



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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Invocation, Republican National Convention, 1952.

Rabbi Silver Asks Blessing on Throng

BY RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

(Invocation Delivered at Republican National Convention)

"Our kind Father in Heaven, we invoke Thy blessing upon the men and women who are gathered here who have been delegated to voice the hopes and needs of millions of their fellow citizens whom they represent and to take counsel together in behalf of our beloved country, its democratic institutions and concerning the many grave problems which beset our people and our world.

"May Thy spirit rest upon them in their deliberations, the spirit of wisdom and understanding. Conscious of their great responsibilities, may they perform their tasks faithfully, in truth, in courage and in loyalty. In the heat and turmoil of the hour may the vision of the larger issues and the paramount national purposes not fail them; for without vision a people perishes.

Bountiful Favors

"Our God and God of our fathers out of thine open hand bountiful favors have come to us, material and spiritual blessings without number and the manifold gifts of civil, political and religious liberty. We are not so self-righteous as to assume that these bounties have been bestowed upon us because of our exceptional merit and virtues and not because of thine overflowing grace. All that we have we owe to Thee and unto Thee alone shall our hearts bow in humility and thanksgiving.

"We pray that thy loving hand may never be withdrawn from us and that we may prove ourselves worthy of thine abundant goodness. Help us zealously to guard and reverently to pass on to our children the spiritual and political heritage of their forebears unimpaired and undefiled. Help us, oh God, to keep our hearts free from fear and hate, from intolerance and bigotry and from loss of faith in human equality and brotherhood. Help us to keep our minds unshackled in the quest of truth, our speech free and responsible, our institutions strong and uncorrupted and our cherished way of life inviolate.

Summoned to Lead

"Father of nations, the generations of men come and go before Thee. Unto each dost thou assign its special task and mission. In thine unfathomable plan thou hast summoned this nation to world leadership in an age dark with confusion, beset with dangers and yet alive and tense with the stirrings of great new beginnings. Make us worthy and willing instruments of thy divine purposes. Use us for the healing of the nations, oh, thou ruler of all nations. Use us for justice, for freedom, for unity and for peace. Help us to move resolutely and unafraid into the searching days which lie ahead, relying upon Thee, and upon the unseen power behind all visible might and drawing our inspiration from our own prophetic task, from the imperishable movements in our history when we were tried as a people, tried and tested in crisis and battle and were not found wanting.

"Guide us into a glad acceptance of our growing responsibilities as we assume leadership in the fellowship of the nations of the world, accepting no permanent divisions among them and giving no credence to any irrepressible conflicts.

Calls for Blessing

"Bless the United Nations, and all those who seek peace and pursue it. Gird us with that faith which will inspire us to seek opportunities for unity with other peoples in the building of the good society, the gracious common-

wealth of humanity when each man shall dwell under his vine and under his fig tree and none shall make him afraid.

"Bless the government of the United States of America and all those into whose hands are entrusted the safety of our institutions and the well-being of our people.

"Bless America and all who love her, and labor on her behalf in mine and field, factory and office, in places of learning, of research, of art and of healing. Make us who are the fortunate heirs of a great past the dedicated builders of a greater future for ourselves and for mankind."





REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

CHICAGO, JULY 1952

To

You are hereby appointed
Chaplain

of the Republican National Convention
Please report at Convention Headquarters,
Chicago, for duty at the
Convention, not later
than 10 A. M. July
seventh



Sincerely Yours

[Signature]

CHAIRMAN
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE