



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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West Liberty State Teachers College (West Liberty,
West Virginia), 1935-1939.

West Liberty State Teachers College

WEST LIBERTY, WEST VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TELEGRAPH, EXPRESS AND
FREIGHT ADDRESS
WHEELING, W. VA.

December 16, 1935

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am wondering if there is any possibility of securing your services as a commencement speaker for the West Liberty State Teachers College on June third, 1936. I have hesitated to write for two reasons: 1. I realize that you must receive many invitations; 2. Most of these invitations carry the promise of a fee much larger than the \$60.00 which we can manage to pay. Nevertheless, I am writing to invite you to deliver the commencement address on the date mentioned.

It may be that during your residence in Wheeling you visited the West Liberty State Normal School. The normal school became a teachers college in 1931. I am very much interested in bringing to our campus men with progressive thoughts. West Liberty, as you may remember, is only twelve miles from Wheeling. If you wished, you could probably drive to West Liberty and return on the same day. I shall look forward with great interest to your reply to this very cordial invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Paul H. Elbin.
President

PNE:DEM

December 19, 1935

Dr. Paul N. Elbin, President,
West Liberty State Teachers College,
West Liberty, West Virginia.

My dear Dr. Elbin:

I appreciate very much your kind invitation to deliver the Commencement address for the West Liberty State Teachers College on June third, 1936. It would give me a great deal of pleasure to be able to accept it. Unfortunately I am scheduled to be East during that entire week for lectures scheduled at Harvard University and in Boston. Please keep me in mind for some future occasion.

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

West Liberty State Teachers College

WEST LIBERTY, WEST VIRGINIA

PAUL N. ELBIN, PRESIDENT

January 5, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Two years ago I invited you to deliver the commencement address for West Liberty State Teachers College, but your lectures at Harvard University prevented your accepting. Last year Dr. John Haynes Holmes was our commencement speaker. This year Dr. Halford Luccock has accepted the invitation.

The present international situation has determined me to break the precedent that only Protestant clergymen should deliver the baccalaureate sermon. I am therefore writing to extend a cordial invitation for you to deliver the baccalaureate sermon for this institution on Sunday afternoon, June 4, at 2:30 o'clock, EST. Our inclusive fee is one hundred dollars.

Since West Liberty is approximately one hundred thirty miles from Cleveland, you might wish to drive down here Sunday morning, returning, if you wish, the same day. I am sure your many friends in Wheeling and throughout this section would welcome the announcement that you have accepted my invitation to preach the baccalaureate sermon this year.

Sincerely yours,

Paul N. Elbin

PNE:McD

January 13, 1939

Mr. Paul N. Elbin, President
West Liberty State Teachers College
West Liberty, W. Va.

My dear Mr. Elbin:

Let me thank you for your kind letter of January 5 and for the invitation which you extend to me to deliver the baccalaureate sermon at the West Liberty State Teachers College on Sunday afternoon, June 4. I shall be very happy to come to you and address your people. It will give me great pleasure to be in West Virginia again where I have so many friends and of which I have so many fond memories.

With all good wishes, and looking forward with pleasure to seeing you, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

West Liberty State Teachers College

PAUL N. ELBIN, PRESIDENT
WEST LIBERTY, WEST VIRGINIA

January 16, 1939

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am delighted to have your acceptance of my invitation for you to deliver at this institution the baccalaureate sermon on Sunday afternoon, June 4. I am writing to ask you to send me material for publicity. I can use either a glossy print of your photograph or newspaper mats. If you have available any biographical material beyond that in current reference works, I should appreciate having a copy. Later in the spring I shall want the subject of your baccalaureate sermon. Perhaps this is a good time to inquire whether you have your own cap, gown, and hood.

Let me express again my pleasure at the news of your coming.

Cordially yours,

Paul N. Elbin

PNE:McD

West Liberty State Teachers College

**PAUL N. ELBIN, PRESIDENT
WEST LIBERTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

May 22, 1939

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

Dear Dr. Silver:

Our commencement programs must go to the printer very soon, and I am therefore writing to ask for the topic of your baccalaureate sermon. I wish to inquire also whether or not you expect to bring your own academic costume. Also, I should like to know when you expect to arrive on our campus and when you will need to make your departure. I should be very glad to entertain you and Mrs. Silver Saturday night, Sunday night, or in any way that would make your visit convenient and pleasant. At any rate, the processional march is promptly at 2:30, Eastern Standard Time, on Sunday afternoon, June 4.

Sincerely yours,

Paul N. Elbin.

PNE:McD

May 25, 1939

Mr. Paul N. Elbin
West Liberty State Teachers College
West Liberty, W. Va.

My dear Dr. Elbin:

Let me thank you for your kind letter.

The subject of my baccalaureate sermon
will be: WHY OUR AGE MUST RETURN TO RELIGION.

It is my present intention to motor to
West Liberty, arriving in time for the service.
I must return to Cleveland the same evening. At
the present writing, I do not know whether Mrs. Silver
will be able to accompany me. I shall bring my academic
robe along with me.

With all good wishes and looking forward
with pleasure to my visit to West Liberty, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK