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

Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Mobile, Alabama, 1929-1951.

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Congregation Shaarai Shomayim



DR. ALFRED G. MOSES, RABBI

H. A. FORCHHEIMER, PRESIDENT

A. PEARSON VICE PRESIDENT

J. G. ADLER, SECRETARY

MOBILE, ALA.

July 9, 1929.

Rabbi Abba H. Silver,
Cleveland,
Ohio.

My dear Sir:-

We are contemplating having a number of outstanding Jewish leaders lecture in our community the coming winter and your name has been kindly suggested.

Would appreciate your advising if you can arrange to deliver a lecture some time during the winter and, if so, what would be the cost of same to our community.

Thanking you in advance for your early advices,

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

JGA/h

July 12th, 1929.

Mr. J. G. Adler,
Secretary Congregation
Shaarai Shomayim,
Mobile, Ala.

My dear Mr. Adler:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind
letter of July 9th.

At the present writing I do not know
whether it would be possible for me to visit your city
next season. Upon my return from Europe I shall make
out my definite lecture schedule for next year and if
it will at all be possible for me to come to you I
shall write to you.

With kindest regards, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

RABBI BERTRAM W. KORN
GOVERNMENT STREET TEMPLE
MOBILE, ALABAMA

October 23, 1943.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Knowing how busy you always are and how tied up you are especially these days with the business of American and World Zionism, I hesitate to be so bold as to ask you to take time off for something much less important than the fate of our people.

But stranger things have happened than your being able to come to Mobile, so I thrust aside any shame that a chutzpadick young rabbi would have, and ask you whether it would be possible for you to come to Mobile on January 23, 1944, to give the main address at my congregation's celebration of its centenary. We could not avoid asking you, slim as the chance might be, because we feel that undoubtedly you are the outstanding Jewish leader in America, and if possible we want no less outstanding a man to give us a message (which my congregation needs!) on ~~our~~ hundredth anniversary. The affair will be held in the Temple at 3 in the afternoon, with the usual array of greetings and comments preceding your address. Though I cannot promise anything definitely for my board, we know that you are entitled to a fee plus expenses and would like you to tell us what you desire. It would be a memorable occasion for my congregation and the community at large to have you as our guest; I can hope that it would put some real spirit into Mobile Jewry.

PFC. ~~Alfred~~ Lee has just left Mobile -- I suppose you've heard from him in Cleveland by now, as he was to stay over with his wife for several days before entraining for Seattle. He's a fine fellow and many others beside myself were sorry to see him leave us. He speaks of you in every other sentence!

Hoping to hear from you soon and with all good wishes for your success in the drive to have the White Paper discarded, I remain,

Faithfully,

Bertram W. Korn.

November 1, 1943

Rabbi Bertram W. Korn
Government Street Temple
Mobile, Alabama

My dear Rabbi Korn:

I need not tell you that I greatly appreciate the honor of being invited to attend the centenary celebration of your congregation and I only wish that time would permit me to accept the invitation and to avail myself of the opportunity of visiting your community. But unfortunately I haven't the time. I have been compelled to cancel quite a number of engagements which I had made some months ago because of the new obligations which I have assumed and it is quite impossible for me to accept new engagements. I am sure that you will understand.

With all good wishes for continued success,
I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

November 1, 1943

Mr. M. E. Glass, President
The League for Human Rights
511 Chester Ninth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Friend:

Permit me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of Rabbi Fineberg's "Overcoming Anti-Semitism". I know that I shall read it with a great deal of pleasure and profit. I have people speak of it in terms of the highest praise.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

GOVERNMENT STREET TEMPLE

(Congregation Shaarai Shomayim)

Founded 1844

557 GOVERNMENT STREET

MOBILE 15, ALABAMA

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DR. ALFRED G. MOSES

November 8, 1951

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Congregation Tifereth Israel
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver,

I have been informed by my colleague, Gene Blachscheleger, that you will address his Congregation, in Montgomery, Alabama, on Friday evening, February 15th, in connection with the 100th anniversary of his Congregation.

Mobile, Alabama, is only 200 miles from Montgomery, with direct rail and plane connections. Our Congregation is the oldest Reform Congregation in Alabama.

We would like to arrange a city-wide Brotherhood meeting for Thursday evening, February 14th, dependent upon your kind acceptance of our invitation, to address this gathering.

We would be most appreciative if you could arrange your schedule so that you could be with us in Mobile and give this community the opportunity of meeting and hearing you, an opportunity which it has never had.

Very sincerely yours,

Sol E. Cherniak
Solomon E. Cherniak, Rabbi

November 13, 1951

Rabbi Solomon E. Cherniak
Government Street Temple
557 Government Street
Mobile 15, Alabama

Dear Rabbi Cherniak:

Rabbi Silver asked me to reply to your letter of November 8th before he left the city.

It may be possible for him to arrange to come to you on Thursday evening, February 11th. His honorarium would be the same as for the Montgomery congregation - namely, \$300. If this is satisfactory, I shall be pleased to make definite arrangements with Rabbi Silver.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Rice
Secretary to Rabbi Silver