



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

**MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

---

Reel  
200

Box  
75

Folder  
257

Lakeville, Connecticut, 1936.



THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE of JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

*For Justice, Amity and Understanding among Protestants, Catholics and Jews*

289 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

*Co-Chairmen*

HON. NEWTON D. BAKER  
PROF. CARLTON J. H. HAYES  
MR. ROGER W. STRAUS

May 4, 1936.

EVERETT R. CLINCHY, Ph.D.  
*Director*

ROBERT A. ASHWORTH, D.D.  
*Educational Secretary*

BENSON Y. LANDIS, Ph.D.  
*Research Secretary*

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th Street,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We do not seem to have had a reply to our invitation to you to take part in the seminar on "The Historical Development of Religious Values in the Nation" which is being arranged at the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Connecticut, September 6 to 11 about which we wrote you on April 16th. I attach another copy of the program. In view of the fact that there is a demand for printed copies of the preliminary program, I wonder if you could let us know soon if you will be able to take part. We are ready to pay your travel expenses and your living while at the seminar. We very much hope that it will be possible for you to be with us.

Sincerely yours,

*Benson Y. Landis*  
Benson Y. Landis.

BYL:WMP



April 16, 1936.

This memorandum outlines an informal national seminar of religious leaders among Catholics, Jews and Protestants. The original suggestions for it have come from Rev. T. Lawrason Riggs, Catholic Chaplain at Yale University, and Mr. George Shuster, Associate Editor of The Commonweal. The following material has been arranged by Everett R. Clinchy and Benson Y. Landis.

Theme The general theme of the Seminar would be "The Historical Development of Religious Values in the Nation."

Objective The objective would be to bring together about 150 well known scholars, both clergymen and lay leaders, among Catholics, Jews and Protestants for the purpose of study and exchange of information on important questions of common interest, as given in detail below.

Time and Place September 6th to 11th, at Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn., where rest and recreation will be combined with serious study. A common dining room is available. Worship services will be provided for in the manner desired by each group.

Outline of Program

(Tentative)

TOPIC

"The Historical Development of Religious Values in the Nation."

MORNING SESSIONS

9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. (with a recess).

Papers, with time for thorough discussion.  
(Each presentation limited to 25-30 minutes)

MONDAY

"The Genius of Our Religious Institutions in the Light of Their  
Presentations by: History."

David de Sola Pool  
Peter Guilday  
H. Richard Niebuhr

TUESDAY

"The Issues Presented by Anti-Religious Forces in the Nation."  
Presentations by:

Abba Hillel Silver  
George Shuster  
William F. Hocking

WEDNESDAY

"The Issues Presented by the Totalitarian States of the World."  
Presentations by:

Edward Israel  
Carlton J. H. Hayes  
Joseph R. Sizoo

----- (Russian Orthodox)



THURSDAY

"The Religious Issues Presented by Science."

Presentations by:

Mordecai Kaplan  
Hugh Scott Taylor  
Arthur H. Compton

FRIDAY

"The Religious Issues Presented by Historical Research."

Presentations by:

T. Lawrason Riggs  
Milton Steinberg  
Frank Gavin

(AFTERNOONS free for rest, recreation and informal discussions.)

EVENING SESSIONS 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

(Each presentation limited to 20-25 minutes)

SUNDAY

"Methods of Training the Clergy."

Presentations by:

Hughell E. Fosbroke  
Joseph Egan  
Louis Finkelstein

MONDAY

"Methods of Conducting the Parish or Congregation."

Presentations by:

George A. Buttrick  
John B. Kelly  
Israel Goldstein

TUESDAY

"Methods of Religious Education."

Presentations by:

Samson Benderly  
George Ford  
Luther F. Weigle

WEDNESDAY

"Methods of Social Service"

Presentations by:

Abraham Cronbach  
Edward Roberts Moore  
Edmund Chaffee

THURSDAY

"Methods of Community Cooperation."

Presentations by:

Morris S. Lazaron  
Michael J. Ahern  
Lynn Harold Hough



May 6, 1936

Dr. Benson Y. Landis, Research Secretary,  
The National Conference of Jews and Christians,  
289 Fourth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Landis:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your letter. I have not been well and my correspondence has lagged. I wish I were free to avail myself of your kind invitation to participate in the seminar on the "Historical Development of Religious Values in the Nation" on September 6. I would have regarded it as a great privilege to accept it. However, I plan to be abroad this summer and in all likelihood I will not return until the middle of September. I must therefore forego the pleasure of being with you.

I trust that I may be of service to you at some future time. With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK