



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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Humane Society, undated.

1. I was very happy when the H.S. invited me to address the Annual Meeting and I gladly accepted the invitation. I address numerous meetings in the course of a year. And speak in behalf of many causes. No occasion gives me more satisfaction than one in which the cause of children is involved. When I speak of it I feel that I am very near to the heart of things, standing on a firm and holy ground.

The love of children is the ^{kindest and the} ~~greatest~~ universal passion, universal. The very sight of children gladdens the heart of man. Have you ever stepped into a crowded street-car and watched the faces, the eyes of men there. They are as a rule mostly old, abstracted, shutting out the rest of the world. And have you ever what happens when a little child is brought into the car, or even a baby in arms? When the pale smiles, the white canopies. When the row of chattering white hats of hard-voiced passengers will break out in loud and merry laughter. The ice thaws. One touch of childhood laid bare the basic goodness, men.

There are many things which divide men - race, color, creed, ~~faith~~, social status. None is one tie which binds them all together - the love of children.

And the more helpers they are, the more we love them. Hence your Human Society. Hence ^{also} the other agencies in our country. which care for unprotected childhood. We all feel that there is nothing greater, no sad in the world as a child forsaken, helpless and in want, and we all know that there is no privilege quite so great in life as that of watching such a child's heart ring with happiness. What new possession there is in the world? The

But what, the ~~myriad~~ children in normal
homes - but and every when in our land - homes which
have been attacked ~~by~~ and rendered desolate by leprosy?
What, the children who are undernourished, unsupervised,
clad ~~and~~ run as the under-lime of a permanent
impairment, health, due to prolonged malnutrition?
What, the ravages which tuberculosis will make
in their ranks - because, the sharp lowering, their
vital resistance? ~~to such~~ ~~deep~~ acts like an invisible
player upon chessboard - its effects are deadly -
tho not needed and ~~so~~ readily apparent.

But that is not all. A child, even now there is a
admit, does not live as he should. He lives
in a home - and thrives only in a thriving home.
~~His~~ A home of peace and well-being will nurture
his life. A home depressed by want, shut then with
bitterness, resentment and injustice, will blight
his life. Our Econ. depress. has filled millions
of homes with sp. depression. Strain, and worry,
and rebellion ~~and~~ have come to dwell in many
of them. Self-resp. ^{entirely around trust, was} ~~nothing more~~ ^{who} ~~who~~ ^{glad} ~~driven into~~
ensured ~~children~~ for approved persons ^{parent} ^{to} ~~parent~~ ^{to} ~~parent~~
set up their small savings and finally ~~driven~~ ^{parent} ^{to} ~~parent~~
to the ^{bitter} ~~humiliating~~ ^{parent} ^{to} ~~parent~~ ^{parent} ^{to} ~~parent~~
~~are not likely to be possessed of patience~~ because
hard and cruel, they bring these persons into
the home. Many, then cannot, stand the strain
of passing their work & children, day by day, across
battered families. They seek refuge in physical. Homes
are broken up. What all this means to children
you may easily surmise. What cost a children
over the lives, children in the home

I have ^{had} asked myself this question: What must be the
effect upon children ^{of old enough to be aware of things} when they see that their parents,
when capable & able, they have been ^{forced} to expect
~~or unable to~~ ^{to} ~~idle~~ ^{unable to find work, not available}
to provide the home & themselves with ^{even a few pennies} and being ^{left} ^{with} ^{nothing} ^{at all}
& poor, and ^{at} ^{that} ^{even} ^{the} ^{best} ^{of} ^{the} ^{system}
~~must either~~ ^{lose} ^{respect} ^{for} ^{them} ^{and} ^{they} ^{must}
either lose respect for them, or come to hate that
system, ⁱⁿ ^{spite} ^{of} ^{something} ^{which} ^{keeps}
their fathers & mothers from seeing & living that
system, ^{unseen} ^{unseen} ^{something} ^{which} ^{they} ^{will}
view ^{idea} ^{life} ^{as} ^{social} ^{and} ^{government} ⁱⁿ
the system. This is a dangerous ^{way}
to give to our children.

It is usually ^{with children} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{ways}
ways. We teach them to believe in the dignity
& labor. Society respects & honors the man who
works - ^{prosperity} ^{reaches} ^{after} ^{him} ^{who} ^{will}
work ^{industriously} - ^{but} ^{yet} ^{admits} ^{that}
the pains from ^{unseen} ^{are} ^{social} ^{poorings}.
It gives the lie to them. It shows how willing
& ^{industrial} ^{unlike} ^{are} ^{reduced} ^{to} ^{want}
and charity by the system under which we
live - the very system which extolls these
virtues.

In the same way, we teach our children
thrift. Thrift will enable a man to rise
^{as} ^{the} ^{man} ^{to} ^{prosperity} ^{to} ^{earn} ^{indep.}
help. ^{Again} ^{expose} ^{this} ^{doctrine} ^{too}.
Men are ^{compelled} ^{to} ^{eat} ^{up} ^{this} ^{same}
resources & ^{W.} ^{for} ^{mere} ^{subsistence} -
the ^{same} ^{which} ^{they} ^{had} ^{accumulated}

It will move away - as it is already doing - from
old fashioned ideas - + laissez-faire - It will
be shackled neither by history - nor by theory. But
will be guided by experience, the hour - + practical
compulsions.

It is no longer possible to defer wages on old
basis, supply + demand. Both mfg + ideas must
be controlled in order to make life bearable.

We are passing from an era of econ. anarchy
to one where econ. power will have to be
controlled in interest of public + stability.
Here are diff. problems
can solve.

Stabilization

Prof. Commons - 3 epochs - 3 Econ. ideas

① Era of Scarcity. up to 16c - due to ineffic.

violence, war, superstition - minimum of
incl. liberty - max. of ^{penalizing} control - almost
rationing - ^{we used to be}

② E. of Abundance - 17-18c. then 19. Max. of

incl. liberty - minimum of control - laissez-faire
working - cont. of man. electricity

③ E. of Stabilization - diminution of incl. liberty -

either thru govt. or by econ. reaction of corpor-
ations - association of manuf. + merch. - balance
between + market

Two Exhonor in the no- Faccen- K. R. beam.
who shall control these faces - T for where
benefit - moral justice & stability -

- will seek Econ. eff. - moral justice + social
stability -

growing pains - not old age -



then your industry - for old age, or for
now or for a son's or daughter's
education.

^{Subject} The whole code of our social morality
is being undermined right before the
eyes of our children. There is ^{menace &} danger
in that.

Many children have grown to mean
brood since 1929. They have not ~~had~~
been able ~~able~~ to find a week's work
since that time. In the winter year
when young people used to accept
work, they were compelled to
face idleness.  ^{WPBS} ^{AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES} ^{Library} has been
part of their mental make up now.
Looking for ~~work~~ with a profit.
What that will mean in ^{the future} ^{the toll} ^{which we have to pay}
deluging ^{the} future with the war
future. You may readily calculate

2. W. too, attacks the whole Social Sec. program
as a ~~curse~~. ~~The program~~ It is swamped, the
tidal way of ^{with} relief - ~~demands~~, swamps every thing
before it. Work ^{supervent} ^{rehabilitation} ^{adjustment}
rehabilitation is ~~in~~ ^{to the} ^{of}. Everywhere
there is a throw-back to ~~the~~ ^{the} ^{glam.} ^{charity}
- food, ^{relief}, ^{charity} - ^{the} ^{reparations}

must to ask for charity

(2) Relief to Jews is in no sense
1 doll. per week per person. This is
relief - ^{pure} is ~~staggering~~ ^{staggering} ~~rather~~. It
is not related to anything which may be
said even to appear, a H. & living.

(3) And each month the Am. Ch. gives relief
to no more than 1/2, the new families that
apply.

(4) Cl. is behind most of the large cities in
the amount, money ~~spent~~ raised per cap
for relief and in the amount per cap.
7 M. spent. 

(5) With the ~~fact~~ ^{fact} that there is ~~affair~~
want ~~trouble~~ ^{The man is deeply silent. but it is a very good thing}
that our ^{only} leaders are ~~stagnant~~
about to this ~~deep~~ ^{deep} ~~travelling~~ ^{travelling} ~~intention~~
~~They~~ ^{They} ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~are~~ ^{are}
offering a ~~country~~ ^{sp. remedy} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~where~~ ^{where}
alone can bring ~~forward~~ ^{forward} ~~relief~~ ^{relief} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~are~~ ^{are}
evidently waiting for a few ~~body~~ ^{body} ~~aid~~ ^{aid}
to ~~arouse~~ ^{arouse} ~~them~~ ^{them}. Cl. is ~~explaining~~ ^{explaining}
the unemployed!

6 - Some day we shall get civilized and this mad
world, as will be known in history & another
the ~~black~~ eyes - For it is a mad world. (etc.)
~~Stacy Smith~~ -

① Some day when we get civilized we shall have to
protect the home, the man who labors, against
disability, violence, old age & bumps - and protect
his children against the ravages of
pulsing. Then the cry of hungry children which
is the most damning indictment of a land - will
not be heard in our land - and our children will
then have their chance at life - and the good things
of life.



1. I was very happy - I address - No occasion
When I speak of Ch.
2. The love of children - The very right - Can
There are many things which divide -
3. And the more helpless they are - Hence -
We feel that there is nothing gentle so sad -
no privilege. For what is more precious
4. That is why, to me at least, the most desperate
- You heard the report - Areson - (Just)
5. These children - and there are 1000's - Casualties
Saddest - Can be rehabilitated - That can
be left to drift -
6. But what of the miseries of others - in unwar
homes - attacked - destitute ! What of ch. under-
nourished - clad - now on bedridden - Ravages
Tuberculosis - weep out like a Player
Horror, 1924 -
7. But this is not all. A child, now so adult -
bread alone - Our Scam W. has felt
million, homes with of of -
- Strain, worry etc - have come to live all
- Self resp. workmen - become hard with all
- broken homes - What all this means

7. casts a shadow over the lives & ch.
in the house.

8. I have, now & then, asked myself. What must be expected
like repression - hate - unseen, impersonal -
dangerous legacy

9. Morally disastrous in other ways.

Ways of the future - Soc. respects Thoreau
Property waits upon - Alp. Kuehn
- It shows how utterly reckless - ruined
by a system

10. Thrift - not usable man to use - Even lost
the Expense - eat up

11. Many children have grown into unusable
men 1929 - Adel at a time - how
badly - Talk - gargles -

12. The White Code - undermined.

13. Dep. too, attacks the whole Soc. Service Program.

Camps Swamped Throw-back Refinement
Individuals cannot be treated - wait relief

14. And even this is unacceptable. Many under the unfair
that Cleveland.

① 4 families. In other words what there are 17000
68,000 - no one employed - that there must be
68,000 want

② Relief to 17000 - one dollar per week per person -
Not relief - slow starvation

③ And ^{not related} each month no more than 1/2 of new fam.
that apply are assisted.

④ Cl. is behind - Cl. is neglecting it

⑤ With result - appalling want -
Our anti leaders are staying blind
The fear increased taxation - oppose
what are they waiting for? Riots?

15. Some day we shall become civilized - wait for
- Mad world - Stray -

- Some day when - perfect unhuman - how -
children

- Then our children will have their chance
of life - and the good things of life