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Sack, Leo, 1944.



From the desk of
LEO R. SACK

Saturday,

Dear Mr. Silver;

Here is a piece in
today's Congressional Record
by your "favorite author."

Mr. Neumann's remarks
have also been printed ^{in the} Record.

It is my idea that every
member of the Z.O.A. and
allied organizations should
receive copies of both

February 9, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

for Dr. Silver

from

Mr. Leo Sack

*early
notification!*

The Sub-Committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee met at 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 9th, to consider the Wagner-Taft Resolutions. They had received letters from Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of State Hull with regard to the Resolutions.

Senator Connally, Chairman, who had previously been directed by the Committee to ascertain the views of the heads of the State and War Departments, called the meeting.

Present were Senators Connally, Vandenburg, George, La Follette and Wagner. Also present was Senator Taft, by invitation.

Senator Connally read a letter which had been received from Secretary Stimson, to the effect that "passage of the Resolution is absolutely dangerous to the war effort." The Committee was advised by Secretary Stimson that there should not even be Hearings on the Resolution.

Mr. Hull's letter was, more or less, non-committal, but it offered the information that the Military was opposed to the passage of the Resolutions.

Upon reading of the letters, the Senators concluded that there is not much that they can do at present. Senator George is quote as saying that he did not see how "we can go ahead with the Resolutions at present."

Two of the Senators, La Follette and Taft, differed from the conclusions of Secretary Stimson but were agreed that whether Mr. Stimson is right or wrong they, as civilians, are in no position to oppose the Military viewpoint.

It is clear, I am informed, that these two Senators question the intellectual integrity of the Stimson letter. These two Senators, I am told, regard it as a very dishonest statement.

As of this moment, the Chairman is under instructions to ascertain from Mr. Stimson the advisability of disclosing to Dr. Silver and some of his associates the text of the War Department letter which, I understand, was marked confidential.

This is the way the matter stands at present.

5066
February 23, 1944

Dr. Silver:

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations met in hurriedly called executive session this morning to hear confidential testimony of General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff.

From what I learned from four Senators who were present, General Marshall made a powerfully persuasive argument against passage of the Wagner resolution at this time on the theory that such passage will be detrimental to the United States military effort.

General Marshall, I was advised, refrained from any discussion of political aspects of the Jewish Homeland and devoted himself to outlining his objections from a military standpoint. He was factual and specific, I was told.

He made such a profound impression upon the Committee that Senators told me no action will be taken at this time. But for the military aspect, I was told by Senator Davis of Pennsylvania, the Committee action would be unanimous.

I am of the impression that as soon as the military situation clears the Senate will be happy to take such action as we request.

The Committee hearings terminated early because Senators had been advised of Senator Barkley's contemplated resignation. Let me report here that despite his personal worries and despite the fact that he had just completed dictation of his speech, Senator Barkley attended the meeting and asked General Marshall several questions.

1/ Eva Shapiro - Kortan
Dr. Krieger
Tolson - Wise - Hahn
Halle -

2/ Shulman Szold
Wise - Tubif

3/ Taft

4/ ~~Szold~~ Dis. Sect
Q. Hays
Rep. Thur

WRHS
Q. Hays
Kna Krieger
Krieger



This attitude and the attitude of every Senator, I am advised, was extremely friendly.

After General Marshall had made his general statement, he was questioned by the Senators.

"Are you discussing an abstract possibility - something you anticipate - or a reality?" Senator Vandenberg inquired.

"I am discussing a reality on my door step." General Marshall replied.

Senator Vandenberg, who was first among Senators to suggest that General Marshall's views be ascertained, was "completely satisfied" that the War Department's objections are "based on sound military reasoning." Vandenberg seemed persuaded that no politics is being played.

It is Senator Vandenberg's opinion that we should hold the resolution in abeyance at this time because of the military situation.

"You will not get a vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at this time" he said.

Senator Davis told me:

"No one can stand up under what General Marshall told us today. He made a powerful case against passage of the resolution at this time. His arguments were very convincing. I for one, who as you know has long been devoted to the cause, feel that I cannot support it at this time.

"Under the circumstances, I think that it will be a great

mistake for the Jews to push the resolution at this time. If anything should happen in the Near East as a result of this resolution, the Jews would be blamed and a great injustice will have been done."

Senator Davis said General Marshall was questioned at length, with a view of developing facts and not theories.

"We are all for the resolution," he said. "If it were not for the military situation it would pass unanimously in my opinion, and I think also it would pass the Senate unanimously."

The fact that Davis, who has been sympathetic to the Palestine cause since he first learned details of the Jewish Homeland while a member of President Harding's cabinet, feels that he cannot go along with us at this time, is of great significance to me.

When Barkley, Taft, Wagner and White spoke in the Senate a few weeks ago, Davis was itching to make an impromptu speech.

Senator Clark (Mo.) told me he was sorry he was not present for the entire session because of a conflicting committee assignment. Senators told him, however, that Marshall made "a sound argument from a military standpoint."

Senator Clark wanted to be shown that the military objections were factual, not theoretical. He seemed satisfied from what he heard and later ascertained.

"Marshall made it clear that passage of the resolution at

this time would be very bad indeed." Clark said.

According to Senator Clark, General Marshall compared "unrest in India" with what may be expected in Palestine should there be large scale Jewish immigration at this time.

Senator Guffey, another friend, feels that nothing can be done by the Committee at this time as a result of General Marshall's testimony. Guffey was "sold" on possible large scale murder of Jews in Palestine if the resolution is passed at this time. He compared the death of 3,000,000 Jews in Poland and elsewhere in Europe with large scale Jewish deaths in the Holy Land "if the Moslems are aroused". Evidently, Marshall referred to a "tense" situation between Jews and Arabs which might be inflamed.

Senator Wagner was not present this morning. Senator Connally says he tried to get word to him late yesterday when he learned of General Marshall's coming but it was after 5 o'clock and the word never reached Mr. Wagner who was in New York.

Two Senators, Guffey and Clark, were critical because Wagner was not present.

The Committee will discuss the matter again next week when Wagner is present.

Major General Patrick J. Hurley, Mr. Roosevelt's special E.E. and M.P. to the Arabs "without portfolio" may be called next week by the Committee.

L.R.S.

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Leo R. Sack
TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
SUBJECT: Supplemental Memorandum

DATE: March 17, 1944

As a matter of fact, as Mr. Bloom well knows, we called upon him for his advise and guidance and so stated to him at the beginning of our conference, throughout the conference, and at the end of the conference.

We told him that a movement had developed in the House the day before to force committee action by taking the Resolution from the Committee through the procedure of a petition to "discharge the Committee". We told him that we were opposed to this procedure; that we did not want our movement to become a political football, nor did we want directly or indirectly to be caught in cross-political currents of the House. He understood this thoroughly. He suggested to Mr. Sack that he discuss this petition with Speaker Rayburn. This, Mr. Sack flatly refused to do, explaining that we were not a party to the proposed petition, that we did not intend to be, nor would we give Speaker Rayburn any cause to think we were associated with the petition movement.

If Mr. Bloom did not understand this, it is because he did not want to.

LRS:hp



American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS:

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America
Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest

Michigan 4480

April 24, 1944

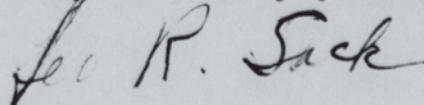
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am sending you, under separate cover, for your personal use, a number of copies of the House document containing your testimony before Sol Bloom's Committee.

I had hoped to have this speech printed within ten days after it appeared in the Record, but the nationwide shortage of envelopes affected the Government Printing Office, even as it affects ordinary citizens, with the result that we have just obtained delivery. The great bulk of our printed copies are being sent to Harry Shapiro in New York and I do hope that he will distribute it widely among our Zionist leaders as a post graduate course for them. It is my opinion that it should be "Must" reading for all of them.

Very sincerely yours,



Leo R. Sack

LRS;njt



June 7, 1944

Mr. Leo Sack
American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Leo:

The report rendered at the last meeting of the Emergency Council indicated that there are no more than 200 Congressmen and Senators from whom we have yet received statements for inclusion in our volume. We must have at least 400 to make the volume impressive and we haven't much time in which to get the additional letters. I must strongly urge you and Mr. Lamm to devote yourselves for the next two weeks to the gathering in of these statements. The volume must be out by the end of July -- prior to the action which we hope will take place some time in August on our resolutions -- and we must allow at least a month for the printing of the volume. Please keep me in touch with the progress of the work.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

American Zionist Emergency Council

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Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest
Michigan 4480

June 8, 1944

AIR MAIL

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

As I told you over the phone last night, I am back at the office again this morning checking up on the responses from Senators and Congressmen for the forthcoming anthology. I am of the opinion, however, that we are in much better shape than you were advised in New York. For example, you were told, you said, that we only have about 200 quotations. I am told that we have on hand here in this office approximately 125 additional quotes from Senators and Representatives, and today we received several additional statements, including a gem from Senator Byrd of Virginia.

As I advised you, I have covered the Senate diligently and the dividends are now accruing. In addition, I personally will try to contact as many Congressmen as I can from whom we have not heard, and the office here is putting a competent young woman at my direction on the telephone to sweetly remind Representatives who haven't yet answered their letters. Also, I am digesting a number of speeches which have not yet appeared in the files, either here or in New York.

I feel, therefore, that we now have available, instead of 200 quotes as you were advised, approximately 335, and I am sure we will have about 350, if not more, before the end of the week. Thus, I feel, Doctor, that the situation is not as discouraging as you were advised.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Leo R. Sack

LRS:sbr
dictated but not signed
cc: Rabbi Leon I. Feuer

American Zionist Emergency Council

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest
Michigan 4480

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS:

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Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

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Senator Bailey. Her information is that it came through the regular mail. To make sure, however, the young lady phoned Senator Bailey's office and she was told that it had not been mailed from that office. She also was told by a talkative secretary that "Senator Bailey has had several requests to reprint the document and he has replied that he has no objections." I would assume that those asking permission to reprint the document are persons either affiliated with or sympathetic to Nazi propaganda in this country.

I have just been advised also that Representative Dickstein has requested Mr. Spiro of the Z.O.A. to assist him in the preparation of an answer. Mr. Spiro has turned the matter over to me and is advising Congressman Dickstein that he has referred the matter to the Emergency Council where it properly belongs, and that we, in turn, will advise him. Thus, it seems that at least two Congressmen are anxious to rise to a point of religious privilege on the floor of the House.

L.R.S.

MEMORANDUM

FROM Leo R. Sack

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

SUBJECT:

DATE: June 8, 1944

Representative Celler has advised me that he phoned Rabbi Feuer earlier today informing him of the meeting which occurred last night between the Jewish Congressmen and Mr. Bergson.

There were present Representatives Celler, Dickstein, Sabath, and Ellison. Representatives Weiss, Klein, and Bloom were absent. Bergson was accompanied by his press representative, a Mr. Smertenko, said to be a former editorial associate of the Free World.

Celler came out of the meeting, which continued until midnight, he said, with increased respect for Bergson and his potentialities for infinite harm to the Palestine cause. He also came out of the meeting somewhat leery and fearful of aggressive action on the theory that any aggressive action might prove a boomerang and set Bergson up as a martyr. He regards Bergson as a "ball of fire" and as a "very dangerous man, absolutely unscrupulous, who is imbued with an illusion that he has been designated by God to save the Jews of Europe". He says that Bergson is "brilliant". He claims that Bergson "has got more imagination than Lewis Carroll who wrote Alice in Wonderland." He described Bergson as a crusader who is utterly contemptuous of the existent Zionist organizations and their leadership, past and present, and as a man who is not bothered either by conscientious scruples or precedents.

Bergson, he went on, compares his movement to that of the French Committee on National Liberation, and he insists that he has as much right to speak for the Jews of Palestine as has De Gaulle to speak for the people of France. Asked by what right do you have to speak for the Jews of Palestine, he replied, "Who appointed De Gaulle?" Mr. Celler said that he and the other Congressmen endeavored to pin Bergson down to specific statements but that Bergson slipped out of every trap. "We could not pin him down. He is too clever. He has nerves of iron. He seems utterly fearless", Celler continued. It seems that the Jewish Congressmen became somewhat threatening to him but Bergson, Celler told me, was utterly indifferent. "I have not violated a single statute. I am in this country legally. There is nothing you can do to me. Put me in jail if you can. I will welcome it. You will make a martyr out of me", Celler said Bergson told him.

Mr. Celler said the Congressmen questioned Bergson about his proposed \$1,000,000 bond issue. "We had been advised that it is legal", Bergson replied. "Our lawyer", (a Washington Gentile), "told us it is O. K." Celler claimed that he told Bergson that he would obtain money from the Federal Treasury or from the American people through a bond issue "only over my dead body". Bergson told Celler that he had been advised that his group could issue travel certificates with the same authority that such

passports are now being issued by the Government of Palestine. He seemed to have no misgivings about the establishment of his so-called Government-in-exile. Bergson told Celler that his committees have heretofore raised in excess of \$500,000 through the Committee for a Jewish Army and the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of European Jews. This does not include money obtained through other committees. Celler says "if the man admits to having raised a half-million dollars, he unquestionably has raised a sum greatly in excess". He is carrying, he said, his newspaper ads in more than 40 cities. "Each of these ads", Bergson claimed, "produces more than enough to pay the cost of the ad. Some produce a great deal more". Incidentally, Bergson said they paid \$4500 down on their "Embassy" and still have \$60,000 to go.

As I have said before, Mr. Celler came out of the meeting greatly impressed by Mr. Bergson. He feels that the Jewish Congressmen are in need of further advice from Dr. Silver, Dr. Wise, Rabbi Feuer, Mr. Lipsky, Mr. Neumann, and others, as to future procedure. Celler requests that Dr. Silver find it possible to confer with the Congressional delegation next week. "This man requires the most serious reflection on our part", Celler told me. "You cannot dismiss him lightly and you can't fool around with him. He is a fanatic, a dangerous man. He is all the more dangerous because of his enthusiasm and his very obvious sincerity."

When Mr. Celler asked my advice as to procedure, I repeated what I have heretofore told Celler, as Dr. Feuer may recall, to wit: that the Jewish Congressmen as a group write a dignified letter to the entire membership of the Senate and the House of Representatives setting forth that they, as representatives of the Jewish faith, are deeply concerned with the agitation and activities of this group; that they, having through a long period of years given much study for reasons which are obvious as well as because of their deep personal sympathy to the Jewish National Homeland, wish to advise their associates in Congress that these people are opportunists who speak for no one but themselves, that they are a group of self-seekers who admittedly represent a handful of trouble makers in Palestine, who have been denounced by the Government in Palestine and by their fellow Jews; that the Zionist Emergency Council and their affiliated organizations have for over more than a quarter of a century been the duly constituted and legally recognized spokesmen for the Jews of America as well as a liaison between the Jews of the outside world and the Jews of Palestine, as well as with the Palestinian Government. Such a letter should embrace the various condemnatory resolutions of the long established Jewish organizations. This letter should also be sent to the Secretary of State, the Attorney-General, and all other persons in and out of the Government who are interested. I explained to Mr. Celler that if a dignified, carefully documented letter, written by the Jewish members of Congress to their associates, with whom most of them enjoy happy relations, is not effective, then it is a sorry commentary on the standing of Mr. Celler and his associates, particularly in view of the fact that Representative Sabath is the oldest man in the House in point of continuous service, and Mr. Celler, himself, has spent more than 22 years in the House.

Mannie agreed to this but he thought there should be, nevertheless, a meeting of the minds, and also assistance in the preparation of the documents.

June 8, 1944

Mr. Celler thinks also that there should be very discreet conferences between the Jewish Congressional group and Mr. Hull, Attorney-General Biddle, and J. Edgar Hoover, to ascertain what, if anything, can be done with these men. I was advised today by Representative Weiss that the F. B. I. is now carefully investigating Mr. Bergson. Weiss said he had information that some action might be taken soon.

Rabbi Feuer is aware that I had planned to have inserted in the Congressional Record all of the various resolutions and statements denouncing Bergson and his group. Mr. Celler requested me today to hold this up until the Congressmen meet, as he hopes will be possible, with Dr. Silver and others. Then, Celler would like to include this data as a part of the general indictment. Unless directed otherwise by Dr. Silver and/or Rabbi Feuer, I will heed Celler's request for the time being. May I suggest that if Dr. Silver deems it advisable to come to Washington to inspire Celler with a little courage, that he do so next week in order that whatever action is taken be taken before the Republican convention convenes on June 26th.

Very sincerely yours,

LRS:sbr

cc: Dr. Leon I. Feuer



American Zionist Emergency Council

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS:

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Mizrachi Organization of America
Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest
Michigan 4480

June 9, 1944

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Enclosed herewith is a very vicious -- and to me, a wholly surprising -- attack on the Jews of the United States by Senator J. W. Bailey, Democrat of North Carolina. The letter is addressed to Mr. Fred G. Rypins of Greensboro, North Carolina. It happens that we have a Rabbi Fred I. Rypins, 713 Woodland Drive, Greensboro, North Carolina, who is chairman of the Greensboro Local Emergency Committee. I do not know whether Mr. Rypins ever received this letter and if so, whether he ever forwarded it to you for your information.

The printed copy of the letter is being circulated, as you will observe, by a so-called League of American-Arab Committees for Democracy, with headquarters at Flint, Michigan. Our attention was first called to it late yesterday afternoon by the secretary of Congressman Dickstein who received it through the mail. At my request, she made inquiry in neighboring Congressional offices and obtained an additional copy. As I write, I have not yet ascertained whether the letter was franked by Senator Bailey or whether it was distributed from Flint. I have ascertained, however, that thus far it has not been received by every member of Congress because Representative Celler, for example, has not seen it and is very anxious to get ahold of it in order that he may reply on the floor of the House. In any event, I shall not give it to Celler until next week. In the meanwhile, if you have any thoughts in reference to Celler, please telephone me.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo
Leo R. Sack,

W. Dudley
6014 = Asidore

LRS:sbr
Enc

1/15 fact 0120 -

P. S. At my request, Congressman Dickstein's secretary started an investigation this morning to ascertain whether the letter was franked by

June 12, 1944

Mr. Leo Sack
American Zionist Emergency Council
1720 - 16th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Leo:

Who is the chairman of the Committee of Resolutions of the Democratic Convention? Or has he not yet been named? Who are likely to be two or three people who would have most to do with the Democratic Platform?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

American Zionist Emergency Council

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Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America
Zionist Organization of America

WASHINGTON BUREAU

1720 Sixteenth Street, Northwest
Michigan 4480

June 13, 1944

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have your letter of June 12th.

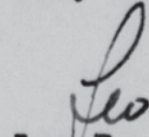
The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee for the Democratic Convention has not been designated as yet. The Arrangements Committee is meeting in Chicago this week and at that time it is expected a decision will be reached. Senator Wagner was Chairman four years ago but because of his health he has asked that he be relieved of the assignment this year. Barkley, Connally (if he is there as an Administration Democrat), Pepper, and the White House palace guard in the Senate unquestionably will have most to do with the platform, as is always the case. I think that in this group we have plenty of friends.

I spoke on yesterday morning to Mr. Celler, and in his absence to Mr. Dickstein's secretary, and also to Representative Weiss of Pennsylvania. I told all of them of your apprehensions against a field day of anti-Bailey oratory. They agreed with the wisdom of your opinion. I have reason to believe, therefore, that there will be no outburst on the floor of the House, at least for the present. I have noted your letter to Leon Feuer which will be called to his attention when he returns later in the week. If he wants me to, I will be very happy to go to see Bailey with him.

The statements for the volume are being pressed "with great vigor" and although the work has been slowed up somewhat because Lamm is still out of town, we are making headway and the situation is well in hand in my opinion.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,



Leo R. Sack

LRS:sbr

P. S. Celler also asked on yesterday whether you would be in town this week. He is anxious for a meeting of the minds on the subject of the Bergson group.

L.R.S.