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Temple Sinai, Oakland, 1929.

A Message from Rabbi Silver

By LAURA FERGUSON

For Council Members, made up of women of varied Jewish traditions, it is my privilege to offer a resume of the key-note sermon of the National Convention of Temple Sisterhoods, recently held in San Francisco. It was delivered by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the Sisterhood of Temple Sinai, Oakland, California.

Paramount in importance is the family life of our people. Eternal tho it be, Judaism is being studied by modern mothers with careful intelligence. To pass on God's word with grace, with charm, with romance means to implant in youthful souls a spirituality that once embedded enjoys fruitful growth forevermore.

Therefore Rabbi Silver's theme, "What is Happening to the American Home" is a topic of vital import.

"During the past five hundred years, three great revolutions have shaken the world—the Renaissance, The Protestant and the French Revolution. Thru these centuries, nations adjusted and readjusted themselves but always the main imprint lay in the home. Freedom of nations influenced domestic affairs

and real freedom in the home meant readiness to sacrifice, to share responsibility, to stabilize and to apportion authority.

"Long continued prosperity had a tendency, however, to undermine character and the home. There is no virtue in poverty. There is no vice in wealth. But leisure is required for culture. Wealth rightly employed and leisure creatively used form the subtle vital combination that makes for progress.

"Corruption, license, intrigue, scandal and demoralization caused the ruin of century-old Babylon. The wealth of our country far exceeds that of ancient Greece and Babylon. Excessive richness has come to our land too quickly. There is no restraining influence. We should own things instead of being owned by them. Our leisure time must be used creatively. Prosperity has no guarantee of permanence. Human beings are ruled by heart but prosperity oft-times attacks the heart.

"We come next to WAR. War in every age but mainly in our own day. War, that dread enemy of Home. Men taken from home environment—men taken from the Public Opinion which dominates their lives—making immorality inevitable. The signing of a Treaty for Peace does not exorcise freedom, vulgarity or looseness. Present day orgies are the back-wash of the saturnalia of the last war. The animalism, the laxness is revolting—but it is not the revolt of modern youth. Its cause if directly to be traced is War.

"The only right man has, is the right to do right. General well being, contentment, peace of mind should dom-

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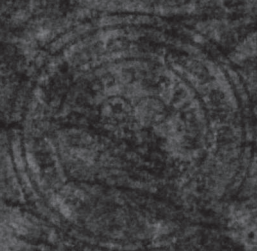
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Vocal Solo MISS ELIZABETH HACKETT

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