



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 IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

Reel
156

Box
56

Folder
506

It Can't Happen Here, 1936.

456

"IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE"
A Discussion Of Sinclair Lewis' Challenging Book
On The Threat of Dictatorship In
America.

Delivered By
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At
The Temple

On
Sunday morning, May 10, 1936



In the Book "It Can't Happen Here" Sinclair Lewis, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature and author of so many well known books and novels on American life - "Main Street", "Dodsworth", "Arrowsmith", has written yet another novel - a great political tract in the form of a novel - a great national warning in the form of a book, an admonition in a time of crisis.

"It Can't Happen Here" is the story of how dictatorship would come to the United States - the form it would take, the personalities which would be likely to be here, the technique which would be employed, the slogans, the battle cries which would be employed.

The author, of course, draws his material from the experiences of some peoples living in countries of Europe which have dictatorships. But he fits that experience to the American model. Decidedly, this is an American dictatorship which Sinclair Lewis writes about. Its characters ~~which~~ are not Italians, Germans garbed in American speech but authentic American people against an authentic political background. Few people know Americans quite as discerningly as Sinclair Lewis. His novel-tract on what might happen in America is based quite as much on things which at various times in various places actually happened to him as on what has happened in Fascist states abroad.

At the very outset, the author points out the actual kindling which is available in the American scene at any time for a great national conflict. Thus, for example, he makes his main character, Doremus Jessup, reply to one of his friends who says:

"Nonsense! Nonsense!" "That couldn't happen here in America, not possibly! We're a country of freemen."

"The Answer to that," suggested Doremus Jessup, "If Mr. Falck will forgive me, is 'the hell it can't!' Why, there's no country in the

world that can get more hysterical - yes, or more obsequious! - than America. Look how Huey Long became absolute monarch over Louisiana, and how the Right Honorable Mr. Senator Berzelius Windrip owns his State. Listen to Bishop Prang and Father Coughlin on the radio - divine oracles, to millions. Remember how casually most Americans have accepted Tammany grafting and Chicago gangs and the crookedness of so many of President Harding's appointees? Could Hitler's bunch or Windrip's, be worse? Remember the Kuklux Klan? Remember our war hysteria, when we called sauerkraut 'Liberty cabbage' and somebody actually proposed calling German measles 'Liberty measles'? And wartime censorship of honest papers? Bad as Russia! Remember our kissing the - well, the feet of Billy Sunday, the million dollar evangelist, and of Aimee McPherson, who swam from the Pacific Ocean clear into the Arizona desert and got away with it? Remember Voliva and Mother Eddy?....Remember our Red scares and our Catholic scares, when all well-informed people knew that the O.G.P.U. were hiding out in Oskaloosa, and the Republicans campaigning against Al Smith told the Carolina mountaineers that if Al Smith won the Pope would illegitimatize their children? Remember Tom Heflin and Tom Dixon? Remember when the hick legislators in certain states, in obedience to William Jennings Bryan, who learned his biology from his pious old grandma, set up shop as scientific experts and made the whole world laugh itself sick by forbidding the teaching of evolution? ... Remember the Kentucky night-riders? Remember how trainloads of people have gone to ~~enjoy~~ enjoy lynchings? Not happen here? Prohibition - shooting down people just because they might be transporting liquor - no, that couldn't happen in America! Why, where in all history has

there ever been a people so ripe for a dictatorship as ours! We're ready to start on a Children's Crusade - only of adults - right now, and the Right Reverend Abbots Windrip and Prang are all ready to lead it!"

It is, of course, a superstition and a delusion to assume that in a country like the United States or in England or France or any other democracy that dictatorships can never come to pass. That is to take an utterly unscientific and altogether erroneous position that some people or races are congenitally democratic and others autocratic. That is not so at all. Democracy or dictatorship has nothing to do with biology. It is true that some peoples have had a longer experience in self-government than others and to that extent it would be clear to say that such peoples would for a longer time, perhaps, resist dictatorship than others. But to assume that such peoples would have an immunity against a breakdown in democratic governments regardless of what happens - that is a fantasy and a delusion.

The whole purpose of the book is to shake the American people out of this dangerous delusion, to warn them that if they want to safeguard their liberty, they must be on the alert as it was 150 years ago, as it was throughout the history of mankind. And the author is also quick to point out that if dictatorship comes to the United States in practice, it will be quite as brutal, quite as beastly, quite as ready to stamp out the elementary decencies of the people as in all the dictatorships in the whole world. Dictatorships in practice are all alike. Dictators act all alike. Sinclair Lewis says:

"Everyone, including Doremus Jessup, had said in 1935, 'If there ever is a Fascist dictatorship here, American humor and pioneer independence are so marked that it will be absolutely different from anything in Europe.'"

"For almost a year after Windrip came in, this seemed true. The Chief was photographed playing poker, in shirtsleeves and with a derby on the back of his head, with a newspaperman, a chauffeur, and a pair of rugged steel-workers. Dr. Macgoblin in person led an Elks' brass band and dived in competition with the Atlantic City bathing beauties. It was reputedly reported that M.M.'s apologized to political prisoners for having to arrest them, and that the prisoners joked amiably with the guards...at first.

"All that was gone, within a year after the inauguration, and surprised scientists discovered that whips and handcuffs hurt just as sorely in the clear American air as in the miasmic fogs of Prussia."

"Doremus, reading the authors he had concealed in the horsehair sofa - the gallant Communist, Karl Billinger, the gallant anti-Communist, Tchernavin, and the gallant neutral, Lorant - began to see something like a biology of dictatorships, all dictatorships. The universal apprehension, the timorous denials of faith, the same methods of arrest - sudden pounding on the door late at night, the squad of police pushing in, the blows, the search, the obscene oaths at the frightened women, the third degree by young snipe of officials, the accompanying blows and then the formal beatings, when the prisoner is forced to count the strokes until he faints, the leprous beds and the sour stew, guards jokingly shooting round and round a prisoner who believes he is being executed, the waiting in solitude to know what will happen, till men go mad and hang themselves - "

"Thus had things gone in Germany, exactly thus in Soviet Russia, in Italy and Hungary and Poland, Spain and Cuba and Japan and China. Not

very different had it been under the blessings of liberty and fraternity in the French Revolution. All dictators followed the same routine of torture, as if they had all read the same manual of sadistic etiquette. And now, in the humorous, friendly, happy-go-lucky land of Mark Twain, Doremus saw the homicidal maniacs having just as good a time as they had had in central Europe."

The year when dictatorship is to come to America is 1936 - in fact this year in which we now live, and the drama of the book unfolds itself as ~~from~~ seen not from Washington or from New York City but as seen by the eyes of a sixty year old liberal country editor living in a small town in Vermont who derives from the old stock of the American pioneer, possessed of strong independent traditions of New England. And this old fashioned American, Doremus Jessup, who believes absolutely, unquestioningly in liberalism, democracy, the decencies of civilized living, watches apprehensively the rising tide of dictatorship in the United States, battles furiously against it, is borne down and battled by it, but rises to carry on the battle for liberty and freedom and human decencies with head bloody but unbowed for the book closes on the note "And still Doremus goes on in the red sunrise, for a Doremus Jessup can never die."

The national conventions of the political parties are about to be held in the year 1936. The probable nominee for the Democratic Party is not Franklin D. Roosevelt as you might suspect, but Senator Berzelius Windrip who is modelled very closely after the prototype of Senator Huey Long. His description of the Senator is delightful!

"He was a tireless traveler, a boisterous and humorous speaker, an inspired guesser at what political doctrines the people would like, a warm handshaker, and willing to lend money. He drank Coca-Cola with the

Methodists, beer with the Lutherans, California white wine with the Jewish village merchants - and, when they were safe from observation, white-mule corn whisky with all of them."

"Within twenty years he was as absolute a ruler of his state as ever a sultan was of Turkey."

"Windrip caused the building of impressive highroads and of consolidated country schools; he made the state buy tractors and combines and lend them to the farmers at cost. He was certain that some day America would have vast business dealings with the Russians and, though he detested all Slavs, he made the State University put in the first course in the Russian language that had been known in all that part of the West. His most original invention was quadrupling the state militia and rewarding the best soldiers with training in agriculture, aviation, and radio and automobile engineering."

"The militiamen considered him their general and their god, and when the state attorney general announced that he was going to have Windrip indicted for having grafted \$200,000 of tax money, the militia rose to Buzz Windrip's orders as though they were his private army and, occupying the legislative chambers and all the state offices, and covering the streets leading to the Capitol with machine guns, they herded Buzz's enemies out of town."

"He took the United States Senatorship as though it were his manorial right, and for six years, his only rival as the most bouncing and feverish man in the Senate had been the late Huey Long of Louisiana."

"He preached the comforting gospel of so redistributing wealth that every person in the country would have several thousand dollars a year (monthly Buzz changed his prediction as to how many thousand), while all

the rich men were nevertheless to be allowed enough to get along, on a maximum of \$500,000 a year. So everybody was happy in the prospect of Windrip's becoming president."

It is quite likely that if ever a dictator would come to our shores, he would be just that type - a good natured, black-slapping, home-spun politician with a good sense of humor but also a cunning and clever, utterly unscrupulous and inordinately ambitious half-zealot and half charlatan with a capacity to bewitch his auditors and himself with the power and magic of his own political harangues.

The platform of Senator Windrip, like the platform of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy is a political stew concocted to attract all the dissatisfied and unhappy people. It is calculated to appeal to the American electorate for emergency powers which would be a cunning concoction of radicalism, pseudo-socialism, share the wealth-every man a king nokum, jingoism and anti-Communism. Such a program would be calculated to appeal to all the disgruntled elements, to the vague idealists, to all those who believe that the nation can become rich by voting itself money and to the mermidons of Big business and industry who would find in the program promises of protection against reds, labor unions, increased income taxes and all troublesome radicalism.

The platform of the Senator is also violently anti-Negro and only less violently anti-Jewish. The negroes would be disfranchised. Then would again be relegated to less lucrative jobs to make the more lucrative jobs available for the followers of Senator Windrip. "It is always desirable to degrade one element in order to make your element superior. Every man is a king so long as he has another man to look down on."

That is a sound principle of psychology which the Nazis exploited to the utmost in Germany. I am afraid that Sinclair Lewis in his novel-tract rather under-estimates than over-estimates the element of anti-Semitism. Judging from the flashes of Fascism in the United States in the last few years, from the type of literature already produced and circulated from one country to another, it is clear they aim to fill the country with the most venomous kind of anti-Semitism. It is undoubtedly going to follow not Italian Fascism, but German Nazism, - if dictatorship comes to America.

In order to fulfil this program which would make every man a king, all that Senator Windrip demands and calls for, is that if elected, Congress shall serve only in an advisory capacity in a period of emergency, leaving all the executive power in the hands of the dictator and that the Supreme Court shall have no power to negate an act of the dictator.

His secretary is a powerful man, a Goebbels, Rosenberg, or Goering, a Machiavellian type of person who is a master of political machinations. He, together with Senator Windrip prepared the ground over a period of years for the establishment of a dictatorship in the United States. This man who organized the League for Forgotten Men, which is like the League for Social Justice, throws his prestige as well as his followers behind Senator Windrip and the Senator is nominated. Whatever has made possible the nomination, whatever elements entered into the nomination, Sinclair Lewis enumerates:

"Most of the mortgaged farmers.

"Most of the white-collar workers who had been unemployed these three years and four and five.

"Most of the people on relief rolls who wanted more relief."

"Most of the suburbanites who could not meet the installment payments on the electric washing machine.

"Such large sections of the American Legion as believed that only Senator Windrip would secure for them, and ~~then~~ perhaps increase the bonus.

"Such popular Myrtle Boulevard or Elm Avenue preachers as, spurred by the examples of Bishop Prang and Father Coughlin, believed they could get useful publicity out of supporting a slightly queer program that promised prosperity without anyone's having to work for it.

"The remnants of the Kuklux Kan, and such leaders of the American Federation of Labor as felt they had been inadequately courted and bepromised by the old-line politicians, and the non-unionized common laborers who felt they had been inadequately courted by the same A.F. of L.

"Back-street and over-the-garage lawyers who had never yet wangled governmental jobs.

"The Lost Legion of the Anti-Saloon League - since it was known that, though he drank a lot, Senator Windrip also praised teetotalism a lot, while his rival, Walt Trowbridge, though he drank but little, said nothing at all in support of the Messiahs of Prohibition. These messiahs had not found professional morality profitable of late, with the Rockefellers and Wanamakers no longer praying with them nor paying.

"Besides these necessitous petitioners, a goodish number of burghers who, while they were millionaires, yet maintained that their prosperity had been sorely checked by the fiendishness of the bankers in limiting their credit.

"These were the supporters who looked to Berzelius Windrip to play the divine raven and feed them handsomely when he should become

President, and from such came most of the fervid elocutionists who campaigned for him through September and October."

The Senator and Secretary are quick to follow the example of dictators in the Old World and organize their own private army of shirted Minute Men which they use up to the time election as mere marching clubs who actually were to become the private army of the president just as the Storm Troopers in Germany.

The Senator is elected by the people. People sometimes have a way of voting in dictators into power. And the first act of Windrip after he is elected, is to give official standing to the Minute Men, making them officers of the army and issuing machine guns to them. The second act is to ask Congress to pass a law transferring legislative power to the dictator. Congress, of course refuses. Immediately the newly elected president declares a state of martial law. He has the Supreme Court confined to their homes with guard - a sort of protective arrest.

Step by step dictatorship advances. Here and there riots break out as a protest to this violation of the constitution of the United States, but by now, President Windrip has a private army of cut-throats, of gangsters, of assassins who attempt to put down the rebellion. This League of Forgotten Men is now liquidated. There is no longer need of another political party. There is no longer any need for an American Federation of Labor.

The president proceeds to reorganize the country into eight provinces. They proceed immediately to reorganize the educational system of the country. That, of course is ^{the} Bolshevik, Nazi, Fascist

idea of dictatorship - to eliminate all the intellectualism and thinking from the country. Man should be educated to do his job for the totalitarian state. Do not educate mankind to think. Thinking is dangerous. So a university is planned to produce en masse technically trained obedient people. "Entirely omitted from the course of study were Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Hebrew, Biblical study, archaeology, philology; all history before 1500 - except for one course which showed that, through the centuries, the key to civilization had been the defense of Anglo-Saxon purity against barbarians. All the social sciences were eliminated.

"In the realm of so-called "pure science," it was realized that only too much and too confusing research had already been done, but no pre-Corpo university had ever shown such a wealth of courses in mining engineering, lakeshore-cottage architecture, modern foremanship and production methods, exhibition gymnastics, the higher accountancy, therapeutics of athlete's foot, canning and fruit dehydration, kindergarten training, organization of chess, checkers, and bridge tournaments, cultivation of will power, band music for mass meetings, schnauzer-breeding, stainless formulae, cement-road construction, and all other really useful subjects for the formation of the new-world mind and character. And no scholastic institution, even West Point, had ever so richly recognized sport as not a subsidiary but a primary department of scholarship. All the more familiar games were earnestly taught, and to them were added the most absorbing speed contests in infantry drill, aviation, bombing, and operation of tanks, armored cars, and machine guns. All of these carried academic credits, though students were urged not to elect sports for more than one third of their credits.

"What really showed the difference from old-fogy inefficiency was that with the educational speed-up of the Corpo universities, any

bright lad could graduate in two years."

The situation goes from bad to worse. The economic condition of the country grows worse. The people are clamoring for \$5,000 a year which is not forthcoming. The poor grow poorer and not richer. Conditions are desperate. The dictator organizes a reign of terror. Concentration camps are put into operation. There is mass execution. Fear hangs like a pall over the American people. People are afraid to talk to former friends.

Jessup waits and watches apprehensively what is happening. An event takes place which shakes him out of his stupor. A famous scientist in New York City and a famous rabbi are assassinated by a member of President Windrip's Cabinet. This American journalist is finally forced to declare his resentment in an editorial. But by that time the minds of the masses of the American people are so possessed by dictatorship that a mob breaks into the editor's office. He is arrested by his former gardener who never forgave him that he was a gardener while he was the master. He is taken before a judge and told that his paper, from now on, is to be run by a member of his office. He is to stay as technical advisor while some other party man edits the paper. His son-in-law refuses to submit to the indignation of the Military Judge's decision and is foolish enough to speak insultingly of him. He is taken out and shot.

Doremus Jessup, American, now views, step by step, the onslaught of dictatorship, what it really means. His own library is rifled. His books are used as kindling for a bonfire. One by one, his friends are sent to the concentration camps which are fast springing up. He tries to escape to Canada with his family but is forced back.

Then in desperation, he joins up with an underground movement, the headquarters of which are in Canada, which sends its secret agitation throughout the United States to stir up the people against dictatorship. And Doremus Jessup joins the secret small unit of this underground movement in the basement of one of his friends and establishes a printing press and carries on propaganda at the risk of his life. They sacrifice their lives to hold aloft the spirit of old-time American liberties. Then he is arrested and taken to a concentration camp and those who have read accounts of concentration camps by Karl Billinger and Gerhart Seger will understand the descriptions in this book - what a political concentration camp is - all the indignities, all the inhumanities all the sadism which is heaped on the people sent there. All this is now transplanted from Germany to the United States.

And the story moves on rapidly. Sarason and the President finally break. Rebellions spring up. Sarason, in order to detract the attention of the people from all the misfortunes heaped upon them, concentrates on war with Mexico as the only way of unifying the American people. President Windrip is afraid - not of war with Mexico, but he is afraid of putting arms in the hands of Americans. He is afraid that once they have arms, they will turn their weapons against him. There is a break between the President and Sarason who is really the voice of the party. One night, Sarason's room is invaded and he is given the choice of being killed or sneaking off. Sarason sneaks off but is caught and deposed by the Secretary of War - Haik, a militant dictator and a stern disciplinarian.

While all this is taking place, Doremus finally succeeds in escaping to Canada where he contacts with the underground movement headquarters. He can't remain in Canada, however. His place is in

American and at the risk of his life, he returns to the United States. You find him, at the close of the book going from hamlet to village, carrying on his propaganda. "And still Doremus goes on in the red sunrise, for a Doremus Jessup can never die."

Can all these things happen here? Given a long depression, given a spineless government unwilling or unable to make drastic reforms for the people, given a clever and unscrupulous demagogue - and Big Business, hoping to check reform, curb organized labor and reduce taxes by helping to finance such a demagogue, and you can have a dictatorship in these United States, perhaps not as relentless as in Italy and in Germany, but you can have it.

How are we to prevent it? How can we guard ourselves against it? The answer, my friends, is very simple. There are three ways of guarding ourselves against this blight which has fallen upon tens of millions of people. First to defend, to fight for desperately, to champion every basic American liberty, every constitutional guarantee, every tradition of American liberty, of freedom - not to beguile ourselves into thinking that these liberties can be sacrificed. Once we accustom ourselves to ignore or treat lightly ancient liberties for which man has shed blood - the right of free speech, the right of free assembly, etc., it is but one step from turning over our government to gangsters who are suffering nothing themselves. These liberties are your dearest heritage. You will be the people who will suffer most when these liberties are once destroyed, not the ones who destroy them.

Secondly, the way to defend ourselves against Fascism is to expose the forces that are subtly, secretively imposing Fascist ideology upon us. The Mr. Hearsts, who day by day, terrify the American people

with a trumped up Red Scare - the Germans who seek to give the American people the thought that they are being menaced by Communism - these are the under cover men in the United States - that is how the Nazis got into power. They don't act. They attack communism, radicalism. They incite people to attack radicalism and confuse them until they are actually ready to sacrifice liberalism and democracy.

Lastly, the way to protect ourselves against Fascism and Communism is by reforming our economic life in such a way that there will not be millions of distressed in our midst who pray for radical change.

The answer to dictatorship, my friends, is liberalism, not communism, but liberalism. But unfortunately that is almost discredited today. I close by reading the words written by the man who wrote "It Can't Happen Here."

"He was afraid that the world struggle today was not of Communism against Fascism, but of tolerance against the bigotry that was preached equally by Communism and Fascism. But he saw too that in America the struggle was befogged by the fact that the worst Fascists were they who disowned the word "Fascism" and preached enslavement to Capitalism under the style of Constitutional and Traditional Native American Liberty. For they were thieves, not only of wages but of honor. To their purpose they could quote not only Scripture but Jefferson."

"He saw now that he must remain alone, a "Liberal," scorned by all the noisier prophets for refusing to be a willing cat for the busy monkeys of either side. But at worst, the Liberals, the Tolerant, might in the long run preserve some of the arts of civilization, no matter which

brand of tyranny should finally dominate the world."

It can happen here but it need not happen here.



1/ Track : Sinclair Lewis -

Story of how - forces - personalities - recruiting - Slogans

In all this draws upon - fits - authentic - few

His novel - that based quite as much

2/ At outset author - Kinging - at all times - (21)

3/ It is a Supernatural - ~~is~~ this is to talk - Biology

It is true -

4/ Whole purpose - alert - "External Vigilance"
Also in practice, Am. J. not different (344)

5/ 1936 - unfolding - Vermont - engaged -

"And still Domestic Jesus goes on in the red
sunrise - for a W. J. can never die"

6/ Nat. Conventions - Sen. Berzelius Windrip - "H. Long"

(P. 34)

Am. dictators likely

7/ Platform - stew - Appeal -

Violently Anti- Negro -

"Every man is a King so long as he has
some one to look down on"

Underestimated J. Arthur. Harkes -

8/ Demands Congress -

9/ Back of Widrip - Sarason - Togeth.

"Clerical Radio Censor" Bishop Haug -
What elements - (94)

10/ "Minute Men"

11/ Elected - First Act - 2nd
Step by Step - Roots - Layn. Partes. A.F.L.

Reorg. Country

Education - (251)

12/ Hesperath - Economics - Concentration Camps

mass executions - "Fear"

Book Burning -

13/ Doremus Jessup - wants - assassination -

14/ His own library - Porter

"He did a lot of complaining about conditions"

15/ Concentration Camp - One by one.

- Try to Escape -

16/ Underground - Basement -

Arrested - "Karl Billinger" - "Gerhard Seeger"

17/ Dissention - Rebellion - Mexico -

18/ Seeger was "Hark" -

19/ Escapes - Returns -

20/ Can it Happen Here?

A Prelude to Holocaust

21/ How to Prevent it?

① Fight -

② Bad Scare -

③ Reform - "Liberalism"

p. 442



5 in chain Lewis - Northridge - Arthur - Carter - Robertson -
1. A Tract - a warning - a dram. admonition - timely
forceful - challenging.

2. It's the story, how D. came to him - what it did to him -
and how Americans reacted to it - It's exposes the forces
in our life upon which a D. adventure can count -
the motives behind the which prompt them - the ^{types of} personality
which would direct such a movement - the ^{personality} because
which could be employed - the slogans & battle cries
which would be used.

In all the I. Z. & more draws upon the other
values esp. with D. - but he fits that esp. to his
Am. model. His char. as an esp. is that. An Am.
fact of speech - but with authentic Am. - against an
authentic Am. background. Ten men know the Am.
people of all classes as discerningly & realistically
as I. Z. ^{his non-tradition} (What might happen to Am. is bad
quite as much on things which at various times &
in various places actually happened in Am. - as on what
happened in French states abroad.

3. At the very outset author shows the thinking in Am.
life ready at all times for blind mass conflict, rather -
for pol. hysteria, ^{for unconscious danger} for mob rule & lawless acts, for
suppression of liberties in the name of liberty. (21)

4. It is a ^{& a delusion} superstition that Am. or any country - Fr.
England - is forever secure against Dict. That is to
~~show~~ ^{show} the unconscious & atavistic enemies persist
that some people or races are congenitally or deeply an

7. The 1936 Nat. ^{party} conventions are on the way. The man who is everywhere spoken of as the Wm. candidate to succeed F.D.R. - who cannot be remembered - Senator Berzelius Windrip - modeled after Sen. Huey Long -

① This description - is ~~not~~ delightful - or (p. 34)
The Am. desc. is likely to be just such a type of person - ~~not~~
~~a swarthy~~ ^{with} ~~with~~ the Latin or Teutonic ~~proclivities~~
but a good-natured, back-slapping, ^{under-the-skin} "deft", ^{seemingly} ~~but~~
~~has~~, shrewd, immensely ambitious, overconfident, ~~and~~
half zealot and half charlatan - with a capacity to hunt &
audit himself by the unattainable, his most dangerous
② ~~this part from~~

② Platform - "15 Point Platform for the Further ^{uplift} ~~the~~ ^{of} the ^{people}"
A ^{demagogic} concerted skew of radicalism, pseudo-socialism, ^{and} ^{reaction} ^{calculated}
^{to appeal to all the depressed & unhappy}
^{liberals, as well as to all the} ^{plains people} ^{by} ^{Barren}
and industry by promising them protection against
Reds and the warren of econ. demer., and troublesome
Miners.

③ He becomes the champion of plain people - the Great
Inheritance - the nation.

④ Demands that Congress during critical periods
shall sit only in advisory capacity, and
Supreme Court shall have no power to regulate by
the tenure against the act of Murder

(5) His program is anti-Negro and his violently
^{look down} anti-Semitic ^{— v. much he despised them & told them to go back to their jobs in country} ^{other} ^{Hebrew} ^{S. H.} has understood marked. The

An. element in a possible Am. shift — It would
be violent — as violent & thier. as in far — The
first planks; Fas. ag. taken in U.S. — their letters
& magazine — & the first utterance, their spokesmen
revel that they are violently & undoubtedly anti-J.

(6) Am-F will run the way; Nazi — not
Hitler's face — It will make Am. — a chief plank
in program — and their strongest propog. — track.

(8) Back of Winans — was his ^{secret} ^{her} ^{publicly} ^{was} — his help ^{in manufacturing a hit. machine}
Joseph Goldbel — expert in propoganda — a Mark.
Schumer — a thorny, cynical & brutal person — See
Together they ^{reason} ^{a qualified teacher} ^{with Navy help} ^{the} planned the conquest of Am. & and
by their propog. rallied to them: (p. 98-95)
~~that the~~

(9) * A Revolution in Times of Rotary

(10) Organizes, ~~uniform~~ ^{private army} on model of Hitler Storm Troops
V.D.'s Fasci — his ^{uniform} "Minutemen" — avowedly
just marching clubs — actually his private army — to
do the work with during the campaign for election
and after election to become his private army to carry
them his dictations.

who founded "League, Together Men" - Further together
League for Israel further -

"Every man is a King so long as he has
nobody to look down on"



11/ Elected - His first act is to order M.M. to be
reorganized as general assembly of Reg. Army - subject
only to him & his son. That arm & machine
from he moved to them: (2) His 2nd act was to
ask Congress to pass a law giving him complete control
of Reg. & execution - Rejected - President states
Market Law. 100 Congressmen arrested by M.M.
Each member, Supreme Court confirmed this
was done by a spread, M. 18/.

12/ Reg. Army spreads - Stop by stop phenomenon
is stamped out. Rits place up. Bloody put down
by M. M. - ^{freedom for my other men - do your best} ^{all other}
^{parties} ^{fed. of labor} ^{syndicates under full control}
~~Corporate State~~ ~~separately~~ ~~separated~~ ~~extending~~ ~~of~~ ~~state~~
~~abolished~~ - ~~Congress~~ ~~divided~~ ~~into~~ ~~8~~ ~~provinces~~ - ~~Three~~
~~other~~ ~~provinces~~ ~~have~~ ~~their~~ ~~own~~ ~~governors~~ -
~~their~~ ~~M.M.~~ ~~&~~ ~~their~~ ~~military~~ ~~judges~~ - ~~with~~ ~~power~~ ~~of~~ ~~life~~
~~&~~ ~~death~~ -

13/ In Fort Bulah - A Jessup - who the D. was com. then
until it was his own staff. His father -
a fellow named Sherad Lodge, became captain of pol.
administration where Fort B. is now center - an
ignoramus with a vendetta hatred his father - who
for years wanted his lands, position, his land, money;
Now he is master.

13. ~~Rev.~~ Rev. & country - 8 years -
Rev. Educat. System - added many elements -
- smaller more indep. college -
Drove out "intellectuals"
Practical - "modern" curriculum - Class omitted -
all history before 1500 - all for. science & math
"liberalism" a much disavored - (p. 251)

- Economics - poor -
14. Desperate - Concentration Camps - raids - Kidnapping -
mass execution - Celebrations -
(1) Afraid to speak - Every one felt guilt - names
and monument -
(2) Book-burning - Not known before 1300 -
Shakespeare written - defective Thores -

15/ Jessup - waits - watches - disapproves attorney - over fact
Hear of brutal murder of an innocent biologist. Mr.
Schwartz and a rabbit Mr. Vincent de Vey. by a
~~murderer~~ ^{lyncher} W. W. about - Herta Margolius - Secy
of Education - and, their acquaintance - moved to
attack - office attacked by mob - arrested - by
his former gardener - now Communist - (hatched) - &
ordered by Military Judge - to stay as a behavioral
adviser - while some other Party man edits paper.
- while he hears his son-in-law condemned to death
for insubordinating Mr. Judge.

16/ His own library upped for Book burning -
- This event treasure, illustrated ed., pictures -
"We did a lot of complaining about conditions"

17/ Concentration. Camp established in Vienna
- friends one by one find their way there -
18/ Turn to escape to Canada - ~~for~~ for for for

19/ Turn to Communist underground - disapproves

liberal -

For B. all of N.V.

N.V. - agent - joins - estab. secret press
in basement home of Buck T. this -

And almost every Turnover - carries on
work of press - ~~for~~

20. Arrested by a squad, M.I., beaten, killed, home
furniture demolished - Concentration Camp -
those who have read - accounts of C.C. by escaped
prisoners - Karl V. Kuhlberg - Gerhard Seag,
Korn - hostesses - fifth - Sadism - 5 other
places - the teachers - look - many of great
of center of - Saunders

21. Escape - to Canada.

22. Arrested with Saunders - Saunders ^{Alissentis} V. Kuhlberg
having read marks ~~for~~ country -

Rebels - Middle East & h. West - Saunders
war - arrange to be insulted by U.S. -
- deplorable merit as brides

Widow opposed - not ready - afraid of
people with arms -
Invasion his bed room - Kill - sneak
off - to France

23. Saunders - deposed & killed by Seag, war - Hail
- Anti-Soviet dictator - stem disappearance -

24. / letters to V.S. to carry on -

25. Can it Happen Here? It can.

A Paralyzed depression + a spineless govt afraid to
move drastically toward reform + an uncompulsory
+ gifted demog + Big Bus. hoping to check
reform, curb org. labor + reduce taxes by ^{helping} ~~subsidizing~~
to finance such a demog -

26. How to prevent it?

① Comoros de l'Inde Am. Cont. liberte.

② Red Scare - Heart - Nazi rule -

Johns my for us
Sentinel Graham Snyder Carver

(3) Reform — Answer to Face is not Com-
Mut Liberalism —

p. 432. —

ABSTRACT OF ADDRESS DELIVERED BY RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER AT THE TEMPLE,
ANSEL ROAD AND EAST 105TH STREET ON SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1936

" IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE "

It is a fond delusion that American or any other country is forever secure against a breakdown of democratic government or the establishment of a dictatorship. To assume this is to take the unscientific or utter erroneous position that some peoples or races are congenitally or temperamentally democratic and others are not. Biology has nothing to do with it - nor race psychology. It is true that some nations have had a longer experience in self-government than others and to that extent they may resist dictatorship longer than others. But that they are forever immune against it is a sweet but dangerous delusion.

The whole purpose of Sinclair Lewis' book "It Can't Happen Here" is to shake the American people into an awareness of what is going on around them or within them and to remind them that eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty. It is also true that if a dictatorship ever comes to America in practise, it will be quite as brutal and indecent as the dictatorships of the Old World. Terrorism has no geographic nuances.

A American dictator is likely to be the type of person whom Sinclair Lewis describes as a good natured, homespun, back slapping politician with a sense of humor, but shrewd, unscrupulous, inordinately ambitious, half zealot and half charalton, with a capacity of bewitching himself as well as his subordinates by the incantations of his own emotional harangues.

The platform by which such a dictator would appeal to the American Electorate for emergency powers would be a cunning concoction of radicalism, pseudo-socialism, share the wealth - every man a king hokum, jingoism, and anti-Communism. Such a program will be calculated to appeal to all the disgruntled elements, to the vague idealists, to all those who believe that the nation can become rich by itself money and to the mermidons

of Big Business and Industry who will find in the program promises of protection against reds, labor unions, increased income taxes and all troublesome radicalism.

The time for the old-fashioned American liberals to fight dictatorship is now - not later on when Fascism is already in the saddle. Then it will be too late. A bitter and determined defense of every American liberty endangered at any time is part of the price which we must pay for remaining free men. The defense of traditional American liberty - of free speech, free press, the right of free assembly - should not be left to chance or to a few visionaries and idealists. It should be the daily of every thoughtful American who prizes his heritage of freedom.

Red Scares are tried and tested Nazi tricks for the overthrow of democratic government. Fascism never makes a frontal attack. It persuades people to sacrifice their liberties out of their fear of radicalism.

The ~~xxxx~~ strongest safeguard of democracy is the reformation of our economic life so that people will have security and a decent standard of living. They will then be loyal to the institutions which protect them. They will not listen to adventurers, economic quacks, and medicine show doctors. Those who fight mass reforms are dangerously or unconsciously the Minute Men of an American Fascist adventure.