



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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Statement on the investigation of ministers, 1953.

*Statement in investigation of 5378
ministers, Mar. 10 1953
For Cleve. News*

American ministers have always expressed their views on political matters which were vital to the American people from the days of the American Revolution through the Civil War and in every crisis up to the present time. The concept of separation of church ~~st~~ and state applies only to the question of an established church and of religion as a qualification for the holding of any office in our government. Beyond that, every American citizen, regardless of his profession or calling, is free to express his views on all matters affecting his country. It would be a sad day indeed if discussion of political matters were left exclusively in the hands of professional politicians whose concept, both of the nature of politics and of religion is frequently so murky.

If ministers preach treason or the violent overthrow of our government, they are, of course, subject to the same laws of our country which are applicable to all of us alike. I am sure that the spiritual leaders of America will not be embarrassed or intimidated by any such contemplated investigation.