



## 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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Sulzburger, Arthur Hays, 1944.



January 16, 1944.

Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger,  
c/o The New York Times,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Sulzberger:

For sometime I have been tempted to write to you concerning what appears to be a "change in policy" on the part of the New York Times, for which you as its publisher must assume responsibility. You will note that I live in a small community and together with countless others in this and other small communities we have sought such news, as we were unable to get from our local papers, in a newspaper such as the New York Times, which, to use your expression, tries to maintain its position of "objective reporting."

Last evening I read the exchange of letters between you and Dr. Silver. I need not try to add anything to what Dr. Silver said because he is well able to take care of himself and I hope that you will see fit to reply in detail to his well-documented brief. There are numerous specific charges, which seem well-supported, which the New York Times cannot very well ignore.

After I read the letters I asked myself "What kind of a man is this Sulzberger?". I recalled having been told several years ago by a mutual friend - a Zionist by the way - that you were a pretty good fellow and that he always got along very well with you when he avoided the subject of Zionism. I wanted to know more about you last night so I consulted the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia and was surprised to learn two things. First, that your father at one time was vice-president of the Federation of American Zionists, although he did later dissociate himself from the nationalist ideology, and secondly that when you were elected president and publisher of the New York Times you pledged yourself to continue the policy of the Times, as laid down by Ochs - to give the news "without fear or favor, regardless of any party, sect, or interest involved". Have you done this with Zionism and Palestine? It has been said of the Times that when it comes to Zionism, instead of publishing "All the News That's Fit to Print" you just "Fit the News to Print".

I was a delegate to the American Jewish Conference and while I was there I made it a special point to associate and converse with non-Zionists and anti-Zionists wherever possible. The information which I received from non-Zionists - and there were a large number on the Palestine committee - was that Dr. Silver conducted himself in the most considerate, tactful, and statesmanlike manner that could be expected of any man. There were converts to Zionism at the conference; I heard of none who changed - as you claim you did - from a non-Zionist to an anti-Zionist. There was of course considerable discussion of the Times and it is an open secret that the statement of the American Council for Judaism had more to do than anything else, in my opinion, in getting many of the non-Zionist delegates to go along with the Palestine resolution. After all, the delegates were Americans - notwithstanding certain opinions to the contrary - and real Americans believe in fair play and frankly neither the Council nor the Times indulged in this important phase of Americanism.



January 16, 1944. Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger

I say this because in paragraph eight of Dr. Silver's reply to you he states specifically what was in the minds of so many delegates and what is still in the minds of so many readers. The fact remains that you saw fit to give much prominence to the statement of a self-constituted group of twenty-six Rabbis and a group of septuagenarian and octogenarian laymen, including my poor old neighbor, Mrs. Josiah Cohen of Pittsburgh, who must be at least 93 years old and who is giving the Council the same sort of "Vigorous" leadership that it is getting from other sources.

And then when you try to imply that the conference was exclusively a Zionist maneuver I can testify from my own experience, and this was true in other places, that there was democratic procedure and results in spite of various maneuvers that would naturally accompany an effort of this sort. I was one of about fifty candidates from Western Pennsylvania, with only two to be elected. It was agreed, as the result of "maneuvers", to elect or rather officially endorse and campaign for the official Zionist candidate and the official B'nai B'rith candidate. I did no campaigning whatever but was elected principally, I think, because I had the confidence of non-Zionists and Zionists alike, and I say this because I believe there are many reasonable Zionists like myself who do not like the manner in which the Times, the Council, and individuals like yourself frequently refer to Zionists and Zionism.

When I was at the conference I watched closely two people. Rabbi Wolsey, the ex-president and now vice-president of the Council, sat there - almost always alone - with a dejected, dissipated look that appeared to show definite signs of moral decay, and not far from him sat Rabbi Brickner, whom you know is now abroad on an American mission, but who will probably come back a better Zionist. He showed signs of happiness, enthusiasm, and lack of frustration - a healthy, "honest" expression that was wholesome to observe.

I have tried so hard to be objective as far as the Times is concerned and I must say, in all sincerity, that you have been unfair - and even dishonest - insofar as the Zionist program is concerned. You have gone to extremes to give the small number of the Council's adherents the prestige of the reflected glory of the Times, but you have studiously tried to discredit a movement which has the sympathy and support of millions of Jews. You are not true to the policy to which you subscribed when you became the head of the Times. Your Christian readers want to know the truth about Jews and they will learn it even if your policy should persist, but you are doing a great injustice to your paper by indulging in the type of propaganda such as the articles by Cyrus L. Sulzberger. Why don't you invite the Zionist leaders to use the columns of the Times to tell their side of the story?

At the conference I heard of the facetious note which you allegedly sent to Judge Proskauer asking him "how he enjoyed singing Hatikvoh". All I can say is that Judge Proskauer, in my opinion, had his first real introduction to the Jewish people, and while one cannot expect a radical change at his age, I think he is a better Jew for the experience. You, too, would probably benefit from a similar experience of rubbing elbows with the Jewish masses instead of the Jewish classes. And you too might some day sing Hatikvoh. Think these things over and give the Zionists at least an even break.

Sincerely yours,



C \* O \* P \* Y

January 18, 1944

Mr. Emanuel Teitelbaum  
630 Napoleon Street  
Johnstown, Penna.

Dear Mr. Teitelbaum:

I can barely do more than acknowledge your letter of January 16th, since it would take more time than I can spare to reply to the many questions you raise. However, I can assure you that there has been no "change in policy" on the part of The New York Times, and that it prints more news of Zionism than any other newspaper in this country.

My answer to your question "What kind of a man is this Sulzberger?" is to invite you to drop in and see for yourself. If you will let me know when you plan to be in New York I should be glad to arrange an appointment.

Faithfully yours,

Arthur Hays Sulzberger



EMANUEL TEITELBAUM  
630 NAPOLEON STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNA.

January 19, 1944

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

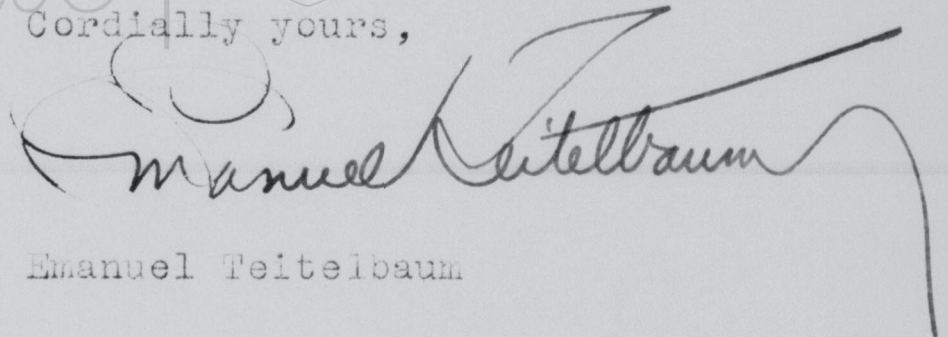
Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter  
which I sent to your "friend" Arthur Hays Sulzberger.

I thought it might be of interest to you.

We, in Johnstown, think your reply to him  
was excellent and we hope it may serve a useful  
purpose.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

  
Emanuel Teitelbaum

ET:VS

ENCL



January 20, 1944

Mr. Emanuel Teitelbaum,  
630 Napoleon Street,  
Johnstown, Penna.

My dear Mr. Teitelbaum:

I read with keen interest the letter which  
you addressed to Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger,  
and I enjoyed it tremendously.

I should be interested in seeing the reply  
which he will make to your communication.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:NEK



Jan. 23, 1944.

Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger,  
% The New York Times,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Sulzberger:

I wish to gratefully acknowledge receipt of your courteous reply to my letter of January 16.

Really I should be very glad to accept your kind invitation to call on you, but it so happens that my business duties necessitate no visits to New York and since I spent ten days in New York during the Conference I do not expect to be there again for sometime. However, should my plans change I shall communicate with you for an appointment.

Incidentally, after writing my last letter concerning your exchange of letters with Dr. Silver the strange coincidence of the similarity of your initials "A. H. S." occurred to me. Is not this at least some reason why you two should reconcile your views? If the two of you, by any chance, have similar monogrammed baggage and if perchance it should sometime be checked at the same place and then confused you might find yourself delivering an impassioned Zionist address -- and probably a very good one, at that. Or you might "inadvertently" print it in the Times.

At any rate, believe me when I tell you that I wrote previously in all honesty and sincerity to impress upon you that "average" people in small communities are alert and think seriously of these conflicts in Jewish life. As Dr. Silver so aptly put it, we are deeply concerned because we sincerely believe that "the policy which your paper has been pursuing is calculated to do great harm to a cause which is dear to the hearts of our people all over the world, and which has now entered upon its historic hour of decision."

I therefore implore you, without sacrificing any principles to which you honestly subscribe, to avoid such policies which are harmful and which can hurt non-Zionists as well as Zionists. Remember, Justice Brandeis - a great American - was not a professional Zionist or a Zionist politician. He was one of the great thinkers of our age and he believed that Zionism was a - if not the - solution of the Jewish problem. The least you can do - and the least you should do - is give the same prominence in the Times to the Zionists as to the anti-Zionists.

I just ask again "Think these things over."



EMANUEL TEITELBAUM  
630 NAPOLEON STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNA.

January 23, 1944.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
% The Temple,  
East 105th St. at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

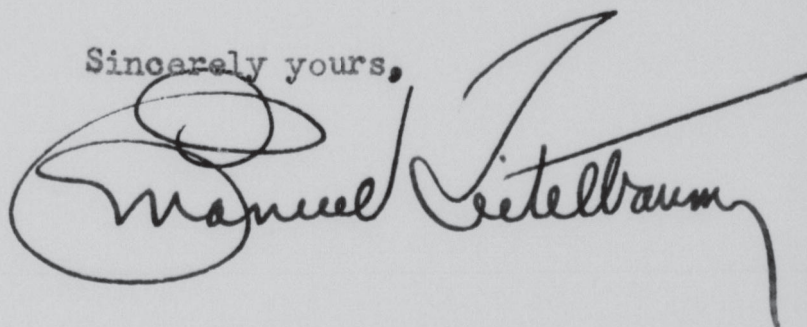
Dear Dr. Silver:

In response to your letter request of January 20,  
I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the reply which  
I received from Arthur Hays Sulzberger, together with a copy  
of a letter which I sent to him today.

I hope that I may have been helpful to the extent  
of creating a policy of "restraint" on the part of The  
Times, even if they do not give you the freedom of their  
columns.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Emanuel Teitelbaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "E" that loops around the first part of the name. The ink is dark and the paper is off-white.



January 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Teitelbaum:

I have your letter of the 23rd and look forward to seeing you in case the unexpected visit to New York should occur.

Meanwhile, may I take exception to your statement that we "might 'inadvertently' print it in The Times?" I wish you would tell me in what newspaper in the country the Zionist cause has been more prominently displayed. Even those who attack me the hardest do not claim that we fail to notice their meetings or to report their activities. Their chief objection seems to be that we print as well the unpleasant things that are associated with them.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Arthur Hays Sulzberger

Mr. Emanuel Teitelbaum  
630 Napoleon Street  
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

C O P Y



EMANUEL TEITELBAUM  
630 NAPOLEON STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNA.

January 28, 1944

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
c/o The Temple  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

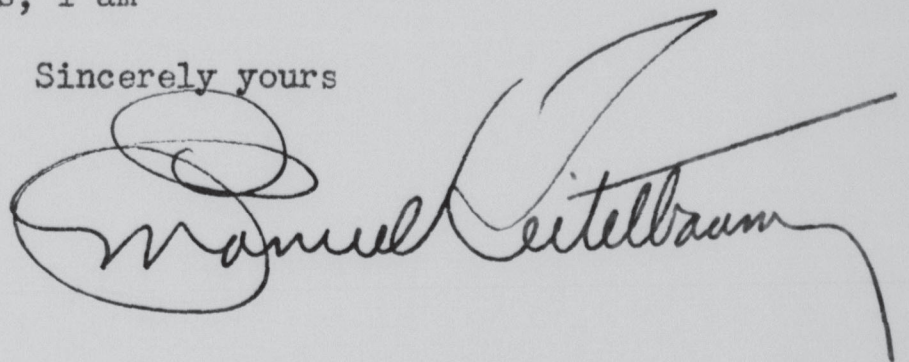
Dear Dr. Silver:

Since I sent you a copy of my second letter to  
Sulzberger, I thought you might be interested in a copy  
of his reply to my second letter. I am accordingly enclos-  
ing a copy herewith.

Let us hope that the "Times" will do the decent thing  
in connection with the resolution just introduced in Con-  
gress.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Emanuel Teitelbaum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'E'.

Enc.