



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

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

---

Reel  
106

Box  
37

Folder  
298

Baruch, Bernard, M., 1946.

# MAYFLOWER Hotel

CAPE COD

ON THE OCEAN AT  
MANOMET POINT

P L Y M O U T H

M A S S.

Aug 18 - 1946

My dear Mr Baruch:

May I join your host of friends throughout the world in extending to you my heartiest felicitations on your birthday - Thinking of you brings to my mind the superb 92nd psalm:

"The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree - he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon, they shall still bring forth fruit in old age - they shall be full of sap & richness to proclaim that the Lord is right".

It has been given to few men to hold such a position of world leadership in such a crucial hour of destiny



# MAYFLOWER

CAPE COD

Hotel



ON THE OCEAN AT  
MANOMET POINT

P L Y M O U T H

M A S S.

as you hold because of the faith & confidence of men in your integrity & selflessness. You have the best wishes of men of good will everywhere for a full measure of strength & wisdom.

This is a sad hour for mankind. It is a tragic hour for our people. Our refugees are still languishing in the wretched camps of Europe fully a year after the end of the war. Boat loads of them are being turned away from the shores of Palestine. There is imminent danger of catastrophe in the holy land. Your great prestige & authority with the British & American governments if energetically applied can save

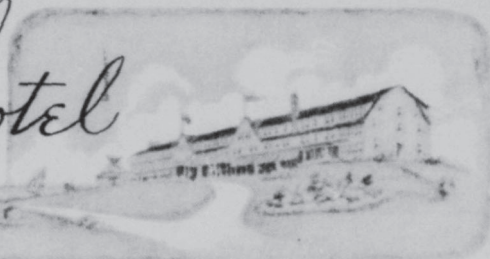
ONE OF NEW ENGLAND'S FINEST RESORT HOTELS



# MAYFLOWER

CAPE COD

Hotel



ON THE OCEAN AT  
MANOMET POINT

P L Y M O U T H

M A S S.

sure be very effective in opening  
the doors of Palestine of the to the  
survivors of the greatest crime in  
human history. This will crown  
your illustrious career & make  
your name blessed in the  
annals of our people.

Most cordially yours

note: Mr Baruch called this morning  
from his home to comment on the  
general situation with reference to  
refugees & the president.



NOTE FOR RELEASE

BERNARD M. BARUCH'S SPEECH  
AT CARDINAL SPELLMAN'S DINNER  
THE WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT, OCT. 16, 1946.  
TO BE RELEASED ON DELIVERY.

October 16, 1946

Your Eminence and my other friends:

I would be remiss in my duty to a great man, and to a lifetime friendship, if I failed to bear witness to my respect, admiration, and affection for Alfred E. Smith.

To me he was the finest flowering of democracy. Only under the democratic dispensation was his career possible. He incarnated the romance of America. His father, an immigrant as mine was, was able to provide him with few opportunities. Al created his own. He rose to great height under a system which, out of conviction and gratitude, he devoted his whole mature life to preserving and bettering.

Though he sat with the great, he never lost the common touch. None knew him without feeling his leadership. His was a voice, never uncertain, calling us all to the battle for right.

The record he made lives on. The glory of his deeds continues. Though dead in the flesh, his spirit endures in the example he has set for the big and the little; the strong and the weak; the rich and the poor.

He was against the piracy of wealth, as he was against the effort to set up the poor as a privileged class. He fought privilege wherever he found it. He stood for right -- the inalienable human right of free thought; of free speech; of free religion; and of free election.

And woven through these dominant characteristics was a spirit of charity, rare, indeed. He lived: "With malice toward none; with charity for all."



Charity -- the word is a spiritual tent under which is to be found kindness, consideration, and, above all, tolerance. But I prefer another way of asserting that virtue. To me, the word, tolerance, carries with it a connotation of patronizing superiority. It is better to define this attribute as a complete freedom from intolerance. That is far more important, since it implies a resentment to any form of bigotry.

That was one of the goals he sought -- that is one of the goals all Americans should seek -- a united front against bigotry and fanaticism, which derives from the Dark Ages. We still have witch burners in the world. That element is to be found in all forms of totalitarianism, whether it was among the Nazis, among the Fascists or is among the Communists.

Charity and consideration are the leaven in the democratic mass that raises it above the level of the beast. All true, as it was nineteen-hundred years ago, when St. Paul said:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal."

It was said of the Bourbons that they learned nothing and forgot nothing. The Governor was furthest removed, of any man I know, from Bourbon qualities. So we paraphrase the statement and say that he learned much every day, and he forgot nothing -- least of all, a friend.

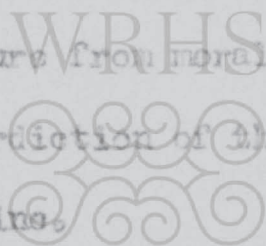

Whenever you assay a man high in American history, you will find him most conspicuous for his qualities of Americanism; for the qualities he possesses that are to be found in the make-up of our national character.

The life of the man, to whom we do reverence tonight, is a reflection of the country of which he was so significant a part. In him, we found the



smile of consideration -- of helpfulness -- that springs straight from the heart of our people. It comes from humor and understanding. He had both these gifts, as he had the other great qualities of our beloved land -- boldness, courage, independence, a sympathy for the underdog, a sense of social obligation; slow in condemnation (Al was always kind!); quick in praise; shrewd in the detection of what he called the phoney boloney. Remember how he used to say: "No matter how you slice it, it's still boloney."

To a man of his burning sense of duty, the world would be a disturbing scene today. Peace is the cry, but there is no peace. The forces of selfishness are hostile to a settlement of our problems, for which America has offered certain solutions which I believe in and support.

In the departure from morality and   the world suffers. We have seen an interdiction of the churches, notably, your Eminence, of your church and of mine.

I would be less deserving of the affectionate friendship that prevailed between Al Smith and myself for something like thirty years, if I did not say -- as an American and, after that, as a Jew -- that I have been shocked to the heart by the treatment accorded the pre-war and post-war refugees, particularly, the Jews. Eighteen million men, women and children have been sacrificed in the blood lust of totalitarianism. Of these, six millions were Jews.

I am not a political Zionist. But I would be less than frank if I did not deplore and condemn the shilly-shallying and weather vaning of the British and, too, of the American Governments, regarding the right of



haven that was to have been accorded these unfortunates under the Balfour Declaration, following the Palestine mandate, granted Great Britain after the first World War.

The moral side of this question has been ignored and wiped out. Death followed. Politics of a dubious nature, resting upon assumptions that are even more doubtful, have been permitted to sway the world, and notably the Labor Government in Britain, from the plainly marked path of duty; nor has America been the sanctuary she was for so many years, which helped make her great.

As the President pointed out some time ago, in urging a small temporary increase in immigration, she has done little and can do more toward a salvation from death. The figures are interesting.

Since 1935 we have admitted 171,325 war refugees. During that period Great Britain has admitted 65,407. Into Palestine have gone 193,189. The total, insignificant in comparison to the needs, is 429,514. If the others are not to die something must be done.

Against this sort of thinking; against oppression of the human; against the persecution of religion -- Al Smith's voice would have been raised in angry protest, and it would have been bitter in denouncing the bigotry in Yugoslavia that tried -- if I am not doing violence to the word -- and condemned an archbishop on delayed and flimsy charges. Is this the beginning of a new drive against the great church that has so long been a bulwark against Communism?

Al Smith flamed in the protection of human rights. He believed in the dignity of mankind. That is why he believed in personal and private charity. He was too much of an individualist to accept Statism, even when Statism seeks to take over charity in a grim, statistical, over-organized way.



If we are firm in our resolve to keep the State our servant, then we must be ready to assume the obligations of the master. We, as individuals, must be quick and ready to give, and not depend upon the State to discharge this essential duty.

Life wasn't all beer and skittles for Al Smith. He had great disappointments, and none greater than the manner in which intolerance was shown him because of his religious beliefs. But the way he met that was a lesson to us all. He had no bitterness with his increasing years. His kindness to his fellowman grew with age, and continues to grow in memory.

I venture to say, from my knowledge of Al Smith, that no memento would have pleased him better than the one now under way. It is a monument more enduring than brass, for it is founded in love.

My thanks.





BERNARD M. BARUCH  
597 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

October 18, 1946.

Abba Hillel Silver,  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Indeed, I am happy to have your  
approval of what I said at the Alfred E.  
Smith Memorial Foundation dinner.

I am sending you a full copy of  
the text.

I see no good in making new  
treaties with people who break old ones.

Sincerely yours,

*B. Baruch*



November 7, 1946

Mr. Bernard M. Baruch  
597 Madison Avenue  
New York 22, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Baruch:

When I first met you in your home more than a year ago, you told me that we could get things done in Washington if we could "get the Jews of Brooklyn and the Bronx muttering in their beards" against an administration which has fed them with empty promises time and again.

I believe that the results of last Tuesday in New York will indicate to you that indeed they have begun to mutter! There were scores of meetings held throughout New York City expressing resentment, tens of thousands of petitions were signed, and you probably saw the reflections of it all in the public press. I believe that we have built up strength as a result of what happened Tuesday.

The Palestine issue is coming to a head. Mr. Bevin is now in the country. Mr. Byrnes has indicated that he means to discuss the matter with him fundamentally in the very near future. The President's letter of October 4 and his subsequent reply to Ibn Saud have been very helpful. The British have released the Jewish Agency members from prison, and have raised the curfew in Palestine. There is an evident desire -- for



Mr. Baruch

-2-

11-7-46

the first time, I believe, -- to do something decisive in the matter.

I think it would be tremendously helpful if you and I and Mr. Byrnes could sit down for a half hour and talk over the entire matter. Would you arrange for such a meeting at your and Mr. Byrnes' convenience? There are many reasons why I should like you there. The time is now ripe for decisive action.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

