



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Rock Island, Illinois, 1939-1943.

ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

E. H. HANSON, SUPERINTENDENT

June 9, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

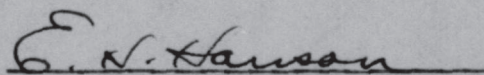
Dear Rabbi Silver:

We are half-way planning to organize a forum
in Rock Island, Illinois next year.

Probably the plan of the forum will be more
on the order of a lecture course than a true forum.
We would expect the speaker to talk for three-
quarters of an hour to an hour and be ready to
answer questions for perhaps another half an hour.

Would you be interested to serve as a speaker
on some topic which you feel qualified to handle?
If you are, will you please quote a fee and an
estimate of expenses?

Yours very truly,


E. H. Hanson, Sup't.

EHH:MT

June 12, 1939

Dr. E. H. Hanson, Superintendent
Rock Island Public Schools
Rock Island, Ill.

My dear Dr. Hanson:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of June 9. It may be possible for me to come to your organization for a lecture some time next Fall or Winter provided the meetings are not held on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. My customary honorarium which includes traveling expenses is \$250.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

THE TRI-CITY JEWISH CENTER

SEVENTH AVENUE AT EIGHTEENTH STREET

ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

Rock Island 340

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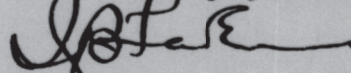
Secretary to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Madam:

At the next board of directors meeting to be held at our Center on Monday, August 11, the names of our lecturers for the 1941-42 forum series will be discussed. Please write me whether Rabbi Silver will be available during the winter months, stating also his possible subjects and the honorarium. May I hear from you by return mail.

With kindest thoughts, I am

Faithfully yours,



Rabbi Irving B. Faden

IBF:GB

August 11, 1941

Rabbi Irving B. Faden
The Tri-City Jewish Center
Seventh Ave. at Eighteenth St.
Rock Island, Ill.

My dear Rabbi Faden:

I regret that I could not reply to your letter any sooner. I have just returned from my vacation.

I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness in considering me for a lecture in your series. I regret, however, that pressure of work will make it impossible for me to come to you this season. Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you.

With all good wishes, and thanking you again for thinking of me, I remain

Cordially yours,

AHS:BK

The Tri-City Jewish Center

Seventh Avenue at Eighteenth Street

ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

Rock Island 340

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March 11, 1943

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

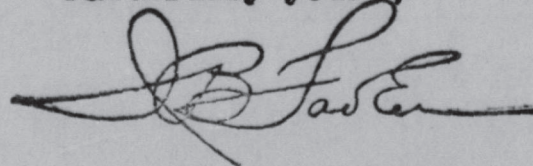
It is my thought that we should have a mass protest meeting in our city, similar to the one held recently at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Because of the smallness of our community, however, and the paucity of the Jewish population, some representatives of our Jewish organization groups feel that it would do more harm than good in that we are living peacefully with our Christian neighbors and are certainly not warring with the government of our country - that such a meeting would bring undesirable repercussions and create an unnecessary stir in our general community.

May I have your opinion regarding this trend of thought? Do you think that we ought to have a mass protest meeting in our city? The general population of Rock Island is 42,000. The Jewish population is 1500.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,



Rabbi Irving B. Faden,

IBF:gb

March 17, 1943

Rabbi Irving B. Faden, Executive Director
The Tri-City Jewish Center
Rock Island, Ill.

My dear Rabbi Faden:

It is rather difficult to advise you on the subject which you raise in your letter. Mass protest meetings are not the only way of bringing to the attention of a community the tragic plight of European Jewry today. If in your particular community a mass meeting is regarded as undesirable, other methods may be employed. Some communities have used a quarter of an hour on the local radio station with good effect -- a short account of the mass slaughter of Jewry, a statement by one of the leading citizens, and perhaps the chanting of the memorial prayer. Some communities found it advisable to see the editors of the local papers and suggest to them the inclusion, prominently displayed, of an article on the situation, and the writing of an editorial on the subject. I don't think that any Jewish community ought completely to ignore this very serious situation.

It is very helpful if the organized Jewish community would send a letter, or a group of letters to the Congressmen and Senators of the State about the subject, and to the State Department.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK