

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

Reel	Box	Folder
165	60	966

Taking stock of 1955, 1956.

Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org American Jewish Archives 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220 (513) 487-3000 AmericanJewishArchives.org

TAKING STOCK OF 1955

In keeping with his custom of many years Dr. Silver will review and interpret the outstanding events of the past year.

January 1, 1956

My dear friends, the year 1955 which has just ended was relatively speaking, a good year for mankind. I say relatively speaking because it was not a year altogether free of international tension, of serious unrest, in North Africa, border incidents along the Israeli-Arab frontiers, One witnessed during the year the rise and fall of dictatorial regimes in Latin America. And also political squalls in parts of the Far East. Nevertheless, the year, climaxing as it did, a decade of uneasy peace, following the termination of the Second World War, with all of its dread aftermath of global dislocations and economic disorganizations, with all the bitterness, and suspicions, which followed the second world war, -- I say climaxing the decade they year 1955 may be said to have been one of the better years for the world - certainly since the end of hostilities.

The economic rehabilitation of many parts of the world went on at a very encouraging pace. Prosperity actually returned to quite a number of countries - especially in western Europe. Western Europe which found itself practically prostrate at the close of the last war, enjoyed last year a remarkable prosperity, approaching in some countries the dimensions of a boom. And this prosperity may have been said to have been the culmination of economic recovery due in a large measure to the very substantial aid, financially, which our country extended to these countries. Our own beloved country, enjoyed during the past year an extraordinally t welve months

of economic advance. Peaks were reached in nearly every branch of our economic life, with the possible exception of agriculture. Our people were gainfully employed. There was relatively little unemployment during the past year, and our National income mounted to an all time high. The standated of living of our people rose. And this last year was a better than average year as far as settlements of industrial disputes without strikes were concerned. Labor scored many gains during the year and the forces of American labor, the two great bodies, The American Federation of Labor and the C.I.O. finally merged and united their forces into one strong union. In keeping with its traditional attitude of helpfulness and generosity, our country extended during the past year large scale financial aid, funning into many billions of dollars, to other countries, to strengthen their enonomy and to raise the standard of living of their people. I am not referring now to the military aid which we extended, but the economic. And the American people have continued its remarkable generous support of its own privately supported educational and philosophic institutions during the year, through numerous campaigns for specific funds, or through community chest, our people has expanded, supported and built many new institutions for the health and the well-being of our people, and for the advancement of educationand culture. A climactic gift, during the year, was the truly amazing contribution of the half billion dollars out of the Ford Foundation to thousands of hospitals and colleges and universities in our land. An unprecedented gift. More and more are the profits of industry in our country the channeled into these social agencies which of course benefit all of our people. It is gratifying to contemplate - and one should contemplate, and the world should contemplate - how a democracy by virtue of wise legislation and taxation, transformed a capitalist system, which was once notorious

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for its predatory character, into definite social cooperativeness without destroying private initiative and private enterprise which are so vital to a democratic society.

During the year amazing progress was made in many fields of science, in the speeding up of transportation by land and sea and in the air. Amazing progress in the fields of chemistry, physics and engineering. One of the greatest gifts to mankind during the year was of course the Salk anti-polio vaccine. It was a monumental achievement. A major contribution to the health and the security and therefore the happiness of the human race. And long after the political storms of our country will have blown over and the very names of the so-called statesmen who today xxxxxx strut big and important on the world stage - I say when their very names will have been forgotten, or at least will hold a footnote in some encyclopedia - the name of this benefactor of mankind, the American Jew, Dr. Jonas E. Salk will be remembered, and will be included among the immortals, who by their quiet scientific research and p atient and humble degotion to the cause of human progress have brought healing and blessing to all men for all time.

Last September, the American people was greatly alarmed and greatly saddened by the news of President Eisenhower's heart attack. President Eisenhower had become universally beloved and in these dangerous times of ours, he had become, for the whole of the world a symbol of confidence, of good will, of spiritual equilibrium and the steady quest for peace in the world. And the whole world prayed for his recovery. And it is deeply gratifying, fhat the New Year finds

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the Fresident back at work, having recovered from his serious ailment. And barring the unforseen President Eisenhower will be at the helm of our country for at least the duration of his term of office- another full year. Whether he will seek a second term belongs to the realm of speculation and prognostication which are not my function this morning.

before The American tradition of complete equality for the law was also advanced during the past year in the steady movement toward de-segregation which followed the truly remarkable decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. There is a hard core of resistance to de-segregation in some parts of the South. During the year there was the infamous and despicable lynching in Mississippi, but nevertheless the trend is unmistakable. It may take some time for truth - the American truth of equality and justice for all and a fair deal for all regardless of race, or creed. That truth is marching on. I had hoped that the Churches and the Synagogues in the Southland would have done a little more to facilitate and hasten this process in the last year. Perhaps they will awaken to the full import of what is going on and lend the prestige and authority - the spiritual authority of their office - to this great crusade. For true Americanism is true humanity.

Of course, the outstanding political event of the past year was the so-called Summit Conference in Geneva in July and its aftermath, the conference of Foreign Ministers in September. The one was a success, the other was a total failure and the failure cancels out the success. We are today substantially where we were before the Summit Conference. I suspect that at this conference in July there was great hope without realism and that the conference of the Ministers in September there was great realism, without much hope. And I suspect too, that at both of these conferences, the leaders

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of the East and of the West thought that they could get what they respectively wanted without making any substantial concession to one another. The Russians imagined that they could get Western Germany out of NATO and perhaps achieve the total liquidation of NATO, as well as abandonment by the West, of nuclear weapons, without first guaranteeing free elections to Germany and without first agreeing to an international system of inspection and methods for exchanging military information. The west imagined that it could achieve the unification of Germany while at the same time retaining an armed Western Germany in the NATO camp. And it is really over this issue of Germany, as I feared, that the Conference wrecked. The Russians imagined that at the end of the cold war, if it could be achieved, would make it possible for them, under a condition of relaxed vigilance to penetrate areas in the Middle East or in the Far East that heretofore had been extremely difficult and to exploit whatever dissatisfactions existed there, to their own advantage. We imagined that we could carry on, without doing any violence to the so-called Geneva spirit, that we could carry on a campaign for the liberation of the satellites of Russia and thus weaken the communist front and that we could build additional military alliances or blocks like NATO in other parts of the world - in the Middle East and in the Far East - without arousing the bitter resentment of the Russians. It couldn't work. These maneauvers, both on the part of the East and of the West were too transparent. Neither side clearly, is as yet ready to abandon the cold war. Bulganin and Kruschev are again announcing the West and the leaders of the West, the leaders of Great Britain and of the United States, in the well known and well worn terms and phrases of Russian propaganda - Imperialists - Colonialists - Gangsters etc. Bulganin and Kruschev travelled during the year to India, Burma and Afghanistan and there lost no opportunity to revive ancient resentments against Great Britain and the West. The took side publicly with these

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countries - India - Afghanistan - in controversial issues such as the Goa issue hetween India and Portugal and the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan. They publicly took sides in order to curry favor to win these countries which they visited to their side, so to speak. And so also in order to win over the Arab world they denounced Israel They said Israel is threatening its neighbors and that well-known imperialist powers were using Israel against the Arab peoples to get control of the Mid East natural resources. This of course was a cover up for the communist sale of vast quantities of arms recently to Egypt. One cannot help but agree with Winston Churchill who declared yesterday that the Soviet leaders have done their best to provoke an arms race in the Middle East. This is a strange interpretation of peaceful co-existence. Our own leaders sent Christmas messages to the daptive af peoples of Eastern Europe to encouraging their hopes of liberation with promises to help free them, free their land. But the Russian leaders of course proceeded to denounce this as an interference in the internal affairs of these countries. Clearly we have again begun to talk on different wave lengths. But I am nevertheless persuaded that this second round of the cold war - thats what it is, will prove to be less violent and of shorter duration than the first. This second round is in the nature of a serious but temporary relapse in a long convalescence of a world which has been dangerously sick for a long time. One lessen which was forcibly learned at the Summit Conference, and I think will not be foregotten, was that an Atomic War a Nuclear War - between the East and the West is ruled out - not as impossible - nothing is impossible in this mad world - but it is highly highly improbable. It would mean suicide both the to the victor and the vanguished alike. So that there is actually a military stale-mate for the forseeable future. And therefore any issue which may exist of arise between the East and the West will have to be resolved in

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some other way than that of war. This being the case, and it seems that the leaders of the East and the West acknowledge this to be the case, this being the case, co-existence, whether friendly or grudging is inevitable. There may be what has been called brush fire wars in certain limited areas of the globe but the big powers will have to stamp them out quickly in order to avoid what must be avoided at all costs, for little wars have a way of becoming big wars. The last World War began over Danzig.

Now if co-existence is inevitable, then the rigours of the cold war must in time be moderated as well as competitive armament. The peoples of the East and the West, the peoples of the Soviet Union of the United States, Great Britain, Western Europe, according to the testimony both of western visitors to the East and eastern visitors hostile to the west, the peoples, in spite of the intensive/propoganda to which the peoples behind the curtain had been subjected over a period of years, the peoples at heart want peace and cooperation. At heart they admire one another's good qualities and see no reason why they should not trade with one another and should not exchange scientific and cultural assets which may be theirs. The journalists, the Russian

journalists who visited our country this past year found it in their hearts to speak in highest praise when they returned to Moscow, Leningrad - to speak in highest praise of many things which they found to praise and admire on the American scene. And the Russians

in Leningrad a few days age cheered the American troupe presenting Porgy under the very roof of their theatre. Bona-fide delegations which had visited the West from the East and vice-versa have come back with the clear conviction that the human material in both parts of the world is not averse to finding multiple avenues of cooperation to live together in spite of their systems of government and their idealogies. Governments of course are not always the people.

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Certainly not in a dictatorship. And if the leaders of these countries are sincere in wanting peace, they will have to adopt other tactics. If Bulganin and Kruschev really want peace, peaceful co-existence, as they say they do, and repeat it time and time again, they have gone out traveling all over the world to make friends, then they must stop their double-talk. You can't talk one way for home consum ption and another way for consumption elsewhere because home consumption within 24 hours is world consumption - what is said in Moscow on the same day is heard and has its reaction in London, in Washington - in every part of the world. In one breath these Soviet salesmen denounced Great Britain for example in New Deli, forxinstance visited India, and Imperialists bitterly denounced the British Colonialists/and in another breath the same men said that our statements contain nothing that could in some way offend Great Britain or the British people. We profroundly respect the talented and industrious British people and want to be friends with them. We said nothing insulting or offending about the British government either. This was said by Kruschev at the recent supreme Soviet meeting with an eye undoubtedly to allay the resentment of the British in view of the scheduled visit of Bulganin and Kruschev to Britain next spring. This sort of thing simply won't work. The world is not that naive even if the robot delgates to the supreme Soviet Council have kakenx to take it. This is not the way to create good will in the world. These men cannot criticize President Eisenhower or Secretary of State Dulles for speaking of the liberation - the peaceful liberation - of the enchained sattelite peoples of Eastern Europe while they themselves, these Bulganins and Kruschevs are saying the same things to the peoples of the Near East, India and Burma. This Colonialism is at worst a thing of the past. Inda today is a free and independent country.

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So is Burma. And Afghanistan. The Russians cannot set themselves up as champions of peace in the world as they would like to be known yet at the same time send boatloads of arms to Egypt to help Egypt prepare a war against fsrael. Egypt is not an oppressed nation. And Egypt is not being threatened by any country in the world. This double talke simply bedevils the international situation. Not only this double action. A Our own foreign policy will have to become far more consistent, far less donax doctrinaire, far less dep endent on winning friends with arms or on building military alliances against the Soviet Union. To quote the fine phrase of Lester B. Peerson, Canadian Foreign Secretary, the allies of the West must get out of the trenches and must begin to maneauver more freely. They must become more flexible. We cannot leade the world towards freedom and democracy, as we wish to lead the world and at the same time woo and praise the Fascist dictatorship of Franco and the communist dictatorship of Tito while rejecting the communist dictatorship of China and building our hopes on Chang Kai Shek, whom China rejected. We cannot accept Portuguese Colonialism in Indian territory and at the same time speak of the liberation of peoples and the end of Colonialism. We cannot supply weapons to feudal states like Iraq while denying defense weapons to the free and democratic and threatened little states like Israel. We must recognize that there are nations in the world that wish to be our friends and which are nevertheless unprepared or unwilling to enter any military alliance with us against any other nation. And why should we not fully cultivate that friendship on that basis. It is not a case that everyone that is not with us is against us, but of a false formula in international affairs. The long struggle between freedom and dictatorship will finally be decided I believe not by weapons but by ideas. By the power of the emancipating and fructifying ideas of mankind in which democracy infinitely superior

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to any and every form of dictatorship. unfortunately materially Our foreign policy during the year has not scored any great victories for democracy. We have been wedded to two dogmas that we must at all costs arm Western Germany and that we must at all costs not upset the reality of Communist China. And I think both of these lines which we have followed relentlessly without deviation in the last few years have given the Russians great opportunities to score substantial diplomatic victories. The test is not how we are regarded nor how they are regarded, we here and they in Russia, but how the neutrals regard them and us. And the reception which was extended to the Russian emmisaries in India was not artificially manipulated from the testimony of impartial observers. Clearly our foreign policy needs to be studied.

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The close of the year witnessed the increased politcal tensions in the Near East. A series of unfortunate incidents on the Israeli-Arab borders climaxed recently with an attack by Israeli forces on military forces in Syria was seriously harrassing. Israeli fishing vessels in the Israeli sea of Galillee. These incidents have been cumulative and all derived from the basic fact that the Arab people are unwilling to make peace with Israel. Not willing to recognize its existence. They have now completed military alliances among themselves, Egypt with Syria - Egypt, Syria and Saudi-Arabia under a unified military command, all aimed against Israel. Israel during the year has become the victim of this rivalry between the big powers, between the Soviet Bloc and the Western Bloc both want to woo the Arab world and if that involves sacrificing the State of Israel, they are not averse to making certain sacrifices at the expense of Israel. I have always maintained that this policy is a mistaken one - its a mistaken one for the western powers and its a mistaken one ultimately for the Russia. The Arabs are not interested in fighting the Soviet

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Union or in fighting the West at the behest of the Soviet Union. The recent riots in Jordan against the suggestion which was made to the government of Jordania by Great Britain to join the Baghdad Fact aimed against the Soveit Union is a clear indication that the Arabs cannot be wooed or coaxed or bribed into joining any alliange against the Soviet Union or any other State for that matter except the State of Israel.

I have spoken of the Arab -Israeli problem a few times during rehearse the year and I do not wish to regerse the issues involved again this morning. This is clear to me though. If the war in the Near East should ever come, it will be a world war, it is bound to develop that way. Nobody wants it, nobody stands to gain from such a war. The Arabs cannot be appeased by forcing Israel to make certain territorial concessions to the Arab State. This type of diplomacy you may recall was attempted at Munich and proved disastrous and a prelude to the Second World War. There are in my judgment but two steps which can be taken and which should be taken immediately the the to insure peace in the Near East namely/equilibrium -/military equilibrium had /between Israel and the Arab States which has been disturbed recently by the sale of these huge quantities of arms to Egypt. That equilibrium must be immediately restored. That Israel should be given ligitimate means of self-defense Isreal will defend itself. If it has adequate weapons to defend itself successfully, and the Arab States know it. and Secondly our own country should conclude a security treaty with Israel and with any of her Arab neighbors who prefer peace to war quaranteeing their present frontiers against any alteration by force. This is not unusual. Our country has any number of such security treaties with many peoples all over the world. It would then be possible for Isreal and the Arab neighbors finally persuaded that the free nations of the world particularly the United States of

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America, are determined to see to it that the State of Israel shall not be destroyed, it would then be possible for Israel and her Arab neighbor s to sit down and negotiate on the b_{a} sis of give and take all the outstanding issues which at present exist between them. They can all be negotiated amicably and proper solutions found.

then

Kor The year 1955/ my good friends, has not been a remarkable year not been a great year in the history of mankind, it has been a economic relatively good year as far as peace and/prosperity are concerned. direction of the I am hoping that the year 1956 will see progress in the/lessening of tensions of the cold war, the bringing of the two segments of mankind closer together on specific areas of possible cooperation. I am not anticipating a complete reconciliation of the East and the West, but any step forward in that direction is a step forward to ultimate pacification of the world.

May the coming year be a good year - may it be a better year. Amen.

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said he expects to arrest at least claimed three lives Nov. 12.

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mounts south shore St. Lawrence Hospice Hotel Dieu, operated by Catholic order-has been vacant Police Chief Edouard Beaulac since a disastrous landslide here

Churchill Blames Reds For Mid-East Arms Race

LONDON (INS) -- Sir Winston the Conservative Party Primrose Churchill charged today that League. It said: best to provoke an arms race in I am confident we shall surthe Middle East."

leaders accused the West of vio- their best to provoke an arms lating the "Geneva spirit," the race in the Middle East. This is former British prime minister a strange interpretation sent a New Year's message to 'peaceful coexistence.'"

"Soviet leaders have done their "Many difficulties face us but

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Two days after top Soviet "The Soviet leaders have done

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"Gerald doesn't want anyone to learn his secret cocktail recipe."

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A foursome that plays mah jong once a week and at the same time puts a dollar apiece into a "good time fund" is spending the money to take their husbands on the trip. They are Mrs. Leonard Shorr, 16105 Delrey Ave.; Mrs. Emanuel Passov, 2996 Berkshire Rd., Cleveland Heights; Mrs. Julius Finkel, 15711 Harvard Ave. and Mrs. Newton Gutter, 15612 Westview Ave.

botl With them are three other Ler couples, Mr. and Mrs. Max Wein-St., stock, 2781 Hampshire Rd., Cleve-R. I land Heights; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Dr., Reimer, 3142 Yorkshire Rd., Cleveland Heights, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rozelman, 2459 Edgergethe ton Rd., University Heights. durin Sunday Morning Service

10:30 o'clock

May Lerver

RABBI SILVER



Taking Stock of 1955

In keeping with his custom of many years Dr. Silver will review and interpret the outstanding events of the past year.

Friday Evening Services 5:30 to 6:10

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Saturday Morning Services 11:15 to 12:00

No. 11

Organist and Choir Director A. R. WILLARD

Editor SOPHIA LEVINE

Α.	M.	. Luntz	President
L.	W.	NeumarkV	ice-President
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SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE Rabbi Silver To Look Back Over Past Year

For his address this Sunday, Rabbi Silver will give his traditional review of the outstanding events of the past year. "Taking Stock of 1955" will be his subject.

MUSIC FOR SUNDAY

Organ Fugue in C Elfes Adagio (Toccata in C)	Buxtehude Bonnet Bach
Opening Psalm 15 Bor'chu (Congregational) Sh'ma - Boruch (Congregational)	Alman Sulzer Traditional
Mi Chomocho (Congregational Kedusha - Service No. III) Sulzer Grimm
Silent Devotion-May the Words The Quartette	Zilberts
Before the Address Toras Adonoy - Etz chayim Mr. Hakola and Choir	Federlein
After the Address Ring Out, Wild Bells Olenu-Va-anachnu	Fletcher Goldstein

In Memoriam

The Temple notes with deep sorrow the passing of

EUGENE L. GEISMER ESTHER (MRS. MORRIS) GLICK NATHAN J. RICH

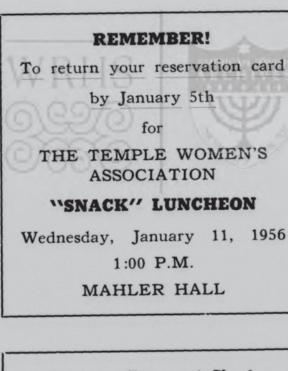
and extends heartfelt sympathies to the members of their bereaved families. as a means of bringing about the fullest mobilization of all forces in American Jewish life for a united effort to strengthen the economic growth of the State of Israel at a time of serious crisis. The last occupant of this post was Henry Morgenthau, Jr., a former Secretary of the United States Treasury.

In commenting on Dr. Silver's as-

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Berkens who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Many Happy Returns!



Temple Memorial Book

The name of

FANNIE L. MORRIS

has been lovingly inscribed in The Temple Memorial Book by her son, Gilbert L. Morris. Bond Drive. His dynamism and dri, played an outstanding part in the political struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel. They will stand Israel in good stead when harnessed to the task of mobilizing the resources so urgently required to accelerate Israel's progress, buttress her security and hasten the attainment of her economic independence."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The flowers which will grace the altar on Sunday morning, January 1st are contributed in memory of father, Max Hartzmark, by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hartzmark.

EUGENE L. GEISMER

It is with deep sorrow that The Temple records the passing of Mr. Eugene L. Geismer and extends to the members of his bereaved family the heartfelt sympathy of the officers, board and members.

Mr. Geismer was a member of The Temple for close on to fifty years, Vice-President of the congregation and a member of the Board of Trustees for many years. When the congregation celebrated its Centennial Mr. Geismer was chosen to be the General Chairman.

Through the years Mr. Geismer contributed most generously of his time and substance with the thought to the progress of our congregation, and his loyalty and devotion were unflagging. Three years ago Mr. Geismer was elected an Honorary Trustee of the congregation in appreciation of his outstanding services.