



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
204

Box
77

Folder
346

Norman, Oklahoma (University of Oklahoma), 1956.

Conference on Religion

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

Box 543, Faculty Exchange

December 20, 1956

Rabbi Allba H. Silver
19810 Shaker Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In reply to your telephone conversation with our COR representative, Lon Leva, may I take this opportunity to outline the program of the 1957 Conference on Religion which will be held March 3rd through 7th.

The Conference on Religion is an inter-denominational endeavor to present to the students of the University an opportunity to gain new perspective and new scope in the area of religion. In essence, what we are trying to do is to stimulate religious awareness and concern and thus enable the student to better incorporate religion into his life.

The title of COR this year is "No Man is an Island," reflecting our theme, "Man in Relation: to himself, to society, and to God." In this we hope to point up the fact that man lives and thrives in community, that man must relate if he is to achieve any degree to fulfillment of himself.

In man's relation to himself, we are concerned to present the Biblical concept of man, and further to examine the situation of man as he is in his finiteness and his uncertainty. We further seek to know the value of self-awareness.

In man's relation to society we desire to explore the meaning of community. Under this heading, also, we wish to examine our present day social scene, to see man as he lives under pressure, to see man as he seeks security, fulfillment.

In man's relation to God, we propose to ask what man conceives God to be. Further, we ask what does it mean to say we are related to God. And relevant to present day thinking, we would ask, "Does man need God?" At the same time we would like to ask, what are the responsibilities and duties of a man in right relation with God?

Please understand that these are only suggestions to give you some idea of our thinking on the subject. We certainly want you to approach the subject on any basis that you desire, and to present whatever ideas that you wish. You might wish to center your discussions in one particular area of the theme, for instance, man in relation to God, or you might wish to approach the subject from the broader viewpoint of the entire theme. This matter is entirely up to you.

I am enclosing copies of the brochures for COR for the past two years which may give you a better idea of the type of program that we present. The program for the 1957 COR will of course be different in many details, but the same general procedure will be followed.

Conference on Religion

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

Rabbi Allba H. Silver

Page 2

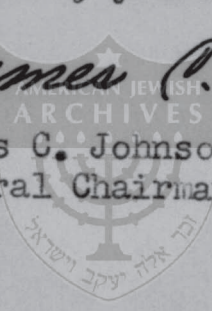
We would like for you to conduct a seminar each afternoon, Monday through Thursday. The title of seminar is probably a misnomer, since the attendance in recent years has been so large that a true seminar could not possibly be held. The procedure has been that the speaker spoke about 45 minutes, and then the students present were given the opportunity to ask questions. Thursday morning, you will be scheduled to deliver a platform address. In addition, there will be some classroom discussions, and several other speaking events.

Since our Christmas vacation is beginning soon, will you please reply to Mr. Lon Leva, 1502 Arlington, Lawton, Oklahoma.

We certainly are hoping that you will be able to participate in the Conference. Your contribution to the conference will be of tremendous value to the students here, and we will be honored if you can come.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Johnson
James C. Johnson
General Chairman



jj/sd

December 24, 1956

Mr. James C. Johnson
General Chairman
Conference on Religion
Box 543, Faculty Exchange
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

My dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 20th. I should very much like to come, but I have gone through my engagement book and find that I am altogether too heavily booked up in the spring months to take on any additional responsibilities.

I am sorry that I cannot be of help as the cause recommends itself to me most highly.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:sl