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Jews and isolationism; warmongering, 1941.

A STATEMENT
By
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple

Cleveland Press
Plain Dealer

9-19-41

The first isolationist of history was Cain. He, it was, who first proclaimed the doctrine "Am I my brother's keeper?" The very essence of religion is the concept of the shared moral responsibility of all men.

The terms "isolationist" and "interventionist" are not really true antonyms. The opposite of isolation is not intervention, but cooperation. Cooperation alone can insure an international order of justice and law and the promise of peace.

It is not the so-called "interventionist" who is the warmonger, but the isolationist. Every nation in Europe which in the last few years sought peace for itself through neutrality and isolation succeeded only in bringing war and destruction upon itself, and in increasing the might and aggressiveness of the Nazi-Fascist war-makers of Europe.

Every successive moral failure on the part of nations to "intervene", that is to say, to cooperate in checking acts of international aggression and banditry has led them in recent years step by step down to the frightful abyss of war in which the world now finds itself.

War can not be isolated. Persecution can not be isolated. Propaganda can not be isolated. Not in the kind of an ever narrowing world in which we live!

The moral sense of mankind had been dulled. Monstrous crimes were committed against small nations and minorities and the top-lofty chancelleries of the world stood idly by. It was none of their business. It is only now that they themselves are engaged in a life and death struggle against the self-same criminal that they have re-discovered the heretofore discarded principles of freedom for all, the rights of all men, the protection of religion, and are calling for united action to defend them. They have finally abandoned their moral detachment and unconcern.

As far as we Jews are concerned, we were not and never have been isolationists. We are not for war. Unlike the Nazis, we have never glorified war. Our whole

tradition and religious culture are violently opposed to it. Our people was the first among the nations of the earth to project the vision of a warless society. We suffer doubly and trebly from every war and from every civil dislocation. In the past we were frequently accused of pacifism. But we Jews also know that isolationism in peacetime leads to interventionism in war and that cooperation in peacetime obviates the necessity for war. We maintain that whenever and wherever a free people is attacked it is part of the moral obligation as well as of the enlightened self-interests of all free peoples to come to its rescue. Free peoples must either unite and stand, or divide and fall.

We Jews believe in the unity of mankind. Our religion allows for no moral insularity for individuals or nations. We cannot concede the spiritual dismemberment of mankind. Decidedly, therefore, we approve the present foreign policy of our government which is committed to give all possible aid to all peoples which are fighting for their freedom and their survival. Decidedly we advocate international action to uphold international morality. We applaud the great President of the United States for the courageous leadership which he has given our nation in this direction. He has made us sharply aware of the dangers of our political isolationism, of how our own destiny as a free people is inextricably intertwined with those of other free peoples, and of the urgency to strike for freedom before the shackles of slavery are riveted upon us.

Decidedly we approve of all the channels of American public opinion -- the press, the radio, the moving picture, the intelligent newspaper reports and commentators and the religious leaders of our country who have helped to arouse our people from its dangerous isolationist delusions.

Particularly, we approve of what the moving picture industry has done in this direction. We are proud that there are Jews in responsible positions in this industry and that they had the vision and courage to use their great vehicle for a service to America for which isolationists are now attacking them. It is a great

patriotic service which the industry is rendering when it portrays Nazism in its true colors, not deviating an iota from the truth, rather under-stating than over-stating the horrors of that unmitigated bestiality. If this is propaganda, so was "Uncle Tom's Cabin"!... Nazism is as indecent and spiritually as corrupt an institution as slavery. All who expose it are doing the work of religion, of civilization, of America.

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If this policy, overwhelmingly approved by the American people, will move the arch foe of mankind to declare war upon the United States, then it is our fervent hope that the United States will be in a position to fight back with all its resources until that madman and his cohorts are destroyed.

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ONE OF THE GREAT LEADERS OF AMERICAN JEWRY SPEAKS HIS MIND
-- AS ALWAYS -- WITH VIGOR, WITH DIGNITY,
WITH PERSUASION: ON WAR,
ANTI-SEMITISM and
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1L Release: Friday, October 3, 1941

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We Shall Not Surrender Our Rights

A Statement on Where American Jewry Stands

By DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

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Detroit Jewish Chronicle

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But we shall not be intimidated! We shall not surrender our rights as American citizens to speak our minds, because of any open or covert threats from the Nyes, Wheelers, Clarks or Lindberghs.

It is becoming quite the thing these days to suggest to the Jews of America that they do this or that, vote for this candidate or that candidate, favor this law or that, or else — something dreadful will overtake them. Some such gratuitous advice occasionally comes to us from people who actually believe themselves to be our friends. We most respectfully suggest that they mind their own business.

(Continued on Page 7)

NEWS BRIEFS

America . . .

As the Senate probe continued, Harry Warner said he had no apologies for making anti-Nazi pictures . . . The America First Committee endorsed Lindbergh's Des Moines speech, denying that he was an anti-Semite and asserting that the interventionists were injecting the racial issues. The Chicago Tribune and the Socialist Party both repudiated the flier . . . Dorothy Thompson urged that racial agitation be barred by law . . . Secretary of State Hull condemned proposed legislation for American aid to feed Nazi-occupied Europe . . . Nation-wide celebration of Balfour Day on November 2nd to impress England with American support of the Jewish National Home was planned by the Zionist Emergency Committee . . . 301 more refugees, including 56 children from a French concentration camp, arrived in New York.

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Arthur Compton asserted in the Atlantic Monthly that recent anti-Semitic propaganda is foreign import . . . Franked envelopes of isolationist and anti-Semitic spokesmen in Congress were seized by a Washington grand jury at offices charged with being financed by German agents . . . The Jewish Section of the British War Relief Society planned an \$87,000 gift for British nursing homes to honor the memory of the President's mother.

Overseas . . .

Wearing of yellow badge by all Jews in Germany stirred protests among Christians but was met with patient dignity by Jews . . . Croatia murdered many Jews in a vain attempt to stifle a general revolt against its Axis masters, as Italy sent a second army to maintain order . . . The anti-Semitic regime was reported causing economic crisis in French North Africa . . . Formation of a Jewish Army and planning of vast postwar migration to Palestine are the chief tasks of Zionists, David ben Gurion said in London.

Palestine . . .

82 survivors of the Patria explosion were honored on joining the British forces in Palestine after release from detention camp . . . The 18th Palestinian military casualty list revealed 161 Jewish soldiers added to the number of prisoners in Nazi hands . . . Soldiers from various parts of the British Empire participated in high holiday services in Palestine's synagogues . . . A report showed the steady decline of labor strikes in Palestine.

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Holidays Observed Despite Axis

GENEVA (Special)—Despite increase of anti-Jewish restrictions to cover the rising resentment of the masses in axis-controlled territory, Jews throughout Europe flocked to synagogues for observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Not only were synagogues crowded in axis-occupied areas, but in the old Reich as well. Berlin Jews packed their synagogues. Under the new order they wore yellow Mogen Dovid. It was significant that while a few Nazis jeered, Germans for the most part viewed the Jews with sympathy and respect. One report said that a number of Germans, out of resentment for the yellow badge order, themselves donned such badges despite penalties decreed for "aryans" wearing them.

Many Germans Dissent

That the German people are not taking cheerfully to the Nazi order for the yellow badges is indicated by the Nazi press. Invariably now German papers are warning the public that it is necessary for Jews to be made to wear yellow Mogen Dovid in order "to identify them."

The new decrees restrict use by Jews of public conveyances. They will be admitted to transportation facilities only if "aryans" are first accommodated.

The flaring unrest both in France and in Czechoslovakia, which has resulted in numerous "treason" executions, is beginning to be felt in Italy also. The press there is beginning to increase its anti-Jewish tirade. Ad-

(Continued on Page 3)

Dorothy Thompson Says Outlaw Race Agitation

NEW YORK (JPS)—Dorothy Thompson, famous woman columnist whose status in American life was amply revealed by an overflow meeting at Carnegie Hall which greeted her on her return from England, urged that racial agitation be barred by law in the United States.

Reviewing the efforts made to confuse the American public mind in recent months, Miss Thompson said: "The race issue is being introduced into the debate on foreign policy in the exact Nazi manner. Do you want to prevent race riots and race persecutions? Then stop agitation to racial persecution and stop it by law. Free speech does not give men the right to cry fire in a crowded theatre nor should it give men the power to incite citizens to the persecution and eventual murder of each other in the face of an advancing foe."

During her lengthy address covering every aspect of the international situation, especially with reference to Britain, Miss Thompson branded Scribners-Commentator a "Nazi monthly." She referred to The Herald, published in Lake Geneva, Wis., as "nothing more or less than a veiled Stuermer."

We Will Not Surrender Our Rights

A Statement on Where American Jewry Stands

By Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, champion of the dignity and self-respect of the Jewish people, here gives courage and solace to American Jews bewildered, on the one hand, by the charges of warmongering, and confused, on the other, as to how they can properly discharge the responsibilities of their American citizenship.—The Editor.

THE first isolationist of history was Cain. He it was who first proclaimed the doctrine "Am I my brother's keeper?" The very essence of religion is the concept of the shared moral responsibility of all men.

The terms "isolationist" and "interventionist" are not really true antonyms. The opposite of isolation is not intervention, but co-operation. Co-operation alone can insure an international order of justice and law and the promise of peace.

It is not the so-called "interventionist" who is the warmonger, but the isolationist. Every nation in Europe which in the last few years sought peace for itself through neutrality and isolation succeeded only in bringing war and destruction upon itself, and in increasing the might and aggressiveness of the Nazi-Fascist war-makers of Europe.

Every successive moral failure on the part of nations to "intervene," that is to say to co-operate in checking acts of international aggression and banditry, has led them in recent years step by step down to the frightful abyss of war in which the world now finds itself.

War cannot be isolated. Persecution cannot be isolated. Propaganda cannot be isolated. Not in the kind of an ever-narrowing world in which we live!

Moral Sense Dulled

The moral sense of mankind had been dulled. Monstrous crimes were committed against small nations and minorities and the top-lofty chancelleries of the world stood idly by. It was none of their business. It is only now that they themselves are engaged in a life and death struggle against the self-same criminal that they have rediscovered the heretofore discarded principles of freedom for all, the rights of all men, the protection of religion, and the calling for united action to defend them. They have finally abandoned their moral detachment and unconcern.

As far as we Jews are concerned, we were not and never have been isolationists. We are not for war. Unlike the Nazis, we have never glorified war. Our whole tradition and religious culture are violently opposed to it. Our people was the first among

(Continued on Page 15)



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Charges Klan Is Raising \$1,000,000 For Racial War

NEW YORK (WNS)—The anti-Catholic, anti-Negro and anti-Semitic Ku Klux Klan has launched an undercover nation-wide campaign for \$1,000,000 to resume its activities, it was reported by Burnet Hershey, New York radio commentator, who said that the Klan has already been given \$100,000 of this amount.

Mr. Hershey charged that the funds will be used "to renew the racial and religious warfare which made the Klan a notorious national disgrace about 17 years ago."

"The Klan's present program is much larger than its former plan," he said, "since it can now work in co-operation with the general attack of racial and religious groups which is being fomented by the undercover propaganda agents of Berlin and

(Continued on Page 2)

Clergy, Press Call Lindbergh Menace to U.S.

WITH protest and criticism of the Lindbergh Des Moines speech reaching avalanche proportions, the American nation is speaking out in a firm determination that "it shall not happen here."

While some 700 outstanding Protestant clergymen through the Protestant Digest were charging that the Lindbergh "Jews-are-warmongers" address marked the "beginning of the last phase of a definite plan to destroy democratic government" in the United

Test of Anti-Semitism

The New York Post: "... The test is not whether one likes, hates, is indifferent to, or adores Jews. The test of anti-Semitism is whether one uses the device of mobilizing anti-Jewish feeling for political purposes."

States, the Wichita Beacon, leading Kansas newspaper, made the pointed editorial declaration that:

"Lindbergh is just as dangerous now to America as Hitler was to Germany in 1932."

Opposition Roused

In the wake of action by the federal government to subpoena records and documents of the America First Committee headquarters in Washington to check on possible violation of the foreign agents' registration act, the America First Committee issued a formal statement in support of Lindbergh, and was greeted by an overwhelming attack for its un-American anti-Semitic stand.

The statement of the America First Committee issued from its Chicago national headquarters denied its membership was anti-Semitic and charged the "anti-Semitic angle" was injected by interventionists who attacked the Lindbergh address.

But the Committee's statement brought retorts from all parts of the

(Continued on Page 16)

Balfour Day Holiday Set for Nov. 2

NEW YORK (JPS)—As a demonstration to Great Britain of the demand of American Jews for fulfillment of her obligations for the establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine, Jews in all cities are called upon to hold large public meetings Sunday, Nov. 2, anniversary of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, in a manifesto issued by the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, representing all Zionist organizations.

It was also announced that the American Palestine Committee, headed by Senator Robert F. Wagner, will share in similar demonstrations to indicate American-Christian support of Jewish national aspirations in Palestine. Emphasis on the "peace aims" of the Zionists after the war will be the theme of the Balfour Day meetings.

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Hobo King in Army

WINNIPEG, Man. (JPS) — The "king of the hoboes," J. Leon Lazarowitz, has given up the lazy life and has joined up with the Canadian active army. The self-styled "king" and national president of the Rambling Hobo Fellowship of America was given a preliminary rating of "A" after having applied for entry into the army.

Congressman Celler called the probe of the movie industry a "Spanish inquisition." That's not quite right. The Spanish inquisition wasn't launched by pious opponents of anti-Semitism.

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We Will Not Surrender Our Rights

(Continued from Page 1)

the nations of the earth to project the vision of a warless society. We suffer doubly and trebly from every war and from every civil dislocation.

In the past we were frequently accused of pacifism. But we Jews also know that isolationism in peacetime leads to interventionism in war and that co-operation in peacetime obviates the necessity for war. We maintain that whenever and wherever a free people is attacked it is part of the moral obligation as well as of the enlightened self-interest of all free peoples to come to its rescue. Free peoples must either unite and stand, or divide and fall.

Approves Moving-Picture Industry's Service

We Jews believe in the unity of mankind. Our religion allows for no moral insularity for individuals or nations. We cannot concede the spiritual dismemberment of mankind. Decidedly, therefore, we approve the present foreign policy of our government which is committed to give all possible aid to all peoples which are fighting for their freedom and their survival.

Decidedly, we advocate international action to uphold international morality. We applaud the great President of the United States for the courageous leadership which he has given our nation in this direction. He has made us sharply aware of the dangers of our political isolationism, of how our destiny as a free people is inextricably intertwined with those of other free peoples, and of the urgency to strike for freedom before the shackles of slavery are riveted upon us.

Decidedly we approve of all the channels of American public opinion — the press, the radio, the moving picture, the intelligent newspaper reporters and commentators and the religious leaders of our country who have helped to arouse our people from its dangerous isolationist delusions.

Particularly, we approve of what the moving-picture industry has done in this direction. We are proud that there are Jews in responsible positions in this industry, and that they had the vision and courage to use their great vehicle for a service to America for which isolationists are now attacking them. It is a great patriotic service which the industry is rendering when it portrays Nazism in all its true colors, not deviating an iota from the truth, rather understating than overstating the horrors of that unmitigated bestiality. If this is propaganda, so was "Uncle Tom's Cabin"! . . . Nazism is as indecent and spiritually as corrupt an institution as slavery. All who expose it are doing the work of religion, of civilization, of America.

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We Jews have been threatened by some isolationists. We have been called warmongers. We have been told that unless we oppose the foreign policy of our Government, which is today approved by the majority of our citizens, we shall be saddled with the responsibility for the war, if war comes, and for all its dire consequences. Even senators of the United States have stooped to these infamous tactics in their wild and headlong attack upon the foreign policy of our government. It is an old Nazi trick

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Denies Warmongering

The Jews of America will not regulate their life and thought and actions to please the anti-Semite. Those who seek to make of the Jews the scapegoat for all national misfortunes will do so regardless of what we do or say. They require no proofs. They invent them! Whatever we say or do will not affect the anti-Semite or his propaganda, for "he is a liar and the father of the lie."

The Jews of America are not urging their country to go to war. No patriotic American wants war. But we all know we are living in a world at war—war forced upon it by a brutal would-be world conqueror gone berserk. By his own avowals he intends to destroy all democracies and to set up what he calls his New Order, in which America, if he succeeds in defeating England, will certainly not be able to survive as a free nation.

Americans of all creeds and races would be traitors to their country if they did not respond to the summons of their chosen and responsible political leaders to resist this deadly foe, to build up our national defenses and to strengthen the hands of those nations which are now fighting and weakening this common foe.

If this policy, overwhelmingly approved by the American people, will move the arch foe of mankind to declare war upon the United States, then it is our fervent hope that the United States will be in a position to fight back with all its resources until that madman and his cohorts are destroyed.

If that is warmongering—let our enemies make the most of it!—©

16 War Prisoners Escape to Palestine

JERUSALEM (Palcor)—One of the most dramatic stories of the war emerged when a party of 16 Palestinian-Jewish soldiers who had been taken prisoner in Greece while serving in the Military Pioneers and Stevedores Corps arrived after a series of remarkable adventures.

They had succeeded in escaping while being transferred from Greece to Germany with other Palestinian and British soldiers who had also been taken prisoner. They had hidden in the mountains for several weeks until they had found boats, in which they finally managed to reach Turkey. Thence, after having been held for identification, they had been permitted to proceed to Palestine via Syria.

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