



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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Taking Stock of 1947, 1947.

1) Still within ~~orbit~~ ^{orbit} of the War's aftermath -
 The greatest war of all times has left so much rem. & pd.
wreckage - it will take years before world returns to normalcy.
 But there was not only wreckage - from which world struggle to
 arise.
 There was actual bitter strife and ~~conflict~~ ^{for war} in ~~the~~ parts of the
 world - in Greece, China, India.
 The year 1947 was
 And a Jimmy rift bet. Russia & the U.S. - and the division
 of the world into 2 hostile camps.
 The year 1947 did not advance the cause of World Peace.
 Def. it was a war casualty year. But signs of
 recovery ~~are~~ ^{are} not wanting.

2) The year was a prosperous one for the U.S. - an
 exceedingly prosperous one.
 Our population was fully employed. Production
 reached the highest peaks in our history.
 Industry frantically complicated, ~~the~~ and most rapidly
 and successfully the process of reconstruction.
 From a war to peace transition.
 Record Nat. income, in excess of 225 b.
 There is cause for thanksgiving in all this - Unless
 the countries of ~~Europe~~ Europe, our econ. was not
 seriously damaged by the terrible draining the
 War - And our people have not experienced want
~~but~~ ^{but} we have they have a lower standard
 of living, or the rigors of austerity - such
 as even the victors' countries have experienced.

3/ In our property - we have not been selfish - we have not been unmindful of the destitution and suffering of friends and even of foes abroad.

In our char. ^{American} good-will & generosity we ~~have~~ ^{helped to} relieve the dire distress ^{abroad} with large grants of money and materials and with loans.

Private agencies dispatched ^{refugee} large sums abroad, to all parts of the world - food, movement, machinery, money, ~~Foodstuffs~~ ^{Foodstuffs} ~~train~~, - SOS, - CARE - ~~Refugee~~

And our Govt. chimed in to loans and grants - by voting this month some ~~500~~ ⁵⁴⁰ M. in ~~aid~~ ^{emergency aid} to France, Italy, Austria & China ~~and other lands~~

Since the war, the ~~war~~ ^{war} - our Govt. has spent some 15 b. in gifts and loans to foreign countries

→ We may not always have been wise in our loans and in our gifts - We cannot be charged with heartlessness or wiggardies.

And in the closing days of the year - Pres. T. Arthur L. Capper for 17 b. to implement the Marshall Plan - in the next 4 yrs - 8 b. for the next 15 yrs - nearly all of it - funds & gifts from the American people to help in the reconstruction of Europe - to revive the econ. life of 16 countries
S.E. -

4) An satisfaction with prosperity - not unmixed with apprehension⁽³⁾
over the sharp & increasing trend towards "inflation"

1947) witnessed a ~~the~~ rapidly mounting spiral in the
cost of nearly every commodity - which our people
need. - all-time high
In some areas this inflation has reached disastrous
proportions.

- Wages cannot keep pace with the rising costs
living - and the increases which lead obvious results -
working out price

- No removal of all controls the end of rationing
the sharp increase in the export of oil and
grain and other essential foods & commodities,
these & other factors have created a situation -
full of economic dynamite which might explode
in another panic & depression - such as we
experienced in 1929 -

the anti-inflation bill which was passed then before adjoining legislation
by common accord quite unanimously and was
intended more of a pragmatic maneuver than an earnest
effort to face up squarely to the present problem
which confronts our nation -

A run-away inflation will end in the ruining
of our economy - which in turn, will put an
end to any ambitions which we plan to set
to the rest of the world - and will result -
as did our panic in 1929-33 in unbearable

World upheavals.

(4)

It is far more important for Americans to watch

5). - 1947 - heard the U.S. announce a new ²⁰⁰ doctrine -

- world politics in 1947 - constellations.

- In March - 400 - Greece - Turkey - Middle East

G. B. ~~was~~ terminated - we took over -

- Purpose - to stop spread of Comm. - outpost of
dem. - defend our way of life - and in all parts!

- challenge to Soviet - organizing world against it!

- Should have been sent to UN - by-passed

① Money voted - spent - deterioration - Civil War.

6). Marshall Plan - spoken twice - coming in with
was bound to arouse opposition

If you declare war - will fight ^{with} every means

it is a cold war - or a war of blood -
Social would not sit by - & see an Anti ~~Social~~ ^{Sarcastic}
Amre - gain authority in the pol. life of Europe
think ~~the~~ ^{not} ~~them~~ ^{them} and which she would ~~not~~ ^{not} -

M. Plan was doomed to be a partial Eu. and Plan
by its own pol. motivation which the T. doctrine
defused.

X And so Europe was split - 16 nations - accepted
plan ~~about as many~~ ^{rejected} hell split the individual part
of Industrial East - split within 16! WRHS seem v. int.
→ Its chances success - 1 in 10 - The USSR. will put
all effort into seeing
that the Marshall Plan
is not valued - 2 chances -

Its effects upon Amre. econ. have been can't be
told - shortage at home - send free up - collapse
Report not only dollars - not only (Jude)

Re-examine it in light of its inherent econ. soundness -
Examine T. doctrine!

7/ Break down of Foreign Ministers Conference in London
- doomed from start - (They entered as enemies and departed as confirmed enemies)
- no common front -
- now even suggest that certain officials wanted it
to end in a stale-mate -
- There are no peace treaties for Germany, Poland, etc.

Mr. M. now ~~believes~~ that "a restoration of a healthy Eur. Community must ~~will~~ must precede paper agreements on a lasting peace" He hopes that his plan will contribute to such a healthy Eur. Community"

We ^{are only} hope that he and our people and the whole world will not be disappointed -

① Rivalry - will include primary ^{"Balkan" - "Heart"} and have any for another Hitler and 3rd world war - if course we do not intend it! -

② Rivalry - will strengthen reaction all over W. Europe - Communism ^{has been} already - Even reaction in England - do it fairly -

③ Amer. people should be as the alert who warn that their part - offering courses all over the world - is not, quite unintentionally, reviving the crisis!

④ And while we are moving to a complete break with the Great Britain - Trade Agreement! Farther 1 V IV - Any then it -

Some one is making a further 1 couple 1 farm!

5/ No success - Palestine -

Riots - unstable - unintended - Firm!
U.S. role - inter. force - with UN Commander
- arm Hydrogen -

tem Europe,
tern Hemisphere nations* to provide
y of the goods Europe would need.

But the U.S. itself would have to supply a large share of the goods as well as the dollars. A sampling of the goods: 29 million tons of grain (worth \$2.5 billion), 2 million tons of cotton (\$1.9 billion), 6.5 million tons of finished steel (\$719 million), 152,000 trucks; 26,000 freight cars, 200 merchant ships (and 300 more under charter).

Stupendous as this plan was, it had been trimmed, said the President, to a bony minimum. If the U.S. provided less, "our efforts will be dissipated and the chances for political and