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Jewish Welfare Federation, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1955.

THE BIGGEST GIFT TO THE BIGGEST CAMPAIGN
TO MEET THE BIGGEST NEEDS

JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION

615 N. ALABAMA STREET, INDIANAPOLIS 4, INDIANA, ME. 4-4311

April 11, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi:

We are looking forward with much anticipation to your being with us on the occasion of our Dinner opening our 1955 Jewish Welfare Federation Campaign.

At the suggestion of Mr. Maurel Rothbaum, our president, I am sending on to you an outline of some aspects of our local situation that may be of interest to you in connection with your speech.

From a point of some \$1,000,000 raised in 1948, our community has dropped consistently in its campaign to a point where last year it raised only \$357,000. After literally months of wrestling with budgetary problems we were forced to budget a deficit amount, even with drastic slashes to beneficiary agencies.

Some of us have the impression that our larger contributors have been falling to a comfortable level of giving so rapidly that our very campaign structure is in jeopardy. Our budgeting last year was involved with endless wrangling and quarreling in an effort to allocate the substantially reduced funds available, with the result that there was an increase in bickering and disunity in the community and the tendency on the part of beneficiary agencies to seek to obtain funds at the expense of each other.

As you know, Indianapolis suffered a most serious conflict some three years ago which tended to drastically divide the community as between Federation and Bonds, and to leave deep scars. We have been making a most intensive effort in recent months to heal these wounds, and recently at a joint meeting of Federation and Bond leaders unanimous agreement was reached on the part of all concerned to try to do a total community job on behalf of the Federation campaign. We have attempted in other ways and with other groups to also unify the community behind this campaign.

In many ways ours probably is the most outstanding city of its size in the extent and quality of the local programs that we have developed over the years. Our local agencies include: a Jewish Community Center, the weekday religious school, a fine home for the aged, a Jewish Social



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Services Agency, a local Jewish Community Relations Agency and a summer camp. All these agencies benefit substantially from our campaign, and will be required to drastically reduce program and/or personnel in the face of reduced funds. Our community's investment in these agencies over these many years may well be lost if adequate funds are not raised.

In addition, we have entered an agreement for an allocation of 53% of net raised to the United Jewish Appeal; this represents an increase from the percentage allocated last year. In the course of the years the proportion of allocations made by Indianapolis to the UJA has dropped substantially as the funds raised have decreased. It is vital that our people recognize that regardless of diminishing intensity of needs in Israel and overseas, the need has not decreased to anywhere near the proportion that the funds given in our community have decreased.

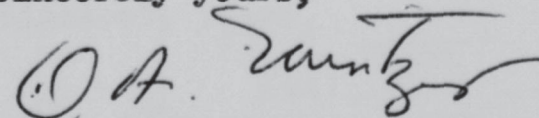
Finally, Indianapolis supports a host of other cultural, educational, national services, community relations, welfare and religious institutions all of whom have suffered drastically in the face of declining funds, and many of whom have been forced to seek other sources to supplement their income from this community. The result is that there has been an intensification of pressure on local proponents of the various organizations with a growing tendency on their part to forget, in their anxiety to raise a bit more money for their particular organization, that the central source of funds is our Annual Federation Drive. We have consequently suffered a decline not only in giving, but in working.

Our Federation Board has established the minimum requirements of our campaign for this year at \$435,000, representing an increase of almost 25% from last year. We have received assurance from a score of large contributors that they will give more. However, we must obtain from them sufficiently more to balance the reductions that we may suffer from other contributors for various reasons.

This community is wealthy in money and in interest. It has the capacity to give in large amounts and somehow we must reacquaint ourselves with the needs for those large amounts. I know that the inspiration that you will give us should help immeasurably in accomplishing this purpose.

If I can help with additional information in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,



Oscar A. Mintzer
Executive Director

OAM:mc

What stronger friend has our country in that part of the world? Shall America repeat the tragic blunder of Great Britain which for years sacrificed the legitimate rights of the Jewish people in Palestine and dishonored her pledges and commitments in order to woo and appease the Arab world, only to find herself in the end hated and betrayed by the whole Arab world? The White Paper of '39 which was intended to put an end for all time to the hope of a Jewish State in Palestine, only served to usher in the rapid and fateful disintegration of British influence in the entire Middle East. The influence of the free world in that area of fateful political arbitrament in the coming years will likewise not be achieved through any program of appeasement at the expense of Israel. What is indicated is not small-time political juggling and boundary gerrymandering, but large-visioned statesmanship which will give maximum support to the hard-pressed but intrinsically sound and dependable State of Israel, as well as maximum support to the backward Arab states to improve the lot of their people, raise their standard of living, health and education, and so revive the whole Near East and usher in an era of great development and prosperity for all. The Arab world, once convinced by the affirmative attitude and co-operation of the Great Powers that the State of Israel is there to stay, strong and defended, will make peace—a peace which will be a boon to them as well as to Israel. Together they will command the resources, the manpower, the technical skill and the enterprise to revolutionize that vast, rich, but neglected section of the earth. Together, in cooperation, they will achieve what in hostility and conflict they can only forfeit.

Why are we here? To see that all this comes about! And until all this does come about, to insure that our own help and support, which we ourselves control, will continue uninterruptedly. We cannot control or direct the world's support, and from experience we have learned that its understanding of a situation is frequently tardy and insufficient.

Herein lies the answer to the second question: why are we raising money for Israel? At the moment money is the life-blood of the whole enterprise. It should not be overlooked that in its present financial straits, Israel is no different from other nations, some of them much greater, older and richer—Great Britain, for example, and France and Italy. They all find themselves in grave economic distress, and they have turned for help not once but many

times in recent years, and again this year, to the United States. In the five-year period between 1945-1950, our government extended to foreign countries nearly 19 billion dollars in grants and 10½ billions more in credits.

Nor is the economic history of Israel different from the history of our own country at the time of its founding. Commenting on the financial difficulties which confronted the American Colonies before the Revolution, the Beards write in "The Rise of American Civilization":

For goods bought in English markets, the colonists had no large supply of precious metals with which to pay; they were always heavily in debt for commodities purchased and capital borrowed. ~~Efforts to secure specie, bills of exchange, and acceptable materials by means of which to discharge their obligations in London kept them at their wits' ends . . .~~ Turn and twist as they might, the colonist continually labored under the disabilities of chronic debtors.

Of their difficulties during the Revolution, they write:

Between 1775 and 1779, the Congress issued about two hundred and forty million dollars in bills to be redeemed by the states on a quota basis, a huge total almost equalled by the emissions of the local legislatures, making in the end over four hundred and fifty millions in such notes.

The next resort was domestic and foreign loans. Certificates, similar to modern bonds, were sold in the home market through loan offices set up in the states . . . To this unstable pyramid was attached a mass of certificates issued by military officers and by supply agents to pay for food, clothing, and other goods impressed for the use of the army. After the conflict was advanced a little way, help was obtained from abroad. Small subsidies, in the form of gifts, were secured from France and Spain. These were followed by regular loans . . . It is difficult to believe that the Congress could have staggered through the Revolution if it had not procured such generous financial assistance from the government at Paris . . . The confusion that reigned in the operations of this fiscal system defies description. As paper money was poured out by the Congress, it fell rapidly in value: in 1779 one paper dollar was worth only two or three cents in specie. Attempts to stabilize it were futile; it slipped almost steadily downward into the abyss, until at length there was no term of contempt so expressive as "not worth a continental" . . .

Of the period after the Revolution, the Beards write:

Seven years of war, waged by an improvised Continental Congress without traditions, authority or strength, had thrown all economic functions into confusion and disorganized society in every direction . . .

In an equally chaotic condition were the current finances. The Congress in due course made requisitions on the states to pay its bills, but it was fortunate if it

received in any year one-fourth of the amount demanded, and during the last 14 months of its life, less than half a million in paper money was paid into the treasury—not enough to meet the interest on the foreign debt alone.

Such is the history of all countries who had to pass through the rugged stages of pioneering days or the upheavals of wars and revolutions. Why some of us expected that the new State of Israel would be spared these inevitable experiences has always been a mystery to me.

The answer to our third question: how long will we have to continue to do it? does not entirely rest with us. Assuredly as long as we shall ask of Israel to accept and harbor homeless or endangered fellow-Jews from this or that part of the world—and as long as those whom we have already sent there are still a financial burden upon the State—so long will we have to give our support. As long as the war danger exists on the borders of Israel and there is need for costly defense measures to insure survival, so long will we want to assist in ways which will lighten the burden.

As rapidly, however, as the country, through its expanding industry, trade, commerce and agriculture, reaches a point of economic safety and balance, just so rapidly will the need of outside aid in the form of campaigns subside. The citizens of Israel and their government are straining their every nerve, working with heart and brain under a high intolerable strain and stress to set their house in order, and to make their country self-sustaining as quickly as possible. They make mistakes, to be sure. How could it be otherwise? And we have a right to insist that they learn from their mistakes and abandon methods which retard the country's progress. We must not hesitate to offer honest criticism even when some of their leaders do not like it—and in their pique make foolish and mischievous statements. There is no immunity from criticism in a free world by citizens of one's own country or by those of another, especially when large-scale and continuing support is solicited from citizens of another country, and their favorable opinion and good will are vital to its progress and stability. Friendly criticism which is involved in the very nature of any covenant of cooperation should be welcomed and carefully weighed by both sides. The Israeli are anxious to become self-dependent and not rely indefinitely upon assistance from without even if it is given willingly by their fellow-Jews. When that time arrives, there will be no further need for campaigns to assist the Israeli economy. Jews may then

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by other powers - set up a functioning unit. (3)

What remains - States machinery - Hardwork to power

- in long, hard pull ahead

- this is severe test of all. - It is our stake -

our staying power -

- We who were long-suffering in exile - long-enduring
for freedom!

We who were patient patient with needs of a free
only 3 yr. old.

- If we fail in this - stand condemned future
braggarts - who imposed upon credulity
- were really competent to build.

- It does not require much wisdom, native - States

6/ Why, then, are we here? To see that this does not happen!

- affliction - to undo - disaffection

What we set our hand to do - in less faith high
enthusiasm - complete - in self-respect, loyalty, honor!

7/ this is why we shall continue to stand by - trials
- we assumed freedom can maintain to be

(a) We placed the barriers - 600,000 pennies - acted the
part to receive - gladly - but at what cost -

Valley Forge - Are we really free to destroy?

(b) Still a sawdust - endowment -

- who can predict the future -

(c) Allied with them in our destiny for all time

- One people - before State - Mystric card has not been posted - 14
- Estab. of State - only seem to sherry her
- One loyalty to them - not political - don't carry out
- On the contrary - we share with them - such a
- correspondence of Sp. outlook - democr. ideals - of
- fund concepts of sovereignty & human personality
- unalienable rights - demerit - natural allies
- as well as strong & defend. allies with rest of the world

8/ Our own beloved country - seeking allies -
ground out - to cement a firm union for
common defense.

As tax-payers - to the liberal - aid, grants & subsidies
 If, in addition, we free of America - contribute out
 to the econ. recovery - most pressing & defensible
 - vital to cause, free world - blamed or outlandish

- What stronger friend?

Should America repeat the tragic blunders of B.
 - no and offer Arab world - hated & betrayed

- White Paper, 39 - most aid - only served to make
in the report of tonight's outgrabs of B. - unless
Statesmanship - large - criticism - Together - perfect

9/ Why are we asking Mary? like Lord -

No diff. from other countries - econ. distress have
turned

But 1945-50 - 19% in grants; 10% in credit

Now is econ. hint - diff. - as our country stands