



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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Louis Lipsky, 1945.

The history of American Zionism simply could not be written without recurrent reference to the major contributions which Louis Lipsky made to it. He has been an integral part of it, of its very pattern and configuration. No one has played a more decisive role in the formulation of its policies and programs and its organizational techniques. He brought to our movement a richly endowed mind, a firm grasp of basic political realities, an understanding and sympathy for the Jewish masses and a steady and unflagging devotion. He has helped to educate a generation of American Jews in the fundamentals of Zionism and in the philosophy of Jewish experience in the diaspora.

Mr. Lipsky has been privileged to see our movement evolve from the most humble beginnings, when it was weak in numbers and almost wholly lacking in influence and prestige, into the commanding position which it now occupies in American Jewish life, embracing hundreds of thousands of followers and manifold in its ramifications, agencies and activities. He is now witnessing the movement, so faithfully fostered and championed by him, reaching its hour of consummation and fulfillment.

Mr. Lipsky has weathered many storms and violent controversies within and without the Zionist movement and organization. He has now entered the quieter waters -- we hope not too quiet -- of universal recognition and acclaim.

Mr. Lipsky has also dedicated his fine energies and talents to the diaspora problems of world Jewry and to the democratic organization of Jewish life here and abroad in defense of the status of the political rights of the Jewish people. These imperative activities are by their very nature the least productive, but they are nevertheless inescapable.

I join the host of Mr. Lipsky's friends throughout the world in paying warmest tribute to a valiant leader of men, and to one of the principal architects of Israel's future in Palestine.

Abba Hillel Silver

Tribute to Louis Lipsky
3-9-45