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

Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Poughkeepsie, New York (Vassar College), 1937-1953.

VASSAR TEMPLE  
CONGREGATION BRETHREN OF ISRAEL  
FOUNDED 1848

MILL & VASSAR STS., POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

RABBI'S STUDY  
TELEPHONE 5523

JEROME UNGER  
RABBI

December 20, 1937.

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

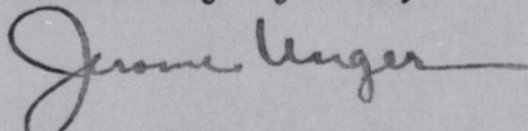
My dear Dr. Silver,

Vassar Temple is one of the oldest Jewish congregations in the East. In the whole region between New York and Albany, it is the oldest Jewish organization of any type. The first week of March, 1938 will mark our Ninetieth Anniversary. For a whole year we have been celebrating and anticipating this event. Dr. John Haynes Holmes and Dr. Louis I. Newman inaugurated the Ninetieth Year with memorable addresses at a Service and dinner, respectively. Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president of Vassar College, will be the preacher at our Service in March. We should be honored and deeply privileged if you would consent to be our guest and speaker at the anniversary banquet that we shall hold on Sunday evening, March 6, 1938.

My people appreciate that Cleveland is at a distance from Poughkeepsie and that your time and energy are valuable. We are very anxious, nevertheless, to have you with us and are prepared to provide for expenses and an honorarium, within our means. I do hope that you will write me telling me that you will accept our invitation and what will be expected of us.

With cordial good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Jerome Unger

December 24, 1937

Rabbi Jerome Unger,  
Vassar Temple,  
Mill & Vassar Sts.,  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

My dear Rabbi Unger:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of December 20 and for the invitation which you extend to me to address the anniversary banquet of your Temple on Sunday, March 6. I wish I were free to come. Unfortunately I cannot leave Cleveland on a Sunday. I must be in my own pulpit on Sunday mornings and many congregational activities requiring my presence take place on that day. It is only on very rare occasions and then with extreme difficulty that I leave the city over the week-end. Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you.

Permit me to congratulate your Temple on its ninetieth anniversary.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

*Department of Religion*

MARCH 28, 1939

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D.  
THE TEMPLE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEAR RABBI SILVER:

AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT MACCRACKEN I  
AM WRITING TO ASK IF YOU CAN BE THE PREACHER IN  
VASSAR CHAPEL SOME SUNDAY EVENING OTHER THAN THE  
FIRST OF THE MONTH DURING THE 1939-1940 COLLEGE  
YEAR. I AM NOT SUGGESTING A DEFINITE DATE BECAUSE  
I WANT YOU TO BE FREE TO FIT A GENERAL INVITATION  
INTO YOUR SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS. THE HONORARIUM  
IS SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS, (\$75.00).

MAY WE HOPE FOR A REPLY AT YOUR EARLIEST  
POSSIBLE CONVENIENCE IN ORDER THAT WE MAY FILL OUR  
OWN APPOINTMENTS HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

CORDIALLY YOURS,

*C. Victor Brown*

FACULTY ADVISER TO THE  
VASSAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Mar. 10.*

April 18, 1939

Dr. C. Victor Brown  
Department of Religion  
Vassar College  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Brown:

Please pardon the delay in answering your kind letter. I have been away from the city most of the time and my correspondence has accordingly lagged.

I appreciate greatly your invitation to preach in Vassar Chapel some Sunday evening next season. While it is difficult at this time to make commitments so far ahead, I shall be very happy to be with you on Sunday evening, March 10, 1940.

With all good wishes and looking forward with pleasure to our meeting, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

*Department of Religion*

APRIL 17, 1939

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D.  
THE TEMPLE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEAR RABBI SILVER:

I DEEPLY REGRET THAT MARCH 10,  
1940 WAS ASSIGNED TO RHEINHOLD NIEBUHR SEVERAL  
MONTHS AGO. I HAPPEN TO KNOW SOMETHING OF HIS SCHE-  
DULE AND I AM SURE THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO CHANGE  
THE DATE. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO COME  
OCTOBER 22, FEBRUARY 25 OR MARCH 17?

WITH EVERY ASSURANCE THAT WE HOPE  
ONE OF THESE DATES WILL FIT INTO YOUR SCHEDULE, I AM

CORDIALLY YOURS,

*C. Victor Brown*  
10

C. VICTOR BROWN  
FACULTY ADVISER TO THE  
VASSAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Mar. 17*

April 20, 1939

Dr. C. Victor Brown  
Vassar College  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Brown:

I shall be very pleased to come to  
you on March 17, 1940.

With best wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK



VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

*Department of Religion*

APRIL 21, 1939

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
THE TEMPLE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEAR RABBI SILVER:

WE ARE VERY GLAD THAT YOU ARE  
PLANNING TO BE WITH US SUNDAY EVENING MARCH 17, 1940  
AT 6:45 O'CLOCK. WHEN THE TIME DRAWS NEAR FOR YOU  
TO COME I WILL COMMUNICATE WITH YOU CONCERNING  
DETAILS THAT YOU WILL WANT TO BEAR IN MIND.



CORDIALLY YOURS,

*C. Victor Brown*  
C. VICTOR BROWN

VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

*Department of Religion*

MAY 12, 1939

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
THE TEMPLE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEAR RABBI SILVER:

I REGRET TO ADVISE YOU THAT I MADE A  
MISTAKE WHEN I INVITED YOU TO PREACH FOR US ON  
MARCH 17, 1940. OUR COLLEGE ORGANIST INFORMS ME  
ON THAT SUNDAY EVENING THE CHOIR WILL GIVE ITS CON-  
CERT OF EASTER MUSIC, SINCE THE COLLEGE WILL BE ON  
VACATION ON EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 24.

WE ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE YOU AS OUR  
PREACHER AND I SUGGEST THAT YOU CHOOSE FROM THE  
FOLLOWING DATES: FEBRUARY 25, MAY 12, MAY 19 OR  
MAY 26.

HOPING THAT YOUR SCHEDULE WILL PERMIT YOU  
TO GIVE US AN APPOINTMENT ON ONE OF THE ABOVE DATES,  
I AM

CORDIALLY YOURS,

*C. Victor Brown*

C. VICTOR BROWN  
FACULTY ADVISER TO THE  
VASSAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 17, 1939

Dr. C. Victor Brown  
Vassar Community Church  
Vassar College  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Brown:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 12th.  
It may be possible for me to come to you on Sunday,  
May 28th. I have set aside this date for you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

*Department of Religion*

MAY 23, 1939

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
THE TEMPLE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEAR RABBI SILVER:

I FEAR THAT BY THIS TIME YOU WILL HAVE DESPAIRED OF MAKING A DEFINITE ARRANGEMENT WITH VASSAR COLLEGE TO PREACH AT SOME SERVICE NEXT YEAR. I WAS ADVISED BY PRESIDENT MACCRACKEN YESTERDAY THAT MAY 26 IS THE MOST UNSATISFACTORY DATE DURING THE YEAR WE COULD ASK A VISITING PREACHER TO COME, FOR THE STUDENTS WILL BE PREPARING FOR THEIR EXAMINATIONS AND THE CHAPEL ATTENDANCE WILL BE QUITE SMALL. INASMUCH AS WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE YOU AT VASSAR COLLEGE AND SINCE NONE OF OUR OPEN DATES ARE SATISFACTORY TO YOU I AM WRITING TO SUGGEST THAT YOU CHOOSE AMONG OCTOBER 26, NOVEMBER 19 AND NOVEMBER 26. A PREACHER IS SCHEDULED FOR EACH OF THESE DATES BUT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ASK THE ONE SCHEDULED FOR THE SUNDAY YOU MAY SELECT TO CHANGE TO ONE OF THE OPEN DATES.

IF YOU WILL WRITE ME AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE I WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PERSON INVOLVED AT ONCE AND TRY TO ARRANGE TO CLEAR THAT DATE. IF IT IS IMPOSSIBLE I WILL ADVISE YOU ACCORDINGLY AND SUGGEST A DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

ASSURING YOU THAT I REGRET THE INCONVENIENCE I HAVE CAUSED YOU, I AM

CORDIALLY YOURS,

*C. Victor Brower*

May 25, 1939

Dr. C. Victor Brown  
Vassar College  
Department of Religion  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

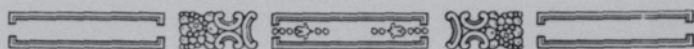
My dear Dr. Brown:

I greatly appreciate your kind letter of May 23, but I am afraid that it will not be possible for us to get together on a date this season. I must be in Chicago on November 19, and at Cornell University on November 26. October 26 is too early in my season's schedule to absent myself from my own pulpit. Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



# THE BIGELOW PENSION PLAN


To be Submitted to Popular Vote  
Next November

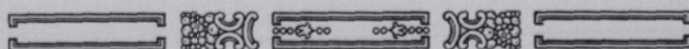
*"Cast me not off in old age; forsake me not  
when my strength faileth."—Psa. 71:9.*

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STATE OFFICE  
**THE BIGELOW PENSION PLAN**  
211 Odd Fellows Temple  
Tel. Parkway 2351      Cincinnati, Ohio

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Northern Ohio Office  
317  Engineers Building  
Tel. Main 6311      Cleveland, Ohio





REV. HERBERT S. BIGELOW

I spy'd a man, whose aged step  
Seem'd weary, worn with care;  
His face was furrow'd o'er with years,  
And hoary was his hair.

. . . see him on the edge of life,  
With cares and sorrows worn,  
Then age and want, Oh! ill match'd pair!  
Show man was made to mourn.

Robert Burns.

### STATE COMMITTEE

HERBERT S. BIGELOW, Chairman  
Minister, People's Church, Cincinnati

CHARLES G. MERRELL,  
Chairman, Hamilton Co. Commissioners

DR. MARK MILLIKIN,  
Member City Council, Hamilton  
Sec'y-Treas. Helen Afsprung.

This booklet can be furnished at 10c each  
or 30 for \$1.00

## **YOU CAN BE \$30,000.00 RICH AT 60**

I invite you to join me and others in putting into effect a **REAL OLD AGE PENSION PLAN FOR OHIO.**

The pension plan proposed in this pamphlet will make every citizen of Ohio as rich as though, at 60 years of age, he owned the income from \$30,000.00 of United States bonds, and every married couple as rich as though they owned the income from \$48,000.00 of such bonds.

This is your chance to make sure that, at 60, you will be as well off as though you could clip the coupons on these bonds and use the income the rest of your life.

Your first thought will be that such a thing is too good to be true.

You say to yourself: "Where is the catch? Is there anything to this? Who makes this claim?"

You will look into the matter carefully if you think the person making the claim is serious, and that he is entitled to your confidence.

To encourage you to look into the matter, I feel that, at the outset, I should introduce myself to you. I am Herbert S. Bigelow of Cincinnati. I am the minister of the People's Church of Cincinnati, an organization that is 107 years old. I have been the minister of this Church for 44 years.

It may help you to know that in 1911 the people of Cincinnati elected me to the Ohio Constitutional Convention, of which the delegates elected me President. Later the people of my city elected me to the Ohio General Assembly. Three years ago they elected me to the Cincinnati City Council. Two years ago they elected me to the United States Congress.

I am not trying to sell you insurance. I have not turned stock salesman. I am not promoting any get-rich-quick scheme. But I do insist that what would amount to the income from this fortune of \$30,000.00 in Government bonds is within your reach, and I mean you, yourself, and every other citizen of Ohio.

### **WHY WAIT FOR CONGRESS?**

What we have in Ohio is far from being the real

old age pension system that I had hoped for. I served in the last Congress. I am convinced that the present Congress will do nothing but make some conservative amendments of the Social Security Act. We should not wait longer on Congress. We should proceed at once to use the referendum to establish in Ohio a state pension system such as we need and can afford.

This is not a "crack-pot" scheme. It is a serious, constructive, entirely practical plan. It has come to be called the Bigelow Pension Plan and is so referred to in this pamphlet.

Under this Plan the State guarantees that after the age of 60, no citizen in the State shall have less than an income of \$50.00 a month. If a person has no income the State will pay him the full \$50.00 each month. If a person has some income the State will pay him enough to bring the total up to \$50.00 a month. This, you see, puts a floor under income for everybody, after the age of 60. Nobody will then be poorer than \$50.00 a month. In case of married couples the guarantee to each is \$40.00 a month.

Now \$50.00 a month is the income you would get by owning \$30,000.00 of United States Government bonds. Recently the Government offered for sale 700 millions of bonds yielding 2 per cent, and 9 billion dollars clamored for them. Forty dollars a month for each of a married couple is the income from \$48,000.00 of these bonds.

## **EVERY MARRIED COUPLE \$48,000.00 RICH**

It is accurate to say that a pension of \$50.00 a month will make a man just as rich as though he owned the income from \$30,000.00 of these bonds, and that a married couple, each having \$40.00 a month, will be just as rich as though they owned the income from \$48,000.00 of the bonds.

This is driving a wedge in at the bottom and lifting everybody up, and lifting them up a good safe distance from the extremes of poverty and misery.

This Plan does not promise the moon. It is moderate enough to be feasible, and to be approved by vote of the people, but it will be, in fact, the most liberal old age pension in the world.

You will note that the Bigelow Plan is not a rival of the Townsend Plan. The Townsend Plan is national and could come only from Congress. The Bigelow Plan is for the State, and can be established by vote of the people in Ohio. Moreover, there could be no conflict between these Plans, for, if Congress should provide a more generous national system, it

would mean that the State would have that much less to pay each Ohio citizen to bring his total income to \$50.00 a month. If Congress should ever pay more than \$50.00 a month, the State of Ohio, under the Bigelow Plan, would have nothing to pay.

As a member of the last Congress I voted to report out the Townsend Plan for consideration on the floor, but the leaders blocked the move, and kept the bill buried in committee. I see even less hope in the present Congress. Nobody knows how many more years we shall have to wait for Congress. Why not take the \$50.00 a month from the State while we wait?

What we now have in Ohio is not an old age pension system. It is relief, which is measured out to each person according to the degree of destitution. It smacks of charity. It is administered by official snoopers. It has about it the odor of the poor house.

## THE STORY OF HENRY

If anyone thinks that the present doles that are meted out so grudgingly to the old people are adequate, he should read about Henry, an inmate of the Hamilton County Home, whose story was written up in a bulletin published by that institution.

Henry wanted his freedom. He had heard that, when we got an old age pension, people would not have to live in a poor house. So he applied for a State pension. The State allowed him 80 cents a day. That was in fact more than the average payment in Ohio.

With 80 cents a day income Henry marched forth, to enjoy this new independence that the State had provided.

He stuck it out for a year. The other day he returned. He was a sorry sight, hungry and hollow-eyed. His shoes were worn through. He was wearing the same clothes with which he had left the poor house the year before.

The State was expecting him to buy clothes with his 80 cents, as well as food and shelter and fuel and light and laundry and medicine, and tobacco and amusements.

The nearest he had come to seeing a movie in the year was looking at the pictures in front of the theaters. He didn't deny himself his tobacco. He was lucky enough to find a little cigar maker who would sell him three "throw-out" cigars for a nickel. He smoked half a cigar a day. Shaving soap was a luxury he couldn't afford. He learned to shave without it. He couldn't afford barbers. He learned to cut his own hair.

He could walk the streets, but if he walked much

it would wear out his shoes and give him an appetite beyond his means to satisfy. As for sitting down, there were not so many places where an ill-clad penniless old man was expected to sit down. There were the park benches, but the company was not always desirable, and in the winter they would not do at all.

Still Henry held out. Under-nourished on his ten and fifteen-cent meals, he trudged from place to place hoping for work. The curse of age was upon him. Nobody wanted him. But when this pitifully small pension went unpaid for a time Henry had to give up the struggle. With his last dime he paid his fare back to the poor house. Even the poor house was a haven of refuge from the ordeal of trying to live on Ohio's pension stinginess.

This Bigelow Plan guards against irritations that have developed in the present Ohio system. For instance, it is provided that the pension payments shall not be shaved down on account of the ownership of a home. A person is permitted to keep and enjoy his home and have his full \$50.00 a month. Pensions are made payable from the date of application so that people cannot be deprived of pensions due them because of neglect and unreasonable delay in acting on applications.

How can you live on the \$23 a month or less that Ohio pays? If you can keep from starving on that sum, what have you left?

Can you afford that new set of teeth you need? Could you buy a pair of eye-glasses? Have you any money for doctor bills?

You stuff paper in your shoes, don't you? Your clothes are thread-bare, perhaps, but what chance have you ever to get another suit?

Wouldn't the doctors and the dentists and the preachers and the grocers and the clothiers all be better off if everybody over 60 had more than twice the present pension income?

## **SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD HELP EVERYBODY**

But being merciful to old people is not the only reason to justify an adequate old age pension. The fact is, it is good for business.

A liberal old age pension, financed by a sound method of taxation, is one of the ways to keep money in circulation. It will increase the buying power of those who will spend what they have for their daily needs. This buying will make more selling, more selling will make more producing, more producing

will make more employment, more employment will make more wages for still more buying, etc. A good pension system will help keep this circle of prosperity going.

Manufacturers, merchants, farmers, workers, all should welcome this spur to business. It will improve home markets. It will enlarge the demand for the products of farm and factory. Because people like Henry will be able to buy more and better food, farmers will sell more of their crops, cattle, and hogs, and grocery stores will have a better trade. Because they can buy more and better clothing, textile mills and clothing factories, and clothing stores will be able to give more work at better wages to their employees, and so it goes through all the business of agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and the service industries. **It will mean steadier jobs and better pay.**

## A TAX ON SQUATTERS

The claim that a liberal system will be a benefit to business, is true only in case the revenue for the pensions is not raised in a manner to hurt business.

Money taxed away from the poor to pay pensions to the poor has no beneficial effect on business. **To benefit business the money must be drawn from funds that would otherwise tend to be hoarded.**

Taxes that raise prices are hurtful to business. To win public favor for a generous pension system it is all important to consider well the way in which the funds are to be raised.

Some of the taxes for old age pensions under the Bigelow Plan are to be put on the SQUATTERS.

Who are the SQUATTERS? you will ask. What is a squatter tax?

Nowhere has this tax ever been proposed as a way to provide pension funds. This new method is the chief merit of the Bigelow Pension Plan.

But I must introduce you to the SQUATTERS. I ask you to consider this squatter tax.

The Constitutional amendment, providing for the Bigelow Plan, imposes an extra 2% tax on land, but only on land which is valued at the rate of \$20,000 per acre or more. This tax is automatic. It does not depend on the subsequent action of the General Assembly.

Obviously no farmer has any \$20,000 an acre land, and no one but millionaires would have homes built on land of any such value.

## 150 PER CENT RENT

In Cincinnati on the North side of Fifth Street, between Vine and Walnut, is a piece of property 16½

feet wide. It is owned by a woman in Buffalo, New York. The building is assessed for \$9,430.00. It is a dilapidated structure which has been standing there probably for 50 years, without a stroke of improvement. This owner gets \$11,000.00 a year rent for that old \$9,430.00 building. Because of the thousands of people who pass that location every day the land is valued at over \$8,000.00 a front foot.

Even at the low tax appraisalment, that 16½ foot lot is worth \$128,490.00. This Buffalo woman did not create this land, neither did she give it its value. All she conceivably has done for the community is to furnish a \$9,430.00 building. As a matter of fact this woman did not even furnish the building. She inherited it. She is a typical case of a **SQUATTER**. Being legally entitled to do so, she has squatted on a piece of land which others have made valuable, and is **collecting 150 per cent a year on the building**. It is on this kind of land value that the Bigelow Plan imposes this extra tax levy of 2%. In this case it would raise this woman's tax \$2,569.80 a year. After paying this extra tax she still would have an annual gross income from her investment of 100% of the value of her building.

Every city is cursed with these old families, the **SQUATTERS**, with their inherited holdings. Their motto is: Never sell, and never improve. They are merely soaking up the unearned wealth which appears in the form of the rising, socially created, values of land in the business centers.

If we put a tax on the buildings of these **SQUATTERS** it would penalize improvements and tend to increase rents. If we put much of a tax on the income of the **SQUATTERS** they could run away to some other state. **But they can't take their lots out of the state.**

## **PENSION ROLLS OF THE RICH**

The true justification for this squatter tax is that the land values that are taxed are a community product. They are not earned values. They are values which the cities by their growth have put in the lap of the **SQUATTERS**. Everybody who lives and works and trades in the city helps to produce and maintain these values.

These values, produced by the growth of the city, are just as natural a source of public revenue, as the milk in the mother's breast is nature's provision for the babe in her arms.

When we tax these values we are not taxing the earnings of the **SQUATTERS**. We are merely taking for the community what the community has produced. We are declaring a dividend, in the form of a liberal old age pension, out of these values which all the people, not the **SQUATTER** owners, have produced. This is not taxing anything that should

belong to the **SQUATTERS**. It is merely checking the power of the **SQUATTERS** to tax the people. These ground rents in the center of cities are the pension rolls of the rich.

We are beginning to see the folly of allowing the **SQUATTERS** to soak up social wealth, while tax penalties are imposed on those who build buildings, and employ labor and make business enterprise.

In case the 2% on these acres of diamonds does not yield enough, it is provided that every person or corporation, paying an income tax to the Federal Government, shall pay an additional one-fourth of the Federal tax to the State pension fund.

If a person pays a Federal tax of \$1,000, he will have to pay \$250 in addition to be used for the payment of pensions.

This provision of the amendment is self-enforcing. It is not left to the discretion of the General Assembly.

## A GOOD MONEY SPREADER

How much will it cost to insure everybody at 60 enough to bring his income up to \$50 a month? It will probably cost the State a **HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR**.

Since this money will be drawn from those who will spend just as much on themselves in spite of these taxes, it will increase the spending in the State for consumer goods.

If these dollars turn over but ten times a year, it will make a billion dollars more spending. How can there be more spending without more selling, and how can there be more spending and selling, without more trade for business, more markets for farmers and more jobs for workers?

The banks are now glutted with 32½ billions of purchasing power—a staggering sum which can't flow out in investments, as formerly, because immigration has stopped, and the free public domain is exhausted, and expansion has slowed down, while machinery can produce more with less men.

Tax this hoarded wealth to pay better pensions. If these funds are no longer needed for capital facilities they should be used to buy consumer goods and raise the standard of living for the under-privileged.

That pile of money in the banks is doing no more good than the manure pile in the barnyard. Money, like manure, is good only when spread around.

This new pension system for Ohio will be a good money spreader.

## A 1939 MODEL OF THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

On the petition with the old age pension amendment is one to streamline the initiative and referendum. The provisions for direct popular voting on laws and amendments were put into the State constitution 27 years ago. They have not been changed since. A 1912 model of a Ford Flivver appearing in the streets today, is a laughable spectacle. Automobiles are improved from year to year. But we are still working with a 1912 model of the initiative and referendum.

The proposed amendment reduces the number of signatures required to bring a constitutional amendment to a vote to a flat 100,000, instead of 10 per cent of the voters, which now amounts to around 300,000.

It provides for the direct submission of proposed laws by a petition of 50,000 signers. Signers are no longer to be required to state the ward and precinct where they vote. These changes will greatly reduce the labor and cost of using the initiative and referendum.

While these two amendments are included in one petition, they will appear on the ballot in November as separate measures, to be voted on separately.

Friends of the pension amendment do not know how soon they may need to appeal, again, by a direct vote, to protect or improve the pension system.

With the adoption of this second amendment it will be possible, in the future, to submit measures to a vote of the people with much less expense and trouble.

When in November, we pass this pension amendment, we will have in Ohio the most liberal pension system in the world.

When we pass this initiative and referendum amendment, we will have the most democratic government of any people on earth.

### WHY NOT ASK THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

You may ask why the referendum should be used to get the Bigelow Pension Plan adopted. Why not apply to the General Assembly?

This question may best be answered by asking another.

How did we get the pension system we now have in the State? We have a pension act, such as it is, on the statute books. How did it get there? The General Assembly did not put it there. The Ohio Legislature has never enacted a pension law. For years the Assembly was begged to pass a pension act,

but it never did. It was not until the citizens went over the heads of the legislators and used the referendum to submit the proposal to the people that the cause was won.

Certainly, I would not waste time with the Ohio Legislature. We should resort at once to the use of the referendum. We should pass the new law, precisely as the present law was passed, by ignoring the Legislature, and appealing to a direct vote of the people.

## **THE PEOPLE'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT**

By the time you have read this far, the only doubt you will have left, I hope, will be one born of a desire to see this movement succeed. Your one question may be: "What will happen when the Bigelow Plan is submitted to the voters? Will it pass?" If you are anxious about that, let me ask you a question.

Suppose you have a well-to-do friend who would visit you on your sixtieth birthday and say to you something like this:

"John, I have been luckier than you. Money has come my way. You have been a hard worker, but here you are at 60, with no income, facing old age. Now I want you to accept a little birthday present. Here is a package of \$30,000.00 of United States Government bonds. I will take them back when you are through with them. But I am lending them to you. They will cost you nothing. I want you to clip the coupons, and use the money to supply your wants the rest of your days."

What would you do if offered such a birthday present? If you were facing a bleak old age I think you would take the bonds. I am sure I would. My eyes would be blinded by tears of joy. I would choke on the words of gratitude that I would try to speak.

Well, that is the sixtieth birthday present that the Bigelow Pension Plan offers to all the people of Ohio. Do you think they will accept it?

To give them this chance is wholly within your power and mine, and within the power of the other men and women who can get the petitions signed to bring about this referendum vote.

## **A TASK FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The task of getting these petitions signed is admittedly a huge one. To be on the safe side we need to file 400,000 signatures. They have to be distributed over 44 counties of the State. This is a big job.

Unless you are rich you could not afford to pay the premiums that a private life insurance company would have to charge to insure you such a \$50.00 a month annuity after your 60th year of age. I know I could not afford it. It would cost in monthly premiums, a total of \$6,000.00.

The Bigelow Pension Plan will give you this insurance without the payment of premiums.

Will you not act now, before another day dawns, to send in your request for a petition and volunteer for the team work that is necessary to get this insurance protection?

### FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE

But aside from your own direct personal interest, there are dear ones of whom you must be thinking, those whom you are most anxious to protect against the cruel fate of a bleak and bitter old age.

You do not wish to see them, any more than yourself, forced to get along in old age on such a pauper's dole as is now grudgingly handed out to our old people.

Surely, there never has come to you and me a chance to do so much good with so little effort.

The deeds that we have done in our life for humanity's sake, are the treasures that are laid up for us in Heaven. What kindlier thing can we do than help to speed the day when all old couples may linger with us and rest a bit after their labors, sitting as you and I would like them to sit, on the stoop of their own unmortgaged cottage, in the autumn time of their life, beholding in security and peace, the glow of the setting sun.

With this thought of the blessing you can bring to so many lives, will you fill out and send me **at once**, the back cover of this pamphlet?

A petition will be sent you immediately, and with it will go the grateful appreciation for your help, of

Yours faithfully,

*Herbert S. Bigelow*

The success of the movement depends upon the prompt action of the readers of this pamphlet. I am confident that there will be thousands of men and women throughout the State who will fill out the back cover of this pamphlet and mail it to me at once. A referendum petition will be sent promptly to all who write for one. Anyone can get at least one of the petitions filled. With a little effort a petition could be filled and returned almost in the next mail.

Great as the task is, it can be done easily and quickly, if enough of those who have the impulse to help, act on the impulse, and sit down immediately and send for a petition.

To you, yourself, this appeal comes. Will you be one to give your prompt help?

# *Let George Do It Club.*

Many belong to the Let George Do It Club. They say—"Oh no, we don't want to circulate a petition."

I ask them: "Do you want this \$50 a month?"

"Sure" they say, "but you hustle around, Bigelow, and get the signatures and we'll draw the pension."

Isn't that sweet?

I say to them: "You wish to draw the pension, but you refuse to draw a lazy breath to do any of the necessary work."

Thank God, people are not all like that! Many want to do their share of the work that has to be done. They have too much self-respect to do otherwise.

I glory in these other people. They lend a hand. They belong to the

## *George Does It Club*

## ORDER YOUR PETITION NOW

There is a story that the notion once prevailed that if, at the same instant of time, the people of the whole earth would all shout together, they could make the inhabitants of Mars hear. They agreed to try it. As the time arrived each fellow said to himself, "Nobody will miss my one voice, so I'll keep still and hear how much noise they make." When the exact moment came for the star-rending shout, there was a **PROFOUND SILENCE**.

The moment has come, when thousands of letters should pour in, asking for these petitions.

Please don't hold back and trust that the rest will do it. So act, that if every one does as you do, this splendid task will be finished and over within a few weeks' time.

Don't put it off.

Fill out the other side of this cover at once. Tear it off and mail it—**NOW**.

(CUT OFF THIS PAGE AND MAIL)

THE REV. HERBERT S. BIGELOW,  
The Bigelow Pension Plan Committee,  
Seventh and Elm,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

**BIGELOW PENSION PLAN**

NORTHERN OHIO OFFICE  
ROOM 3/7 ENGINEERS BUILDING  
ONTARIO & ST. CLAIR STREETS  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
TELEPHONE: MAIN 6311

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Bigelow:

I want to enlist as a volunteer to obtain signatures to help put the Bigelow Pension Plan on the ballot in November.  
Please send me a blank petition and full instructions.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS)

STREET and NO. \_\_\_\_\_ BOX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

*Office of the President*

April 2, 1945

My dear Rabbi Silver:

I have been asked to invite you to preach at Vassar College during the coming academic year of 1945-46. Could you accept either November 11th, 1945, or March 10th or May 26th, 1946? Our schedule is quite flexible at the moment for next year, and I am sure that if you cannot accept one of the above dates, we could find a mutually satisfactory date, if you will give us a choice of say three that are open on your calendar. We do not usually have a college chapel service on the first Sunday in the month, as that is Town Sunday for our students.

Our honorarium would be sixty dollars, and your entertainment would be on the campus as the guest of the college. Our Sunday services are in the morning at eleven o'clock. I am enclosing an Order of Service, and have marked the parts you will be responsible for. Our sermon is usually from 25-30 minutes long.

With regards, believe me

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas Cackin*

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple, E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

*P.S. Several students have heard you, and it is at their request that our Community Church attends this invitation.*

April 18, 1945

President H. N. MacCracken  
Vassar College  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

My dear President MacCracken:

Thank you for your kind letter of April 2 inviting me to preach at Vassar College. I trust that you will pardon the delay in answering it as I have been away from the city most of the time and my correspondence has lagged.

I appreciate your invitation very much and I shall be very happy to be with you on Sunday morning, March 10, 1946.

With all good wishes and looking forward with pleasure to our meeting, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

Lv Cleve

10:50 p.m.

5:55 p.m. (P. Tim)

1:40 a.m.

Lv P.

9:53 p.m.

12:22 a.m.

Arr. Poughkeepsie

10:28 a.m.

5:50 a.m.

1:59 p.m.

Arr. Cleve

7:55 a.m.

12:10 p.m.

WRHS



VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

*Office of the President*

April 23, 1945

My dear Rabbi Silver:

We are delighted to have your letter accepting our invitation to preach at Vassar, and are placing you definitely on our calendar for March 10th, 1946.

With kindest regards, believe me

Sincerely yours,

*H. N. MacCracken*



Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

VASSAR COLLEGE  
POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK  
*Office of the President*

June 29, 1945

*Jan. 27*  
*accepted.*

Dear Rabbi Silver:

An English clergyman whom we would like to include on our list of preachers can offer us March 10, 1946. Would it be possible for you to change to January 20th or 27th, 1946, or February 10th, 1946, or May 19th, 1946?

If this change would be inconvenient for you and would mean you could not come to us, we should not want to consider it, but thought we must ask you before we told the other preacher that we could not arrange to have him.

Sincerely yours,

*H. N. MacGraw*

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th St. at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

VASSAR COLLEGE

POUGHKEEPSIE · NEW YORK

Office of the President

July 18, 1945

*Jan 29<sup>th</sup>*

My dear Rabbi Silver:

Let me thank you for your letter of July 16th, and  
for your willingness to transfer to January 27th for your preach-  
ing engagement at Vassar College.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.,  
Cleveland, Ohio.



# CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

1201

## SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

NA820 NL PD=DUPE TDM POUGHKEEPSIE NY 6

1946 JAN 6 PM 10 51

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

THE TEMPLE EAST 105TH ST AT ANSEL RD CLEVE=

REGRETS BUT CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES.

SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AT THIS TIME IS FULL.

WE SHALL TRY AGAIN THANKS FOR THE NOTICE=

CHARLES G MCCORMICK CHAPLAIN VASSAR COLLEGE.

Charge to the account of \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

# WESTERN UNION

1206-

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

1-2-46

## WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"  
or similar phrases may be  
included without charge.

H. N. MacCracken, President  
Vassar College  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF MY BEING OUT OF THE COUNTRY THE END OF THIS MONTH AND FOR A TIME THEREAFTER. I DO NOT WISH TO DISAPPOINT YOU AT THE LAST MOMENT. I WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT YOU HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TAKE MY PLACE ON JANUARY 27TH. I SHOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO COME LATER IN THE SEA SON.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

D.L.

# CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS  
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NA35 NL PD=TDN POUGHKEEPSIE NY 6

1946 JAN 7 AM 3 10

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER=

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

THE TEMPLE EAST 15 ST AT ANSEL RD CLEVE=

WRHS

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

REGRETS BUT CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES. SCHEDULE FOR  
SPRING AT THIS TIME IS FULL. WE SHALL TRY AGAIN THANKS FOR  
THE NOTICE=

CHARLES G MCCORMICK.

DR 1090

No.	To Mrs S		
By 109	At 905A	To	Mld

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

*Congregation Brethren of Israel*

VASSAR TEMPLE

FOUNDED 1848

MILL and VASSAR STREETS  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

Rabbi  
MARCUS KRAMER  
Study - Tel. 4981

President  
DR. A. A. ROSENBERG

November 24, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
c/o Zionist Organization of America  
41 East 42nd Street  
New York City, New York

Dear Dr. Silver:

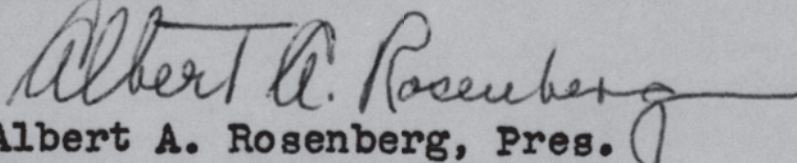
On March 6th, 1948, our congregation is celebrating the 100th year of its existence, a Simchah which distinguishes us among American Jewry.

A series of outstanding social events has been planned by our Anniversary Committee, of which the Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr. is chairman, to culminate in an anniversary banquet on the above date.

Our congregation recognizes that you are the outstanding leader in Jewish life today, and we would consider it a singular privilege if you would graciously consent to attend our anniversary banquet as the guest speaker.

We would appreciate your favorable reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

  
Albert A. Rosenberg, Pres.

AAR:RG

Kindly reply to:

Dr. Albert A. Rosenberg  
114 Academy Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York

December 19, 1947

Dr. Albert A. Rosenberg, President  
Congregation Brethren of Israel  
114 Academy Street  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Rosenberg:

I trust that you will forgive the very long delay in answering your kind letter of November 24. I have been plunged in so much work in connection with the Palestine issue at the United Nations and since the decision, that a good deal of my correspondence has accordingly lapsed.

I regard it as an honor to be invited to participate in the centennial celebration of Congregation Brethren of Israel and if it were at all possible, I should have been most happy to come to you. However, I am leaving the country around the first of the year to be gone for a period of four or five months on an extended visit to Palestine and Europe and I am therefore unable to avail myself of your gracious invitation. Please convey to the members of Congregation Brethren of Israel my heartiest felicitations on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary and all my good wishes for continued service in behalf of our faith and our people.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

# Congregation Brethren of Israel

VASSAR TEMPLE

FOUNDED 1848

MILL and VASSAR STREETS  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

PHONE 5523

RABBI ALTON M. WINTERS

115 LIVINGSTON STREET

PHONE 8146



February 9, 1953

Dear Rabbi Silver:

First of all, a very warm greeting on your birthday and good wishes for the next sixty that will fill out the traditional 120 years. I was very sorry not to have been able to attend the dinner in New York which was arranged by the Z.O.A. As the president of the local district, I should have been in attendance, but it was impossible for me to do so.

I am writing also to ask if it would be possible for you to deliver the main address at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Temple which this congregation has erected? The congregation is 105 years old and enjoys the standing of a fine old tradition. It is growing and active as well. The corner-stone ceremony is certain to attract a very great attendance and you will be assured not only of numbers, but of an eager and appreciative audience.

It is suggested that the ceremony take place on the afternoon of Sunday, April 19th or 26th, but if another date were more convenient for you, I feel certain that our committee would give due consideration to a different time.

We all hope very much that you will be able to accept this invitation and be with us for this important occasion.

With repeated congratulations and good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Alton M. Winters*

Rabbi Alton M. Winters

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

February 11, 1953

Rabbi Alton M. Winters  
115 Livingston Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York

My dear Friend;

Thank you for your kind letter of February 9th and for your good wishes on the occasion of my 60th birthday.

I very much appreciate your gracious invitation to speak at the laying of the corner-stone of your new Temple, and I wish I were free to come. However, our principal Service is on Sunday morning, and I am, therefore, unable to leave Cleveland on a Sunday. May I take this opportunity of extending to you my heartiest felicitations on this auspicious occasion.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er

# Congregation Brethren of Israel

VASSAR TEMPLE

FOUNDED 1848

MILL and VASSAR STREETS  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

PHONE 5523

RABBI ALTON M. WINTERS

115 LIVINGSTON STREET

PHONE 8146



February 17, 1953

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It was with great regret that I read your letter of February 11th, but I can understand the press of events that makes it difficult for you to be with us this Spring. We are very happy to have your moral support and your kind felicitations.

My plan for the dedication of the Temple is to have one large service followed by a year of dedication. This would give us an opportunity to have in the pulpit a number of personalities who would address the congregation and offer their own words of consecration. It would give me distinct pleasure if our people could have you either for the service of dedication which would be some time in the Fall, or for any Friday night service during the year. A sabbath eve of your choice at your convenience would be perfectly acceptable to us. My thought is that you might be able to make such a time during one of your trips East.

Again with thanks for your cooperation and consideration,  
I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Alton Winters*

Rabbi Alton M. Winters

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, 6, Ohio