

## 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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Significant social and economic trends here and abroad and their relation to the future of social work, 1943.

Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org American Jewish Archives 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220 (513) 487-3000 AmericanJewishArchives.org Most helpful thing which School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University -- in organizing this lecture series "Social Work in the War and Post-War Periods".

In this series which concludes this evening you have been privileged to hear

- Shelby Harrison, of the Russell Sage Foundation, who reviewed the development in Social Work since Pearl Harbor
- Stanley P. Davies, of the Community Service Society of New York,
- Kathryn Lenroot, of the U.S. Children's Bureau, who discussed the impact of war on families and children, and
- Dr. Nathan Sinai, of the University of Michigan, who reviewed the current medical care and health problems.

This evening we are to listen to a discussion of "Social Work and the Man Power Problem". Thus the series will have proved a sort of stock-taking of the tasks and opportunities of organized social work in a world that has been shaken to its very foundations by the Second Global War in a quarter of a century.

War always means upheaval not only during the period of its duration but for a long period thereafter. Even in normal times, socil work concerns itself with the areas of strain, dislocation and social inadequacies. These areas are grievously extended under the impact of war, and the demands upon organized social service are accordingly tremendously increased. There may be reduced demands of certain types of services, but they are more than compensated for by increased and emergency demands in others. And that demand for increased service comes at a time when the chief interest of a community is centered in the armed forces, to the frequent neglect of the civilian front and it comes also at a time when social agencies are confronted with a serious personnel shortgage and staff turn-over. Attention has frequently been called in recent months to the great increase in civilian delinquency and truancy as a result of the disruption of family life as a result of the employment of mothers in war industry and consequent lack of supervision in the home. Attention has also been called to the serious social problems created by the great migration of workers from one center to another and the housing problems and health problems created in war boom towns. All this and much else are a serious challenge to the social workers of America who understand how easily much that has been so painstakingly built up can be destroyed, and how vastly importait is to maintain the physical and moral fitness of the physical population, young and old, during the crisis.

The problems after the war will, of course be colossal and it would be unwise to shift their entire burden upon government. The strength of democracy must be based not alone upon constitutional guarantees and political forms, but upon voluntary groupings of men devoted to those ideals for which democratic government exists, and working as free individuals towards those ends.

If we are to be spared the bureaucratic Fascist State tomorrow we will do so by conserving large areas of social initiative such as we find in our various social agencies and social workers, lay and professional.

The war is rendering one good service. It is showing how every citizen in a voluntary capacity can do something very useful in its community towards a great social end. Millions of people in the United States today are training themselves to give time and skilled service to one or another of the civilian activities connected with the war effort. Opportunities should be found after the war to channel that spirit of service for tasks connected with the day by day peace life of our communities.

Tonight we are privileged to hear Dr. William Haber speak to us on "Social Work and the Man-Power Problem". Dr. Haber is well known to social workers throughout the country. He was for many years Professor of Economics at the University of Michigan. During recent years he served as Chairman of the Committee on Long Range Work and Relief Policies, National Resources Planning Board of Washington, and as Special Assistant to the Director of the Budget.

I had the opportunity to observe his splendid work as Executive Director of the National Refugee Service.

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Many of you, I am sure, have read/of his numerous articles on social security and public welfare.

