



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
172

Box
62

Folder
63

Endorsing tax levies, 1920.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,
The Temple, Cleveland, O.

October 26th, 1920

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I urge my Fellow Citizens of Cleveland heartily to endorse, at the coming Election, the five proposals designed to bring financial relief to our City and to save our Educational System from complete demoralization.

The cost of operating the City has increased from less than \$6,000,000 in 1913, to over \$13,000,000 in 1920, while the City's income has remained practically the same.

The operating expense of our school system has likewise increased materially in the last few years. The payroll for teachers alone has been augmented by \$1,830,000 in the last year.

Our City then faces a great deficit. Unless the citizens of Cleveland vote in favor of the proposals which will be submitted to them next Tuesday, every municipal department will, to a large degree, be crippled. Cleveland will not have the police and fire protection, the clean streets, the well-kept parks and boulevards, and the efficiently run hospitals which the Fifth City of America ought by right to have.

Our entire School System will be seriously undermined. There are today 20,000 school children in our City who are but poorly accommodated, in basement rooms or in portable buildings, and who are not receiving the care, comfort or attention to which they are entitled. If the School Levies are not approved, not only will the problem of caring for these children become increasingly difficult as their numbers increase, but virtually all our High Schools, Kindergartens and Community Centers will have to be closed.

I cannot for a moment believe that the men and women of our City will permit a condition such as this to prevail here.

Cleveland is a progressive and prosperous city, in the van of civic enterprise, and a leader in many municipal projects now nationally adopted. It will not destroy this carefully constructed municipal life by withholding the necessary funds for legitimate and essential administrative and educational needs.