



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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Republican National Convention, 1960.

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INVOCATION

By Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver -- The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

Delivered at the Republican National Convention

Chicago, Illinois -- Tuesday, July 26, 1960

Our kind Father in Heaven:

Upon all who are gathered here we invoke Thy blessing. May Thy Spirit of wisdom and understanding rest upon these men and women who have come here to take counsel together and to plan for the future of our nation. May they prove equal to the challenge of the hour.

God of our fathers:

Thou has given us a gracious land and blessed it with the ever-flowing streams of Thine abundance. Goodly has been our portion, rich our heritage. Help us faithfully to conserve what has been given to us and through labor and sacrifice leave an even nobler legacy to those who shall come after us.

Prosper all our efforts toward the building of the good society, wherein all bars of separation between men will be lowered and all yokes lifted from the shoulders of Thy children. May this be our vision, not for times far off and for many days hence, but for the imperious present and its urgent needs.

Give us a new heart and a new spirit, O Heavenly Father, in this confused and riven age in which all nations are weighed as in a balance. Not like unto those whose strength is spent, not like unto a city besieged, a prey to fear, but like unto a confident host marching on in might, lead us and guide us, O Father of nations. Revive our memories of old, our covenant with liberty, our allegiance to the rights and the dignity of man.

Save us from self-righteousness. Guard us from straying into the darkness and the wilderness of the peoples without the steady light of our founding faith which once kindled the hearts of the world.

In humility we acknowledge Thy sovereignty. In Thine everlasting mercy shelter and protect our nation.

Amen.