



## 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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Reel  
185

Box  
69

Folder  
900

Problem of freedom, 1955.

# 1) Easy Assignment.

"Place emphasis on the fact that the individual citizen can have a real impact on public opinion"

Glad to do so! - Pub. opinion in a democ. is always the work of ind. citizens - first one, then a few, then some more, then many - then a majority. - Bible - any man -

Some-times - very rapid - desperately slow.

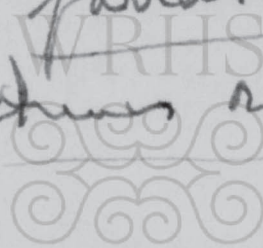
Public officials pay close attention - He who does not -

Eager to hear - virtually - fringe groups -

probably - The good people - broad, wholesome -

difficult - superior - direct communication

Great Mistake! fanatic propagandists of harmful & extreme doctrines a measure count - flood





2. Deeds depend upon the alert participation of the individual in the deuce process - It is a responsibility which cannot be delegated or ignored. Else the deuce machinery - and deuce machinery is a deceit as well as a fact - is unwarranted by default to the enemy of deuce.

3. All human progress begins with one voice crying in the wilderness & if that voice is an authentic voice, speaking truth, it will be joined by other voices - and soon a chorus of voices, strong and undividedly, is heard demanding a new and free way for the advancing man.



This is how the past world is built.

All moral precepts in the 10 Com. - are devoted to end peace regulation.

~~through the fact that one hundred women had been on a helping journey~~  
~~and Christianity came about~~  
~~which was another, to save him, placed him in a little boat along the shore~~  
~~that the world is very the first~~

4. Deeds maintain important life the wide way in a deuce.  
most life proof of its importance by showing  
in the day - by day tasks whereas incidentally the deuce  
and the preservation Deeds way (life).



5/ "Bring out the fact that "the good old days" were not (3)  
necessarily so good. To-day we have made progress - but  
it has to be much better. And every citizen is involved  
in making it better"





# MISSING PAGE (S)





6/ I believe that this age is ~~in~~ <sup>what we live - great age -</sup>

There are very few people who see this age of ours as a great age. I am persuaded that it is a truly great age. Historic events, great in amplitude and consequence, are coming to pass in our day. I am not thinking at the moment of the new worlds which science is continually disclosing, the new insights into the nature of matter and energy, the new sources of power and wealth, the new methods of production, distribution, transportation and communication. I am not referring to the amazing progress in the medical sciences which has so markedly improved the health of the human race and increased the average length of life, nor to the marvels of engineering and the miracles of construction.

In characterizing our age as great, I am thinking in terms of social progress and welfare, in terms of human advancement and civilization. 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 for his protection against the disabilities of sickness, unemployment and old age, than in any generation, than in any five generations in the past. Never were more determined efforts being 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, as they have to a large measure achieved, freedom and self-determination. Within the last seven years one-fourth of the earth's population - more than five hundred million non-self-governing people - have obtained their political freedom. Imperialism and colonialism are in their death-throes. Backward peoples are pressing forward into the light of a new day, and the exploitation of the dark races of the earth is rapidly drawing to a close.

What we are witnessing in our day, if we have eyes not only to see things, but to see into the heart of things, is not social disintegration, but a radical new reintegration of humanity, a profound change in the social evolution of man, a change not free, of course, from dangers - for there is no progress without danger - but one of boundless and immeasurable potentialities.



I do not wish to overdraw the picture. I am not suggesting that our age is approaching idyllic perfection, or that the millenium is just around the corner.

The important thing to consider is not whether we are on the eve of the millenium, but whether the major trends of our age are in the direction of the hoped-for good society, or away from it. Is our age trying to eradicate poverty and illiteracy and to raise the standard of living of people, regardless of race or color or creed? Is it trying to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of peoples to national freedom and independence? Is it trying to organize the world for peace and for international cooperation? I believe that in all these major trends, our age has given welcome evidence of great determination and of considerable progress. It is moving purposefully in the right direction - the abolition of war, the reduction of poverty, and the elimination of racial inequality. These are the three major trends of our century, ~~and they are the major trends both in the East and the West, in the Communist as well as in the non-Communist world.~~ What is tearing these worlds apart is a difference not of ideology or objective, but of method.

Ours is a great age, and I believe we are entering into an ever greater age. The wave of the future, the true direction of man's pilgrimage and destiny may be, from time to time, thwarted and opposed, dammed up, as it were, and obstructed, drawn off and retarded, but it cannot be permanently estopped.

In our day this moral forward thrust of man has encountered the stubborn and insolent resistance of materialism, of Nazism, of Fascism and of Communist dictatorship. These have violently resisted the spiritual aspirations which constitute mankind's wave of the future. They put shackles on man, even when they promised him larger freedoms. They divided and stratified men, even when they prated about a classless society. They fomented war even when they preached peace. But the on-moving tides of man's spirit, fathoms deep and irresistible have now swept over the shattered ruins of some of these sinister aberrations and dark conspiracies of the rebels against light - though they have not as yet entirely obliterated them. And the tides are now whirling around the bastions of the remaining dictatorships of



the earth. They will surely succumb. They cannot, in the long run, win in the contest for man's heart and man's loyalties. Man has struggled through the long, weary centuries to free himself from the bondage of nature. He will not voluntarily and for long submit to the bondage of man. Neither dictatorship nor racialism nor statism nor militarism can or will command the fortunes of the human race. They represent the sunk wreckage of the past which the storms of our day have dredged up again from the bottom of their buried depths and have set them afloat again dangerously along the ship lanes of the world.

The coming age will be a great age for America. The next hundred years at least seem likely to be known, I believe, as the "American Century," in the same sense as the 19th century was "The Century of Great Britain." Destiny has singled out our beloved country, the foremost democracy on earth, to give leadership to the world and to lead mankind out of the grave social, political and economic predicament in which it finds itself. I believe that American leadership will 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 prophetic insights and the wide perspectives of the Founding Fathers of this Republic.

I believe that our age will find the formula of toleration which will enable the many evolving and the fluid forms of capitalism and socialism to work out their destinies in the one world in which we live. They may be irreconcilable in theory; they need not be in practice.

America will lead in finding the way. The way is not that of a global armament race which will impoverish the peoples of the earth - ourselves included - and end as such races always end - in the catastrophe of war. The way is rather that of conference, of courageous diplomacy, of giving urgent leadership in the United Nations to a program of speedy and balanced reduction of armament and help to the backward peoples of the earth.

To this kind of leadership the world will respond; a leadership which does not wait on the occasion but makes it, which is prepared to take calculated risks for



The next theme for euphoric which was suggested to me:  
' Stress the fact that dramatic things which an individual does are not necessarily the most important'

- Life is not a series of dramatic acts - of head-line achievements - but of the quiet, patient work of day-by-day building -

- What makes up the strength of a community - nation

- Not all the members of a ladder are at the top -

- ~~The drama~~ all the characters cannot be stars - all important

- Occasionally a violent eruption in nature - like

alter the top people - earthquake - volcanic eruption -

- But the peace, the earth is being changed daily and hourly by the slow erosion of the year - the weather, the sun, the rain - The water which wear down the stones -

The roots which break through the solid rock -

- what is important - is a decent - defending on each other as - is high faithful living -

(1) community - with maximum loyalty - sharing -

(2) thinking - independently - consciously - prejudices -