



## 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.

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Reel  
207

Box  
78

Folder  
440

Shreveport, Louisiana, 1951-1954.

December 24, 1951

Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Jr.  
Congregation B'nai Zion  
802 Cotton Street  
Shreveport 6, Louisiana

My dear Rabbi Lefkowitz:

It was gracious of you to think of me and invite me to come to your congregation. Since my return from the West, I have had an opportunity to go through my schedule and I find regretfully that I shall not be able to accept any additional out-of-town engagements for some time. As it is, I am too heavily booked already.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:er



TIME TO MAKE A FUSS OVER HIM

Send Dad a  
**FATHER'S DAY  
TELEGRAM**

SPECIAL BLANK  
SPECIAL ENVELOPE

JUNE  
21st

41571531

# WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

### SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=Int'l Letter Telegram

VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

Letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

CTA026 MSA565

1955 JUN 20 AM 12 19

NS.SVA686 NL PD=SHREVEPORT LA 19=

DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL=

EAST 105 ST AND ANSEL RD CLEVE=

AM PRIVILEGED TO ASK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF  
SHREVEPORT TO SPEAK AT THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY  
NIGHT NOVEMBER 1ST THIS IS COMMUNITY PROJECT HELD IN  
THE STATE FAIR STADIUM EXPECT UPWARDS OF 20 THOUSANDS  
ATTENDANCE PLEASE WIRE WESTERN UNION YOUR DECISION HOPE  
IT IS FAVORABLE REGARDS=

RABBI DAVID LEFKOWITZ 802 COTTON ST.=

ABBA HILLEL SILVER TIFERETH ISRAEL 1ST 20 LEFKOWITZ 802=

RABBI DAVID LEFKOWITZ  
802 COTTON STREET  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

DEEPLY REGRET INABILITY TO ACCEPT INVITATION FOR RELIGIOUS  
FESTIVAL SHREVEPORT SUNDAY NOVEMBER FIRST. MUST OCCUPY MY  
OWN PULPIT THAT DAY. DEEPLY APPRECIATE INVITATION AND SEND  
YOU BEST WISHES.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



# B'NAI ZION CONGREGATION

802 COTTON STREET  
SHREVEPORT 6, LA.

DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.  
RABBI

April 28, 1954.

Dear Dr. Silver:

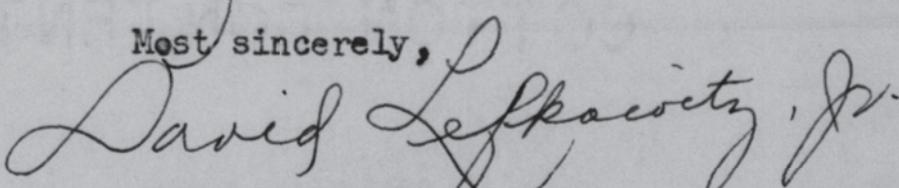
Once again I have been deputized by prominent religious leaders of our community to invite you to be the speaker for this years' religious Rally. This event is but three years old and is held annually on the last day of the Louisiana State Fair, at the fair grounds Stadium. The rally will be held on Sunday evening, October 31st, 1954, and I have been urged to write to secure your confirmation.

Our two previous speakers were Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and Dr. Ralph Sockman.

Both personally and professionally on behalf of the Jewish people of this area, I want to invite you to represent us in this great occasion. Given decent weather, we should have over 10,000 people in attendance. I have been instructed to convey to you this information -- that of course, all expenses will be taken care of and a \$300.00 gratuity will be tendered you. I prayerfully urge you to accept this date and let me know at your earliest convenience so that I may inform the gentlemen of this committee.

With kindest regards and fraternal greetings, I am

Most sincerely,



DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.

AIR MAIN SPECIAL DELIVERY

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple - E. 105th Street & Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

DL:ews  
cc: Mr J R Russell

5/13

May 4, 1954

Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Jr.  
B'nai Zion Congregation  
802 Cotton Street  
Shreveport 6, Louisiana

My dear Rabbi Lefkowitz:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of April 28th inviting me to speak at the Religious Rally held in connection with the Louisiana State Fair on Sunday evening, October 31st.

As you know, The Temple holds Sunday morning services which begin right after the Holy Day season. I would probably be speaking in my temple pulpit that morning. I could come by air for the evening meeting, but I would be making very close connections. There is a plane which leaves Cleveland 1:48 p.m. arriving in Shreveport 5:55 p.m. If you think that is not cutting the corners too fine, I shall be happy to be with you. If not, perhaps I may be of service to you at some future time.

With warmest regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

TWA Jet 809

# B'NAI ZION CONGREGATION

802 COTTON STREET  
SHREVEPORT 6, LA.

telephone  
2-5430

DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.  
RABBI

May 10, 1954.

Dear Dr. Silver:

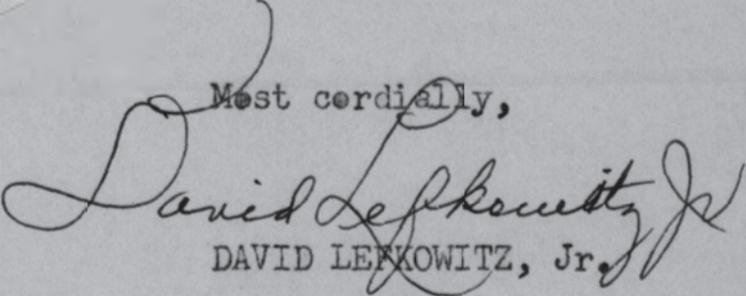
I would have answered your gracious letter of May 4th immediately, but Mr. J. R. Russell, the chairman of the Religious Committee was out of the city. Upon his return this morning, he contacted me and in our conversation, I shared with him the substance of your letter.

Mr. Russell agrees with me that there is no one in the country we would rather have than you. He also feels that your plane arriving here at 5:55 P. M. would give you ample time to be met, dine and proceed to the scene of the evening's endeavors. Dr. Sockman, last year's speaker, also came by air at an approximate time and there was sufficient interval to allow him to catch his breath before proceeding to the rostrum.

I am grateful to God that you will be with us and will be so proud to present you to my fellow citizens. Upon receipt of your confirmation, then, we shall proceed with publicity and the planning necessary for such an outstanding event. Looking forward to hearing from you soon, and even more to welcoming you to Shreveport, I am

With warmest regards

Most cordially,

  
DAVID LEFKOWITZ, Jr.

Dr Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th St at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

DL:ews

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

May 11, 1954

Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Jr.  
B'nai Zion Congregation  
802 Cotton Street  
Shreveport 6, La.

My dear Rabbi Lefkowitz:

I have received your letter of May tenth. Inasmuch as the timetable is acceptable to you, I shall be very happy to schedule the meeting of the Religious Rally at the Louisiana State Fair for Sunday evening, October 31st.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

# Shreveport Journal

PUBLISHED BY JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

D. F. ATTAWAY  
MANAGING EDITOR

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

May 18, 1954

Rabbi Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland  
Ohio

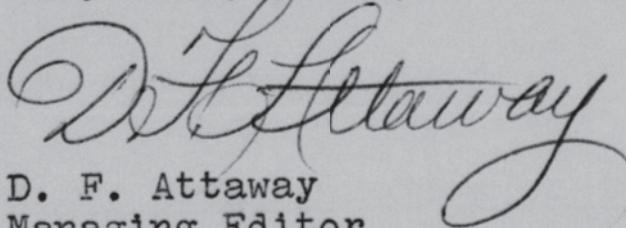
Dear Dr. Silver:

Rabbi Lefkowitz has just informed me of your planned visit to Shreveport and I want to express my pleasure at having such a distinguished speaker as you at our religious festival of the Louisiana State Fair.

To aid us with our news coverage of the event, we would appreciate it if you would send us a glossy photograph of yourself and a copy of your biography.

We are looking forward to meeting you during your stay in Shreveport. Please do not hesitate to call on us for information concerning our city.

Very truly yours,

  
D. F. Attaway  
Managing Editor

DFA:aa

May 26, 1954

Mr. D. F. Attaway  
Managing Editor  
Shreveport Journal  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Attaway:

I am enclosing herewith a glossy photograph  
and biographical sketch of Rabbi Silver. He is  
looking forward eagerly to his visit to Shreveport.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) Ruth M. Sparrow  
Secretary to Rabbi Silver

enclosures



WRHS

# B'NAI ZION CONGREGATION

802 COTTON STREET  
SHREVEPORT 6, LA.

DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.  
RABBI

September 9, 1954

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

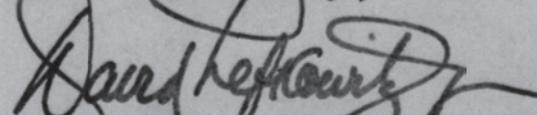
Dear Dr. Silver:-

At a meeting of the Religious Rally Committee, I was asked by the Chairman, Mr. J.R. Russell, to write you for some additional information about yourself. His request was suggested by the editors of our two big papers who are also on the Committee. Although initial publicity has already begun in the churches and synagogues, the newspaper people felt that it would be helpful if we would open with a big article (about Oct. 1st) accompanied by your picture. Then, they would like to have a continuous stream of articles, giving local color and kovod but more particularly, putting you before all the people in this 3-state area.

Especially at this season, I know how busy you are and hence, I hesitate to ask too much. If, as and when you can, sir, would you have your secretary send me some additional biographical information-- perhaps of an informal nature. It would be of genuine interest to the folks of this area to know the national and international figures with whom you have had contacts, some experiences you've had which go beyond the very modest biography you were kind enough to send in. I have also been requested to ask you, sir, for the title of your address so that this too might be given the proper publicity.

Thank you so very much for your kindness in coming. With kindest regards and with Holyday greetings, I am

Most sincerely,

  
DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.

cc: Mr. J.R. Russell, Sr.  
P.O. Box 71,  
Shreveport, Louisiana.

DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.  
RABBI CONGREGATION B'NAI ZION  
SHREVEPORT

RABBI'S STUDY  
PHONE 2-5430

October 15, 1954.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I was sorry to learn from your secretary, Mrs. Sparrow, that you were home with a cold and hope by the time you receive this you will be entirely well.

Was distressed to learn that air accommodations from Cleveland no longer connect with the flight arriving here at 5:15 P. M. I immediately called Mr. J. R. Russell informing him of my conversation with Mrs. Sparrow and he assured me that he was certain that a fine airplane would be put at your disposal by either Texas Eastern Transmission, United Gas, or the Shreveport Times, all of whom have fine all-weather aircraft in which you can have perfect confidence.

It may well be that by the time you receive this letter I shall have 'phoned or wired your office to let them know the exact arrangements. Plans are being made to have you picked up at the Cleveland Municipal Airport at either 1:30 or 1:45 P. M. thus allowing time for transportation from the Temple to the Airport. I regret the anguish that this complication seems to have caused your office but I can assure you that an increasing number of people look forward with great anticipation to hearing you and meeting you on that night.

Of course, Dr. Silver, arrangements will be made to get you back to Cleveland as soon as you must depart. I would appreciate it if you would ask Mrs. Sparrow to write us of your decision in this matter so that proper arrangements may be made at this end.

The President of my Congregation, Mr. Henry E. Cahn, is opening his home for a reception in your honor after the Religious Rally at the Fair Grounds. The prominent ministers and laymen of the community will be invited to that affair. It will not be lengthy or tax you unduly but since it has been done after the two previous annual rallies, it is considered it shall be done to honor you in some way.

Hoping this meets with your approval and assuring you that everything will be done to insure your comfort, I am

Most cordially,

*David Lefkowitz, Jr.*  
DAVID LEFKOWITZ, Jr.

Dr Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E. 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

SPECIAL DELIVERY AIR MAIL

DL:sw

The

**COLOSSUS**

**INDUSTRIES, INC.**

PHONE 3-4188

213 AIRPORT DRIVE

P. O. BOX 71

SHREVEPORT, LA.



October 21, 1954.

Doctor Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th. Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Silver:

Enclosed are some clippings that we thought might be of interest to you. These appeared last night and this morning in our two local newspapers that boast of quite a large circulation in the Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas area.

We are sorry indeed to hear that you have been ill with a cold and trust by this time you are feeling better and able to be about your duties.

In view of the fact, Doctor Silver, that the commercial plane flight from Cleveland is ruled out, for your use, because of the time element, we are working out the details of chartering a plane for your trip to Shreveport and return to Cleveland. Just as soon as a suitable schedule can be worked out we will advise you. Within a day or two you may expect to hear something definite on this score.

If, in the meantime, we can be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us. It will be our pleasure to be of help to you.

Most cordially yours,  
*Grace B. Crafts*  
(Mrs.) Grace B. Crafts,  
Sect'y to J. R. Russell.

**COLOSSUS**

Metallic  
Packing  
Leather Belting  
Boiler Gaskets  
Fibrous  
Packings

**HEWITT**

Rubber Belting  
Industrial Hose

**ROBINS**

Conveyors

**SKF**

Bearings  
Pillow Blocks

**GATES**

V-Belt Drives

**WAGNER**

Electric Motors

**U. S. MOTORS**

Gearheads  
Vari-Drives

**ROCKWOOD**

Motor Bases  
Pulleys

**WINFIELD**

H. SMITH

Speed Reducers

**MORSE**

Chains  
Sprockets  
Couplings

**DODGE**

Steel Split  
Pulleys

**MEDART**

Cast Iron  
Pulleys

**ATKINS**

Knives  
Saws  
Files

**O. I. C.**

Valves

# B'NAI ZION CONGREGATION

802 COTTON STREET

SHREVEPORT 6, LA.

DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.  
RABBI

October 21, 1954.

My dear Colleague:

Mr. Horace Logan of Radio Station KWKH, our local CBS affiliate, has just called regarding the broadcast of your address on the night of October 31st. However, certain technical difficulties plus the time element of getting the tape from the Stadium to the radio station, makes this impossible.

Mr. Logan has therefore requested that if possible, your address might be taped in Cleveland and air-mailed here for broadcast purposes later that evening. If there were a greater margin of time such a recording could have been made in the local studios, but that will hardly be possible. I hope, therefore, that you will be able to do this at your convenience this week, so that we can present you to the greatest number of people possible.

Both personally and professionally, I want to assure you again that Shreveport is looking forward to your coming and to your address.

Hoping this finds you well over your recent indisposition, I am

Most cordially,

*David Lefkowitz, Jr.*  
DAVID LEFKOWITZ, Jr.

Dr Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple - E 105th at Ansel Road  
Cleveland Ohio

DL:ews

SPECIAL DELIVERY  
AIR MAIL

October 26, 1954

WIRE

RABBI DAVID LEFKOWITZ  
B'NAI ZION CONGREGATION  
802 COTTON STREET  
SHREVEPORT 6, LA.

I REGRET THAT TIME WILL NOT PERMIT ME TO PUT MY ADDRESS ON TAPE  
AND AIR MAIL IT TO YOUR RADIO STATION. PLEASE HAVE PILOT MEET ME  
1:30 p.m. SUNDAY AT AMERICAN AIRLINES WAITING ROOM IN CLEVELAND  
HOPKINS AIRPORT. WILL NOT NEED TRANSPORTATION TO HOUSTON. AM  
GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU'RE DOING.

KINDEST REGARDS,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER





# COLOSSUS

## INDUSTRIES, INC.

PHONE 3-4188

213 AIRPORT DRIVE

P. O. BOX 71

SHREVEPORT, LA.



October 27, 1954.

**COLOSSUS**

- Metallic Packing
- Leather Belting
- Boiler Gaskets
- Fibrous Packings

**HEWITT**

- Rubber Belting
- Industrial Hose

**ROBINS**

- Conveyors

**SKF**

- Bearings
- Pillow Blocks

**GATES**

- V-Belt Drives

**WAGNER**

- Electric Motors

**U. S. MOTORS**

- Gearheads
- Vari-Drives

**ROCKWOOD**

- Motor Bases
- Pulleys

**WINFIELD**

- H. SMITH
- Speed Reducers

**MORSE**

- Chains
- Sprockets
- Couplings

**DODGE**

- Steel Split Pulleys

**MEDART**

- Cast Iron Pulleys

**ATKINS**

- Knives
- Saws
- Files

**O. I. C.**

- Valves

Doctor Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th. Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Silver:

Things are shaping up nicely here for a wonderful meeting on Sunday night, October 31st. at the fair grounds.

The pilot for United Gas Corporation will be waiting for you in the American Air Lines Waiting Room at 1:30 P.M. Sunday at the Cleveland-Hopkins Airport. There will be a committee to meet you upon your arrival here in Shreveport. Hotel reservations have been made and we trust that your stay in our City will be a comfortable one.

Doctor Silver, I am a Methodist Layman, a member of The First Methodist Church of Shreveport which is one of the largest churches in Methodism with a membership between four and five thousand. We sent a number of delegates to The National Family Life Conference that met in your City some few days ago. One of our delegates, who attended this meeting, reported to a large group last night her observations. She referred especially to your part on the program. It was most interesting to hear her give this report. I later asked her if she thought some of the things you said would fit well into your proposed Shreveport address. She responded by saying that she most certainly did think so.

This is purely an observation on my part, with no intention what-so-ever even suggesting to you your subject matter. Her remarks about your wonderful talk were so enthusiastically received by this large group of people that I thought you might be interested in knowing of this.

Page #2.

We, here in Shreveport, are looking forward, with a great deal of pleasure, to your visit.

Most cordially yours,  
*J. R. Russell*  
J. R. RUSSELL.

JRR  
:  
GBC



DAVID LEFKOWITZ, JR.  
RABBI CONGREGATION B'NAI ZION  
SHREVEPORT

RABBI'S STUDY  
PHONE 2-5430

November 1, 1954.

Dear Dr. Silver:

Although this letter is being written while you are still in my community, I wanted to greet you upon your return home.

Truly, the weather was cold and the crowd disappointingly slim, but we who heard you last night were given a rare spiritual treat. I know that you are used to praises and encomiums from your congregation and from your colleagues. In all seriousness, however, I want to thank you for coming to Shreveport and for bringing such a masterful message. It is one that shall be long and fondly remembered.

Again, thank you for taking time out of your busy and heavy schedule to share this fine occasion with us.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Most cordially,

A circular logo for the American Jewish Archives, featuring a menorah in the center and the text "AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES" around the perimeter.  
*David Lefkowitz, Jr.*  
DAVID LEFKOWITZ, Jr.

Dr Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
E 105th at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

DL:ews

The

# COLOSSUS

## INDUSTRIES, INC.

PHONE 3-4188

213 AIRPORT DRIVE

P. O. BOX 71

SHREVEPORT, LA.



November 3, 1954.

Doctor Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
East 105th. Street at Ansel Road,  
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Silver:

I have met many people on the streets who attended the services held at the fair grounds Sunday night. They are unanimous in their opinion of your address. You touched a vital spot in the hearts and minds of the entire audience with your reference to the home as the basis of our civilization.

It was indeed a joy and a pleasure to meet you and hear you - with a little social gathering at the end of all activity thrown in, as we say in the south, "lagniappe."

I hope that our paths will cross again sometime in the future.

My office has been advised that the Shreveport Journal, representing the sponsors, has instructed their book-keeping department to mail you a check.

Thank you!

Most cordially yours,

*J. R. Russell*  
J. R. RUSSELL.

JRR

:  
GBC

**COLOSSUS**

Metallic Packing  
Leather Belting  
Boiler Gaskets  
Fibrous Packings

**HEWITT**

Rubber Belting  
Industrial Hose

**ROBINS**

Conveyors

**SKF**

Bearings  
Pillow Blocks

**GATES**

V-Belt Drives

**WAGNER**

Electric Motors

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Gearheads  
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Motor Bases  
Pulleys

**WINFIELD**

H. SMITH

Speed Reducers

**MORSE**

Chains  
Sprockets  
Couplings

**DODGE**

Steel Split  
Pulleys

**MEDART**

Cast Iron  
Pulleys

**ATKINS**

Knives  
Saws  
Files

**O. I. C.**

Valves

Received check  
\$300 From  
Shreveport, La.

11/4/54



November 9, 1954

Mr. J. R. Russell  
The Colossus Industries, Inc.  
213 Airport Drive  
Shreveport, La.

My dear Mr. Russell:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of November 3rd. I appreciate what you say about the address which I delivered at the fair grounds. I enjoyed the experience tremendously, even though the evening was cold. The warmth of the reception and the hospitality which I enjoyed were certainly not cold.

I do hope that I will have the pleasure of seeing you in the not too far distant future again.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS: rms

December 10, 1954

Mr. James T. Briggs  
Promotion Manager  
Radio Station KWKH  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Briggs:

We have sent you today, under separate cover,  
the recording of Rabbi Silver's talk, as re-  
quested in your letter of December 7th.

We are happy to comply with this request.

Very cordially yours,

(Mrs.) Ruth M. Sparrow  
Secretary to Rabbi Silver



RADIO STATION

**KWKH**

W. H. BRONSON, President  
HENRY B. CLAY, Exec. Vice Pres. and Gen. Mgr.

50,000 WATTS ★ CBS RADIO

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

December 7, 1954

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

My Dear Dr. Silver:

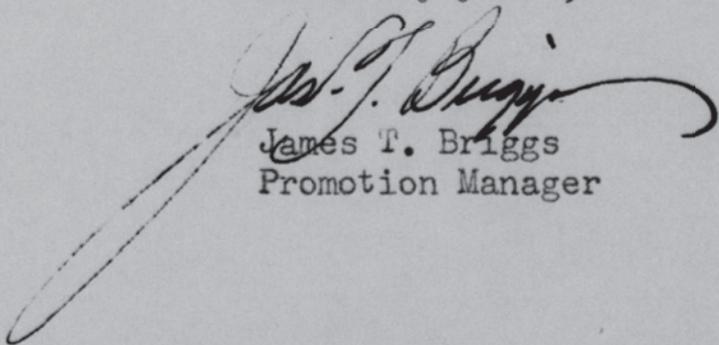
It is our desire to submit our broadcast (and rebroadcast) of your address at the State Fair Religious Festival to the National Conference of Christian and Jews for consideration by their media awards committee.

On checking with our program department, we found that the tape on which your talk was recorded has been either erased or misplaced. We then checked with Rabbi Lefkowitz and learned that the copy which we furnished him is not available at this time.

Under these circumstances, it seems that you are the only one who can help us out. The deadline for nomination is December 15 and we have no time to lose. If you would be kind enough to lend us your copy of either your script or the recording of your talk, we would be most grateful. Whichever you might send will, of course, be returned immediately after we have made a copy.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
James T. Briggs  
Promotion Manager

JTB:a

RADIO STATION

**KWKH**

W. H. BRONSON, President  
HENRY B. CLAY, Exec. Vice Pres. and Gen. Mgr.

50,000 WATTS ★ CBS RADIO

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

December 15, 1954

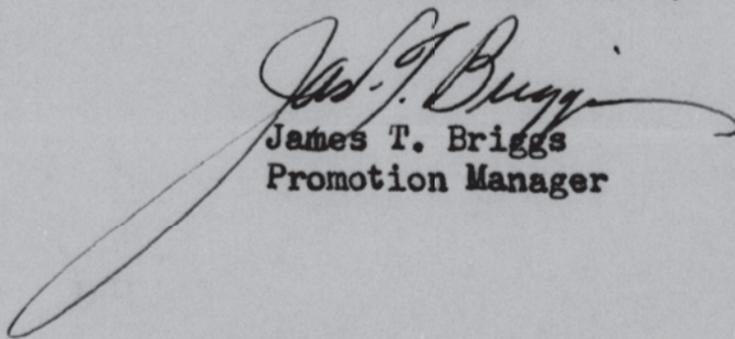
Mrs. Ruth M. Sparrow  
The Temple  
East 105th Street at Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Sparrow:

Thanks very much for lending us the recording of Rabbi Silver's talk. We have made a copy and your tape is being returned today under separate cover.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

  
James T. Briggs  
Promotion Manager

JTB:a