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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Samuel Untermyer, testimonial dinner in honor of, under auspices of American League for the Defense of Jewish Rights, talks relates to rise of Hitler and Nazis, New York, 1933.

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT DINNER IN HONOR OF SAMUEL UNTERMYER, SEPTEMBER 10, 1933.

AT THE HOTEL ASTOR

BY: RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

My friends:

I believe that I can pay the highest tribute to Mr. Samuel Untermyer this evening when I speak not of him in person, of his attributes of mind and soul, of his contributions to the cause of humanity, but when I speak of the cause which is dosest to his heart at this moment and whose outstanding spokesman and champion he has become, the cause of German Jewry and of the boycott which has been organized by all freedom-loving, peace-loving people throughout the world, to crush this menace to civilization which goes by the name of Hitlerism.

why are we so terrifically disturbed by what has gone on in Germany? Why are weso passionately indignant about it? Surely, we are accustomed to suffering. The pages of Jewish history are red with the blood of our martyrs and rich in the tragic record of suffering. Why is it that we have been aroused as never before? There are other countries in the world where the Jew today does not yet enjoy full political equality. What is the difference? The difference is a very vital one, my friends. In those other countries, the Jews are struggling valiantly, because hopefully, to achieve the maximum of political and economic equality. They came out of the middle ages into the modern era practically with no rights, and by dint of struggle and sacrifice they have achieved what they have achieved and they hope to continue their struggle until their full rights as men and citizens are recognized. There has been a steady, upward climb, an encouraging ascent in their achievement.

But in Germany the processhas been suddenly reversed. In Germany, the Jew, after centuries of struggle, finally achieved a large measure of economic and political equality. He had adjusted himself to German life and assimilated himself to the German civilization. He used that larger opportunity, which was his, not

unworthily. He contributed his share, and more than his share, to the intellectual, cultural, artistic and scientific life of Germany. From the days of Moses Mendelssohn to the days of Albert Einstein, the Jew contributed a galaxy of brilliant names of creative thinkers in every field of human endeavor. His patriotism was proverbial. In the last world war, twelve thousand of his sons fell on the battlefields, thirty-five thousand were decorated for bravery, eighty thousand fought in the front-line trenches, out of a Jewish population which totaled no more than six hundred thousand. And then suddenly, over-night, his political, his economic, his social privileges and rights were wrenched from him. It has been resolved that whatever of power or position or influence of wealth was his shall be denied him. He is to be stripped of all rights and driven either into exile or into a new twentieth century ghetto. This fact, that rights achieved after centuries of struggle can be lost again, has introduced a note of hopelessness and insecurity into the situation which has cast a pall over Jewish life, not merely in Germany, but all over the world.

If this thing succeeds in Germany, then the position of the Jew is desperate indeed the world over.

The challenge of the Nazis, is a challenge not merely to the Jewish people of the world, but a challenge to the whole civilized world. And it is this challenge which we hope to meet, and we believe we shall meet it successfully. (Applause) Because our cause is the eternal cause of advancing mankind. What we are fighting for are those basic, elementary and sacred values for which mankind has struggled through countless centuries.

The Jews in Germany are not the only people who have lost their freedom.

There is not a free man or woman left in Germany today. All free institutions, all democratic institutions, have been destroyed. Constitutional guarantees have been abolished. The free press has been muzzled. Liberalism has been

put into concentration camps. The iron heel has stamped down upon what was once a great, free, creative people. We Jews have only been singled out for the especial hate and the easiest triumphs of Hitler. Destiny has again made us, the Jews, the spear point of the attack upon a new barbarism which has raised its ugly head in this twentieth century, and as the spear point we are moving forward, determined to destroy that which civilization must destroy if those sacred values and sanctities of human life are to be preserved for us and for our children. (Applause)

I don't know how much time is allotted to me, and I certainly would not wish to monopolize this program where so many distingushed men wait to speak. There is but one more word I wish to add. What is also unique in the German situation is this: the Nazis have begun a noisy and aggressive proselytizing campaign for a race theory which is not only fantastically unreal and false, but which is dangerous in the extreme; for if that race theory becomes accepted in the world it will mark the beginning of an epoch of the bloodiest struggles between races that the world has yet known. What is being taught by the Nazis today is the very opposite of what the sages of our religion and the teachers of all the great religions have taught the world: One God in heaven and one humanity upon earth. What the Nazis are teaching is the fragmentation of mankind into races, graded into castes, one superior to the other, and by implication, the superior castes to exploit and dominate and oppress the inferior ones. These very Germans who worship at the shrine of Jesus the Jew, who regard the literature of the Jew as sacred literature, as the Holy Bible, who built churches to Jews, John, Paul, Peter, James, nevertheless listen to a preachment which would make of that race which gave all that to the world, an inferior and despicable race. This new blood cult, this race legend, which is being so vociferously propagated by Hitler and his disciples is spiritual leprosy being visited upon mankind today,

and around that spiritual leprosy civilized people must throw a cordon sanitaire, a quarantine to save mankind from this cruelest and most destructive of heresies against civilization. (Applause)

One of the sages of my people once wisely and incisively put this query: "Why is it that God created only one Adam?" While he was at it, God could have created six Adams at the same time. And the answer is given that God created only one Adam so that in the future no man will have the right to say, "I come from better stock than you." (Applause)

My friends, we have protested against this iniquity. We have appealed. We have been answered by sneers and taunts, and now, the Jewry of the world must resort to the last weapon which is left to it in its struggle for life, — the economic the sanction, the economic boycott. And we summon/free men and the free women of the world, regardless of the race or creed, who see in Hitlerism the menace that we see, to rally with us and to bear down hard upon this iniquitous regime until it is crushed or until its policies are changed. (Applause) And I am confident that having been schooled by forty centuries of patient, persistent effort, we Jews will win out and with us all the free people of the earth.

We are not the enemies of Germany. We are not preaching hatred against Germany. We will not stoop to the tactics of our enemies by calling Germans or any other people inferior. We have the profoundest sympathy for this people in its present unhappy plight. (Applause) Many of us championed the cause of Germany in thehard years after the war, when Jermany needed champions in the world. We were taught by our sages, "Do not hate even the Edomite, (who was the traditional enemy of the Jew) because he is your brother." Our war is a war upon a usurping regime which has by no right of constitution and by no human rights disenfranchised a whole people, outlawed men from public office, driven men from their professions, denied educational opportunities to children, undermined the economic position of men and women, so that all that is left to

them is exile, starvation or suicide. This iniquity, we aim to war on, and I am not at all pessimistic about the future, my friends.

I am convinced that Hitler has not said the last word about Jewry in Germany.

(Applause) I am confident that the Nazis have not written the last chapter in the history of the Jews who have lived for over a thousand years in Germany, long before Hitler who was made a citizen of Germany only last year....(Applause)

Of our people it was said, -- and I close with this phrase of our Bible,"When thou wilt go through the deep waters, I am with thee, and the rivers shall
not overflow thee. When thou wilt go through the fires, thou wilt not be burnt
and the flame will not destroy thee; for we arean eternal people. And in
this confidence which Providence has given us, and in the name of those ideals
which are sacred to all mankind, we summon mankind to this bloodless war for the
sake of humanity, for the sake of Israel and for the sake of the German people
itself. (the audience arose, applauded and cheered.)

From AMERICAN LEAGUE for the DEFENSE OF JEWISH RIGHTS, 729 - 7th Ave., New York City.

FOR RELEASE IN THE PAPERS OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH.

ADDRESS OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER, AT THE DINNER IN HONOR OF SAMUEL UNTERMYER, TENDERED BY THE AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR THE DEFENSE OF JEWISH RIGHTS AT THE HOTEL ASTOR, NEW YORK CITY, SUNDAY, SEPT. 10, 1933.

The Jews of Germany have been thrown back centuries into the defen defenselessness and indignities of the dark ages. It has been decreed that whatever of rights, power, wealth or influence the Jews, of Germany have achieved is to be taken from them. They are to be driven either into exile or into a new ghetto.

That these rights which were achieved after so many centuries of struggle could overnight be lost again, is creating an appalling sense of insecurity and hopelessness throughout the Jewish world. If such a reaction succeeds, then the position of the Jews in the world is desperate indeed. Naziism must therefore be regarded as a challenge to Jewish freedom and security throughout the world. A free Israel, and for that matter, a free humanity, and a triumphant Naziism cannot live in the same world. We accept the challenge and we are confident of victory, for our cause is one with the eternal cause of advancing mankind, with the cause of freedom, tolerance and brotherhood.

rights in Germany. They have only been singled out for Hitler's special hate and easiest triumphs. There are no free men and women left in Germany today. All free thought has been stifled. All constitutional guarantees have been abolished. The press has been muzzled. All channels of communication have been monopolized by the Nazis; German liberalism has been driven into concentration camps. We are therefore, not fighting alone against this menace of Hitlerism, nor are we fighting for ourselves alone. Destiny has singled us out to be the spear point in the attack upon a new barbarism which has raised its ugly head in the twentieth century. Behind us are the tens of million of freedom-loving and peace-loving men and women all over the world, and our strength is their strength, the strength of humanity.

We have protested, but in vain. We have appealed in the name of humanity, but we have been laughed to scorn. We are therefore forced to resort to economic pressure -- which it would be immoral not to exercise against such a foe.

We are determined to carry on to the bitter end. Forty centuries have taught us the ways of persistence and of patient struggle.

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AT THE HOTEL ASTOR

BY: RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

My friends:

I believe that I can pay the highest tribute to Mr. Samuel Untermyer this evening when I speak not of him in person, of his attributes of mind and soul, of his contributions to the cause of humanity, but when I speak of the cause which is closest to his heart at this moment and whose outstanding spokesman and champion he has become, the cause of German Jewry and of the boycott which has been organized by all freedom-loving, peace-loving people throughout the world, to crush this menace to civilization which goes by the name of Hitlerism.

Why are we so terrifically disturbed by what has gone on in Germany? Why are we so passionately indignant about it? Surely, we are accustomed to suffering. The pages of Jewish history are red with the blood of our martyrs and rich in the tragic record of suffering. Why islit that we have been aroused as never before? There are other countries in the world where the Jew today does not yet enjoy full political equality. What is the difference? The difference is a those very vital one, my friends. In other countries, the Jews are struggling valiantly, because hopefully, to achieve the maximum of political and economic equality. They came out of the middle ages into the modern era practically with no rights, and by dint of struggle and sacrifice they have achieved what they have achieved and they hope to continue their struggle until their full rights as men and citizens are recognized. There has been a steady, upward climb, an ascent in their achievement. But in Germany the process has been suddenly reversed.

In Germay, the Jew, after centuries of struggle, finally achieved a large measure of economic and political equality. He had adjusted himself to a fall German life and assimilated himself to the German civilization. He has used that opportunity, which was his, not unworthily. He has contributed his share, and more than his share, to the intellectual, cultural, artistic, scientific and of Germany. From the days of Moses Mendelssohn to the days of Albert Einstein, the Jew contributed a galaxy of brilliant names of creative thinkers in every field

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This fact, that rights achieved after centuries of struggle can be lost again, has introduced a note of hopelessness and insecurity into the situation which has east a pall over Jewish life, not merely in Germany, but all over the world.

If this thing succeeds in Germany, then the position of the Jew is desperate indeed the world over. The challenge of the Nazis, therefore, is a challenge not merely to the Jewish people of the world, but a challenge to the whole civilized world.

And it is this challenge which we hope to meet, to confront, and we believe we shall meet it successfully. (Applause) Because our cause is the eternal cause of advancing mankind, in this particular situation. What we are fighting for are these basic, elementary and sacred values for which mankind has struggled through countless centuries.

The Jews in Germany are not the only people who have lost their freedom. There is not a free man or woman left in Germany today. All free institutions, all democratic institutions, have been destroyed. Constitutional guarantees have been abolished. The free press has been muzzled. Liberalism has been put into concentration camps. The iron hael has stamped down upon what was once a great, free, creative people.

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(the audience arose, applauded and cheered.))

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...Testimonial Dinner...

TENDERED TO

SAMUEL UNTERMYER

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE

American League for the Defense of Jewish Rights

in recognition of
his outstanding services to the community, and particularly
his gallant efforts to preserve the ideals of twentieth
century civilization against the encroachments
of the middle ages.

GRAND BALLROOM

HOTEL ASTOR

Sunday Evening, September 10, 1933

Menu



CANAPES, MOSCOVITE

CREAM OF CELERY, ARGENTE
CELERY OLIVES

PATTY OF FRESH MUSHROOMS, DIVA NEW PEAS A L'ANGLAISE

POTATO, PERSILLEE

VEGETABLES, FLORIDA

SALADE PONCE DE LEON, FRENCH DRESSING

BUCHE GLACE, ASTOR
CHOCOLATE SAUCE
PETITS FOURS

MOKA

Dais



- *GEORGE GORDON BATTLE Presiding
- *GEN. JOHN V. CLINNIN
- *BAINBRIDGE COLBY

ROYAL S. COPELAND

DR. A. CORALNICK

*JAMES W. GERARD

FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA

CHARLES C. LOCKWOOD

JOHN P. O'BRIEN

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*SAMUEL UNTERMYER

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