



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Ohio Social Worker Conference, 1931.

1. It became increasingly evident that welfare work ^{however efficient} is inadequate for the ill & our times. When the system under which we live was running along at a fairly even pace, producing a calculable ^{number} ~~sum~~ of social casualties, our welfare agencies, ~~part of which~~ ~~agencies~~ could be geared up to meet the situation with a fair promise of success. So many dependents per thousand of the population, and so much of our welfare work and funds required to take care of them. The problem, while not as simple as all that, was nevertheless, solvable.

2. Welfare work, ^{in this} ~~in this~~ ^{first} ~~first~~ ^{stage} ~~stage~~ of new distribution ^{material} ~~material~~ relief, to preventive work, and finally to adjustment. Then ^{also} ~~transpired~~ ^{also} a refinement in technique, the social worker, and a widening and elevation of its scope. It was hoped that the S. worker would in the future be called upon less & less for the routine sum of distrib. mat. relief and more & more for the new constructive service of adjusting even to their environment, of helping to advising, guiding, & showing them the moral of individual & families, of restoring them to ~~themselves~~ a sp. self-reliance and to social affirming.

3) but the last two years have let down such an
avalanche of human need on our shoulders
within agencies, that ~~all their activities~~^{they have been} programs
~~have been overwhelmed~~ submerged. Our relief
agencies are glad if they are able today to ~~pay~~^{pay} the
bare minimum ~~for~~^{with} alms ~~providing~~^{with} destitution ~~with~~
~~is a woman's intelligence & capacity.~~ They are ^{grateful} glad
if they are given enough money to feed the
hungry & clothe the naked. They are grateful if they
~~anyone~~ has enough strength left to do their
exhausting & never-ending job half decently.
Almost everywhere else
the weeper under has joined the band.

4. He is now confronted by a want problem,
not practical proportions, by force & real
fateful intractability, that he has been, perhaps
for the first time been not far to far, with
the unflattering thought, that his short may
after all, be no more effective a significant
than King Canutus - dying to roll back the
waves of the ocean.

5/ In us have definitely entered a new industrial age,
as different and ~~unstable~~ ^{unstable} as the ~~industrial~~ ^{pendent} age, ~~for~~
the industrial age of the 13-15 centuries. 4/ is the age

the machine, & mass production of huge industries and
business countries of the ^{the concentration of wealth} internationalization of financial
industrial capitalism. The economic current
as might be, has calculable and of ^{wide} ~~wide~~ compass.
The worker is far less secure in his employment, far
more dependent upon forces which he cannot
control than ever before. Industry, thought and
other just qualities of character, which in the past were
deemed sufficient for a man to ~~face~~ ^{earn} ~~as a comfortable~~ ^{a comfortable}
~~living~~, are far from suff. to-day. The best & most capable
worker, with a strong duty, may find himself suddenly
fired from his job, which fed him & his family, & has
to tramp over ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~world~~ ^{world} ~~wide~~ ^{wide} ~~drag~~ ^{drag} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~months~~ ^{months} ~~etc~~ ^{etc} - And
when a world-wide ~~drag~~ ^{drag} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~months~~ ^{months} ~~etc~~ ^{etc} - And
unemployment - it is clear that the social order is help-
less. Relief takes on the nature of Red Cross work
in war time - patch work under terrific stress,
to lessen somewhat ~~the~~ a crushing burden, human
waste & misery.

6/ It is only thru pol. action on the part of govt, and
^{voluntary} ~~voluntary~~ ~~action~~ ^{action} on the part of industry, that such a situation
a new ~~condition~~ ^{condition} can be cured or averted.
Our new tech. civilization requires a new
orientation in econ. planning & control. Corporations
industrial enterprise & production ~~largely~~ ^{largely} ~~in hand~~ ^{in hand} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the}
unplanned competition, individualism, with unplanned
& wasteful Econ. expansion, with ~~gilding~~ ^{gilding} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~plumage~~ ^{plumage}

the peak + ~~flourishing~~^{inflationary scallops} will within its grasp. Some
intell. central control which will coordinate production,
consumption, and the speed of the machine meet the
requirements of the market, will have to be established.
The task is not a simple one in a democracy. It is
not a simple one even as an aut. We cannot
give small groups the right to control
production & the price with reserve for the smaller
groups to protect their interests. If democ can
find a way - the future is assured. Econ. only
is secure. If not the alternative is not pleasant to
contemplate.

7. One thing is clear. The Gov. under
recruiting in his employment.
cannot play a game of
chance.

(1) What happens to day when a man is out of work.

(2) Has any State or has the Fed. govt. made any provision - No

(7) Note! What's wrong with dolls? chatty-demonalyze!

How cheaply done? less? what endurance is there
that Eng. worker ^{who is} ~~is~~ ^{find shelter} alone. → Am. ^{who don't} ~~unlike~~ ^{will be}
would Eng. survive it ^{next year} ~~also~~ now? No! Revolution
It would

It would involve change in the scope of system, & in
qual. features for benefits. TO R run! but already
Hess 10/4/68

(1) How we a doll in U.S. - Yes, & they do today
 us - charity! ^{Prud-hum} ~~Prud-hum~~ ^{conf. Kith} ~~conf. Kith~~ ^{hought-into} ~~hought-into~~ ^{made-up} ~~made-up~~ ^{from} ~~from~~
 private credit + income & tax taxes. - 70% -
 state public funds.

(5) Is not an Unemp. Reserve, built up by Govt in normal times, by Contrib. from Unemp. Temp. a new leg. sound method of meeting a change in ^{unemp.} situation? - already! you are acquainted with ^{Reg. 1935} bill - introduced in Ohio State by last Jan. As it passed, but not even voted out of Com. But Can. was voted - but appointed yet -

(6) Under term, bill a reserve fund built up (Emp. 1 1/2% - wages \$30 a week - 45 cents Employee ~~1 1/2%~~ rate range from 1/2 to 3 1/2%.

premiums of all Empl. were ^{to be done prior to 1935} ~~new~~ ^{to be done prior to 1935} carry him over Unemp. risk - set up his own system of U. J. in his under-~~stand~~ ^{stand} ~~did~~ ^{did} ~~Statute~~ ^{Public} - carry cost of overhead pay nothing into Fund. Saved part portion of charity ~~in~~

~~(7) This is Insurance - not del.~~

(7) Benefit - 2 weeks after - 50% of wages not to exceed 18.75 per. Max period 13 weeks in any one year. Refers suitable Empl. disprop.

(8) Insurance, not del.!

Legit. change in industry. ~~If made Federal~~
~~burden would~~

8. Social Issues & Summary.

① Revolution.

② Character. ① Irregular work man very "mailed"
shiftness - pride

② Discourage theft. - "how"

③ Break up homes

④ Wenters self-report - far family
as failure!

9. we must solve this problem. Tom!

① He has us back a land - blend - blend

② Stabilization - Central Planning - Regulates prod.
+ hours of labor + wages. ~~so that they~~
~~produce~~ in an intell. way.

③ for man a new security

④ You can surmount men for you come
to this problem. What then feel that
by going to Com. that they have not
solved the problem - Church will
not solve it - It is a matter of
Econ. Engin. on the vast, unprov.
scale - Am. is capable to perfect it