

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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New Year's message, 1930.

30-30 RH-30

The past year has been a very trying one for the American people. A severe economic depression brought in its wake much distress, serious unemployment and actual want to hundreds of thousands of people. This condition still prevails and we face the New Year with much uncertainty and not without a measure of apprehension.

The experiences of the past year have brought home to thoughtful men the fact that our economic organization is not without its very serious flaws and that it stands in need of a critical survey and readjustment. The most pressing problem confronting the American people today is that of finding ways of protecting workingmen against recurring periods of unemployment and all their attendant hardships.

The present economic conditions are an especial challenge to the wealthier and more fortunate in our midst. Their immediate obligation is clear. They must exert themselves to the utmost to see that no man, woman or child suffers during the coming months from want of the physical necessities of life.

For the people of Israel the past year has also been a very trying one. Conditions in Roumania have been deplorable and anti-semitic propaganda and anti-Jewish excesses have been rampant in that country.

Palestine has passed through a year of upheaval and uncertainty. The attitude of the Mandatory Government, following the riots of last August, left the Jewish population of Palestine confused and bewildered. The Mandate Commission of the League of Nations has vindicated the Jewish position and has placed the responsibility for the unhappy conditions which occurred last year, squarely upon the shoulders of the Palestinian Administration.

It is to be hoped that the political atmosphere will clear in the near future and that the remarkable progress in the up-building of Palestine which was made in the last ten years will proceed uninterupted.

The year 5691 will confront every socially-minded man and every loyal Jew with a host of pressing and serious problems. May we meet them with an adequacy of social intelligence and a full measure of moral idealism.

Abba Hillel Silver



On the occasion of the New Year it is a pleasure to send my holiday greetings to all the members of the Jewish community of Cleveland.

It is my prayer that the coming year will bring to all health and happiness and life's richest guerdon - peace. I pray, too, that a full measure of prosperity may be vouchsafed unto this nation by Him who is the Provider of all and in Whose hands are all our lives and destinies.

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uncertainties of their economic life.

The want and destitution which were visited upon tens of thousands of people during the last year through no fault of their own, must make an especial appeal to the generosity of those in our midst who are more fortunate. They must realize now more than ever that they are their brothers' keepers and they are obligated to exert themselves to the utmost to see to it that men, women and children shall not suffer during the months to come from the want of the physical necessities of life.

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The year 5691 will confront every socially-minded man and every loyal Jew with a host of pressing and serious problems. May God give us strength to meet them with an adequacy of intelligence and a full measure of moral idealism.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Abba Hillel Silver.