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America's Stake in the Present War, 1939.

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AMERICA'S STAKE IN THE PRESENT WAR

WRHS

By  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver



At  
The Temple

On  
Sunday Morning, October 8, 1939



1

It is clear that the United States has no official legal stake in the European war. We have not been attacked. Our territory has not been invaded. None of our international laws have been violated. We have no treaties with any of the belligerents calling for our participation in the war. There is, therefore, every formal justification of our maintaining the position of neutrality.

It is also clear that there is no responsible person anywhere in these United States who is suggesting that our country should enter this war. There has, of course, become the irresponsible practice of some to denounce all those who favor revision of the present Neutrality laws as war-mongers. This is, of course, a favorite and well-known device on the part of propagandists just as there is the device of artificially stimulating hysteria and turmoil and organizing uproar in order to bring pressure to bear on our legislators in a situation which requires the utmost of reason and calm and adjustment. There is also a well-intentioned and high-minded school of peace monopolists, people who regard themselves as the sole possessors, prophets of all peace and of all righteousness, who cannot see anyone who differs from them on the matter of the revision of our Neutrality laws as other than a conspirator who would destroy the peace and well-being of the people of the United States.

But, my good friends, not all who cry "Peace" today are really the friends of the people. We have every reason to be suspicious of the sudden enthusiasm for peace on the part of such people as Earl Browder, the Communist; Fritz Kuhn, the Nazi; and Father Coughlin, the Holy Ghost Fascist. We have every reason to be suspicious of their devotion, and even of such gentlemen as Mr. Lindbergh and Mr. Ford who received decorations from the bloody hands



of the Nazis when the rest of the world were recoiling in horror from them.

These people, I am afraid, are not pro-peace, <sup>but</sup> pro-Nazi, pro-Fascist, pro-Stalin. They are not so much interested in peace as in keeping the embargo on our statute books, the repeal of which they consider would give advantage to Great Britain and France in this war as against Nazi Germany.

No true American wants war. We all want peace. We all want to keep America out of war. We intend to do our utmost to keep America out of war, not because of our sad experiences and bitter memories of the last war, our frightful disillusion of the outcome, the ideals bitterly betrayed by the victors, the great opportunities which were lost and which failed to bring about a normal and peaceful world; we are opposed to this war because we know the horrible toll of all war, not only because we want to conserve, frankly, our own resources and our own substance and our own man power, but also because we are afraid of what another war would do to our own free and democratic institutions here at home, and also because of the conviction which many of us have - that perhaps the best contribution which America would be able to make would be not one made on the battlefield. We tried that in the First World War with disastrous results. Perhaps the best contribution we can make would be around a peace conference table where one great unexhausted neutral would be able to help achieve peace which we as a belligerent in the World War did not achieve. So that in this war, if there is to be a war at all, the United States is not likely to enter.

We are not likely to send any expeditionary forces abroad - provided, of course, that our rights are not interfered with. But from this universal desire for peace, it does not at all follow that the present Neutrality legislation must be kept unrevised and intact. It does not follow at all that the present Neutrality laws are calculated to keep us truly neutral and to keep us out of war. The present embargo law prohibits the shipment of munitions,



that is, of completed implements, instruments of war to any of the belligerents. The present embargo does not prohibit the shipment of all other merchandise, supplies, to any of the belligerents on American ships - supplies which in a war, are just as vital to the prosecution of war, and are so regarded by the belligerents, as munitions themselves. Goods, which although, technically, international law has not heretofore regarded as contraband and subject to ~~the~~ forcible seizure, were so regarded in the last war by the belligerents, and are already so regarded in this war by the belligerents.

Germany, for example, may soon require food much more than guns. Great Britain and France are going to enforce a blockade against Germany whose object will be not only to exclude munitions from Germany, but of other supplies which will make it impossible for Germany <sup>to</sup> carry on a long war.

The present embargo law does not keep American ships out of the danger zone and does not avert the danger of American ships being torpedoed and American lives being lost, with all the consequent dangers of involvement. Furthermore, the present embargo law unjustly deprives Great Britain of an advantage on the high seas which she built up through the decades and through the generations - the controlling of the sea in war time - a fact which enables her to keep an empire intact, a factor upon which she counts. This is an advantage the United States did not give to Great Britain. This is an advantage which Great Britain built up for herself. The present embargo law by denying Great Britain access to our source of supplies, is nullifying that advantage while it is not nullifying a similar advantage which Germany possesses on the continent by having free access to goods which come to Germany from Russia, for example, or from some other advantage which Germany built up for herself through alliance or other means.



In other words, the present embargo law actually takes sides and serves to disadvantage a nation with which we are very friendly and gives an unjust and unmerited advantage to a nation whose regime is deprecated by nearly all the American people. Under the prevailing law, an established international law, Great Britain may change that advantage. Our embargo law abrogates or nullifies it. It seems, therefore, to many of us that the wisest course for the United States to follow is to put all exportable goods, whether munitions or not, on a cash and carry basis. Let all who want and who can buy, come to our shores, buy what they want and carry it away in their own ships. We regard this as strictly and honorable neutral. Let all American ships, carrying whatever merchandise, stay out of danger. Now, if this is war-mongering, I do not know the meaning of the word neutrality.

But while we are maintaining a correct and legal neutrality in this situation, we are not called upon, nor can we maintain neutrality in judgment or neutrality in sympathy. It is not true, <sup>and</sup> ~~that~~ our interest in peace will not persuade us to take that position, It is not true that there are no basic issues involved in this war with which we American people need not be at all concerned. It is not true that both sides in this war are equally culpable, and it is not true that the American people stand to lose nothing in the long run if Hitlerism and Stalinism triumph in this war and the last few great outposts of freedom and civilization in the Old World are destroyed, because both of these great countries will have been defeated in war - I way it is not true that the American people stand to lose nothing from such a dread and possible <sup>adventure</sup> ~~adventure~~. Not because America is afraid that the German army will invade the territory of the United States; or that the German Navy will destroy our Navy. There are military people who have asked themselves the question "what would happen if Great Britain were defeated in



this war and Germany gained control of Europe?" I am not a military man... But I have a right to assume that the possibility of invasion by Germany of our shores is very remote. But there is a far graver danger lurking in a triumph of Hitlerism and Stalinism on the Continent of Europe. It is not their armies which will invade our country but their doctrines which will have been re-emphasized through their victory. A victory of Hitlerism and Stalinism would give courage to all the subversive elements in our own country. They would be encouraged and would multiply a thousandfold and from being merely a potential danger to American life and institutions and solidarity, they would become an active menace and danger to us. It is very questionable whether our own freedom here can be kept almost unquenched and burning for a long period of time with the last beacon of freedom extinguished on the Continent.

The American people ought to face that possibility with earnest heart-searching, with gravity and seriousness. This attitude is summed up with a statement by Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University who said: "This country should sell implements of war to France and England because, if those nations are defeated by a totalitarian power, the hope of free institutions as a basis of modern civilization will be jeopardized."

The same thought is expressed in an editorial which I chanced to read recently: "We cannot close our minds to the fact that the institutions and freedoms which we consider fundamental to our national existence are bound up with the hope of a decisive defeat for the totalitarians. We cannot close our consciences to the horror inspired by Hitler's code of naked force, his reckless aggressions against weaker neighbors, his continuous assault on the moral and religious values of our times, his persecution of helpless minorities in his own country."



"We want the democracies to win. No one who knows the temper of America can doubt that. We want them to win not merely because we abhor what Nazism stands for, but because it will be a safer world for Americans if they do win."

Did you listen to Hitler's speech the other day? When you strip that speech of all its barrack-room braggodocio, and of all of its clumsy lies and of all of the too transparent hypocrisy, when you take away all that, what remains there is that which is challenging and frightening to the whole civilized world. What remains there is the unrepentant and insolent attitude of a dictator who refuses to undo any wrong that he might have done, who refuses to submit any European problem to an international impartial arbitrating body and who is determined to solve every problem not by conference, but by fighting, by a surgical operation.

Take for example the two major problems with which Europe is confronted, the establishing of <sup>collective</sup> security, and minorities. These problems led to the First World War. After the war, attempts were made solve these problems, first by the establishment of a League of Nations to bring about collective security and secondly the rights of minorities. The League of Nations broke down and with it languished the hopes for security and rights for minorities. This breakdown led to the Second World War, which Mr. Hitler inaugurated, ushered in. And now that he has been victorious in the first skirmish, what does he propose? A re-establishment of Collective Security? A re-affirmation of rights of minorities as a means to bring about orderly and peaceful life in Europe? Not at all! He wants a <sup>peace</sup> conference. He wants it very badly, pleads for it. Why does he want it? Because he wants to get out of the toils of the war which are beginning to close in upon him, so that he can call the Allies off. He sees himself trapped. He knows that while he can perpetrate horrible destruction in Europe, he cannot win. He has already



been compelled to pay in Poland for having made friends with his dreaddest enemy in Europe and of opening the door of Eastern Europe to the Bolsheviks, he that pronounced himself as the saviour of Europe from Bolshevism. He turned over the Baltic states to Stalin which he had marked out for his domain of influence, having the armies of Stalin cut across his Drang nach Osten.

He feels himself trapped. He wants a conference. He wants one earnestly so that he can consolidate the little gain he has achieved. Perhaps he would like to pull himself out of the hole in which he has maneuvered himself. Do you think he wants a conference <sup>really</sup> ~~merely~~ to consider the problems of Europe, of basically reducing all the difficulties that have agitated the people of Europe in the last quarter of a centuries? Not at all. He says, "These problems can, as I have already emphasized, perhaps be discussed but never solved at a conference table. If Europe is really sincere in her desire for peace, then the states in Europe ought to be grateful that Russia and Germany are prepared to transfer this hotbed into a zone of peaceful development and that these two countries will assume the responsibility and bear the burdens inevitably involved."

So much for security in Europe. And now the rights of minorities. This arch-exponent of liquidation and persecution of minorities in Europe wants to pose before the world now as a champion, as the man who will solve this problem. How is he going to solve it, this barbarian, this golem of Central Europe? How is going to solve it? Not through sane, logical methods, but through crude, immoral, utterly unfeasible methods of uprooting the minorities from the lands in which they are now living, tearing from their livelihoods and careers and restoring them to their <sup>ancestral</sup> ~~native~~ lands, bring them back home. There are some 30 millions of people who live as minorities in the lands of Central and Eastern Europe. Instead of following through the problem logically, of really granting every minority group, wherever it is, complete



economic, social and cultural autonomy so that they will feel at home, protected, secure. He proposes ~~turning~~<sup>tearing</sup> them loose, and transplanting them to the original homeland of their race. He doesn't intend to do it now but in about fifty or a hundred years, for it will take that long. He is but casting sand in the eyes of the people. ~~He is posing as a great statesman.~~

And as far as the ~~German~~<sup>Jewish</sup> minority problem is concerned - that, too, must have a final solution. What does he mean by solution. He didn't expatiate in his speech. The Jews of Europe who have been taken from their homes would be placed in certain reservations, like the Indian reservations - somewhere in Poland, or perhaps in Silesia. This problem which he created, he wants to now by the same method, transplanting people and isolating them. Here in the United States we have ~~an~~ Indian Reservations, not because we wish to isolate the Indians. They can engage in any kind of business. They have full political rights. The reservations were not established to isolate them, but to protect them against the exploitation. Hitler would like to gather up six to eight million Jews and force them to one place. So he, too, has come to understand that the problem of minorities is a European problem and must find a European solution. What a stupid solution that of a reservation is. It is no solution at all.

So there is no promise of peace in the speech of Hitler. And if the Allies accept such a peace, it will only be a brief armistice, and then another Munich. It will tide over for another six months, twelve months. There will not be peace in our lifetime.

President Roosevelt ought to be very very wary before he lends himself and his high office to an act of mediation and of calling a conference unless he is assured beforehand concerning the agenda of the conference. Else he will be helping to pull Mr. Hitler's chestnuts out of the fire just as he did a year



ago in Munich. It is not enough to know the intentions. You must know the people with whom you are dealing. You have got to be wise and cunning as a serpent or you just help to confuse.

There can be no peace in Europe as long as Hitler and the Nazis remain in power or as long as there is not built up in Europe a powerful international agency with the prospect of keeping Hitler and the Nazis in control. For you are dealing here, to use a mild term, with ~~consciously~~ gangsters. You are dealing here with people who do not know said we will what faith is, with people who/respect the integrity of Austria and six months later destroyed it; who said we will respect the integrity of Czechoslovakia and six months later raped it; who swore they would respect the integrity of Poland and now destroyed it with fire and sword. We are dealing here with a regime of insatiable appetite. Wise and peace-loving people thought these people could be appeased. So for years, now, one concession after another has been made, the price paid, ~~of course~~, by the weaker <sup>and not</sup> and not the stronger nations. But the appetites were whetted, not satisfied.

These folks are out to dominate Europe. They said so. They mean it. They are utterly unprincipled. They are utterly shameless. Just a year ago Mr. Hitler was praising the Poles to the skies, stating how wonderful the Poles were. (I could have told him a few things about the Poles). But he found it to his political advantage to extol them. In his speech he couldn't find words cynical enough, contemptible enough to tell them. In his book he calls the French a mongrel race. He said that they are the last decision in Europe and the last reckoning will have to be with the French. France will have to be destroyed. And yesterday, he couldn't find words flowery enough to describe them - a noble race, etc. etc. ad nauseum. For twenty years now Mr. Hitler has been foaming at the mouth denouncing Bolshevism and Communism, branding them as the very devils of the earth. For the last twenty



years he has been bristling with denunciations of Sovietism - what he called Jewish Bolshevism and Stalinism, etc. In his speech he said nothing but kind words about Stalin who is not his ally. "Communism is Communism and National Socialism is National Socialism and I don't want to fight you." It is only those capitalist countries - England and France who ~~have~~ wanted to fight you. This is the shameless unprincipled spirit of ~~the~~ this <sup>after</sup> regime.

Of course their object is to destroy the French when they have the opportunity - and the Russians when they will have an opportunity.

He said in his speech that methods don't matter. It is only the results that count. That is the revealing phrase in that speech. If it serve your purpose to sow hate, intolerance and suspicion against a group of people, a race, a movement, if it serves your advantage, don't have any scruples about it. Just go ahead and do it. Methods don't count. Just the results count.

There will be no peace in Europe until this regime and this man will be destroyed or put under iron control of an organized Europe which can control these aggressors and finally put a stop to them.

As I see the situation it is this: If war goes on, if Hitler is not ready to meet in a serious way with the nations of the world for a serious reconsideration of the whole Europe problem, if the war goes on, it is likely then to be a very long and bloody war and it is, in my judgment, the duty of our great country to give to the Allies, France and Great Britain, a maximum of aid short of war - a maximum of aid short of war. If President calls a conference, if President Roosevelt assume the role of mediator, then it should be stipulated in advance that at this conference, the just claims of a free and independent Czechoslovakia must be considered, the just and free independence of Poland must be considered, the just and free claims of Austria must be considered and the just rights of



minorities must be considered, and the just claims of the Jewish minority must be considered. There will never be peace in Europe until the rights of the Jewish minorities are adjusted. (It is question that comes up again and again).

If nations of Europe, finally terrified by the prospect of a holocaust, are brought to a Conference, every basic issue affecting the peace of Europe must be discussed not on the ~~these~~ terms of Hitler, but on the terms of justice for all, on the terms of international law.





## Labor Zionists Stress Unity of Thought and Action at National Convention

The Poale Zion-Zeire ion, the labor group of the Zionist Organization of America, opened its twenty-third annual convention at the "Y" Wednesday evening with a large meeting, attended by some of the great Zionist leaders from this country and abroad.

Mr. Solomon Osheroff was the local chairman of the meeting. He introduced Mr. David Wertheim, the national secretary of Poale Zion-Zeire Zion, who introduced the rest of the speakers. David Pinsky, Jewish dramatist and President of the Jewish National Workers Alliance next spoke; he was followed by Ezra Shapiro of Cleveland, a member of the Administrative Committee of the Zionist Organization of America. Mr. Shapiro brought greetings from Dr. Solomon Goldmann who was unable to attend the convention.

"Basically, in this critical hour, none of us will allow ourselves the luxury of division of thought," said Mr. Shapiro, "for upon us Zionists in America rests the whole task of carrying on; we must shoulder the entire burden of Zionist work."

"Let us come to future Congresses when this war shall have ceased, with a strong Yishuv, a Yishuv which shall have built a better social order to which the whole world can look when the world needs it most."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the Jewish National Fund, was next on the list of speakers. He mentioned the International Committee on Refugee Problems which is meeting in Washington with President Roosevelt.

Dr. Goldstein said, "We know that even though new territorial plans are adopted by this committee, the heart of the Jew leads only to Eretz Israel. Whether the proposition be the banks of the Vistula, the wilds of Ethiopia, or the interior of South America, the Jewish people can only find happiness on the banks of the Jordan."

"Zionism," continued Dr. Goldstein, "is the Jewish will to live; it is a stubborn refusal to face the worst. It is the practical embodiment of the words of the ancient Jews, 'I shall not die, but live' and by that token we have met here, today."

Israel Merminsky, secretary of the Histadrut, or Workers Federation of Palestine, was the closing speaker. Mr. Merminsky spoke in Yiddish but he gave a statement in English at the close of the meeting. He said, "The pioneer spirit of Poale Zion is the spirit of Jewish youth and Jewish life in these terrible days; not the ideological spirit, but the practical realization of Zionism which makes us a working, creative, Jewish nation."

The Poale Zion-Zeire Zion Convention continued with a round table discussion on Thursday morning. Thursday evening, Mr. Merminsky spoke on "The Present Situation in Palestine and its Problems." Friday night a symposium was held on "The Condition of Jewry Throughout the World."

The discussion was led by Baruch Zuckerman, Poale Zion leader, and Dr. S. Sokol, recently of Vienna. Saturday night there will be a general discussion on the labor movement and the present war, led by Hayim Greenberg, author and editor of "The Jewish Frontier." Sunday night the Conference will conclude with an open meeting at Webster Hall at which the speakers will be Mr. Merminsky and Mr. Zuckerman.

### Maurice Samuel to

#### Address J. N. F.

Maurice Samuel, noted author and lecturer, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Pittsburgh Council, Jewish National Fund, on Tuesday evening, October 2, at 8:30 o'clock at the Y. M. & W. H. A.

A noted novelist and essayist, Mr. Samuel has won high critical acclaim for his writings, having almost a



Mr. Maurice Samuel

dozen books to his credit. His latest novel "Beyond Woman," was characterized as one of the most brilliant pieces of writing of the season. His other books include "King Mob," a study in mass psychology, "Jews on Approval," "You Gentiles," "On the Rim of the Wilderness," "I, the Jew," etc.

He is widely known as a lecturer and orator on literary and economic topics as well as in Jewish communal affairs, and has also contributed extensively to leading American and European newspapers and magazines.

Annual reports by chairmen of all committees will be given at the meeting and election of officers and board of directors for the ensuing year will take place.

### Zionist Order Here Denounces Plan for "Jewish State" in Poland

New York — The reported plan of Hitler to solve the so-called Jewish "problem" in Europe by the establish-

ment of a Jewish state or colony in a part of Poland was sharply attacked by speakers at the annual conference of the Order Sons of Zion held at the Hotel Astor last week. More than 500 representatives of affiliated branches in the metropolitan area attended. Following a discussion, in which many delegates participated, the conference unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing the Hitler plan as a "hypocritical scheme,

fraught with the gravest of dangers for European Jewry."

The conference, which marked the opening of an emergency membership drive of the Order, also approved a resolution calling upon the British Government, as the Mandatory Power over Palestine, to allow the immediate entry into Palestine of one hundred thousand Jewish refugees from Poland and other European countries.



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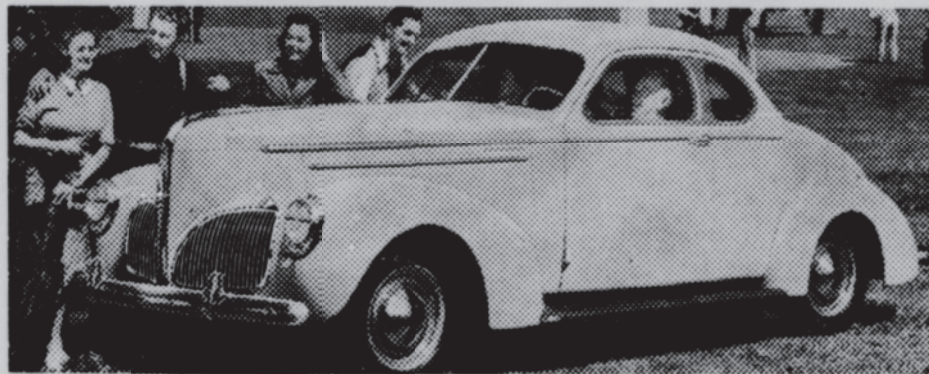
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## EDITORIAL

### MORTAR FOR THE BRICKS

IT is noteworthy that the eminent speakers invited to address the Poale Zion-Zeire Zion National Convention now being held in this city have, without exception, stressed the crying need for Jewish solidarity in the face of disconcerting prospects and for trust in a tomorrow that will surely vindicate American Zionist efforts toward the establishment of the Homeland.

Besides the greetings they bore from their respective communities and organizations they brought encouragement and solace, thereby making the conclave a mass rededication to Israel's aims throughout the world. Such a spirit must have impressed the deliberations that have already taken place as it is bound to affect those conferences which lie ahead for the week-end, and if each delegate carries home with him the motif which was sounded at the opening meeting last Wednesday night, the Convention will have done much to sustain fading hopes.

Elsewhere in this issue is an account of the Convention's activities to date, including pertinent remarks from several of the speakers which space limitations prevent our recording here. The story indicates how exhaustive have been the efforts of Labor Zionism in helping to weld the forces of world Jewry into an implement of peace and reconstruction among the peoples of the earth.

### MORE CANT FROM DETROIT

WHEN the swastika joined hands with the hammer and sickle (to what end only the gods can tell!), bewilderment descended upon many a brow that had carried the torch for either ideology. Articulate voices suddenly became muffled, and tongues that had uttered every metaphorical catch-phrase in the books stumbled and hesitated. In Detroit, the keeper of the Shrine of the Little Flower fulminated awkwardly against his pet peeves, only to discover that his peeves had sublimated.

Last week, in what was his last broadcast on a cash and carry basis, Coughlin recovered his composure sufficiently to return to his old form. Continuing to inveigh against the revision of the Neutrality Bill, he urged Britain and France to heed Hitler's peace offers, declaring that Germany and Russia were "well prepared to fight the capitalistic nations," which, he asserted, were "weak internally and socially."

It is obviously the aim of the Detroit priest to convince his listeners that America should remain completely aloof from the European conflict while the democracies dicker for peace with two of the world's arch-connivers on their terms. Then calm would return to the troubled

waters of the earth, and there would once again be good-will among men.

Such duplicity did not escape the alert eye of Monsignor John A. Ryan of Catholic University who replied immediately to Coughlin in the following terms:

"The person who asserts that we should be impartial and indifferent with regard to the conflict between the Hitler Government and the Allies repudiates not only Christ's gospel of brotherly love but the principles of national morality. In the present crisis our country is morally obliged to do all that it reasonably can to defeat Hitler and destroy Hitlerism. To permit the sale of American munition and other materials under a 'cash-and-carry' system would not involve grave risk and might be decisive in the present conflict."

More and more, it would appear, do protests arise from the shrines of his own church against this most potent menace to the American way of life.

### "SUN"-BEAM

WE reprint herewith an editorial appearing recently in the New York Sun which we hope might find its way into every home in the nation. It is an imperishable credo which may well serve, in these dismal days, as an unequivocal challenge to those virulent influences within our borders which seek to infect and destroy:

#### He Is An American

He is an American.

He hears an airplane overhead, and if he looks up at all does so in curiosity, neither in fear nor in the hope of seeing a protector.

His wife goes marketing, and her purchases are limited by her needs, her tastes, her budget, but not by decree.

He comes home of an evening through streets which are well lighted, not dimly in blue.

He has never had a gas mask on.

He has never been in a bombproof shelter.

His military training, as R. O. T. C. course in college, he took because it excused him from the gym course, and it was not compulsory.

He belongs to such fraternal organizations and clubs as he wishes.

He adheres to a political party to the extent that he desires—the dominant one, if that be his choice, but with the distinct reservation that he may criticize any of its policies with all the vigor which to him seems proper — any other, as his convictions dictate, even, if it be his decision, one which holds that the theory of government of the country is wrong and should be scrapped.

He does not believe, if his party is out of power, that the only way in which

it can come into power is through a bloody revolution.

He converses with friends, even with chance acquaintances, expressing freely his opinion on any subject without fear.

He does not expect his mail to be opened between posting and receipt, nor his telephone to be tapped.

He changes his place of dwelling, and does not report so doing to the police.

He has not registered with the police.

He carries an identification card only in case he should be the victim of a traffic accident.

He thinks of his neighbors across international borders; of those to the north as though they were across a State line, rather than as foreigners; of those to the south more as strangers, since they speak a language different from him, and with the knowledge that there are now matters of difference between his Government and theirs, but of neither with an expectancy of war.

He worships God in the fashion of his choice, without let.

His children are with him in his home, neither removed to a place of greater safety, if young, nor, if older, ordered ready to serve the state with sacrifice of limb or life.

He has his problems, his troubles, his uncertainties, but all others are not overshadowed by the imminence of battle and sudden death.

He should struggle to preserve his Americanism with its priceless privileges.

He is a fortunate man.

He is an American.

### RABBINICAL WISDOM

TO those who would add to their fund of Judaica we recommend "A Rabbi Teaches" by Dr. Herman Hailperin, rabbi of Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. From the press of Bloch Publishing Company, it is a collection of addresses and sermons delivered from the pulpit of the house of worship of which he has been spiritual leader since Dr. Coffey relinquished the post.

Dr. Hailperin has, we believe, selected those theses from the many he had at his disposal in order to make his volume as effective an instrument as possible in creating a stronger bond between Jew and Christian. For although the sermons deal largely with Jewish problems, they are developed along humanistic rather than ecclesiastical lines. Their mood is that of teaching, not exhortation, and reveals to the non-Jewish reader especially how a Jewish leader deals critically with his people.

"A Rabbi Teaches" is a stimulating handbook of contemporary Jewish thought and may well serve as a cornerstone to any library embracing the temper of our times.