



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.

Reel
183

Box
68

Folder
783

Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund, 1950.

1. So engrossed - not aware of the extraordinary and unique character of what we are doing.

Take this Welfare Fund. There is none like it in the world, among any other people and there was nothing like it among our own people in all its long history until the last few years here in the United States.

Community Funds are local in character. Our Welfare Fund is local, national and international. It is global in sweep.

It is not limited to charity or social service. It embraces the full range of the life of a people, including nation-building, culture, education, defense.

It is dedicated to the needs of Jewish life as a whole, everywhere - integrated within itself, and satisfactorily adjusted to the surrounding world.

The beneficiaries of the Fund are not classified according to the kind of Jews they are, their persuasions, their background, their land of origin. The Fund is concerned with Jews, and their needs for life and survival.

The contributors to the Fund likewise are not classified according to the kind of Jews they are - orthodox, conservative, reform - native or foreign-born - Zionist or non-Zionist. The Fund is supported by Jews, anxious to satisfy the needs for life and survival of their fellow-Jews. No credentials are asked of recipients, except that he be a Jew in need. No credentials asked of donor - a Jew at heart.

"Every man finds room in his face for all his ancestors." So have we through

Never was there an agency in Jewish life which so admirably and so completely expressed Jewish unity and solidarity. Here and there, a restless, rickety and hysterical Jew, who lacks the serenity of thorough at-home-ness among his own people, will raise fretful objections to this or that cause, as an excuse for non-giving or niggardly giving (limited).

This is a unique achievement of American Jewry, as significant as anything which Jews have achieved anywhere in hundreds of years. Incomparably excels anything in scale.

It is a tribute to the vision and creative social pioneering of American Jewry, to its practical sense, its organizational skill, and its inward soundness. It is also a happy augury for a united American Israel in the years ahead.

By means of this unparalleled and unique achievement in potent and efficient unity of purpose and action, American Jewry was able to help world Jewry in the last 30 years - on an unprecedented scale, and in a measure not altogether unrelated to the magnitude of its vast and tragic needs.

Without this type of organization which American Jews perfected under the stress of great, compelling emergencies, we could never have saved myriads of our people abroad from the appalling catastrophes which swept over them, nor helped in a decisive manner in the re-establishment of Israel, nor cared for our local needs and institutions in the interim.

2. And so, ~~I urge you~~, ^{please remember} workers of the Welfare Fund, to remember, as you go about the routine work of your solicitation, the ~~fine and exalted~~ ^{noble} and unique character of this Fund. It is a symbol of something very fine and original, something voicing vision, unity and social competence, and prophetic of ~~fine~~ ^{very fine} things to come.

3. If I speak - Unimportant - Totality - gladly accept - Mandate
pol. econ; material + spiritual - in all things - Law, Existence - Key to Survival
Those who run away - Responsible Gentles - Responsibility
4. I speak of Israel - by far the greatest single deed -
most helpful single constructive effort - not only - History
5. It is customary to think, what we have done for
 I should like to speak of what Is. has done - is doing
and will continue to do for us.
6. We have done much - without pol. econ. -
everlasting credit - For what has transpired
Chronicle - Epic
7. What Is. has done for us - 390,000 in 1945 -
the great nations - empty continents -
Is. emptied concentration camps - Israel alone
Amer. Jew. Conf. '43 - 20/25 10/11/21
200 agr. settlements - Expanded ag. & industry
Built tens of thousands of homes - Provided Health
education & social services - Training
granted loans to many - to set them up
in farms & various establishments

- 'Our' Charge - Diaspora obligation - Temple Burden (3)
- To do that - lower their own standard / living - Austerity - eat less & England during war
 - At a time when resources, currency - heavily drained by needs of maintaining large defence army
 - At a time - build up administ. machinery ^{+ Parliament} at initial waste with inflation - high cost, living - low ~~and~~ productivity and a most unprosperous balance of trade.

8 - What an historic service Israel rendered us - in spite of these besetting hardships & struggles

- Still to do - (Iraq) Burma, Hungary - Moslems

- There was no place before 1948 - (Gos-daniches)

It is prepared to serve as - Gos Tok - are we?

9 - How long will Israel be in need of our help?
As long as we turn to Israel to help us!

10 - We built Israel that it would do just that - first
stilly - Best Garrison ^{the pressure}

And having begun - we cannot stop mid-way

In State-building - 113 x 2 hours - (Commitments)

11 - Because the men & women of Israel - believed in the earnestness, our purpose - they (Fought)
(Research).

12. They took in their overwhelming no. of untrained
volunteers

dangerously complicating their economy - relying. (4)

13 - Enemies hoped that we would leave them on
the bench -

- Enemies - don't want Israel to recover econ.

- This would lead to pol. collapse

- Reason for not making peace - Oil to Haifa -
ships not allowed thru Suez - Bryce ft

In anticipation - re-armament Bevin ^{st. 28}

If our campaign fails - encouragement -
- destroy - drive Israeli into sea -

14 - If I knew my people - too loyal - too
determined, too wise -

We shall not, with our ~~own~~ hands, destroy
in the country - we want Israel to take
care not also there -

It needs numbers to be secure!

15 - Hard? Yes - Hard and glorious! When was
our lot, as a people, easy? We may be God's chosen -

God's favored people ^{persecuted} but no time - Conquest
Canaan - Rebuilding after Babel ^{to-day} - to-day
Toughened - It's all po - Rise from ashes
2nd world war

16/ It was Jefferson: "We are not to expect to be trampled - (s)
trd from despotism to liberty in a feather bed"
From Humberman - to harkinson - to Nat. Freedom

17/ Early struggles of our Republic - Shays' rebellion

18/ 3 stages in Establishment of Israel - 3 Struggles
Up to Nov. 47 - The Pol. Struggle - enemies
48 - - The military Struggle - 6 Arab States
- (also) - no aid from U.S. - (Arabs blockade)

Since ~~since~~ 8 months - The Economic Struggle +

19/ We had to show that we wanted it -
that we were prepared to pay for it
- now - that we are prepared to sustain it

20/ "Architecture is frozen music" - (For the)
State-Building is ^{unfolding} rebirth & persistent spirit.

(21) What has Israel done for us? The new dignity -
What is it worth to us - ending curse of Galut?
- bringing back music to our
"hearts, pride to our souls, and wild,
creative delight to our people -
"Self-thrills - from hearts of our children."

What is it worth to us - "after the silence, the /6
centuries an Voice is heard again, free and
unswerving, in the Council, Nations -

22/ A great day awaits - here - in Israel -
if - carry on - unflinchingly - along the road
which leads from away from darkness, danger
and insecurity towards light and
The Road may be long - but leads to
Security - Dignity and peace.

