommended by the officers of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, would reverse the trend towards democratization in the direction of Jewish affairs and would restrict the response of American Jewish communities to the increasing opportunities for Jewish rescue and reconstruction in the critical years ahead.

We cannot accept a proposal for a national budgeting system which would delegate to a small hand-picked committee the power to set national goals and allocate or recommend the percentage of such funds which should be provided by each community, or to suggest the ratio of apportionment to the various agencies participating in the local Welfare Funds.

The adoption and implementation of this proposal would result in the entrusting to a limited group of individuals, having no direct responsibility to any democratic process, complete power and authority over Jewish public funds. Such a committee, of necessity exclusive, could never provide as accurate a cross-section of Jewish opinion as is represented in local budgeting establishments.

In effect the aspirations and the aims of all organizations depending for their support upon the Welfare Funds would be confined within a narrow fixed pattern set by a few individuals. It would give the Council the directive control and veto power over trends and movements in Jewish life which should be subject to the democratic acceptance or rejection of those who contribute to the community.

We readily endorse the service which the Council offers its member communities in providing information and analysis on a statistical basis of the agencies applying to individual Welfare Funds. Recognizing the problems which the officers of local communities, responsible for the allocation of funds, must meet in order to reach equitable and effectual distribution, we appreciate their desire for a maximum of accurate and authoritative information. We, therefore, urge that the Council extend its fact-finding service to the communities and call upon the organizations applying



to the American Jewish community for funds to give their fullest cooperation to the Council in making available complete statements of their financial programs and requirements.

We also wish to record our recognition of the efforts of the Council and its various regional sub-divisions towards encouraging a broadening of the budgeting powers within each community. They have thus contributed to the development among community leaders of an understanding of the nature and activity of various causes. This trend should not be arrested but accelerated.

Thus in our three years of membership on the Budget Research Committee, we have not become convinced of the merit or necessity for national budgeting, and we reject a proposal which would bring unnecessary discord to the American Jewish community.

Especially at this moment, when international and domestic affairs are unstable; when the political and economic developments which will inevitably influence the patterns of Jewish rescue, relief and reconstruction are in their earliest formative stages, the delegation of such authority over future expenditures to a limited group would strait-jacket the agencies responsible for the many phases of Jewish rehabilitation. Their ability to meet constantly changing conditions and to take advantage of new opportunities would be circumscribed and subjected to the paralysis of red tape.

We the undersigned, members of the Budget Research Committee, earnestly appeal to the officers of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to withdraw their proposal so that we may avoid unnecessary division in Jewish life and possible detriment to American Jewry's mobilized efforts in the war for the survival of the remnant of our overseas communities and their re-establishment on secure foundations after the war.



RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL BUDGETING BY ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMMITTEE OF UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

The Administrative Committee of the United Palestine Appeal records its approval of the extension of services of information and analysis on a statistical basis now provided by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to its member agencies. The United Palestine Appeal pledges its cooperation in further measures that will make available to the Jewish communities of America accurate, complete statements of the financial programs and requirements of agencies applying to the American Jewish community for funds.

The United Palestine Appeal records its opposition to the introduction of "national budgeting" which would attempt to entrust to a limited number of individuals, operating as a central committee, the authority to fix or to recommend the quotas of agencies appealing to the American Jewish community for funds and fix or recommend the percentage of such funds which should be provided by each community.

The United Palestine Appeal directs its officers to take such steps as they may deem necessary to inform their constituents of the position of the United Palestine Appeal in this matter.