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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
185

Box
69

Folder
912

Bridges and walls, 1955.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE 74th ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the
NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
in
BOSTON, MASS.

Oct 13, 1955

by

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Cleveland, Ohio

We do not speak much today of humanity. We speak a great deal about nations, classes, races, regional interests, regional defenses, of East and West. Our international vocabulary is rich in terms which suggest competitive segments of humanity and their strategies of conflict. It is rather poor in terms suggesting mankind and the basic unity of the human family. But it is just this latter concept that our historic religions have stressed these many centuries. The humbling thought for all of our religions today is the sad realization that they have not fulfilled their promise and their mission in the world. This is said, not in disparagement of the seers and prophets who proclaimed the eternal truths of their religions — truths without which all that is achieved by others in the realms of the arts and the sciences soon turns into dust. The failure is not theirs but ours, for as often as not we pay homage only with our lips to the truths which they proclaimed. All too often we have permitted formalism and sectarian propaganda to quench their prophetic fires. At times we have even made of our several religious affiliations and loyalties occasions for bigotry and fanaticism. We have forgotten what they taught is that the one universal God does not require one universal church in which to be worshipped, but one universal devotion to His moral law.

MISSING PAGE (S)



Undertaken

It has been my conviction that such ways can be found and that inspired statesmanship can find the ways. If Communism were, like Fascism and Nazism, committed to basic human inequality; to the creation of a society of self-designated supermen to preside over an hierarchy of subservient lower classes; if Communism were committed to the enthronement of one superior race over all other races and to the exploitation of all others or the extermination of those which it regarded as inferior or undesirable; if it were wedded to the traditions of militarism and the idealization of war, as Fascism and Nazism were, then no way could possibly be found which would enable the two systems of the East and the West to live together for long, side by side in the same world.

But these are not the tenets of Communism. They are not found in their texts or in their official scriptures; they are not taught to their youth; nor propagated in their press or in their literature. They abhor these concepts and social aberrations quite as much as we do.

Inasmuch as the basic ethical ideals touching the status and the destiny of man are more or less common to both systems, ways can be found which would make it possible for them to live and to work out their destinies in the same world. The method of proletarian dictatorship is not our method. It is a method which must lead and has led to lamentable abuses and grave oppression, but it is for the Soviet peoples to correct it. It is for us to have confidence in our democratic method and to find for mankind a way out of its dangerous impasse.

✓ Destiny has singled out our own beloved country, the foremost democracy on earth, to give leadership to the world today and to lead mankind out of the predicament in which it finds itself. This is the American century in the same sense as the nineteenth century was the century of Great Britain. I believe that American leadership can prove itself equal to the challenge if it will take counsel of faith and not of

fear, and will be guided by the prophetic insights and the wide 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 traditions.

We have a strong and secure base. Ours is a land of vast natural resources. It is not a starved and crowded land. We are not doomed to a low standard of living unless we squander our resources, permit our fertile lands to turn into deserts and barren wastes, and allow our life-nourishing soil to be washed into the seas. The deadliest foe of democracy is not Stalinism but poverty. There need be no poverty in our land. With intelligent management, we can produce abundance for all, without expropriating the possessions of any.

We are a young nation - young in spirit and in outlook. We do not belong to the past, ~~although all the cultural treasures of the past are available to us.~~ The past belongs to us. We are not handicapped by Old World animosities although from time to time these do unfortunately creep into our national life, and bedevil it. We have no threatening neighbors on our frontiers. There is not a single nation in the Old World which has not reason to be suspicious of one or more of its immediate neighbors.

Being young, we are not set in our ways, and we are not afraid to experiment. We can still see things with the hopeful eyes of youth. Politically, we are not tired, spent or cynical, but resilient and hopeful.

We have a fine capacity for self-criticism - sometimes to excess. We are at times too sensitive about what other people think of us. Fortunately, we are not given to self-glorification and national exhibitionism. We are ready to acknowledge our mistakes, to take the blame for them and not to blame others for them. ~~We know how to reverse ourselves when need be.~~

We are not fragmentized politically. We do not suffer from a host of small beligerent political parties, intransigent in their petty and unimportant divergencies which have so often brought democratic governments in the Old World into disrepute and

at times, actually destroyed them. By and large, we have retained a two-party system of government. People have sometimes expressed regret over the fact that there is so little difference between the two parties. That is our good fortune. When their differences become vast and irreconcilable, we shall be confronted with real danger indeed. The very fluidity in our political party lines is our salvation. It means that progress can be made here without revolution.

Ours is a long established democracy, nearly 175 years old. Our democratic institutions have passed through many crises including a Civil War, but they have survived. It is significant that no long established democracy in the world has succumbed to totalitarianism. Nazism, Fascism and Communism took over countries where no long democratic traditions existed, whose peoples were not experienced in the disciplines and responsibilities of self-government. Here we have long accustomed ourselves to governing ourselves. The idea of being ruled by a Fuhrer, a Duce, or a Commissar is repugnant to our very souls. We do not worship authority. We accept it, but subject it to numerous checks and balances to safeguard the over-riding authority of the people.

We have a long established tradition of basic and inalienable human rights, for which men are so desperately reaching out today. We believe that these rights are ours as a gift of God, as part of our endowment as human beings. They are not given to us by the state, and they are not subject to the veto of the state.

We believe in human equality, and even though we have not always lived up to the full implications of this fundamental faith, we are resolved to approximate them as rapidly as we can. We know that men differ, but not in their essential humanity. We know that nations differ, but not in any organic sense.

Such is our heritage; such is our equipment for the role of leadership to which destiny has summoned our country in this great revolutionary age. I believe that they are adequate if wisely and courageously employed.

EXCERPT FROM

"BRIDGES AND WALLS"

Address to be delivered by

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

before the National Funeral Directors Association

October 12, 1955

Among the most inspiring symbols in the speech and thought of mankind are bridges and walls. I have always been fascinated by them. They have so much to say.

Walls have their definite value and purpose in our lives. They give us shelter, security, and privacy. They carve for us out of unlimited space which is too vast for us to dominate, a smaller area which we can subdue to our needs. They enclose us in a manageable world which we can master. This gives us a sense of at-homeness which is good for us. Walls and fences often also serve a good purpose in defining beyond the peradventure of doubt what is ours and what is our neighbors. The poet Robert Frost put it: "Good fences make good neighbors." To the building of such walls for protection, privacy, and ownership, there can be no objection. They are part of the necessary routine of civilized life.

But there are other walls which men erect which serve no such good purpose, but on the contrary, are harmful to the best interests of society.

Prejudice, intolerance, race and group hatreds are tragic walls which men build around themselves. Our age has witnessed the erection of many such forbidding walls. Whenever there is unhappiness, discontent or unrest among men, racial and religious bigots swarm out of their dark holes, sweep over the land and sow the dragon seed of division, discord and hate.

Sometimes even good and respectable people build walls around themselves which are effective blocks to mutual understanding and good will. They build walls of social exclusiveness. They segregate themselves in some illusory eminence and hug to their bosoms the delusion that they are somehow better than the common run of humanity. In the sight of God there are, of course, no Brahmins and no untouchables - only children of the dust who, in their brief careers on earth, may find a measure of happiness by helping one another in goodness and sharing with one another in love.

Our world is divided today by political walls and iron curtains. There are those who would build these walls still higher, who resent those who suggest ways for razing these walls and leveling them off. In every age there have been the wall-building doctrinaires, the exponents of the irreconcilable. Either I or you survive! No middle road - no meeting ground - no compromise! This, of course, is the fateful road to war, and wars only serve to erect new walls on the ruined foundations of the old.

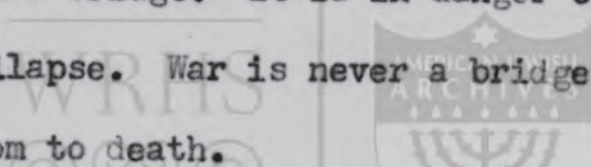
There are nations which put their trust and security in strong walls, in impregnable Maginot lines, in Chinese walls. But they all crumble sooner or later. "The Lord God hath a day upon every lofty tower and upon every fortified wall." A nation must not put its sole trust in armament, even as formidable as atomic bombs. The very strength of a nation often brings about its downfall. It becomes over-confident, and precipitate; it drains off its strength in endless military adventures; its domestic economy breaks down, and unrest and revolution finally weaken it and prepare it for ultimate defeat.

A nation should put its trust in the strength of its moral and intellectual life, the justice and fairness of its laws and institutions, the well-being and contentment of its citizens, the moral training of its youth, and the stability of its homes.

Our religions urged men to be builders of bridges rather than of walls. Life

abounds in tragic chasms which separate men, in deep rivers and their swift, dark currents. Men should learn to build bridges across them, and bridges are more difficult to build than walls. Charity, compassion, sympathy, magnanimity, great-mindedness are such bridges. So is friendship; so is tolerance; so is brotherhood. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" is perhaps the noblest and most enduring of all bridges ever devised. "With malice towards none, with charity for all," is another bridge which an immortal American built across a river of blood and civil war.

Every earnest effort at international understanding and cooperation is a bridge leading to the Kingdom of God, to the good society. The League of Nations was such a bridge. It collapsed. Bridges often collapse and must be rebuilt. The United Nations is such a bridge. It is in danger of collapse. We must see to it that it does not collapse. War is never a bridge. At best it is a Bridge of Sighs leading men from doom to death.



ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE WORLD BROTHERHOOD

IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

July 14, 1955

by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Cleveland, Ohio, U. S. A.

We do not speak much today of humanity. We speak of the interests of nations, classes, races, regional interests and regional defenses of East and West. Our international vocabulary is rich today in terms which suggest competitive segments of humanity and their strategies of conflict. It is rather poor in terms suggesting mankind and the basic unity of the human family. It is just this latter concept that our great religions have tried to stress these many centuries. The humbling thought for all religions today is the sad realization that they have not fulfilled their promise and their mission in the world. This is not to the discredit of the seers and prophets of these religions who proclaimed these eternal truths without which all that men achieve of the arts and the sciences soon turns into dust, but to the fact that in the main, we have been paying homage only with our lips to the truths which they proclaimed, and often we have permitted formalism and ecclesiasticism to quench their fire and have even made of specific religious affiliations occasions for bigotry and fanaticism, forgetting that the one universal God does not require one universal church in which to be worshipped, but one universal devotion.

It is good to have a great organization like the "World Brotherhood" to alert us and to bring us back to the fundamental purpose of our great spiritual heritage, which is to create brotherhood in the world, and through human brotherhood under

God, to build the good society for all men. This can be done. Our religions gave us the hope and confidence that it can be done. In spite of the great confusion of our days, I have great confidence in the future, provided men of faith do not abdicate.

I believe that the age in which we live is a great age and that we are moving towards an even greater age. We are too near our times properly to appraise them. One requires distance in order to see great objects in their proper perspective. We ourselves are too much involved in the turmoil and the conflicts of our day to see objectively the amazing new patterns of life which are emerging.

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.

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 any five generations in 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, as they have to a large measure achieved,

freedom and self-determination. Within the last eight years one-fourth of the earth's population - more than five hundred million non-self-governing people - have obtained their political self-determination. 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 also 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 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.

In our day this forward thrust of man has encountered the stubborn resistance of materialism, of Nazism, of Fascism, and as regards method, 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 onmoving 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 swirling 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 future 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 upon the ship lanes of the world.

My dear friends: I can best illustrate the objectives of "World Brotherhood" by using the symbols of bridges and walls. I have always been fascinated by bridges and walls. They have much to say. They are among the most inspiring symbols in the speech of mankind.

Walls have their definite value and purpose in human life. They give us shelter, security, and privacy. They carve for us out of unlimited space which is too vast for us to dominate, a smaller area which we can subdue to our needs, and they enclose us in a manageable world which we can master. This gives us a sense of at-homeness and confidence which are good for us. Walls and fences often also serve a good purpose in defining beyond the peradventure of doubt what is ours and what is our neighbors. The poet Robert Frost put it: "Good fences make

good neighbors." To the building of such walls for protection, privacy and ownership, there can be no objection. They are part of the necessary routine of civilized life.

But there are other walls which men erect which serve no such good purpose, but on the contrary, are harmful to the best interests of society.

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Sometimes even good and respectable citizens build walls around themselves which are effective blocks to mutual understanding and good will. They build walls of social exclusiveness and snobbery. They segregate themselves in some illusory eminence and hug to their bosoms the delusion that they are somehow better than the common run of humanity. In the sight of God there are no blue bloods and no first families, no Brahmins and no untouchables - only children of the dust who, in their brief careers on earth, may find a measure of happiness in life by helping one another in goodness and love.

Our world is divided today by political walls and iron curtains. There are those who would build these walls still higher, who resent those who suggest ways for razing these walls and leveling them off. In every age there have been the wall-building doctrinaires, the exponents of the irreconcilable. Either I or you survive! No middle road - no meeting ground - no compromise! This, of course, is the fateful road to war, and wars only serve to erect new walls on the ruined foundations of the old.

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Every earnest effort at international understanding and cooperation is a bridge leading to the Kingdom of God, to the good society. The League of Nations was such a bridge. It collapsed. Bridges often collapse and must be rebuilt. The United Nations is such a bridge. It is in danger of collapse. We must see to it that it does not collapse. War is never a bridge. At best it is a Bridge of Sighs leading men from doom to death.

The whole magnificent ethical message of our great historic faiths may be summed up in the symbol of walls and bridges





Aerial View of Boston, City of Yesterday and Tomorrow

Program Features

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Pre-Convention Session — Ballroom — Hotel Statler — 6:00 P.M.

Dr. Robert W. Habenstein will give an illustrated talk, "This is your Heritage." He will show slides of some of the illustrations which will be found in "The History of American Funeral Directing," of which he is a co-author.

Cost of the dinner will be \$4.00 per plate, gratuities included. Tickets can be obtained by writing to the NFDA office, 135 West Wells Street, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin. However, your request must reach the Milwaukee office by October 3 in order for you to have them in time for the convention.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Pre-Convention Session — Ballroom — Hotel Statler — 9:30 A.M.

Open forum discussion on programs and policies affecting funeral directors at the national level.
Guest Speakers — Dr. William M. Lamers and George DeGrace

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Session — Ballroom — Hotel Statler — 9:30 A.M.

Memorial Service to be conducted under the direction of Right Reverend Arthur V. Lyons.
President A. B. Eckersell's Message — "Passing in Review"
Guest Speaker — Herbert A. Philbrick

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Session — Ballroom — Hotel Statler — 9:30 A.M.

Introduction of Past Presidents of NFDA. Election of Officers.
Address of Executive Secretary Howard C. Raether, "Count Your Blessings"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Session — Ballroom — Hotel Statler — 9:30 A.M.

Committee Reports.
Guest Speaker — Dr. Abba Hillel Silver



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



Dr. R. W. Habenstein



Dr. William M. Lamers



George De Grace



Herbert A. Philbrick



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Featured Speakers

DR. ROBERT W. HABENSTEIN

Dr. Robert W. Habenstein is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He was graduated from Bowling Green State University and received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Primarily a research sociologist, he has conducted studies of occupations, social movements and community organization. For a number of years he has been interested in the various aspects of funeral service and he wrote his dissertation for his Doctorate on this subject. He is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Missouri. Dr. Habenstein is probably the world's foremost authority on the history of funeral service. His subject will be "This is Your Heritage."

DR. WILLIAM M. LAMERS

Author of three published novels, one published biography, seventeen published plays, a speech text, many magazine articles and considerable verse. Editor of "Teaching Progress," Associate Editor of "Wisconsin Poetry Magazine." Trustee, Milwaukee Public Library, President Board of Trustees Milwaukee Public Museum, President Milwaukee Municipal Art Commission. Formerly Director of School of Speech Marquette University and presently Assistant Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools. Dr. Lamers has spoken before a number of state and district funeral director meetings. He also was a featured speaker at the NFDA 1951 Cleveland Convention. Dr. Lamers will speak on "What I Learned About You."

GEORGE De GRACE

Graduate of the Marquette University School of Journalism. Formerly held following positions. — Public Relations Director of the Greater Milwaukee Committee for Community Development, Executive Secretary Marquette University Alumni Association, Public Relations and Advertising Director of Radio Station WISN, Manager of Radio Station WFOX and now heads — George DeGrace and Associates — Public Relations and Advertising. Mr. DeGrace also has spoken to a number of funeral director groups. He will speak on "Selling Yourself."

HERBERT A. PHILBRICK

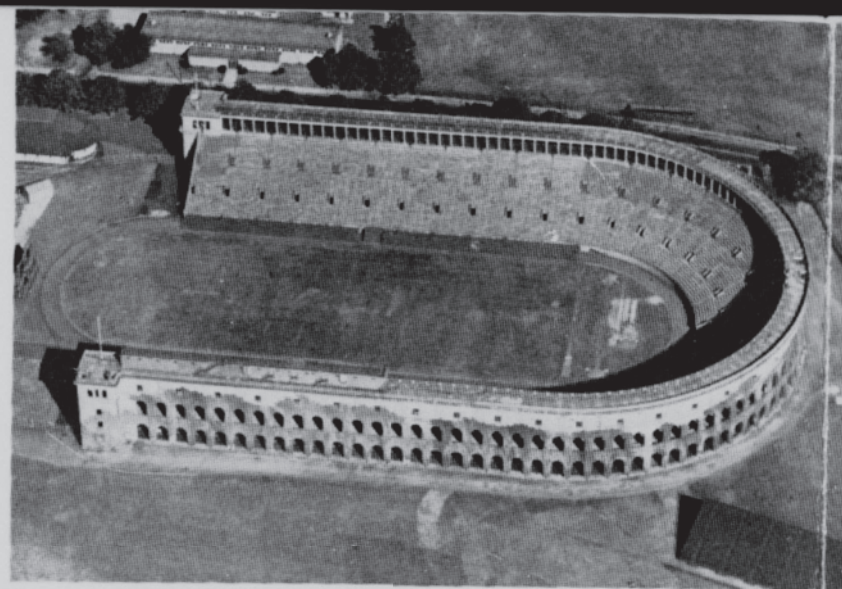
Mr. Philbrick is currently one of America's outstanding personalities. He is a citizen, "communist" and counter-spy. About him TIME MAGAZINE said "he postponed his own life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, to get to the bottom of the great communist conspiracy in the U.S." Mr. Philbrick's dramatic story on how he led three lives has startled the nation from coast to coast, first as a best seller book, following his testimony of the investigation of the "communist eleven," as a witness for the U.S. Government before Judge Medina. Now, "I Led Three Lives" is featured weekly over 150 TV stations from coast to coast and has one of the most tremendous audiences of any TV show in the American home. According to recent news stories a Hollywood studio is planning a movie on Mr. Philbrick's exploits to be the same title as the subject of his NFDA talk "I Led Three Lives."

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Silver for more than thirty-five years has been the spiritual leader of the Temple in Cleveland, the largest liberal Jewish congregation in the United States. He is recognized as one of the country's outstanding speakers and delivered a prayer during the Inaugural Ceremonies of President Dwight D. Eisenhower on January 20, 1953. He was recently honored in LIFE MAGAZINE as one of the twelve leading preachers in the U.S. In addition to his preaching and social work Dr. Silver has written a number of widely accepted books, two of which are "Religion in a Changing World" and "Vision and Victory." John Gunther in his book, "Inside U.S.A." speaks of Dr. Silver as "the first citizen of Cleveland." Dr. Silver will speak about "Bridges and Walls."

OCTOBER 10-11-12-13, 1955

Entertainment Features



Harvard Stadium



FOOTBALL GAME, *Saturday, October 8, 2 P.M.*—Harvard University vs. Cornell University at Harvard University Stadium, Cambridge, Mass. Tickets can be ordered from the NFDA office in Milwaukee, prior to October 3, Price \$5.00. This sum will include excellent seats at the game and bus transportation to and from the Stadium. The bus will leave from the Columbus Avenue entrance of the Hotel Statler at 1:00 P.M.



TOUR OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, *Sunday, October 9, 1:30 P.M.*—There will be a three-hour tour of historic old Lexington and Concord which will leave from the Columbus Avenue entrance of the Hotel Statler. Stops will be made at the Glass Flower exhibit at the Agassiz Museum and Old North Bridge, Concord. This tour, which ordinarily costs \$4.00, will be made available to NFDA members at a cost of \$3.50 per person. Tickets can be obtained by writing the NFDA office in Milwaukee before October 3.



LADIES' ENTERTAINMENT, *Tuesday, October 11, 12:30 P.M. Sheraton Plaza Hotel*—After a delectable luncheon, during which there will be a string ensemble furnishing the music, the ladies will be entertained by "The Tuckers" who are an amazing comedy mentalist team. They will present telepathy . . . at its best and funniest! Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each and should be purchased at the time of registration.



BANQUET, *Thursday, October 13, 7:30 P.M. Ballroom, Hotel Statler*—An excellent dinner with roast prime ribs of beef as the entree will be served. Formal dress will be optional, except for those at the Speakers Table. The 1955-56 NFDA officers will be installed, following which an outstanding floor show will be presented. Music for dinner and the floor show will be furnished by Ruby Newman's Orchestra. Tickets at \$6.00 per person may be purchased at the Mechanics Building starting at noon on October 10. All places reserved.



The Tuckers



Earl Wrightson



Joe Rankin



The Rogers



Peggy Alexander



Special Events



There will be two pre-convention sessions. The first will begin with dinner at 6:00 P.M. in the Ballroom of the Hotel Statler, Sunday, October 9. All funeral directors and their wives and other guests are invited to attend. The feature of this meeting will be an illustrated talk by Dr. Robert W. Habenstein, who is co-author of "The History of American Funeral Directing."

On Monday, October 10, there will be another pre-convention session which will feature talks by Dr. William M. Lamers, co-author of the history book and George DeGrace a public relations counsellor. Following the morning meeting the first copies of the "History of American Funeral Directing" will be placed on sale in the foyer outside the Ballroom at the Hotel Statler. The books sold at this time will be autographed by the authors.



The Annual Presidents and Secretaries meeting will be held in Parlor "A" of the Hotel Statler, October 12 at 2:00 P.M. NFDA President A. B. Eckersell, Past President H. Fremont Alderson and George DeGrace will speak on various phases of funeral director and association public relations. In addition there will be the usual questions and answers period in which state association officials are invited to participate.

PRE-CONVENTION SESSIONS

Sunday, October 9

Monday, October 10

PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 12

Exhibit Features



Historic Copley Square in Boston



DISPLAY AT MECHANICS BUILDING

The entire Mechanics Building including Mechanics Hall, Grand Hall and the Balcony will be used to house the display of 100 exhibitors of funeral merchandise, supplies and services. The next page of this flyer is a floor plan of the exhibit showing the space assigned to each of the exhibitors.



HISTORICAL DISPLAY

A historical display of funeral merchandise in keeping with the theme of the 1955 Convention, "Our History is our Heritage" will be in Mechanics Hall and the balcony above. Many items of interest to funeral directors will be shown. "The History of American Funeral Directing" will be on sale at the NFDA booth which will be set up in connection with this exhibit.



VISIT THE EXHIBITS

A highlight of every NFDA convention is the display of funeral merchandise, supplies and services. The firms who make this possible will be happy to discuss their merchandise and services with interested funeral directors, as well as to show them their products. Spend as much time as you can at the exhibit.

Free bus service will be provided to you from the Hotel Statler to the Mechanics Building each afternoon. The first bus will leave the Columbus Avenue entrance of the Hotel Statler for the exhibits following the adjournment of each morning meeting. The last bus will leave from Mechanics Building for the Hotel Statler at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at 4:15 P.M. on Thursday.

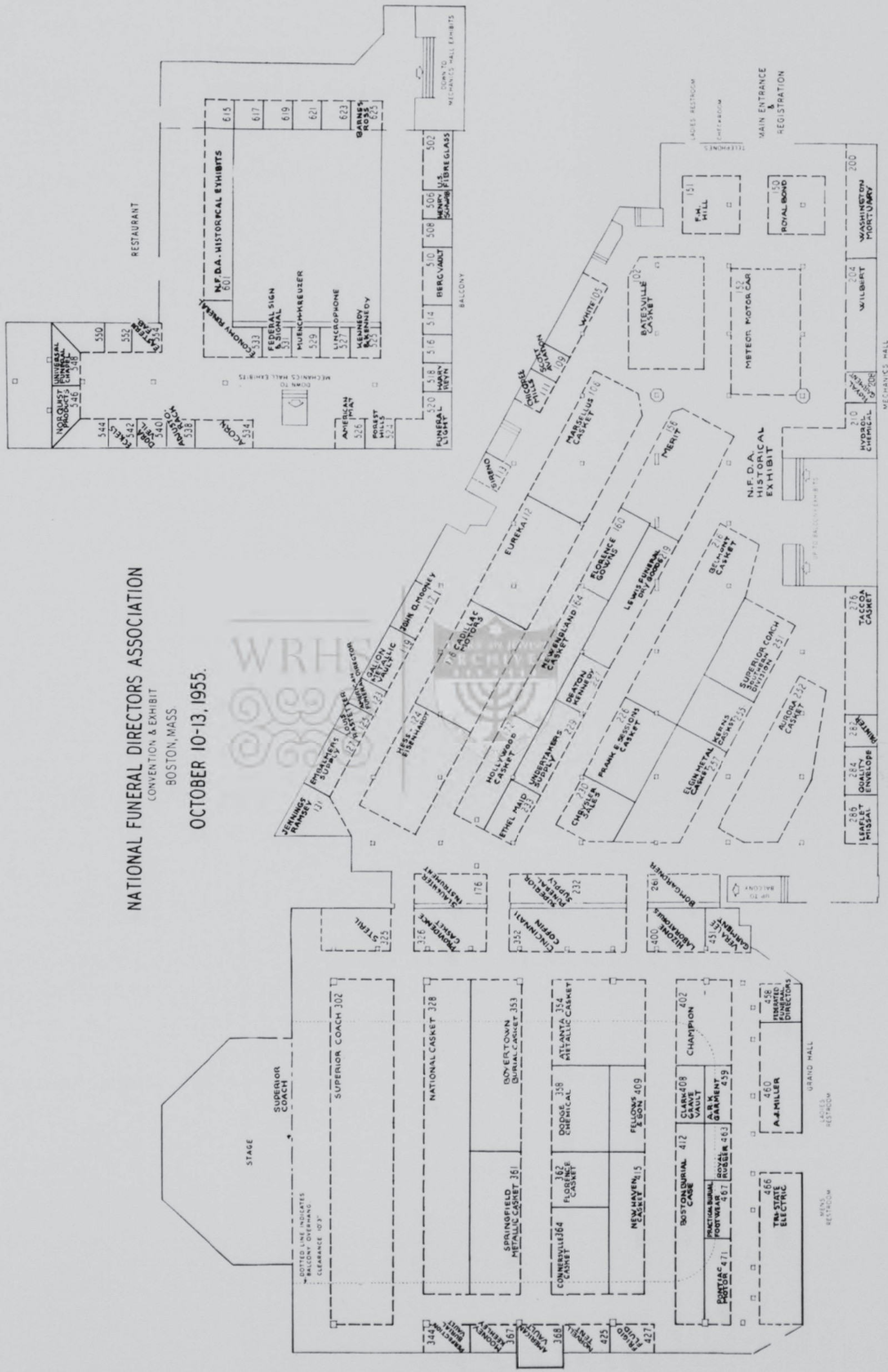


REGISTER EARLY

You will be able to register at the Hotel Statler from 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on Sunday, October 10. This will permit you to register before leaving for the Lexington and Concord Tour.

Boston Convention Exhibitors

NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION & EXHIBIT
BOSTON, MASS
OCTOBER 10-13, 1955.





MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
135 WEST WELLS STREET

NFDA

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 4721
Milwaukee, Wis.

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES
1944-1945

Proclamation

KNOW YE, that in this year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five, the City of Boston in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is designated as the site of the 74th Annual Convention of the National Funeral Directors Association.

You are hereby called to diligently discharge your duties as a good and true member of NFDA by attending this meeting.

A. B. Eckerfell
President



Attend the 74th Annual Convention

Boston Beckons in '55

- 1 To introduce "The History of American Funeral Directing."
- 2 To get the latest accurate information on matters of interest to funeral directors.
- 3 To visit the display of funeral merchandise and supplies.
- 4 To enjoy the entertainment features.
- 5 To tour historic Old Boston and the surrounding area.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS — All hotel reservations will be made individually with the Housing Bureau. An application blank is enclosed. When requiring a reservation be sure to list three hotels in the order of your choice. Mail your reservation request now.