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Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Amherst, Massachusetts, 1935.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE UNITED RELIGIOUS COUNCIL
AT THE
MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE
AMHERST

PRESIDENTS OF STUDENT
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS
STUDENT RELIGIOUS COUNCIL AND THE
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION:
KENNETH E. CUTHBERTSON, '36
MENORAH CLUB: MAX DUBIN, '35
NEWMAN CLUB: DANIEL J. FOLEY, '35
STOCKBRIDGE Y:
FREDERICK W. NOONAN, S. S. A., '35
YOUNG WOMENS CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION: BESSIE L. PROCTOR, '36

May 8, 1935

Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

We hold on our campus annually a three-day conference on religion during which time we try to focus the attention of the student body on various aspects of religious belief and life. We invite as the leader of this conference each year some outstanding religious thinker. Two years ago Father S. J. Ahern was with us and last year Dr. Charles Gilkey of the University of Chicago spoke. It is our policy for these conferences to one year invite a Protestant and in succeeding years to invite a Catholic and a Jew. We should like you to be our leader for the year 1936.

We have on our campus a Jewish population of about one hundred and fifty. Our college is growing rapidly and is bound to include in the future a larger percentage of Jews than it does at present. This gives some of us who see the total campus population some concern for we see a prejudice rising in the minds of our Gentile students. We therefore look upon the next year's conference with a considerable expectation that the man who comes can do a great deal not only for our Jewish students but for the campus as a whole in interpreting Jewish life and culture and also of course in making more real for the whole student body the spiritual values which are so essential to high living.

We plan to hold the conference on February 9, 10 and 11. The first address is to be at five o'clock, February 9. We can offer you an honorarium of one hundred dollars.

We have approached no one else regarding this appointment and have gone about selecting the right man with some care and I very much hope that you will be able to accept the invitation.

Most cordially,

J. Paul Williams
J. Paul Williams
Director of Religious Education

Feb. 9 = Sunday

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May 21, 1935

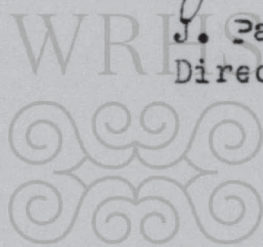
Rabbi A. H. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

On May 8 I wrote you a letter inviting you to speak at our annual conference next February. We are anxious to hear from concerning this invitation. I very much hope that you will be able to accept.

Most cordially,

J. Paul Williams
J. Paul Williams
Director of Religious Education



May 27, 1935.

Dr. J. Paul Williams,
Director of Religious Education,
Massachusetts State College,
Amherst, Mass.

My dear Dr. Williams:

Please pardon the delay in answering your letter. I have been away from Cleveland for some time and my correspondence has accordingly lagged.

I appreciate deeply your kind invitation to attend the conference on religion at Massachusetts State College on February 9, 10, 11. I should like to come. Your letter, however, is not clear as to whether you would expect me to remain over the three days of the conference -- which I cannot do -- or to deliver one address on February 9, which I may possibly arrange.

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

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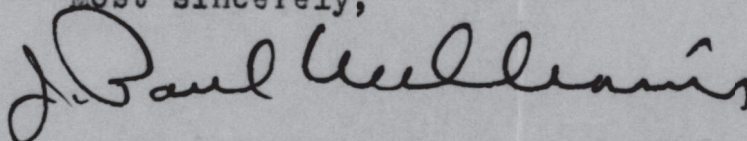
May 29, 1935

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Thank you for your reply to my invitation to speak at our conference next February 9, 10, 11. It was my intention to ask you to attend our conference the whole three days, giving an address each evening. We feel that it is our duty to get the highest type of speaker possible for this conference. Perhaps you know that the Connecticut State College is experiencing an increase in anti-Semitic feeling. I hope that this conference next year can be the indirect means of offsetting any such demonstration here. Could you not arrange to be with us these three days and give these three addresses? The conference would be built around you. As a matter of fact, it consists of your three addresses and the discussions in the fraternities, sororities and dormitories which we would attempt to arouse. I hope to hear from you soon. I remain,

Most sincerely,



J. Paul Williams
Director of Religious Education

June 3, 1935.

Dr. J. Paul Williams,
Director of Religious Education,
Massachusetts State College,
Amherst, Mass.

My dear Dr. Williams:

Much as I should like to accept your invitation for February 9, 10, and 11, I find that it will be utterly impossible. I cannot give three days of my time to any one institution. My program for next year will be very crowded indeed both with work in Cleveland and outside of Cleveland.

With all good wishes and thanking you for your thoughtfulness in inviting me, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK