



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Reel  
181

Box  
67

Folder  
677

An afternoon with the rabbi, 1945.

Adelle

1) Delussy - prelude - haunting music - (1)  
Apt. of a Rabbi - enchanted - exciting  
the far more strenuous - at best in

2) One never knows how to begin a speech  
Sometimes you hit it just right  
The other day - got a good laugh -  
Now if I could just find -  
I wrote the USA - Diamond.

3) I referred to my strenuous life -  
Has been - Is - to be - CCAK - <sup>Pub/pt</sup>  
Indulgences - Undone - Weddings -  
Emergency - "make it easier for us" -  
Some men called away - army -  
Redouble your interests attendance -  
Until we get a break - Not yet -

4) Bever - "I am a Hypocrite"

only the Br. Govt. - peace - pious. (2)

Java - disturbed India - 46%.

Souabaya -

5/ Repits Tr. request -

JOINT. Com. - 3 such Com. - failed.

Delay - 1500 - "with Arab consent"

Complete acceptance of Arab view -

J. refugees have no special claims -

J. Nat. Home. - (Home)

Com - investigate - implementation -

Permanent Solutions - Trusteeship.

So purpose delay - give ground for repits

- Br. Govt. does not intend - Labor Party

- Am. Govt. Traffic - Moral resp. without  
ambiguity - Cover up. broken pledges

Sum 16 known for the Betrayal -

- Dissemination -

6/ Why did Tr. ~~not~~ <sup>step</sup> aside? believes! (3)

7/- A proud man - Dean Farnham: "Sadder after God"  
Cardinal Manning: "Confidence in God"

7/ Soldiers - <sup>"all 9 on"</sup> returning - religion -

"Our relatives the following -

Deep experience - Consent it -

Help them - A rel. people?

✓ (Note) -

Phelan. alone does not make a rel. man.

Soldiers in Fox-holes were nett.

~~8/ Get better of it~~

8/ American Jewry - left

Heads high - integrated -

Leg Ag

objection to it. I would suggest, however, that you consult with the Rabbinical Council of America as to the advisability of the affiliation of your synagogue with the organization."

3. Mr. Roger W. Straus

"I ran across this item some while ago, and have had in on my desk for some time. ~~I think it might be worth while to get the complete report referred to.~~ There may be some interesting side lights. As you know, the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Denver is a highly reputable organization. I regret that the pressure upon my time has been so great that I have been unable to attend meetings of the Council, but I retain a real interest in it and read all reports and minutes sent me with great interest and pleasure in seeing the growth of the Council's service and prestige."

1708  
2022

WRHS  
AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

"University of Denver Research Group Conducts Church Attendance Survey. A survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Denver indicated that 65 per cent of Americans attend religious services at least once a month, and 45 per cent attend four or more times per month. Of the remainder, 17 per cent go to church once or twice yearly, while 18 per cent never attend, or go less than once a year. Sixty-five per cent of the Protestants queried, 83 per cent of the Catholics and 18 per cent of the Jews attend services at least once a month, the survey showed. Women have a better record than men, and the south better average than other sections of the country, it was said."

Rabbi Israel Goldstein stated that he was not ready to concede that the Jews are the least religious group in American life. He believes that the people asking the questions were probably not acquainted with Jewish religious habits and that if they took into consideration attendance at

# Text of the Testament by Ley

OCT 27 1945

NUREMBERG, Germany, Oct. 26 (AP)—The text of Robert Ley's political testament, "To My German People," follows:

Do I have a right to appeal to the German people after its singular catastrophe? I have been one of the responsible men, I was with Hitler in the good days, during the fulfillment of our plans and hopes and I want to be with him now in the black days.

I have learned to see in everything the hand of Providence. God led me in whatever I did. He led me up and now lets me fall. I am torturing myself to find the reason for the downfall, and this is the result of my contemplations.

We have forsaken God, and therefore we were forsaken by God. We put our human volition in the place of His godly grace. In anti-Semitism we violated a basic commandment of His creation.

Anti-Semitism distorted our outlook, and we made grave errors. It is hard to admit mistakes, but the whole existence of our people is in question; we Nazis must have the courage to rid ourselves of anti-Semitism. We have to declare to the youth that it was a mistake.

The youth will not believe our opponents. Men may fall, parties and systems disappear, but the people must remain and live.

## Calls for New Doctrine

In order to succeed we have to go all the way to tolerate the new. This is not enough. We have to eradicate distrust. We have to meet the Jews with open hearts and on a clear basis. We have to clean up our mutual relationship.

A complete reconciliation has to be found, and a new *modus vivendi*. This doctrinal clarification has the priority over any economic or cultural reconstruction. We have to have the courage to do this.

For the lack of any other ideal, youth will stick to National Socialism. The deported Jews will not be able to return carefree, they will find themselves opposed by a phalanx of defense and hate, the occupation troops will leave some day, new political constellations might give Germany new chances. Nothing is more unstable than peace agreements. Then anti-Semitism would flame up

anew and rage much worse than ever before.

It is unwise to believe it possible to exterminate anti-Semitism with histrionic trials, no difference how skilfully they are conducted. On the contrary, one will achieve the opposite, one will steer world opinion to a problem that can only maintain itself in dark, unless one has courage to solve the Jewish problem by public discussions and enlightenment. One cannot stop the excited sea at once, but has to let her calm down gradually. Otherwise terrible repercussions will result.

## Urges Accord with Jewry

German anti-Semites have taken the first step. They have to take the second step, too. Jewry has to reconcile herself with Germany and vice versa, for the sake of world peace and of world welfare. Not an armistice, but a peace built on logic, knowledge, clear rights and obligations is necessary. The Jew should make a friend out of Germany and Germany a friend out of the Jew. If humanity is not able to control again the stirred-up emotions, she will perish through them.

The emotions have to be subdued at the starting point, from Germany. They have to be calmed down. Here the outspoken anti-Semites have to become the first fighters for the new and yet so close idea. They have to find the courage to conquer themselves, they have to show their people the way. God has taught me that in my cell in Nuremberg, and now my plan:

(A) First, the creation of a board of Jews and anti-Semites, honestly prepared to travel this road and to find the conditions under which Jews and Germans can live together.

(B) An executive committee, again Jews and Germans together, to execute the agreed-upon arrangements.

(C) An organization for re-education and propaganda to disseminate these ideas down to the smallest village.

## Admits He made Mistake

For the moment I have no more to say. Otherwise my plan will become obscure. Doubtless there is still plenty to be talked over.

German people: Many of you might think me mad or a traitor. They do not realize that I am not admitting a mistake, but that I

am merely coming to a logical conclusion. They cannot perceive that one must have been an anti-Semitic to come to this further step of knowledge. This is why only you, my German people, may dare to invite the Jews to make their future home with you. Is it not strange that nearly all Jews all over the world understand German? Hate and love lie close together.

Who will help you rebuild, my German people? It is a question of confidence. The prerequisite is and remains the solution to the Jewish problem in Germany. German people: Be a good family father, make an honest balance. You have been totally defeated, yet you possess a marvelous logic, idea, and are a great people. God shows you the way. Learn from your downfall. Reconcile yourself with the Jew. Invite him to make his home with you.

Is the Jew prepared to go along? If he is intelligent—yes. If not, then I cannot change that. At least I have done my duty by showing humanity the road. God showed me. If the Jews refuse my plan, then the depicted world catastrophe will take its inevitable course.

## Puts His Faith in God

Should Germany solve the Jewish problem, and grow healthy through it, the whole world would benefit from it. This most burning problem of the whole world would be solved once and for all. Zionism in its present form is not a permanent solution. Germany is ripe to solve the Jewish problem.

I know my plan is bold, almost audacious. If one should ask me what the Fuehrer would have said, my answer would be: "This singular genius, a commander in chief like Hannibal, would not want Germany to perish as Carthage perished."

All I can say is that I dared it, I put it now into the hands of God, from Whom I believe I have received the inspiration and revelation.

Only a few weeks ago, I did not dare to touch the subject of anti-Semitism. Today, it is entirely clear to me. I am possessed with this idea, now God has to help me to bring my thoughts to the appropriate place. I have confidence in Him. He will find the right way.

Signed: Dr. R. Ley.