



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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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Interview on return from France, 1949.

# Press Interview on Return from France 9/1/49

I am pleased to return to Cleveland after a few weeks vacation abroad. I am glad to return refreshed to open the Centennial year of The Temple which will be marked with many interesting activities celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of our religious institution.

I found much less tension in Europe than a year ago and a far better morale among the people generally. There is ~~less~~ less talk of economic collapse and of war. People are at work and the economies of most of the countries of Western Europe are steadily recovering from the terrific dislocations of the last war. The Communist obsession is far less in evidence overseas than in our own country where, ~~at every occasion~~ apparently, it is being stepped up at every occasion when foreign governments decide to help themselves ~~to~~ to the open and generous till of Uncle Sam's treasury, or when our own military establishments want larger appropriations. The Communist issue is certainly there. It will continue to be there. But the peoples of Western Europe do not seem to be panicky about it.

France is showing a remarkable recovery. The English people are at work. The business men are making money. They would like to buy more things than they can ~~pay~~ pay for, but that is true of most of us. The solution, of course, lies in reducing the cost of government, <sup>in</sup> increased production and ~~increased~~ export to the dollar area. The American people should not be expected indefinitely to meet the annual deficit of the British Government. It is questionable how long the United States, in spite of its wealth, can continue with <sup>out</sup> doing <sup>is</sup> ~~reparable~~ hurt to its own economy to pay the cost of arming half the world against the other half, to extend ~~Marshall~~ <sup>Marshall</sup> aid to numerous countries whose demands upon the Marshall Plan do not seem to grow less; and at the same time, <sup>to</sup> ~~cover~~ <sup>around</sup> the deficit of Great Britain.

One definitely gets the feeling that it is high time for our Government to reconsider its foreign policy and its program of economic aid. Both, at the moment, <sup>spasmodically</sup> seem to be expanding <sup>to</sup> unknown borders.

There is also a growing danger of a ~~reborn~~ <sup>revived</sup> neo-Facism or Neo-Naziism in Europe. In our eagerness to unite the world against the Soviet bloc we are feeding the hopes of the reactionary elements in Europe which have been defeated

~~but~~ not destroyed. If there is to be another war in Europe within a decade or two,  
it is more than likely that we shall ~~fight~~ be fighting again an unrepentant and  
undenazified Germany which we shall help to rebuild. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

