



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 V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
173

Box
63

Folder
155

What Cleveland needs most, 1927.

OFFICE COPY

WHAT CLEVELAND NEEDS MOST

file
sermons
addresses
for
"Cleveland News"
Jan. 1-1927

A disastrous strike in the building industry of Cleveland occurred last year. Similar strikes are likely to occur in the future. It is clear to every right thinking man that in every such industrial dispute and resultant economic disorganization, the public ultimately pays the full price.

What provisions is Cleveland making to avoid such economic chaos in one of its most vital industries in the future? I regard it as most futile for men at the present time to indulge in academic discussions touching the right and wrong of the open or closed shop. We are confronted with an accomplished fact. The building industry in our city is highly organized and is likely to continue so. As long as such organization exists, collective bargaining will be insisted upon, for without it unionism is meaningless.

Are we then to acknowledge that whenever important differences of opinion arise between employers and employees in the building trades there can be no way out except the way of conflict - the strike or the lockout? Is it not clear that whoever emerges victorious out of these protracted trials by ordeal, the city of Cleveland is always defeated? The general economic life of the community always suffers.

Following the desperate strike in the building industry of Cleveland in 1921, a Board of Conciliation of which the writer was a member, was appointed to adjust the differences and to establish a general wage ^{scale} ~~scale~~ for the ensuing year. Perhaps the most important recommendation which that Board made at that time was;

"We submit that public confidence and support can result only from a sense of justice to the public

from the mutual protection of the rights of all parties concerned. And hence we recommend that the Conciliation Board provide ~~for~~ the creation of a permanent board of experts to be presided over by an impartial chairman, to the end that the public may have permanent representation in the settlement of wage disputes and all jurisdictional questions, and also in the abatement of abuses and in the development of general well-being within the industry. We regard the creation of such a Board of supreme importance".

Why has this recommendation not been acted upon? Does it not offer the just and intelligent way out of our periodic and costly industrial struggles?

The year 1927 would become a red letter year in the annals of the economic progress of our city were such a Board created within the next twelve months.



The Cleveland News

Daily and Sunday
Ohio's Greatest Newspaper

OFFICE OF THE
MANAGING EDITOR

December
Sixteenth,
1926.

Rabbi A.H. Silver,
1485 E. 106th St.,
City.

Dear Rabbi:-

As a special feature of the New Year's Day edition of The Cleveland News, I am endeavoring to obtain the views of twenty five leaders identified with the civic, commercial, religious and industrial life of Cleveland, upon a question of general public interest.

The question is: "What, in your opinion, is the best thing, (or best things,) that could happen to Cleveland during the year 1927."

We will greatly appreciate it if you will act as one of this group whose opinion, either as a body or individually, should prove both illuminating to every Clevelander.

As a favor to me, will you give the matter a little reflection and then co-operate to the extent of forwarding to me personally, the result of your reflection. Please bear in mind that above all I am interested in learning what you think, would be the best thing that could happen to Cleveland during 1927. May I expect your reply not later than December 28th? Replies may be as brief or as extended as you wish.

Assuring you of my deep appreciation for whatever attention you may give this, I am,

Cordially yours,

P. A. Robertson