



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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Prayer for broadcast, inauguration, 1953.

The hearts of all who love America are filled at this time with earnest and prayerful good wishes for the new President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who is to be inaugurated next Tuesday, and for all the members of the new administration, ~~who are assuming office~~. They are assuming the grave responsibility of office in times full of promise as well as of danger. The age in which we live is a great age, one of the greatest in human history. ~~We~~ ^{It} is too much involved in its turmoils, fears and conflict ^{to} see the amazing new patterns of life which are emerging. Great and historic things are ~~most~~ assuredly coming to pass. More is being done in our day for the improvement of the conditions of the common man, for the raising of his standard of living, his health, his education ^{and} ~~and for his protection against the disabilities of sickness, old age and unemployment~~ than in any generation - ^{than} in any five generations of the past. Never were more determined efforts made to bring about a fairer sharing of the wealth that is produced and a better way of life for all. Never have the submerged races and peoples of the earth risen, as they have risen in our day, to demand and to achieve freedom and self-determination.

What we are witnessing in our day, if we have eyes to see not only things but into the heart of things, is not social disintegration, but a radical new reintegration of humanity, a profound ^{change,} and rapid acceleration in the social evolution of man. Our age is moving purposefully in the right direction - the reduction of poverty, the elimination of racial inequalities, and the abolition of war. But at the moment, the prospect of the abolition of war seems very remote indeed, and war constitutes the most imminent danger to the continued progress of man and nations. This is the problem which the twentieth century must solve.

Destiny has singled out our beloved country, ~~the foremost democracy on earth,~~ to give leadership to the world today in this direction, and to lead mankind out of the social, political and economic predicaments in which it finds itself. This is

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the American century. I believe that American leadership can prove itself equal to the challenge, if it will take counsel of faith and not of fear, and if it will be guided by the deep insights and wise perspectives of the Founding Fathers of our Republic. We are not unequipped for the task of leadership. We are not wanting in strength, in experience or in ^{inspiring} traditions.

However, to lead successfully, we must remain free at home, firm in our ideals and politically uncorrupted. If our own free institutions and the moral character of our own people are undermined, the great hope of mankind for a new birth of freedom will have perished.

At this hour, therefore, when a new President and a new administration is coming into office to conduct the affairs of our beloved country, we pray most earnestly for the ~~President~~ ^{elect} of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Keep him with great kindness, O Lord. Give Thy servant a wise and understanding heart that he may walk in the midst of Thy great people in truth and in uprightness of heart, and guide it in righteousness and in love. May Thy spirit rest upon his counselors and advisers and all the representatives of our people, that vision and courage may not ~~forsake~~ ^{fail} them in the critical days which lie ahead. May it be given unto them to lead our nation in the ways of justice and ^{freedom} ~~righteousness~~, of tolerance and good will, and guide the peoples of the earth in the ways of brotherhood and peace. May our chosen leaders ever be mindful of the noble ideals, which pioneers and settlers of the wilderness, pilgrims and puritans and soldiers of freedom, bequeathed to us, and through us, as a sacred trust, to the whole of mankind. Amen.

— May the Lord bless you and keep you —
— May the Lord cause the light of His countenance
to shine upon you and be merciful unto you
— May the Lord lift his countenance upon you and
give you peace