



## 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  
208

Box  
78

Folder  
451

Springfield, Ohio, 1932-1935.



## CLASS OF SERVICE

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

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME

## Received at

HP204 78 7 EXTRA DL=SPRINGFIELD OHIO 5 428P

RABBI ABBA HILLET SILVER=

THE TEMPLE=

THE SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL ONE OF THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CREATING PUBLIC OPINION ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS IS VERY DESIREOUS OF HAVING YOU ADDRESS THEM AT AN OPEN DINNER MEETING ON THE PROBLEM OF LEISURE TIME MONDAY EVENING MARCH TWENTY FIRST AT SIX OCLOCK STOP WE ARE UNFORTUNATELY UNABLE TO OFFER AN HONORARIUM BUT WE SHALL TAKE CARE OF ALL EXPENSES PLEASE REPLY BY WIRE COLLECT=

JUDGE HARRY G GRAM RABBI PHINEAS SMOLLER PROF  
F K KRUGAR.

Answer collect 3/7/32

Regret exceedingly can not accept your kind invitation for March twenty-first Have another engagement for that day.

Kindest regards

A. H. Silver

*Carol*



# South Mountain Avenue Temple

Ohev Zedukah Congregation

Springfield, Ohio

OFFICE OF THE:

March 10, 1932.

Dear Dr. Silver,

Judge Gram turned your telegram over to me, as chairman of the Springfield Community Council Program Committee, and I was sorry to learn from it that you find it impossible to address the Council in March.

The officers of the Springfield Community Council, however, and the members of my Committee have now requested me to write to you and find out if you can pick a convenient date in April or even May.

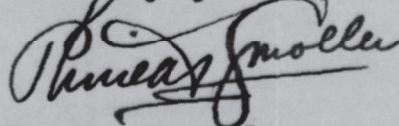
Our meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month, but I am sure that we can arrange to switch dates to meet with your convenience.

In spite of the fact that I know how extremely busy you are, and how many demands are made on your time, I personally would also like to urge you to come.

If you can possibly arrange a visit here, perhaps in connection with a trip to one of your meetings on the Unemployment Problem, or with the meeting of the Hebrew Union College Board of Governors, both of which would bring you to this vicinity, I would be most happy.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,



Phineas Smoller.

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



March 11th, 1932

Rabbi Phineas Smoller,  
South Fountain Ave. Temple,  
Springfield, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Smoller:-

Permit me to thank you for your kind  
letter of March 10th.

My crowded program for the next few  
months makes it quite unlikely that I will be able to  
come to Springfield. I have been terrifically rushed  
with out-of-town engagements, most of them in connection  
with various relief drives. Should I be in your vicinity  
and have the time for an address I shall be very happy  
to communicate with you.

With kindest regards and best wishes,  
permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR



RABBI PHINEAS SMOLLER  
S. FOUNTAIN AVENUE TEMPLE  
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

April 28, 1935.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
E. 105th Street & Ansel Rd.,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Silver,

When I visited with you, several months ago, you gave me a "shtikel" promise that you might speak in Springfield at my request. I am more than anxious to have you here, and an opportunity now presents itself for me to extend the invitation to you, formally.

Last year, after great difficulty, I was able to prevail upon the local Ministerial Association (of which I am not a member) to cooperate with me in arrangements for an "Institute on Judaism". The effort proved successful. Bettan spoke in the afternoon, and Jim Heller in the evening, as you can see from the enclosed program. When I approached this problem again this year, I still found resistance. After much maneuvering, however, the Ministerial Association again consented to cooperate with me, and they set the date for the Institute for Wednesday, May 15th, afternoon and evening.

I must tell you something about the situation in Springfield so that you will understand why I am so eager ~~about~~ to have Christian ministers listen to rabbis in our temple. If you have ever met, as a group, conservative and offish clergymen, you have not yet met such an amazingly reactionary group as exists in Springfield. Some of the ministers, individually, are "nice". However, for the most part, they are "klane-shteteldige frome galochim", who see little, if anything, beyond their own indoctrinated theologies, and hardly a new thing in the modern world of economic, political and religious thought. The community very well reflects this type of ministry. It, too, is very conservative. Besides, there is a particular situation with regard to Dr. F.K. Kruger, professor of political science at Wittenberg College. He returned but six weeks ago from Germany, where he spent several months lecturing. He claims to have had personal interviews with Goebbels and the other "gedolim", and he is quite proud of it. Kruger denies being an out and out Nazi. Nevertheless, he is an excellent apologete for Hitlerism. He has been lecturing here extensively on "The New Germany", and has been "Heiling Hitler" in other parts of Ohio. To offset some of these and other circumstances, I am eager to have your voice heard in Springfield. Will you be kind enough to deliver the address in the evening?

Eager as I am to have you here as the speaker on that occasion, my ardor is somewhat restrained in unreservedly urging you to accept this invitation because we are not in a position to offer you an honorarium. I would be more insistent if we would have funds to pay you for your trouble, and I would not feel so "chutzpadig" and guilty about requesting you to come here. I am so apologetic because beyond promising you that we will gladly take care of your expenses, I can promise nothing



April 28, 1935.

else. Nevertheless, knowing you, I know too that if it will at all be possible for you to come and be of service to a little household of Jews, even at some personal sacrifice, I know that you will come, and the question of money is superfluous. Believe me, I would exercise enough seichel not to bother a man like you were I not so convinced of the need for it. Please accommodate Springfield (of which you told me you had memories), and agree to come on the date named.

I am writing Cohon, inviting him to give the address in the afternoon.

Just a word about the sizes of the audiences which the Institute attracted last year, our first attempt. Twenty-seven ministers, out of a possible total of ninety in the county, attended the afternoon lecture (seminar), to which clergymen only were invited. The evening meeting, which was open to the public too, drew an audience of about 350. Of course, we did not, and shall not, charge admission fees. This is not a money-making scheme, and I honestly expect the attendances to be larger this year.

Please let me hear from you by return of mail. O, how I hope that you will say "YES"! In fact, if "YES" will be your answer, I will appreciate it very much if you would wire me this good news, collect.

With all good wishes, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Abba Hillel Silver*



May 3, 1935.

Rabbi Phineas Smoller,  
S. Fountain Avenue Temple,  
Springfield, Ohio.

My dear Smoller:

Thank you so much for your letter of April 28.

I wish I were free to come to Springfield on May 18. I appreciate what you say about the situation in your community and I should have been most happy to come. Unfortunately I was saddled, this year, with the chairmanship of the Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign which opens next week and which will continue to occupy every spare moment of my time for at least two or three weeks to come. I have not only not accepted any out of town lecture engagements for May but have cancelled quite a number of them.

Perhaps at some future time I may be of service to you. With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK