



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

Series VII: Personal Miscellaneous, 1908-1989, undated.

Sub-series A: Biographical, 1908-1981.

Reel
212

Box
79

Folder
9

Biographical material, 1918-1967.



The young man standing at extreme left (under flag) is Abba Hillel Silver a member of the Excelsior Reading Circle conducted once a week after school hours by a teacher of English, Elias Lieberman. He is seated in the center of the group.

P.S. 62 - Hester and Essex Streets
Manhattan

Year - 1908

Last year, you will remember, towards the close of the year, we took a vote to find out which speaker you liked best. The result showed that Rabbi Silver had a majority of all the votes cast. This is the third year we have had him speak for us and you will like him this year even better than you did last year.

(Rabbi Silver's subject: Racial and Religious Conflict in the United States)

12
3 The City - Organ of the City Club of Cleveland, Sept.18,1918

Many Cityzens will remember Rabbi Silver's impromptu address at the City Club last year, when the speaker scheduled for the day did not arrive. It is now a bit of City Club history, and proved to be the address of the past season that caused more comment than any other.

3 The City, December 17th, 1919

No words of ours could adequately tell you the story of Rabbi Silver's address before the Club Saturday. Perhaps some day words will be coined that can describe such a supreme effort. City Club members who were there - and there were over six hundred of them - will tell you it was one of the most eloquent and inspiring addresses ever given before the City Club of Cleveland. To this we can add not a word. Rabbi Silver - we are deeply grateful to you - for your kindness in coming to us for for your splendid gift to us after coming.

7 Dayton, Ohio Journal, February 17th, 1920

Rabbi Silver delighted his hearers who filled the Steele auditorium. His youth and vigor accentuated the effort of the wisdom and insight shown in his address, which centered on the topic, "Education After the War". He takes a keen interest in the public schools of Cleveland, and Teachers' Club officials felt themselves fortunate at his consenting to come to Dayton to bring them the message of practical inspiration which they heard yesterday.

14 The American Hebrew of July 20th, 1920, published the report of its Correspondent attending The International Conference of Zionists, held at Albert Hall, London, England. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Rt.Hon.Arthur J.Balfour. Lord Rothschild, the Marquis of Crewe, Major Orsby Gore, M.P. Colonel Wedgewood, M.P., Mr. James de Rothschild

were among those who addressed the meeting, in addition to Rabbi Silver, of whom the Correspondent said: "Perhaps the most eloquent speech of the evening was delivered by Rabbi A.H.Silver of the United States, who has a powerful rich voice of vibrant quality. His rhetoric was of an inspired nature, which aroused the audience at moments almost to a frenzy of enthusiasm."

9 The City, October 13th, 1920

Few speakers who have ever appeared in our Forum have the hold upon the interest of the members that Rabbi Silver has. Each year he speaks to us, addressing an audience which packs the ballroom to the doors, awakening an enthusiasm seldom equaled at our meetings, and leaving the Club awaiting his return the next year. The announcement of the meeting Saturday insures a capacity attendance and one of the great meetings of the year.

9 Reporting the same meeting, the correspondent of the B'nai B'rith News said: "The Chief Rabbi spoke encouragingly; Dr. Weitzmann and Mr. Sokolow also spoke. The enthusiasm of the audience was well maintained throughout. Then a tall young man stepped forward. His voice was musical; his words were like honey; his golden-tongued oratory quickly enthralled the audience and held it spellbound. The previous speakers had done remarkably well; yet his speech was voted supreme. Everyone asked in whispers: Who is it? Slowly the answer circulated round the vast hall: It was Rabbi Silver of Cleveland. Those who heard his message will long remember it for its passion, its oratory, its skillful intonation, its climax. It was a grand ending to a grand scene. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ That evening will be historic in Anglo-Jewry."

3 The Cleveland News, Dec.15, 1921 - Editorial

Those who say or think that the day for eloquence has gone by, those who scoff at oratory and make light of the arts of the trained and talented public speaker, ought to have seen and watched the City Club luncheon meeting addressed last Saturday by Rabbi Silver.

* * * * * The lure which drew a remarkable audience to the Hollenden Ballroom was eloquence. The spell felt by many hundred men was the art of saying impressively things well worth saying. The deep pleasure which they experienced was the fruit of lofty and effective speech.

16 Detroit Chronicle, April 7th, 1923

Members of the Men's Temple Club, at their final lecture of the year, held Monday evening at the Phoenix Clubhouse, literally went wild with enthusiasm over the address delivered by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland. The assembly, the largest gathered at any meeting of the Club, cheered Rabbi Silver for several minutes at the conclusion of his address.

Lorain (Ohio) Times Herald

Bringing an appeal for steady and persistent education of love and unity among men, Rabbi A.H.Silver of Cleveland, gave a most profound and interesting lecture on "Racial and Religious Conflicts in the United States, at an open meeting in the High School Auditorium last night.

10 Ohio State Journal, April 24, 1919 - Occasion of Victory Loan campaign.

It is said over two thousand late comers were unable to gain admittance to Memorial Hall last evening. Both the lobby and the side vestibules were jammed with standing people. Rabbi Silver spoke for nearly an hour. The crowd sat as if held under a magician's sway.

10 Steubenville, Ohio Gazette, January 18, 1922

Only one with words from a marvelous vocabulary such as his and one with the thinking power, the remarkable ability and the greatness of Rabbi A.H.Silver of Cleveland, could attempt to describe his wonderful address before the Chamber of Commerce Forum today, which was held in the banquet room of the Fort Steuben Hotel. * * * * *

The address of Rabbi Silver was probably the most ~~powerful~~ eloquent and the most powerful that has ever been heard by the Chamber of Commerce Forum. The words flowed with eloquence from the mind of a truly great thinker, one who has come to think of the truly great things in this life and the marvelous hereafter.

12
Reflection Herald, (Kiwanis Club)
Norwalk, Ohio
May 17th, 1922:

✓ " Rabbi Silver of Cleveland was the speaker at the Kiwanis luncheon this noon and greater eloquence, more superb oratory, Norwalk never heard. It was the treat of the year."

13
The Peoria Transcript, (University Club)
Peoria, Ill.
November 25th, 1922:

✓ " Rabbi Silver, although a young man, is a finished orator, ~~and~~ ~~more~~. He is more - he is a philosopher whose outlook upon social problems is thought-provoking and inspiring. He breathes the spirit of the new times with their characteristic courage and contempt for convention".

Erie, Pa.
Mens Club:

Feb 12, 1923

15
"Everywhere he makes a most profound impression. Naturally gifted with rare oratorical ability, with which he combines the result of splendid training and deep study, he counts his admirers, Gentile and Jew alike, by the thousands and has come to be one of the most sought for and busy men in the ministry. Conventions, fraternal organizations, civic bodies and clubs make great demands on his time. His local engagement was arranged for more than six months ago."

Scranton, Pa.
Y. M. H. A:

- Feb 13, 1923

16
✓ "Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver; One of the most enlightening and impressive lectures heard by a Scranton audience was the address of Rabbi Silver in our auditorium. He won his listeners' attention and they would have stayed the night through if only the "Silver" tongued orator would continue. His subject, "Prejudice and How to Meet It," was forcibly and fearlessly delivered. He proved himself an adept at analysis. ~~His word pictures and facial changes and postures were kaleidoscopic and kept his audience entranced.~~ He was considered by many to be the best we ever had in our city and deserves all the praise that was meted out to him".

14
Quoted from a letter written
by George W. Coleman, Director and
Chairman of the Ford Hall Forum,
Boston, Mass. - March 23, 1923.

✓ "You do not need to be told that your night at Ford Hall was a red-letter occasion in the history of our Forum. After seating 1,000 and standing 300, we had to close the doors ten minutes before the meeting began and turned away other hundreds."

Your message carried us all with you and made those of us who are Christians as proud of you as any Jew could be. It was a delight to us to provide the platform and the occasion for such a noble address. I am sure you must have felt how completely the audience was with you."



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Erie, Pa.
Home Club:

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Quoted from a letter written
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Chairman of the Ford Hall Forum,
Boston, Mass. - March 28, 1923.

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The City - Organ of the City Club of Cleveland - Sept. 18, 1918

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Dayton (Ohio) Journal, February 17th, 1920

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The American Hebrew, July 20, 1920 Publishing the report of its correspondent attending the International Conference of Zionists held at Albert Hall, London, England. Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, Lord Rothschild, the Marquis of Crewe, Major Ormsby Bore, M.P. Colonel Wedgwood, M.P. and Mr. James de Rothschild were among those who addressed the meeting, in addition to Rabbi Silver, of whom the correspondent said:

"Perhaps the most eloquent speech of the evening was delivered by Rabbi Silver of the United States, who has a powerful rich voice of vibrant quality. His rhetoric was of an inspired nature which aroused the audience at moments almost to a frenzy of enthusiasm."

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The Chief Rabbi spoke encouragingly; Dr. Weizmann and Mr. Sokolew also spoke. The enthusiasm of the audience was well maintained throughout. Then a tall young man stepped forward. His voice was musical; his words were like honey; his golden-tongued oratory quickly enthralled the audience and held it spellbound. The previous speakers had done remarkably well; yet his speech was voted supreme. Everyone asked in whispers: Who is it? Slowly the answer circulated round the vast hall: It is Rabbi Silver of Cleveland. Those who heard his message will long remember it for its passion, its oratory, its skillful intonation, its climax. It was a grand ending to a grand scene. That evening will be historic in Anglo-Jewry."

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Stouboville, Ohio Gazette, January 18, 1922

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The Bulletin of the Industrial Association of Cleveland, Feb'y. 17, 1922

Toward the close of last year, you will remember, we took a vote to find out which speaker you liked best. The result showed that Rabbi Silver had a majority of all the votes cast. This is the third year we have had him speak for us and you will like him this year even better than you did last year. Rabbi Silver's subject will be "Social and Religious Conflict in the United States".

Doraville, Ohio Herald, May 17, 1922

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Peoria (Ill.) Transcript, November 26, 1922 (University Club)

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Eliz, Penna. February 12, 1923 (Men's Club)

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Scranton, Pa., Feb'y. 13, 1923 (Young Men's Hebrew Association)

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Quoted from a letter written by George F. Coleman, Director of the Ford Hall Forum, Boston, March 28, 1923.

"We do not need to be told that your night at Ford Hall was a red-letter occasion in the history of our Forum. After seating two thousand and standing three hundred, we had to close the doors ten minutes before the meeting began and turned away other hundreds. Your message carried us all with you and made those of us who are Christians proud of you as any Jew could be. It was a delight to us to provide the platform and the occasion for such a noble address. I am sure you must have felt how completely the audience was with you".

ITEMS OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH THE TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF RABBI ABRAHAM HILL L. SILVER
OF THE TEMPLE

I IN THE TEMPLE

- A During his ministry the new Temple at East 105th and Ansel Road, one of the finest religious edifices in the country was built in 1924.
- B The membership of The Temple increased from 725 in 1917, to its present membership of almost 1500, making it the largest congregation in the United States.
- C He confirmed 2074 boys and girls in the last twenty years.
- D He built up the Religious School of The Temple into ~~xxx~~ one of the largest and most progressive in the United States - a pioneering institution in its field. It offers systematic courses in religious education under trained professional instructors from the Kindergarten through the College Department.
- E His Sunday Morning Lectures - a civic institution.

II IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE

- A Rabbi Silver was the father of the Unemployment Insurance movement in Ohio. Back in 1928, he began his efforts in this direction and persuaded the Consumers' League of Ohio to undertake the study of unemployment and unemployment insurance.

Rabbi Silver was chairman of the committee on unemployment insurance which made the initial study and which framed the initial legislation on the subject. He was a member of the Commission appointed by Governor White for the study of unemployment insurance and was the chairman of the Executive of the State Committee on Unemployment Insurance.

- B He was appointed by President Hoover, in 1931, on the Unemployment Relief Commission. He has been very active in all movements for liberal legislation, has championed the cause of organized labor. He resigned from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce in 1924 because of its "open shop" policy. He has arbitrated many strikes and industrial disputes. In 1933, he launched a bitter attack upon the financial leaders and manipulators in the community whose acts deepened the economic depression in Cleveland.
- C He was one of the leaders in the movement for the introduction, and later on, for the retention of the Manager Form of government in Cleveland, in 1927-29.
- D He has been very active in the Cleveland Community Chest from its very inception, and has frequently sounded the keynote at its campaign meetings.

III IN THE JEWISH FIELD

- A Rabbi Silver has been one of the international leaders in the Zionist Movement. He is at present a member of the Administrative Committee of the Jewish Agency, Vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America, National Co-chairman of the United Palestine Appeal.
- B. He has traveled throughout the nation visiting hundreds of communities since the World War in behalf of over-seas relief and has been responsible for the raising of millions of dollars for the relief of his distressed fellow Jews throughout the world.
- C He has been General Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland for the past three years.
- D He was a prime mover in the organization of the Bureau of Jewish Education and was its president for the first nine years of its existence.
- E Together with Mr. Samuel Untermyer of New York, he organized the Anti-Nazi boycott movement in the United States to fight the Nazi regime and to champion American ideals against Nazi propaganda.
- F He is at present President of the Alumni Association of the Hebrew Union College. He is also a member of numerous boards of national educational and philanthropic organizations.

IV AUTHOR

- A Messianic Speculations in Israel (1927)
 - B Democratic Impulse in Jewish History (1928)
 - C Religion in a changing World (1930)
 - D He has contributed numerous articles to magazines and periodicals.
 - V Rabbi Silver was decorated by the French Government in 1919 with the Academic Palms.
- In 1928 he received the honorary degree of Litt. D., from Western Reserve University.
- He was graduated from the Hebrew Union College in 1915 and received his Doctor's degree from that institution in 1925.

9/1/26

The Temple

EAST 105TH STREET AT ANSEL ROAD
TELEPHONES - CEDAR 152-155

Cleveland

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D., RABBI

SOLOMON BLUM
DIRECTOR OF TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

was Editor

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D.D.

The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

Date of Birth
Education

January 28th, 1893

Attended Public and High Schools of New York City. Graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1915. Graduated from the Hebrew Union College and was ordained Rabbi in 1915. Received degree of Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College in 1925.

Affiliations
Religious

wherein
Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio; Member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College; Member of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; Chairman of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education. He is a member of the Commission on Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

President

Charities

Rabbi Silver is a member of the Board of the Associated Charities of Cleveland and also of the Federation of Jewish Charities. He is Honorary Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio.

Rabbi Silver is Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America and a member of the Actions Committee of the World's Zionist Organization.

Jewish Welfare Federation

The Temple

EAST 105TH STREET AT ANSEL ROAD
TELEPHONES - CEDAR 132-133

Cleveland

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D., Rabbi

SOLOMON BLUMM
DIRECTOR OF TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

HARRY A. LEVY
EXECUTIVE SECY.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Rabbi, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

.....

Dr. Silver graduated from the Hebrew Union College and the University of Cincinnati in 1915.

The Degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the Hebrew Union College in June, 1925.

He was Rabbi of the Congregation ~~Al-Shom Shomayim~~, Wheeling, West Virginia from 1915 to 1917.

He was called to the Rabbinate of The Temple, Cleveland in 1917.

He is a member of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; the Commission of Education, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Executive Board the Consumers League of Ohio; ~~Director Intercollegiate Menorah Association~~; Director of Jewish Publication Society of America; Board of Federation of Jewish Charities, Cleveland; Board of Cleveland Associated Charities; Vice President Zionist Organization of America and member of the International Actions Committee of that Organization; Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

Dr. Silver was in France during the World War, at the request of the Governments of the United States and France and was decorated by the French Government for conspicuous service.

THE PRESTON PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.,

285 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Name: Abba Hillel Silver

Residence: 1465 East 106th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Date of Birth: January 28th, 1893 ✓

Place of Birth: Mainstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania.

Name of Parents: Father - Moses Silver: Mother - Diana Seamon Silver

Education: Attended Public and High Schools of New York City. Graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1915. Graduated from the Hebrew Union College and was ordained Rabbi in 1916. Received degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College in 1925. ✓

Affiliations:

Religious: Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio; Member of the Board of governors of the Hebrew Union College; member of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; ~~Director of the International Menorah Association;~~ Chairman of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education. He is a member of the Commission on Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. ✓

Clubs: Member of The City Club of Cleveland, the Oakwood Club, and Honorary Member of the Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity.

Charities: Rabbi Silver is a member of the Board of The Associated Charities of Cleveland and also of the Federation of Jewish Charities. He is Honorary Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio. ✓

Business or Professional Career

Emphasizing outstanding accomplishments: During Rabbi Silver's occupancy of the pulpit in Cleveland, the magnificent new Temple was erected at a cost of \$1,350,000. This is one of the finest examples of Synagogue architecture in the United States. It has set the style for most of the ~~many~~ Synagogues now being constructed in America.

Outside Interests which have particularly benefited

America, Humanity, or the Jewish Race: During the World War, Rabbi Silver was sent to Europe as a representative of the Bureau of Information of the United States Government at the request of the French High Commission. At the conclusion of the war he was decorated by the French Government and made Officier de l'Instruction Publique.

He participated extensively in the various campaigns throughout the country for Jewish War Relief and for Palestine.

He is Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America and a member of the Actions Committee of the World's Zionist Organization. ✓

Items checked (✓)
used for memo for
General Publicity purposes
(made up 9/1/26)

9/1/26

The Temple

EAST 108TH STREET AT ANGEL ROAD

TELEPHONES - CEDAR 155-155

Cleveland

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D., RABBI

SOLOMON BLUMIN
DIRECTOR OF TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D.D.

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Questionnaire of

THE PRESTON PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.,

280 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Copy

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Place of Birth: Reizstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania.

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TELEPHONES - CEDAR 132-133

Cleveland

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DIRECTOR OF TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D.
RABBI

HARRY A. LEVY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Rabbi, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

Subjects:

Democracy at the Cross-Roads ✓
Is Progress a Myth? ✓
Jew and Christian - Will They Ever Meet?
The Rising Tide of Choler
The Fundamental Needs of Human Life
Is Evolution the Foe of Religion?
The Eternal Quality of the Bible

Rabbi Silver was born in 1893, graduated from the Hebrew Union College in 1915; was two years minister in Wheeling, West Virginia, and at the age of twenty-four was called to the pulpit of The Temple, in Cleveland, Ohio, the largest liberal synagogue in America.

He is Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America; Member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College, and Honorary Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio.

He was in France during the war and was decorated by the French Government.

File

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D.D.

Rabbi Silver was born on January 28, 1893. Attended the Public and High Schools of New York City. Graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1915. Was Editor of the University Literary magazine, "The Scribe". Graduated from the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati in 1915. Was Editor of the college literary magazine, "The Hebrew Union College Monthly". Received degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College in 1925.

Was Rabbi in Wheeling, 1915-1917. Called to the Temple of Cleveland in 1917, the largest liberal Jewish Congregation in America.

Member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College; President of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education; member of the Commission on Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; member of Good Will Commission of Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Federated Council of the Churches of Christ.

Dr. Silver is Honorary Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio. Member of the Board of Associated Charities of Cleveland and of the Jewish Welfare Federation.

He is Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America and member of the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization.

TO CELEBRATE DR. SILVER'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Temple of Cleveland will celebrate on May 25th the Tenth Anniversary of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver's ministry in that congregation. The celebration will take on the character of a civic demonstration, as Dr. Silver has been active in the leadership of many movements within the community.

Dr. Silver succeeded the late Rabbi Moses J. Gries, in 1917. During his ten-years occupancy of The Temple pulpit, the membership of the Congregation has doubled. It now numbers 1475 families and is perhaps the largest Jewish Reform Congregation in America. The Religious School of The Temple and its High School number more than 1400 children, and the Temple Women's Association ^{has} 1650 on its membership roster. During the ministry of Dr. Silver and under his leadership, the beautiful new Temple at Ansel Road and East 105th Street was built, at a cost of \$1,350,000, and dedicated in 1924. The New Temple is acknowledged to be one of the finest examples of religious architecture in the country, and it is credited with having given a new direction to Synagogue architecture in America.

In his pulpit and in his ^{system of religious education} ~~religious school~~, Dr. Silver has sought to emphasize the positive values of Jewish life and to stress both the prophetic elements which are common to all progressive religions as well as the specifically Jewish modes of life and thought. He endeavored to bridge the gulf between conservative and liberal Judaism. His ten years of service have

American Governor of the Jewish National Fund. He was among those who founded the Palestine Economic Council and was President of the Palestine Economic Leagues. He has participated actively in the many campaigns for Palestine, as well as for Jewish Foreign Relief.

During the war Dr. Silver^V went abroad for the American Committee on Public Information and at the request of the French High Commission to the United States. He was decorated by the French Government for conspicuous service.

Dr. Silver graduated from the Hebrew Union College in 1915 and served as Rabbi in Wheeling for two years before being called to Cleveland. In 1925 the Hebrew Union College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity for his post-graduate studies. His book on "Messianic Speculations in Israel" will be published by the Macmillan Company in May.

Dr. Silver is a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College, member of the Educational Commission of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and of the Board of The Jewish Publication Society.

TO CELEBRATE DR. SILVER'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Temple of Cleveland will celebrate on May 15th the Tenth Anniversary of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver's ministry in that congregation. The celebration will take on the character of a civic demonstration, as Dr. Silver has been active in the leadership of many movements within the community.

Dr. Silver succeeded the late Rabbi Moses J. Gries, in 1917. During his ten-years occupancy of The Temple pulpit, the membership of the Congregation has doubled. It now numbers 1475 families and is perhaps the largest Jewish Reform Congregation in America. The Religious School of The Temple and its High School number more than 1400 children, and The Temple Women's Association has 1650 on its membership roster. During the ministry of Dr. Silver and under his leadership, the beautiful new Temple at Insel Road and East 105th Street was built, at a cost of \$1,350,000, and dedicated in 1924. The new Temple is acknowledged to be one of the finest examples of religious architecture in the country, and it is credited with having given a new direction to Synagogue architecture in America.

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Dr. Silver led in the organization of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education in 1924, which fosters a community-wide program of Jewish Education for Orthodox and Reform Jews alike. The Bureau supports all the existing Talmud Torahs as well as the free Sabbath Schools of the city. Dr. Silver has been president of the Bureau since its inception.

Dr. Silver has been actively identified with the social service interests of Cleveland. He is a member of the Board of the Associated Charities, the Jewish Welfare Federation and the Council Educational Alliance. He is Honorary Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio. In 1921 he was chosen one of the arbitrators in the great Builders' strike of that year and he has arbitrated in numerous other industrial disputes. At the forthcoming National Conference of Social Workers in Des Moines, in May, Dr. Silver will be the speaker at the joint rally of delegates and citizens, his subject being "The Church and Social ~~Progress~~ Justice."

Dr. Silver has been a leader in Zionist Activities in America. He is Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America; member of the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization and American Governor of the Jewish National Fund. He was among those who founded the Palestine Economic Council and was President of the Palestine Economic League. He has participated actively in the many campaigns for Palestine, as well as for Jewish Foreign Relief.

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Harvard N. Knight
Nat. Conf. Socialists
col.
2/3/27

Facts

FACTS CONCERNING RABBI A. H. SILVER

Rabbi Silver is spiritual leader of The Temple, Cleveland, one of the largest and most important congregations in America.

He is Honorary Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio.

Member of the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Associated Charities.

Member of the Board of the Federation of Jewish Charities of Cleveland.

Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America and Member of the International Actions Committee.

Member of the Commission of Education, Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Director of the Jewish Publication Society of America.

Rabbi Silver was in France during the World War, at the request of the Governments of the United States and France, and was decorated by the French government for conspicuous service.

He has been actively identified with many of the world movements of our day.

FACTS CONCERNING RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Born Jan. 28th, 1893, received his education at the University of Cincinnati. Graduated from Hebrew Union College 1915. Received his Doctor of Divinity degree in 1925. In 1928 he was honored by Western Reserve University with the degree of Doctor of Literature.

Rabbi Silver is a member of the National Child Labor Committee, Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio, member of the Board of the Cleveland Associated Charities and the Federated Jewish Charities and of the Board of Directors of the City Club.

He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the World Zionist Organization and of the Jewish Agency, member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College and President of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Cleveland.

Rabbi Silver was decorated by the French Government for conspicuous service during the World War.

FROM THE SPEAKERS BUREAU OF THE
CHICAGO FORUM COUNCIL
315 Plymouth Court,
Chicago, Illinois.

SEASON 1938-1939.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Rabbi, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

SUBJECTS

Liberalism
Democracy at the Cross-Roads
Is Progress a Myth?
Jew and Christian - Will they Ever Meet?
The Rising Tide of Cholera
The Fundamental Needs of Human Life
Is Evolution the Foe of Religion
What is Happening to the American Home?

Born:

The Four Major Revolutions in Jewish History
Lithuania, 1893

Education:

A. B. University of Cincinnati, 1915; rabbi Hebrew Union College, 1915; D.D., 1925. Litt.D. Western Reserve University

Activities:

Rabbi Silver was a minister for two years in Wheeling, West Virginia and at the age of twenty-four was called to the pulpit of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest liberal Synagogue in America.

Member:

He is a member of the ~~Executive Board General Conference American Rabbis~~; ~~Member~~ Commission of Jewish Education of Union of American Hebrew Congregations; member Executive Board Consumers' League of Ohio; Member Board of Governors, Hebrew Union College; member of Board Jewish Publ. Society of America; member of Board Federated Jewish Charities of Cleveland; member of Board Cleveland Associated Charities; President Bureau of Jewish Education, Cleveland; Vice-President, Zionist Organization of America and member of World War, at request of Governments of U. S. and France. He was decorated by the French Government.

Author:

was in France during the war
"Messianic Speculation in Israel", which was published by the MacMillan Company in 1927 and *The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History* (Bloch, 1928)

of the Action Committee, World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency.

BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS

RE: RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Silver is Rabbi of the Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest Liberal Jewish congregations in America

He is Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America, a member of the Executive Committee of the World Zionist Organization and of the Council of the Jewish Agency.

He is on the National Child Labor Committee, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Committee on Militarism in Education, Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio; Member of President Hoover's Unemployment Relief Committee.

Rabbi Silver is a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College, the Commission of the Hillel Foundation and President of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education.

He is the author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel," "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" and "Religion in a Changing World."

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Dr. Silver is Rabbi of the Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest Liberal Jewish congregations in America.

He is Vice President of the Zionist Organization of America and a member of the Executive Committee of the World Zionist Organization of America. He is on the Board of the Hebrew Union College and the Hillel Foundation. He is President of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education and on the boards of many philanthropic and charitable institutions.

He is the author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel" and "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History." ~~His book "Religion in a Changing World" is soon to appear~~



FACTS ABOUT RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Born: January 28th, 1893, Heinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania

A. B. University of Cincinnati, 1915; Rabbi, Hebrew Union College, 1915
D. D. 1925; Litt. D. from Western Reserve University, 1929.

Married Jan. 2d, 1923 to Virginia Horkheimer in Wheeling, W. Va.

Children: Daniel Jeremy and Raphael David

Rabbi Congregation L'Shem Shamayim, Wheeling, 1915 - 17
Rabbi The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio since 1917

Mem. Exec. Committee World Zionist Org; Mem. Council of Jewish Agency;
V. Pres. Zionist Org. of America; Board of Governors Hebrew Union College;
Board Jewish Publication Society of America; Mem. Commission of Hillel
Foundation; Mem. Nat'l. Child Labor Committee; American Civil Liberties
Union; Board, Associated Charities of Cleveland; Mem. Committee on
Militarism in Education; V. Pres. Consumer's League of Ohio; Charter Mem.
Ohio Race Betterment Ass'n.; Pres. Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education;
Commission on Jewish Education of Union of American Hebrew Congs.; Mem.
Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Clubs: Alathians, Oakwood, I. O. B. B., City Club

Author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel" Pub. 1927 - MacMillan Co.
"The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" Pub. 1928, Bloch Pub. Co.
Contributing Editor "World Unity."

Was in France during World War at request of Governments of U. S. and France.
Decorated by French Government.

Member:

He is a member of the Commission of Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; member Executive Board Consumers' League of Ohio; member Board of Governors, Hebrew Union College; member of Board Jewish Publ. Society of America; member Board Federated Jewish Charities of Cleveland; Member Board Cleveland Associated Charities; President Bureau of Jewish Education of Cleveland; Vice President, Zionist Organization of America; member of Actions Committee of World Zionist Organization and of The Jewish Agency; member National Committee opposed to Military Training in Schools and Colleges; member Executive Committee for Larger Regional Govt. in Cleveland; member National Child Labor Committee.

Rabbi Silver was in France during the World War at request of Governments of U. S. and France. He was decorated by the French Government.

Author:

"Messianic Speculation in Israel," published by MacMillan Co. in 1927; "Davenma'as Ispahan in Jewish History" (Bloch Publishing Co., 1928)

Rabbi A. H. Silver

SILVER, ABBA HILLEL:

Born Jan. 28, 1893, Meinstdt, Schirwindt, Lithuania; son Moses and Diana (Seamon) Silver; ed. Univ. of Cincinnati, A. B. 1915; Hebrew Union Coll., Rabbi 1915, D. D. 1925; m. Virginia Horkheimer, Jan. 2d, 1923. Rabbi Cong. L'Shem Shasayim, Wheeling, 1915-17; The Temple, Cleveland, since 1917. Mem., exec. bd., Central Conf. Amer. Rabbis; mem. Com. of Jewish Education of Union of Amer. Hebrew Congs.; mem., exec. bd., Consumers' League of Ohio; mem., bd of govs., Hebrew Union Coll.; mem. of bd Jewish Publn. Soc. of Amer.; mem. of bd., Fed. Jewish Charities, of Cleveland; mem. of bd., Cleveland Associated Charities; pres., Bureau of Jewish Education, Cleveland. Vice-pres., Zionist Org. of America, and mem. of World War, at request of Govts. of U. S. and France. Decorated by French Govt. Res. 10311 Lake Shore Blvd., Office: The Temple, E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd., Cleveland, Ohio



Facts about Rabbi A. H. Silver

Rabbi Silver was born in 1893; graduated from the Hebrew Union College in 1915; was two years minister in Wheeling, West Virginia, and at the age of twenty-four was called to the pulpit of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, the largest liberal Synagogue in America.

He is a member of the Committee on Militarism in Education
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Executive Committee of Larger Regional
Government of Cleveland.
Cleveland Recreation Council
American Civil Liberties Union
Near East Relief
Executive Board Consumer's League of Ohio
Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College
International Actions Committee Zionist Organization
Board, Jewish Publication Society of America
Board of the Cleveland Associated Charities

He was in France during the war and was decorated by the French Government.

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He is the author of "Messianic Speculation in Israel"
published by the MacMillan Company in 1927.

SUBJECTS WHICH HAVE PROVED POPULAR WITH LECTURE
AUDIENCES ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Jew and Christian - Will They Ever Meet?
2. The Four Major Tendencies In Jewish Life.
3. What Is Happening to the American Home?
4. Is Progress A Myth?
5. Democracy at the Crossroads.
6. Impressions of a visit to Russia.
7. The Widening Horizons of Social Service
8. How to Measure Life



FACTS CONCERNING

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Born Jan. 28th, 1893, Weinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania; ~~KMM~~
Educated Univ. of Cincinnati, A. B. 1915; Hebrew Union College,
Rabbi 1915; D. D. 1925; Litt D. 1928, Western Reserve University.
Was editor of "Hebrew Union College Monthly" and of literary
magazine of the Univ. of Cincinnati "The Scribe."

Rabbi Cong. L'Shem Shamayim, Wheeling, 1915-1917; The Temple,
Cleveland since 1917.

Mem. Actions Committee World Zionist Organization
American mem. International Directorate Jewish National Fund.
Mem. Founders' Board of the Bezalel Art School, Jerusalem.

President Bureau of Jewish Education, Cleveland
Mem. Board of Governors Hebrew Union College
Mem. Committee on Jewish Education of Union of American Hebrew Congs.
Mem. Board of Jewish Publication Society of America
Mem. of Commission ~~Hillel~~ Foundation.

Vice Pres. of Consumers' League of Ohio
Mem. Board Cleveland Associated Charities
Mem. of Board Federation of Jewish Charities
Mem. National Committee opposed to Military Training in Schools and Colleges
Mem. Exec. Committee for Larger Regional Govt. in Cleveland
Mem. Nat'l. Child Labor Committee.

Was in France during World War at requests of Governments of U. S. and France
Decorated by French Government.

Author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel" (MacMillan 1927)
"Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" (Bloch 1928)

Res. 10311 Lake Shore Blvd., Office: The Temple E. 105th & Ansel Rd. Cleveland.

LIST OF RABBI SILVER'S SUBJECTS

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE AMERICAN HOME?

JESUS, THE MYSTIC

WHAT CAN THE MODERN MAN BELIEVE?

A VISIT TO RUSSIA

IS THE MODERN JEW SPIRITUALLY HOMELESS-A DISCUSSION OF
LUDWIG LEWISOHN'S BOOK, "THE ISLAND WITHIN."

DEMOCRACY AT THE CROSSROADS

THE FOUR MAJOR TENDENCIES IN JEWISH LIFE

JEW AND CHRISTIAN WILL THEY EVER MEET?

IS PROGRESS A MYTH?

THE WIDENING HORIZONS OF SOCIAL SERVICE

HOW TO MEASURE LIFE

FACTS ABOUT RABBI SILVER

Revised

NAME ABBA HILLEL SILVER

DATE OF BIRTH: JANUARY 28th, 1893, Weinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania

Mother's Maiden Name: Diana Seamon

A. B. from University of Cincinnati 1915; Rabbi, Hebrew Union College, 1915;
D. D. 1925; Litt. D. from Western Reserve University, 1929.

Married Jan. 2d, 1923 to Virginia Horkheimer in Wheeling.

Children: Daniel Jeremy and Raphael Hland.

Member of Central Conference of American Rabbis

Rabbi Congregation D'Shem Shasayim, Wheeling, 1915-17

Rabbi The Temple, Cleveland since 1917.

Mem.

Jewish

Mem. Exec. Committee World Zionist Org.; Mem. Council of Jewish Agency;
V. Pres. Zionist Org. of America; Board of Governors, Hebrew Union College;
Board Jewish Publication Society of America; Commission of Hillel Foundation;
Mem. Nat'l. Child Labor Committee; American Civil Liberties Union;
Mem. Committee on Militarism in Education; V. Pres. Consumer's League of Ohio;
Charter Mem. Ohio Race Betterment Ass'n. Pres. Cleveland Bureau of Education;
Commission on Jewish Education of Union of American Hebrew Congs.

Clubs: Alsthians, Oakwood, I. O. B. B., City Club.

Author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel" Pub. 1927 - MacMillan Co.
"The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" Pub. 1928, Bloch
Contributing Editor "World Unity."

Was in France during World War at request of Governments of U. S. and France.
Decorated by French Government.

Board Associated Charities
of Cleveland.

SILVER, ABBA HILLEL:

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son Moses and Diana (Seamon) Silver; ed. Univ. of Cincinnati, A. B.
1915; Hebrew Union Coll., Rabbi 1915; D. D. 1925; Litt.D. 1928, Western
Reserve Univ. Was editor of "Hebrew Union College Monthly" and of literary
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Jan. 2d, 1923. one child, Daniel Jeremy b. 1928. Rabbi Cong. L'Shem Shamayim,
Wheeling, 1915-1917; The Temple, Cleveland since 1917.

Mem. Actions Committee World Zionist Organization
American mem. International Directorate Jewish National Fund
Mem. Founders' Board of the Bezalel Art School, Jerusalem

President Bureau of Jewish Education, Cleveland
Mem. Board of Governors Hebrew Union College
Mem. Committee on Jewish Education of Union of American Heb. Congs.
Mem. Board of Jewish Publication Society of America
Mem. of Commission Hillel Foundation.

Vice President of Consumers' League of Ohio
Mem. Board Cleveland Associated Charities
Mem. of Board Federation of Jewish Charities
Mem. National Committee opposed to Military Training in Schools and Colleges
Mem. Board American Civil Liberties Union
Mem. Exec. Committee for Larger Regional Govt. in Cleveland
Mem. Nat'l. Child Labor Committee

Was in France during World War at requests of Govts. of U.S. and France
Decorated by French Govt.

Author of "Messianic Speculations In Israel" (MacMillan 1927)
"Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" (Bloch 1928)
Contributing Editor of World Unity

Res. 10311 Lake Shore Blvd., Office: The Temple, E. 105th St. at Ansel Ed., Cleveland, O.

3/31/30

FACTS ABOUT RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

NAME ABBA HILLEL SILVER

DATE OF BIRTH: January 28th, 1893, Weinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania

MOTHERS MAIDEN NAME: Diana Seamon

A. B. from University of Cincinnati 1915; Rabbi, Hebrew Union College, 1915

D. D. 1925; Litt. D. From Western Reserve University, 1929

Married Jan. 2d, 1923 to Virginia Horkheimer in Wheeling, W. Va.

Children: Daniel Jeremy and Raphael David.

Rabbi Congregation L'Shem Shamayim, Wheeling, 1915-17

Rabbi The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio since 1917

Mem. Exec. Committee World Zionist Org; Mem. Council of Jewish Agency;
V. Pres. Zionist Org. of America; Board of Governors Hebrew Union College;
Board Jewish Publication Society of America; Mem. Commission of Hillel
Foundation; Mem. Nat'l. Child Labor Committee; American Civil Liberties
Union; Board, Associated Charities of Cleveland; Mem. Committee on
Militarism in Education; V. Pres. Consumer's League of Ohio; Charter Mem.
Ohio Race Betterment Ass'n.; Pres. Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education;
Commission on Jewish Education of Union of American Hebrew Congs.; Mem.
Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Clubs: Alathians, Oakwood, I. O. B. E., City Club

Author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel" Pub. 1927 - MacMillan Co.

"The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" Pub. 1928, Bloch.

Contributing Editor "World Unity."

Was in France during World War at request of Governments of U. S. and France.
Decorated by French Government.

FACTS CONCERNING RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

CLEVELAND OHIO

Born Jan. 28th, 1893, received his education at the University of Cincinnati. Graduated from Hebrew Union College 1915. Received his Doctor of Divinity degree in 1925. In 1928 he was honored by Western Reserve University with the degree of Doctor of Literature.

Rabbi Silver is a member of the National Child Labor Committee, Vice President of the Consumers League of Ohio, member of the Board of the Cleveland Associated Charities and the Federated Jewish Charities and of the Board of Directors of the City Club.

He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the World Zionist Organization and of the Jewish Agency, member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College and President of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Cleveland.

Rabbi Silver was decorated by the French Government for conspicuous service during the World War.

Rabbi Silver was minister of Congregation L'Shem Shamayim, Wheeling, W. Va., 1915 - 17. He has been rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland since 1917.

He is the author of "Messianic Speculations in Israel" Pub. 1927 Macmillan Co., "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" Pub. 1928, Bloch. Contributing Editor, "World Unity."

1. Q. The number of members of The Temple at the time Rabbi Silver was elected as Rabbi.
A. 780 - In 1932 - 1597
2. Q. Information in connection with the installation of Rabbi Silver.
A. Rabbi Silver was installed on September 9th, 1917. Rabbi Louis H. Wolsey did the invocation. Dr. Kaufman Kohler of the Hebrew Union College and a former teacher of Rabbi Silver gave the address. Rabbi Moses J. Gries delivered the installation address which was followed by the inaugural address of Rabbi Silver. Rabbi Jacob Klein read the benediction.
3. Q. The names of the members of the Board in 1917.
A. Benjamin Lowenstein, president, Max E. Meisel, V. Pres., Emanuel Einstein, Dr. Fred Abel, Julius W. Deutsch, Herman Einstein, Charles Eisenman, Moses J. Gross, Sam M. Gross, Magnus Haas, Samuel Hartman, Jay Iglauer, Henry F. Klein, Louis Littman, Herman Moss, Sidney Schloss, E. A. Schwarzenberg, Jesse Schmale Strauss, William R. Weidenthal, Samuel Weil, Mrs. Sol R. Bing, Mrs. Marcus Feder, Miss Edna Goldsmith, Mrs. A. M. Graver, Mrs. Moses J. Gries, Mrs. Sigmund Joseph.
4. Q. The number of children in the Sabbath School in 1917.
A. 932 - 29 classes
5. Q. The number of children in the Confirmation Class of 1917.
A. 75
6. Q. The yearly budget in 1917.
A. \$25,000.00 - In 1932 \$87,000.00
7. Q. The number of children in the Religious School in 1932.
A. 1153 - 48 classes
8. Q. The average dues in 1917 and at present.
A. 1917 - \$18.00 per year
1932 - \$70.00 " "
9. Q. The average attendance at services in 1932.
A. 1500
10. Q. The size of the Temple Women's Association 1917
A. 1000 - in 1932 - 1300
11. Q. The size of the Men's Club
A. No Men's Club in 1917 - in 1932 - 215 members

SILVER, Abba Hillel, Rabbi; b. Neinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania, Jan. 28, 1893; s. Moses and Diana (Seamon) Silver; A.B. from University of Cincinnati, 1915; rabbi Hebrew Union Coll., 1915, D.D., 1925; Litt.D., Western Reserve, 1928; m. Virginia, d. Louis and Clementine Horkheimer, of Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 2, 1923; children, Daniel Jeremy, Raphael David. Rabbi, Congregation, L'Shem Shamayim, Wheeling, 1915-17, The Temple, Cleveland, since 1917. Pres. Bur. of Jewish Edn. Cleveland; v.p. Consumers' League of Ohio; Zionist Orgn. of America; Mem. Council of Jewish Agency for Palestine; mem. Nat. Child Labor Com.; Com. on Militarism in Edn.; Amer. Civil Liberties Union; Mem. Exec. Central Conf. Amer. Rabbis; Board of Governors, Heb. Union College; Board of Hillel Foundation; Comm. on Jewish Edn. of Union of Am. Hebrew Colls.; Cleveland Associated Charities; Mem. President Hoover's Unemployment Relief Commission, 1931; Charter Mem. Ohio Race Betterment Assn.; Mem. Nat. World Court Com. In France, World War; decorated by French Govt. Clubs; Alathians, Oakwood, City. Author: Messianic Speculations in Israel, 1927; Democratic Impulse in Jewish History, 1928; Religion in a Changing World, 1930. Contbg. editor, World Unity. Home: 10311 Lake Shore Blvd. Office: The Temple, E. 105th St. and Ansel Rd., Cleveland, O.

Ohio Comm. on Unemployment Insurance.

~~Handwritten text~~

National

-

Wm
Gray

(ii) American Red Cross, American Friends

Rabbi Silver has been in the service of The Temple for fifteen years. Those of us who have been more or less intimately identified with congregational activities during that period know that these years have been strenuous, fruitful and glorious. Under Rabbi Silver's leadership Tifereth Israel has achieved unparalleled distinction. But his work has not been confined to Cleveland alone. American Jewry and World Jewry have demanded and have received of him time and energy without stint. Ungrudgingly has he answered the call of duty, from whatever source it may have emanated.

This devotion to the cause of Judaism has entailed absorbing labor. At its best, the function of a Rabbi involves exacting duties, and when that Rabbi belongs not to one city alone, but to a people, its implications are multiplied many fold.

We feel, therefore, that Rabbi Silver merits a leave of absence - a sabbatical year. For a long time he has dreamed of travel in European lands. He has yearned for the opportunity to study at the fountain-sources of learning and culture, for the broadening influences which travel and study afford. In vouchsafing this privilege to him, we are not unmindful that our motive is not wholly unselfish. We feel, indeed, that not only will Rabbi Silver return to us a year hence wiser, broader in outlook and more mellow, but that we shall reap the benefit of his further study and of his acquisitive mind.

RESOLVED, THEREFORE, That as evidence and expression of our grateful appreciation to Rabbi Silver for his fifteen years of incomparable ministry, The Temple grant him a leave of absence, beginning at the conclusion of the fall holidays in 1932 and ending with the beginning of the fall holidays in 1933.

RABBI SILVER TO LEAVE ON SABBATICAL YEAR

The Temple of Cleveland grants Rabbi Silver a Sabbatical Year in Recognition of his Fifteen Years of Service to the Congregation

Rabbi Abba Millel Silver who this June completes fifteen years of service as Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, has been voted a sabbatical year by his congregation in recognition of his service to the congregation.

Rabbi Silver will leave at the conclusion of the fall holidays in October and conditions permitting will spend the year abroad in travel and study.

During his absence the Temple will continue its full program of religious and educational activities under the leadership of Rabbi Leon Yeiser who will have additional Rabbinical assistance. Outstanding men of the nation, ministers and laymen, will occupy the Temple pulpit at the Sunday morning services.

Rabbi Silver accepted the call to the pulpit of the Cleveland Temple in June, 1917. Since that time the membership of the congregation has more than doubled numbering today over sixteen hundred families. The beautiful new Temple and school building at Adel Road and East 105th Street were built. The Religious school was enlarged numbering today about twelve hundred children, and high school and college departments were added to it. The study of Hebrew was made compulsory in all classes.

Rabbi Silver reinstituted the Sabbath eve and Saturday morning services in addition to the Sunday morning service. Under his leadership a new Temple policy was adopted which eliminated the purely recreational and social features from the life of the synagogue and confined the functions of the synagogue to religious and moral education, worship and Jewish studies. The Temple abandoned the idea of the institutional Synagogue which it was the first to adopt in the early nineteen of the last century.

Rabbi Silver was instrumental in founding the Bureau of Jewish Education of Cleveland and has been its president since its inception.

He has been a pioneer of Unemployment Insurance in Ohio; was chairman of the Committee which drafted the Bill for Unemployment Insurance submitted to the Ohio State Legislature and was recently appointed a member of a State Commission on Unemployment Insurance created by the Ohio State Legislature.

Rabbi Silver was also appointed last year by President Hoover a member of his Unemployment Relief Commission.

Rabbi Silver is Vice Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Zionist Organization of America and one of the National Chairmen of the American Palestine Campaign of the Jewish Agency. He is vice president of the Consumers' League of Ohio, a member of the National Child Labor Commission;

the Committee of Militarism in Education, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College and the Committee of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation.

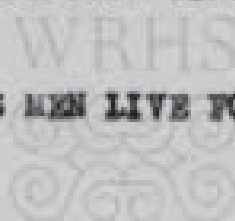
Rabbi Silver graduated from the Hebrew Union College in 1923, received his doctor degree in 1925 from that institution, and the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in 1929 from Western Reserve University, the first Jew to be thus honored.

He is the author of "Messianic Speculation in Israel," "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History" and "Religion in a Changing World."



LIST OF SERMON TOPICS
1933-1934

1. HOW SHALL WE MEASURE LIFE?
2. EDUCATION AND THE GOOD LIFE
3. RELIGION IN A CHANGING WORLD
4. THE ONE AND THE MANY
5. GOLD STANDARDS
6. WHAT WE HAVE LOST SINCE THE WAR
7. THE THINGS MEN LIVE FOR



LIST OF RABBI SILVER'S SUBJECTS
1933-1934

1. MY YEAR ABROAD

(Rabbi Silver spent the last year abroad on a leave of absence from his Temple. He visited Germany, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Egypt and Palestine. He studied conditions in these countries and contacted with their outstanding political leaders such as Mussolini, President Masaryk and others).

2. HITLER'S GERMANY

3. THE AGE OF DICTATORS

4. PALESTINE REVISITED

5. JEW AND CHRISTIAN, WILL THEY EVER MEET?

6. RELIGION IN A CHANGING WORLD

7. LIBERALISM AT THE CROSSROADS

8. WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE AMERICAN HOME?

9. THE FOUR MAJOR TENDENCIES IN JEWISH LIFE

10. IS PROGRESS A MYTH?

FOR JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA -
Summer of 1934

1. Member of Governor White's Ohio Commission on Unemployment Insurance
2. Appointed by President Hoover on NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF COMMISSION
3. NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE
4. COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION
5. AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
6. CHARTER MEMBER OHIO RACE BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION
7. DIRECTOR AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
8. VICE-PRESIDENT CONSUMERS' LEAGUE OF OHIO
9. NATIONAL WORLD COURT COMMITTEE
10. BOARD CLEVELAND ASSOCIATED CHARITIES
11. AMERICAN RED CROSS, CLEVELAND, OHIO (Board)
12. CLEVELAND JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION
13. BOARD OF HILLEL FOUNDATION
14. DIRECTOR JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY
15. VICE-PRESIDENT NON-SECTARIAN LEAGUE FOR DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST NAZISM
16. COMMISSION OF EDUCATION UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS - Ex 1935-36

THE CAULDRON OF EUROPE - South Side Hebrew Congregation

EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE NEW DAY - Iowa State Teachers Ass'n

THE CHANGING STATUS OF THE JEW IN THE MODERN WORLD



SUGGESTED LECTURE SUBJECTS FOR 1936-37

1. THE CHRISTIAN-JEWISH TRADITION -- AND WHAT THREATENS IT IN THE MODERN WORLD 2
2. SOME ABERRATIONS OF OUR DAY 3
3. THINGS I DO NOT BELIEVE IN
4. EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE NEW DAY
5. THE CAULDRON OF EUROPE
6. ~~THE CHANGING STATUS OF THE JEW IN THE MODERN WORLD~~ 1

- 1) SHOULD CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE FIGHT COMMUNISM?
- 2) HOW TO FORGET ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM
- 3) PROBLEMS OF HUMAN LIFE REFLECTED IN THE BIBLE
- 4) SOME ABERRATIONS OF OUR DAY
- 5) THE CHRISTIAN-JEWISH TRADITION - AND WHAT THREATENS IT IN THE MODERN WORLD.
- 6) HOW LIBERALS DEFEAT THEMSELVES



SUGGESTED LECTURE SUBJECTS

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

1937-38

1. The Christian-Jewish Tradition - And What Threatens It in the Modern World.
2. Some Aberrations of Our Day.
3. Things I Do Not Believe In.
4. Educating Our Children for the New Day.
5. The Cauldron of Europe.
6. Palestine at the Cross-roads.
7. Is Progress a Myth?

ITEMS OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH THE TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF RABBI ABRAHAM L. SILVER
OF THE TEMPLE

I IN THE TEMPLE

- A During his ministry the new Temple at East 105th and Ansel Road, one of the finest religious edifices in the country was built in 1924.
- B The membership of The Temple increased from 725 in 1917, to its present membership of almost 1500, making it the largest congregation in the United States.
- C He confirmed 2074 boys and girls in the last twenty years.
- D He built up the Religious School of The Temple into ~~was~~ one of the largest and most progressive in the United States - a pioneering institution in its field. It offers systematic courses in religious education under trained professional instructors from the Kindergarten through the College Department.
- E His Sunday Morning Lectures - a civic institution.

R II IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE

- A Rabbi Silver was the father of the Unemployment Insurance movement in Ohio. Back in 1928, he began his efforts in this direction and persuaded the Consumers' League of Ohio to undertake the study of unemployment and unemployment insurance.

Rabbi Silver was chairman of the committee on unemployment insurance which made the initial study and which framed the initial legislation on the subject. He was a member of the Commission appointed by Governor White for the study of unemployment insurance and was the chairman of the Executive of the State Committee on Unemployment Insurance.

- B ~~He was appointed by President Hoover, in 1931, as the Unemployment Relief Commission. He has been very active in all movements for liberal legislation, has championed the cause of organized labor. He resigned from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce in 1934 because of its open-shop policy. He has arbitrated many strikes and industrial disputes. In 1932, he launched a bitter attack upon the financial leaders and manipulators in the community whose acts deepened the economic depression in Cleveland.~~
- C He was one of the leaders in the movement for the introduction, and later on, for the retention of the Manager Form of government in Cleveland, in 1927-29.
- D He has been very active in the Cleveland Community Chest from its very inception, and has frequently sounded the keynote at its campaign meetings.

III IN THE JEWISH FIELD

- A Rabbi Silver has been one of the international leaders in the Zionist Movement. He is at present a member of the Administrative Committee of the Jewish Agency, Vice-president of the Zionist Organisation of America, National ~~Co-Chairman~~ *Chairman* of the United Palestine Appeal. *He is also head of the Jewish People's Relief Fund.*
- B. He has traveled throughout the nation visiting hundreds of communities since the World War in behalf of over-seas relief and has been responsible for the raising of millions of dollars for the relief of his distressed fellow Jews throughout the world.
- C. He has been ~~General Chairman~~ *Chairman* of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland for the ~~past~~ *last* three years.
- D. He was a prime mover in the organization of the Bureau of Jewish Education and ~~was its president~~ *was its president* for the first nine years of its existence.
- E. Together with Dr. Samuel Untermyer of New York, he organized the Anti-Nazi boycott movement in the United States to fight the Nazi regime and to champion American ideals against Nazi propaganda.
- F. He is at present President of the Alumni Association of the Hebrew Union College. He is also a member of numerous boards of national educational and philanthropic organizations.

IV AUTHOR

- A Messianic Speculations in Israel (1927)
- B Democratic Impulse in Jewish History (1929)
- C Religion in a changing World (1930)
- D He has contributed numerous articles to magazines and periodicals.

V Rabbi Silver was decorated by the French Government in 1919 with the Academic Palm.

In 1928 he received the honorary degree of Litt. D., from Eastern Reserve University.

He was graduated from the Hebrew Union College in 1918 and received his Doctor's degree from that institution in 1925.


20th Anniversary

ORDER OF SERVICE

4-18-37

1. Sanctus
2. "Borchu" - to "Ve-hohavto"
3. "Hear My Prayer" - Mrs. Babb
4. Responsive Reading - Silent Devotion
"May the Words"
5. Hymn - "Lord What Offering" - Congregation
6. Scripture
7. String Quartette
8. Solo - Rosenberg
9. Sermon
10. Largo
11. "Confession of Faith" - Confirmants
12. "Adoration"
13. Kaddish - "Amen"
14. Announcements - Benediction

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Oct. 13, 1937

Consumer's League of Ohio - Vice-President
President Hoover's Unemployment Relief Commission - 1931
Ohio Commission on Unemployment Insurance - member
National Committee American League for India's Freedom
National Citizens Committee for Mobilization for Human Needs
~~National Committee American League~~
Member Jewish Agency for Palestine
United Palestine Appeal (co-chairman)
National Child Labor Commission
Commission on Militarism in Education
Commission on Jewish Education of Union of Am. Hebrew Cong.
President Alumni Ass'n Hebrew Union College (36-37)
Jewish Publication Society of America (member board)
National World Court Committee
American Committee of International Relief Ass'n
Zionist Organization of America (vice-President)
Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League (v.p.)
America Committee Anti-Nazi Literature (sponsor)
Cleveland Jewish Welfare Federation (v.p.)
Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland (chairman)
Council Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds (member board)
Civil Liberties Union
Cleveland Association Charities
Am. Birth Control League - member bd.
Charter mem. Ohio Race Betterment Ass'n
Jewish Academy Arts and Sciences (v.p.)
Jewish Telegraphic Agency (bd.)
National Society Theta Phi.
Served as university preacher at Harvard, Cornell, U. of Chicago,
Syracuse, Purdue.
In France World War; decorated by French Government
Officier de l'Instruction publique
President Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education (1924-32)

Some material for
Forum Publicity
Season 1937-38

OPEN FORUM SPEAKERS BUREAU
1242 Little Building
Boston, Mass.

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER
Rabbi, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

SUBJECTS

The Christian-Jewish Tradition - And What Threatens
It in the Modern World
Some Aberrations of Our Day
Things I Do Not Believe In
Educating Our Children for the New Day
The Cauldron of Europe
Palestine at the Cross-roads
Is Progress a Myth?

Born: Lithuania, 1893.

Education: A.B. University of Cincinnati, 1915; Rabbi Hebrew Union College,
1916; D.D., 1925. Litt. D. Western Reserve University, 1938.

Activities: Rabbi Silver was a minister for two years in Wheeling, W.
Virginia and at the age of twenty-four was called to the
pulpit of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, the largest liberal
Synagogue in America.

Vice-President Consumer's League of Ohio
Member President Hoover's Unemployment Relief Commission, 1931
Member Ohio Committee on Unemployment Insurance, National
Committee American League for India's Freedom, National
Citizen's Committee for Mobilization for Human Needs.
Member Council Jewish Agency for Palestine, National Child
Labor Committee, Committee on Militarism in Education,
Central Conference of American Rabbis, Commission on
Jewish Education of Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
National World Court Committee, American Committee of
International Relief Association, Vice-President of the
Zionist Organization of America, Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi
League (vice-president), Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland
(chairman), American Civil Liberties Union, Cleveland
Associated Charities.
Member Board of American Birth Control League
Charter member Ohio Race Betterment Association
Vice-president Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences

Served as university preacher at Harvard, Cornell, University
of Chicago, Syracuse, Purdue.
He was decorated by the French Government.

Author: Messianic Speculations in Israel, 1927.
Democratic Impulse in Jewish History, 1928.
Religion in a Changing World, 1930.

*Please OK (in
advance and return for
1938-39)*

Some material for
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1242 Little Building
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Palestine at the Cross-roads
Is Progress a Myth?

*Please OK (or
revise and OK)
and return for
1937-40 season*

Born: Lithuania, 1893.

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Central Conference of American Rabbis, Commission on
Jewish Education of Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
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International Relief Association, Vice-President of the
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Degenerative Impulse in Jewish History, 1928.
Religion in a Changing World, 1930.

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver has for more than three decades been the spiritual leader of The Temple in Cleveland, the largest liberal Jewish congregation in the United States.

He has been actively identified with many social movements of our day. He was an early champion of the rights of organized labor, and one of the first advocates in the United States of unemployment insurance. *He* Chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Israel, ~~and~~ Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, *Dr. Silver is the* foremost spokesman of Zionism in the United States. He represented the movement before the Assembly of the United Nations, and is one of the leaders who are responsible for the establishment of the state of Israel.

Dr. Silver is the author of several volumes on history and religion, notably his work on "Religion in a Changing World" and "The World Crisis and Jewish Survival".

John Gunther, in his book, "Inside U.S.A.", speaks of Dr. Silver as the first citizen of Cleveland.

Dr. Silver is a graduate of the Hebrew Union College, and was ordained in 1915.

and was President of the American Jewish Congress

And as President of the Zionist Organization of America

LECTURE SUBJECTS FOR 1939-40
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

- 5 AN AMERICAN JEW LOOKS AT THE WORLD CRISIS
- 4 WHAT RELIGION CAN OFFER A WAR-TORN WORLD
- 1 ~~THE~~ AMERICAN¹⁵ STAKE IN THE PRESENT WAR
- 2 THE FREEDOM OF RACES AND MINORITIES
- 3 THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

The author



SUGGESTED LECTURE SUBJECTS
1939-40

- 1) THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE
- 2) AMERICA'S STAKE IN THE PRESENT WORLD WAR
- 3) SOME ASPIRATIONS OF OUR DAY
- 4) THE CHRISTIAN-JEWISH TRADITION AND WHAT THREATENS IT IN THE
MODERN WORLD
- 5) PALESTINE AT THE CROSSROADS
- 6) THE WORLD CRISIS AND JEWISH SURVIVAL
- 7) RELIGION IN PRESENT-DAY JEWISH LIFE
- 8) WHY THE WORLD IS RETURNING TO RELIGION

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS FOR 1939-40

AN AMERICAN JEW LOOKS AT ^{The} WORLD CRISIS

WHAT RELIGION CAN OFFER A WAR-TORN WORLD

AMERICAN STAKE IN THE PRESENT WAR

THE FREEDOM OF RACES AND MINORITIES

THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

The Outlook for America



March 21, 1940

Mr. Walton Rankin
The Cleveland Plain Dealer
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Rankin:

We would appreciate it very much
if you could give the enclosed item publicity
in the Plain Dealer on Saturday, Sunday, or
Monday, preferably on Sunday.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I
remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK
Enc.

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver has been spiritual leader for the last twenty-three years of the The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, the largest Jewish liberal congregation in the United States. He has been actively identified with the great social movements of our day and has been leader in the field of religious thought. He is National Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal as well as of the United Palestine Appeal, and is one of the world leaders of the Zionist Movement.

Dr. Silver was a pioneer in the field of Unemployment Insurance in the United States and was a member of the Ohio Commission of Unemployment Insurance. He has been prominently identified with the Community Chest Movement in this country. ~~He is a member of the National Citizens Committee for Mobilization for Human Needs, a member of the Board of the Cleveland Associated Charities, General Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland, Vice-President of the Consumers League of Ohio, Member of the National Child Labor Committee, and on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union.~~

Dr. Silver has frequently visited Europe for the purpose of observation and study and has lectured throughout the United States. ~~He has served as University Preacher in many Colleges and Universities. Dr. Silver is the author of "Religion in a Changing World", and other works of religious and sociological nature.~~

Dr. Silver has previously addressed the National Conference of Social Work at its meetings in Des Moines, Philadelphia and Cleveland.

Rabbi Silver flew to England last Spring to acquaint himself at first hand with conditions in Great Britain. He visited many of the cities and interviewed the foremost leaders of Great Britain.

1942

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1943

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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland, has been prominently identified with the great social movements of our day. He has been a leader in the field of progressive religious thought. He was a pioneer in the field of unemployment insurance in the United States. He has been prominently identified with the Community Chest movement in this country and has frequently addressed important gatherings of educators, social workers and religious leaders.

Dr. Silver has been spiritual leader, for the last twenty-five years of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, the largest liberal congregation in the United States. He has served as University Preacher in many of the leading Colleges and Universities in the country. He is the author of "Religion in a Changing World" and many other works of religious and sociological import.



JEWISH STATEHOOD LEGITIMATED: ABBA HILLEL SILVER AT THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

Jerome B. Polisky and Frances R. Wolpaw

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, spiritual leader of the Temple, in Cleveland, Ohio until his death in November, 1963, was a prominent rabbi of Reform Judaism, one of the most eloquent pulpit orators in America, an outspoken champion of civil rights and social justice, and among the architects of the present State of Israel. His speaking and leadership as a Zionist combined to act as a catalytic agent in arousing and directing forces that led to the statehood decision by the United Nations. The Silver archives are replete with scores of speeches that document his involvement with and importance to the history of American Zionism.¹ However, several of these speeches were of unusual significance and singular impact. Among these was his address to the American Jewish Conference on August 30, 1943. The speech marked a turning point in American Zionist history and was a landmark achievement for the Zionist rhetorician. Through this address he convinced the vast majority of the delegates of the need to support the classical Zionist goal of reestablishing the Jewish Homeland in Palestine.

In this essay we shall discuss Dr. Silver's address to the American Jewish Conference as the speech that "legiti-

mated" the Jewish statehood idea for this second representative assembly of American Jewry.²

ABBA HILLEL SILVER: ZIONIST RHETORICIAN

At the time Dr. Silver stood to address the American Jewish Conference, he was a recognized Zionist leader who represented life-long dedication to the cause. As a school boy in New York City he learned about Zionism from his father, Rabbi Moses Silver. When Theodore Herzl, founder of the modern statehood movement, died in 1904, the elder Silver encouraged his sons to organize the Theodore Herzl Zionist Club. This club served as a training ground for the future leadership of the movement. Here, as a participant in the society's program of debating questions of current Jewish interest, Silver began his speaking career. Later, as a student at the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College, Silver was known as an effective and dedicated Zionist advocate.

As a young rabbi, Silver quickly earned the reputation of being an ardent and effective spokesman for Zionism. He spoke as a Zionist in a variety of forums—Jewish congregations, discussion groups, social, philanthropic, and religious organizations, and international Zionist conferences.

In his speaking as a Zionist, Silver sup-

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¹ "Silver, Abba Hillel." Temple Archives (October 12, 1919–November, 1943). Cleveland, Ohio.

² The first such assembly was the American Jewish Congress held in December of 1918.

ported fund-raising campaigns to finance emigration to Palestine, settlement on the land, and development of the country. Silver, however, never conceived of philanthropy as being the ultimate mission of the Zionist movement. For Silver, Zionism's mission was to secure the political status of Jews in Palestine, and the theme of Jewish nationhood was a recurring theme in Silver's career as a Zionist spokesman and leader.² It was a theme Silver emphasized with increasing frequency, vigor, and militancy as the position of European Jewry deteriorated with the rise of Nazi Germany and the outbreak of World War II. The statehood theme dominated Silver's address to the American Jewish Conference in 1943.

THE JEWISH STATEHOOD MOVEMENT: PERSPECTIVE

After the destruction of the second Jewish Commonwealth by the Romans under Titus in 70 A.D., expressions of longing for the "return to Jerusalem" and the reestablishment of the Jewish Homeland were an integral part of Jewish thought and prayer. Although the vast majority of the Jews were dispersed after the Roman defeat, there was never a time in the last two thousand years when Jews were not living in Palestine. The continuity of Jewish settlement was never broken. During the four centuries of Turkish rule, the Turks did little to improve the land and much to ravage it. The land which once flowed with "milk and honey" lay blighted and depopulated, and, thus, one of the initial slogans for the Zionist movement was "the land without a people for the people without a land."

Theodore Herzl, a Viennese journalist,

did indeed believe that Palestine should be a land for the Jewish people. As a result of his experience in reporting the court martial of Alfred Dreyfus and the subsequent wave of antisemitism in France, Herzl published a pamphlet calling for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. In 1897, Herzl convened the first World Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland. The ultimate objective established by the World Zionist Congress was that of achieving "for the Jewish people a publicly and legally assured home in Palestine." The Congress made plans for immediate action to establish colonies in Palestine and effect cultural development.³

In 1922, through action of the League of Nations, Palestine became a mandate of Great Britain, which was charged with the responsibility for creating such conditions "as will secure the establishment of a Jewish national home."⁴ The terms of the mandate were consistent with the British Balfour Declaration of 1917, which envisioned the establishment of a "Jewish national home."⁵ Zionists regarded the Balfour Declaration and the League mandate as international foundations for and assurances of the establishment of a Jewish state.

PRELUDE TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

In May, 1939, partially in response to vehement Arab objections to Jewish colonization of Palestine, Britain issued a White Paper, which represented the origin of events leading to the American Jewish Conference. The White Paper restricted immigration until March, 1944 when it was to be discontinued entire-

² Bernard J. Ramberger, *The Story of Judaism* (New York: Schocken, 1957), p. 344.

³ Harold P. Manson, "Abba Hillel Silver—An Appreciation," *In the Time of Harvest*, ed. Daniel Jeremy Silver (New York: Macmillan, 1963), p. 10.

⁴ Samuel Halpern, *The Political World of American Zionism* (Detroit: Wayne State Univ. Press, 1961), p. 9.

⁵ *Ibid.*

ly.⁷ Jews throughout the world spoke out immediately and vehemently against the White Paper as a flagrant violation of the Balfour Declaration and League mandate.⁸ As the wartime fate of European Jewry at the hands of the Nazis became more apparent in 1940, 1941, and 1942, sympathy for the idea of a Jewish national home widened and deepened within the American Jewish Community. The White Paper became increasingly repugnant as a document antithetical to Jewish aspirations for Palestine.

Zionist protests against the White Paper were channeled into a series of three major conferences in 1942 and 1943. In May, 1942, a gathering of Zionists at the Biltmore Conference in New York called for abrogation of the White Paper and the establishment of a "Jewish Commonwealth" in Palestine. This meeting was the impetus for the scheduling of a second conference held in Pittsburgh in January, 1943. This conference was devoted to planning a third assembly, which was to be representative of all American Jewry. The American Jewish Conference was scheduled for August, 1943 and was envisioned as a means of resolving factional conflicts within American Zionism and crystallizing American Jewish opinion in support of action to be taken on behalf of Palestine and world Jewry.⁹

THE SPEAKING SITUATION

The American Jewish Conference convened in New York on August 27, 1943.

⁷ Richard P. Stevens, *American Zionism and U. S. Foreign Policy 1942-1947* (New York: Pageant, 1962), p. 1.

⁸ Abram Leon Sachar, *A History of the Jews*, 5th ed. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1966), p. 417.

⁹ This is precisely the point made by Judge Morris Rothenberg in a statement at the Pittsburgh Conference. Judge Rothenberg's remarks can be found in *The American Jewish Conference, Organization and Proceedings of the First Session, August 29 to September 3, 1943*, ed.

The basic issue facing the conference was whether American Judaism should go on record as favoring a "militant" Zionist program for immediate Jewish statehood in Palestine or a more moderate program envisioning eventual statehood but calling for immediate action to achieve unlimited immigration into Palestine, i.e., the abrogation of the White Paper.

A large majority of the delegates elected to the conference during the spring of 1943 were strong statehood partisans and ostensibly prepared to vote for a strong statehood resolution. However, those responsible for planning the conference were fearful that the adoption of a strong statehood resolution would drive some non-Zionists from the conference and conceivably divide American Jewry at large. At a meeting held six weeks before the opening of the American Jewish Conference, a decision was made by key Zionist leaders to work for a compromise resolution on Palestine rather than press for a strong statehood resolution they felt would be divisive.¹⁰ In keeping with this approach, a decision was made not to invite Abba Hillel Silver to address the conference because of his militant statehood position.¹¹

On the first night of the conference Dr. Stephen S. Wise addressed the delegates and did not press the statehood question. Judge Joseph S. Proskauer of the influential American Jewish Committee, an organization opposed to exerting political pressure for Jewish statehood, admonished the delegates not to sacrifice "unity for ideology." The delegates came away from the first session more convinced than ever that a com-

Alexander S. Kohanski (New York: American Jewish Conference, 1944), p. 20.

¹⁰ Halperin, p. 234.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

promise was inevitable on the Palestine question.¹²

The evening of August 30 was designated as Palestine night. Five speakers representing different organizational "blocs" at the conference addressed the delegates in the ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, previously unscheduled as a speaker, was announced as the speaker for the American Jewish Congress whose original speaker was withdrawn.¹³

The advocacy in the first four of these speeches centered on (1) appeals urging that partisan interests be set aside, (2) appeals urging that the conference adopt resolutions reflecting areas of agreement among all delegates, (3) appeals urging support of the principle of unlimited immigration into Palestine, and (4) appeals calling for statehood when the Jews became a majority in Palestine. One observer said that the first four speeches left the delegates "profoundly disappointed and uneasy."¹⁴ Another observer said that a statehood resolution appeared doomed to defeat.¹⁵

The last of the five speakers, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, was introduced to address the delegates.

THE SPEECH

The studied blunting of the statehood issue in major speeches delivered at the conference by prominent Jewish leaders apparently did cast doubt on the legitimacy of the statehood idea as an immediate and priority goal for American Jewry. Dr. Silver's speech to the

American Jewish Conference can be understood as an attempt to affirm the legitimacy of Jewish statehood as an idea and as a specific goal for Zionist action. That Dr. Silver analyzed the speaking situation in these terms was strongly suggested in his own words when he said in the speech: "Why has there arisen among us today this mortal fear of the term 'Jewish Commonwealth' which both British and American statesmen took in their stride, as it were, and which our own fellow-Jews . . . endorsed a quarter of a century ago? Why are anti-Zionists or non-Zionists or neutrals—why are they determined to excise that phrase and, I suspect in some instances at least, the hope?"¹⁶

In the early moments of the speech, Silver lamented that the assembly of delegates had in fact been urged to turn to "dreams" and "romancing in the void" in its consideration of policy for world Jewry. He identified himself as a spokesman representing and recommending more legitimate standards for such crucial considerations—the standard of realism and the standard of "cool, bitter logic and reasoning." After a reference to the failure of post World War I political guarantees to secure and protect the status of Jews, the speaker proceeded to introduce, develop, and energize lines of thought calculated to legitimize the idea of Jewish statehood.

Silver's initial line of thought, already

¹² Louis Lipsky, "The Drama of the Conference," *Brooklyn Jewish Center Review* (November 1943), 46-48.

¹³ The authors were unable to determine the nature of the circumstances leading to Silver's unscheduled appearance.

¹⁴ Jacob S. Richman, "Palestine and the American Jewish Conference," *The Jewish Exponent* (September 10, 1943), 1.

¹⁵ Headnote by Harold P. Manson, Abba Hillel Silver, *Vision and Victory* (New York: Zionist Organization of America, 1949), p. 14.

¹⁶ A complete stenographic text of the speech was used in the analysis for this article. An edited version of the speech appears in *Vision and Victory*. The stenographic report of the speech indicates where and how the audience responded during delivery of the speech and at the conclusion of the speech. The major difference in the stenographic text and the *Vision and Victory* version is that the stenographic report indicates that Silver quoted directly from the British and American heads of state whereas the direct quotations are not cited in the other version of the speech. We are indebted to Miriam Leikind, librarian of The Temple, for providing us with the stenographic text as well as other sources for this essay.

suggested in his introductory remarks, represented *historical legitimization* for Jewish statehood. In what was a "problem-solution" analysis, Silver first linked the persistent insecurity and tribulations of European Jewry to "national homelessness," which he said was the "source of our millennial tragedy." He depicted the ill fortune of European Jewry as a series of temporary political emancipations that invariably left the Jews encamped in the midst of "sullen," "unbeaten," and "unreconciled" opposition prepared to turn on the Jews at the slightest provocation. In building this appeal designed to create and reinforce negative attitudes toward trust in political guarantees and verbal assurances of national leaders respecting the status of Jews, Silver employed the image of the "stout black cord" to give metaphorical synthesis to his idea:

And in our day, stirred by the political and economic struggles which have torn nations apart, this never-failing, never-reconciled opposition swept over the Jewish political and economic positions in Europe and completely demolished them. There is a stout black cord which connects the era of Fichte in Germany with its cry of "Jude Verrecke." And so for the rest of Europe. The Damascus affair of 1840 links up with the widespread reaction after the revolution of 1848 . . . the revival of blood accusations in Bohemia [and] the pogroms in the 80's in Russia. . . . The Ukrainian blood baths after the last war and the human slaughter houses of Poland in this war.

Silver then linked the resolution of the "persistent emergency in Jewish life" to a national home in which Jewish life would have a secure national basis. The Jewish state idea acquired prominence and legitimacy as the speaker deemed it the only solution among suggested alternatives. "There is but one solution for national homelessness. That is a national home; not new immigration opportunities to other countries for fleeing refugees, nor new colonization schemes

in other parts of the world, many of which were so hopefully attempted . . . and with such little success. The only solution is to normalize the political status of the Jewish people in the world by giving it a national basis in its national and historic home."

With the observation that the world finally came to acknowledge the validity of the national home solution, Silver attached a second dimension of legitimization to the statehood idea: *political legitimization*. The speaker focused attention on the Balfour Declaration of 1917 as interpreted at the time of its issue by the highest officials of Great Britain and the United States and by decrees of American Jewry represented in the American Jewish Congress of 1918, a meeting analogous to the American Jewish Conference of 1943. The speaker provided direct testimony from all these sources interpreting the Balfour Declaration as envisioning and being preparatory to the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

Silver's historical analysis of problems and solutions associated with Jewish insecurity and survival coupled with his extended and pointed documentation of the political legitimacy of the Jewish Commonwealth idea, established a series of premises for persuasion through derision of his opponents and their proposals. Intimations of presumption, hypocrisy, and sheer stupidity were inflicted on "anti-Zionists," "non-Zionists," and "neutrals." In pointed questioning of the legitimacy of the behavior of his unnamed opponents, Silver said:

Why are they asking us on the plea of unity to surrender a basic political concept which was so much a part of the whole pattern of the Balfour Declaration? . . . It is amazing to me, I frankly confess, that Jews are moved to applaud a fellow-Jew when he consents that Jews should have the right to go to Palestine. Once having made this monumental concession that Jews have a right to go to Palestine and

that that right should not be restricted, they feel justified in asking the Zionists to make a little concession of their own, just a little concession, namely, to surrender that for which they and their fathers hoped and prayed through the centuries and which is already in the process of fulfillment—a commonwealth of Palestine.

The attack on his opponents as developed in this passage forecast yet another level of legitimization for the Jewish statehood idea, i.e., *cultural-psychological legitimization*. Silver noted that Jewish statehood was opposed by some on grounds of being an "ideological" issue undermining prospects for Jewish unity. In attacking this logic, Silver linked the pursuit and achievement of statehood with fulfillment of profound aspirations in Jewish thought and feeling emanating from historical Jewish experience. Earlier appeals made in the speech were reasserted through the image of the "stout black cord": "Why is it an ideology for the people of Israel to want the Land of Israel, from which it had been driven centuries ago and so lost its peace and its rest and its joy of life? Was it an ideology which kept alive the hope of national restoration among our peoples for nineteen centuries? Was it not rather the hard, true facts of our existence, written and repeated, exiles, massacres, pogroms, indignities all the way along the black stout cord of disaster never broken from 1913 to 1943?"

Cultural-psychological legitimization blended easily and rapidly into *moral legitimization* for Jewish statehood. Combining invective with appeals to sympathy, self-esteem, and cultural identification, Silver characterized the creation of a Jewish state as a elemental act of human morality: "How long is the crucifixion of Israel to last? Time and again we have been stretched upon the rack for other peoples' sins. Time and again we have [been] made the whipping boy

for blundering governments, the scapegoat for defeat in war, for misery and depressions, for conflict among classes. . . . Should not all this be compensated for finally and at long last with reestablishment of a free Jewish Commonwealth?"

The speaker then proceeded to develop *instrumental legitimization* for Jewish statehood. He raised the question of immigration into Palestine and its relationship to Jewish statehood. He insisted that the former depended on the latter. Apparently believing the statehood-immigration relationship was crucial, Silver was deliberate and methodical in revealing the logic of his position. He introduced this carefully reasoned line of argument by scoffing at the logic of his opponents while making it unmistakably clear that he was a man who would not compromise on an issue that was uncompromisable:

I am for unity in Israel, but unity for what? It is strange. Frequently, I am bewildered. If I agree with certain people, that's unity. If I ask them to agree with me, that's disunity. I am for unity in Israel, for the realization of the total program of Jewish life: relief, rescue, reconstruction and the national restoration in Palestine. I am not for unity on a fragment of the program, for a fragment of the program is a betrayal of the rest of the program and a tragic futility besides. We cannot truly rescue the Jews of Europe unless we have free immigration into Palestine, unless our political rights are recognized there. Our political rights cannot be recognized there unless our historic connection with the country is acknowledged and our right to rebuild our national home is reaffirmed. These are inseparable links in the chain. . . . It is on the national idea that the upbuilding of Palestine as a place of large scale Jewish immigration has always rested and can alone continue to rest. Our right to immigration in the last analysis is predicated upon the right to build the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine.

Silver then appealed to basic democratic values in calling on the majority to assert its right to vote for a statehood

resolution and on the minority to respect the right of the majority to thus assert itself. In making this appeal he clearly was asking the assembly to recognize its legitimacy as a duly constituted body of American Jews. Silver reinforced this suggestion to this particular audience as he reached the point in the speech in which he was calling for decision and commitment: "We are not a government and we have no authority to impose decisions but there is a tremendous moral authority in a solemn conclave such as this of the chosen representatives of our people and when after due deliberation it speaks in overwhelming endorsement of a certain program, its decision ought not to be lightly disregarded."

Silver urged the assembly to be responsive to the Jews in Palestine who were even then "building the Jewish Commonwealth" and who were calling upon their "brothers and sisters in America to approve of their struggle." In a final synthesis, Silver appealed for action based on the dimensions of legitimization for Jewish statehood he had discussed:

Are we to declare in this great assembly when the proper time comes that we stand by those who have given their tears and their blood for . . . a Jewish commonwealth where the spirit of our people can finally be at rest as well as the body of many of our persecuted people? Are we going to take counsel here of fear of what this one or that one might say, of how our actions are likely to be misinterpreted, or are we to take counsel of our inner moral convictions, of our faith, of our history, of our achievements and go forward in faith to build and to heal?

IMPACT AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE SPEECH

During the development of the speech the responses to Silver and his appeals were frequently overt and vigorous. The delegates applauded as Silver forged his

legitimizing appeals. They laughed when he belittled the positions of his opponents. They stood and applauded in the midst of the speech when Silver called for compensation for suffering endured and sacrifices made. They responded in unison with shouts of "no" when Silver asked rhetorically if the assembly were going to ignore the appeals of Jews in Palestine. At the conclusion of the speech, the delegates stood, cheered, wept, applauded, and broke into the singing of "Hatikvah."¹⁷

On the following day, Abba Hillel Silver was elected Chairman of the Palestine Committee whose function it was to produce a resolution or resolutions as recommendations for action by the conference. Three resolutions were submitted to the committee. The committee approved the resolution that urged establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine as the basic solution to problems confronting world Jewry. On the evening of September 1, Dr. Silver presented the resolution to the American Jewish Conference, which adopted the resolution, 497-4.

Abba Hillel Silver's speech to the American Jewish Conference "unquestionably reversed the moderate compromise trend of the previous Conference proceedings and set the tone for the final resolution on Palestine."¹⁸ The statehood resolution gave new impetus, direction, solidarity, and legitimacy to Zionist efforts on behalf of Jewish statehood:

The enactment of the Palestine Resolution of the American Jewish Conference marked the practical end of the primary Zionist efforts to convert *American Jewry* to its program. As

¹⁷ Based on stenographic notes which are part of the text and based also on a report in the Halperin work, p. 236.

¹⁸ Halperin, p. 234. This is one of many sources that refer to the speech as one which exerted decisive influence in the framing and adopting of the statehood resolution.

Rabbi Israel Goldstein, the new president of the Zionist Organization of America, announced less than two weeks after the Conference adjourned, the major task of the American Zionist movement would henceforth be to "win the wholehearted approval of the *American Government* and people for the Zionist program with respect to Palestine, which now has become the program of the whole of American Jewry represented through the democratically elected American Jewish Conference."¹²

CONCLUSION

Abba Hillel Silver perceived that favorable attitudes toward the concept of Jewish statehood had not been reinforced and had likely been undermined by the discourse of the speakers who preceded him to the speaker's rostrum of the American Jewish conference. Silver judged that what was said as well as what was not said by these speakers had the effect of bringing the legitimacy of the statehood concept into question. He apparently concluded that if a strong statehood resolution were to emerge from the conference, the legitimacy of

the statehood idea would have to be affirmed within the conference at large.

Silver's strategy was to establish a broad base of legitimation for the idea of Jewish statehood, a base that included historical, political, cultural-psychological, moral, and instrumental dimensions. In executing this strategy, Silver attempted to demonstrate that problems affecting world Jewry—persecution, insecurity, social and political abuse, and lack of immigration opportunities were subordinate to the central problem of homelessness, the central solution for which would be the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth. In executing this strategy, Silver identified himself and the theme of Jewish statehood with impelling ideas, motives, and values shared by his audience.

The immediate response to Silver's address and the subsequent adoption of a strong statehood resolution suggest that Silver was successful in dispelling doubts about the legitimacy of statehood as a priority objective of American Jewry and in energizing predispositions favorable to the statehood cause.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 246.

Why Dr. Silver Resigned

FROM THE

Zionist Emergency

Council



Why Dr. Silver Resigned from the Zionist Emergency Council

DR. SILVER'S SO-CALLED "BREACH OF DISCIPLINE" SHARED AND
INDORSED BY HIS OPPONENTS. — HOW THE ACTIVIST BECAME THE
SCAPEGOAT FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE PALESTINE RESOLU-
TION. — DR. SILVER'S RECORD OF REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT. —
AMERICAN ZIONISM MUST HAVE HIS LEADERSHIP.

BY JACOB RICHMAN

(President, South Philadelphia Zionist District)

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THE CRISIS in American Zionism which has been precipitated by the resignation of Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver will not easily be resolved, whatever decisions on reorganization are arrived at in the Zionist Emergency Council. Far-reaching issues of policy are involved in the controversy, issues which will continue to agitate the Jewish public for months to come.

As an active Zionist and as one trained in the legal profession, I have endeavored to analyze the situation conscientiously after weighing all the facts and circumstances and listening patiently and at length to able spokesmen of both points of view. And I have arrived at certain conclusions which I shall attempt to state as succinctly as possible.

In the first place, we must distinguish sharply between the internal and external aspects of the controversy. So far as the "exter-

nal" situation is concerned — the deferment of the Palestine Resolution in Congress, the action of the President and the State Department, and our own attitude towards these events — my own conclusions are clear. The deferment of the Resolution, at the request of the President, through the State Department, was a setback but by no means a catastrophe. The Resolutions were stymied last March, but Zionist political work continued and resulted in such notable achievements as the Palestine planks in the Republican and Democratic platforms, and the Jewish Commonwealth declaration of President Roosevelt and Governor Dewey. It is clear now, as it was in the spring, that both the House and the Senate were prepared to adopt the Resolutions but for the intervention of the Executive branch of the Government.

THE DEFERMENT APPRAISED

It is not the part of wisdom to describe the deferment as a calamitous defeat, which it was not. It ought to be appraised quite soberly as another episode on our long and uphill fight for the political recognition of Zionist aims. To exaggerate the temporary setback is a serious error and a disservice to the cause. As for the role played by the State Department on the instruction of the President, there can be no two opinions about it. In view of all that had preceded, particularly the party platforms, the President's own statement of October 15th, Secretary Stimson's letter lifting the military ban, and Senator Wagner's assurance given on the eve of the national elections, that the Resolutions would be passed through Congress, we had every reason to expect cooperation on the part of the Executive, not interference. No adequate or satisfactory reasons have been given for its recent action. The pressure exerted by the Administration upon Congress to refrain from repeating what the President himself had said only a few weeks earlier appears wholly unwarranted in the circumstances. Whatever may have been done by Dr. Silver or any other Zionist leader by way of encouraging Congressmen and Senators to proceed with the Resolutions cannot, objectively speaking, be regarded as exerting undue pressure or "irritating" the President. As between the President and ourselves, it is we who are the aggrieved party, not he.

Therefore my second conclusion is this: that to force the resignation of a Zionist leader because of his vigorous advocacy of the Con-

gressional Resolution is a political blunder of the first magnitude. By sacrificing its leader, the Zionist movement completely exonerated the President and the State Department and declares itself to be guilty and at fault. I am convinced that the vast majority of American Zionists reject this position. On the contrary, we feel let down and bitterly disappointed by the incomprehensible interference of the Administration and about the last thing we are disposed to do is to throw our greatest spokesman and most effective leader to the wolves as an act of appeasement.

WITHIN THE Z. O. A.

What is the situation from the "internal" point of view? A tremendous to-do has been made against Dr. Silver on the alleged ground of "breach of discipline" or "contravention" of the decisions of the Emergency Council not to press the Congressional Resolution before getting the green light from the Administration. It is an important point, though by no means the most important, in a highly complicated situation. Upon careful examination, three circumstances have impressed themselves upon me with regard to this issue. First, it is no secret that long before the issue of "discipline" was raised, persons within the ZOA, long hostile to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, had spread a host of other accusations against him. It is time to state frankly that for many months an abominable whispering campaign has been carried on against Dr. Silver throughout the country, the like of which we have not experienced in the Zionist movement for years. This has naturally placed me on my guard against the new and latest accusation of "breach of discipline."

Secondly, Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the ZOA, himself on December 5th sent telegrams to every member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, urging favorable action on the Palestine Resolution, and gave his telegram wide publicity. It is a matter of record, and there is no getting around it. Moreover, similar telegrams were sent by the heads of other Zionist parties affiliated with the Emergency Council. Were these telegrams, pressing for the passage of the Resolution, in contravention of the decisions of the Council, or were they not? Clearly, by sending these telegrams, Dr. Goldstein and his associates associated themselves fully with Dr. Silver's policy at the time and shared the responsibility.

They cannot have it both ways: First, commit the very "offense" with which they attempt to charge Dr. Silver and then after the deferment of the resolution to assume the self-righteous attitude and role of prosecuting attorney and place all the blame upon Dr. Silver's shoulders.

Finally, there is a third consideration, which for me is decisive. This issue was thoroughly thrashed out before the only forum or tribunal that is competent to pass judgement — the Emergency Council itself. On December 20th, the question was gone into exhaustively, as we are informed, at a session of the Council lasting six hours. Dr. Silver rendered a full and detailed report lasting nearly two hours, and it was followed by four hours of debate.

CHARGES AGAINST DR. SILVER

Dr. James G. Heller, one of the "prosecuting attorneys" for the ZOA Administration, moved a resolution declaring that Dr. Silver had "contravened the decisions of the Council." This proposition, which has been debated pro and con for six hours in the presence of all concerned, was squarely defeated. If all the efforts of Dr. Wise, Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Heller and others, armed as they were with all the facts and documentary evidence at their disposal, could not convince a majority of the Council to share their position — that, for me, is conclusive. Dr. Silver has been exonerated on that score, and it seems highly improper and injurious to the Zionist cause for these Zionist leaders to continue advertising these "charges" against Dr. Silver after they had their day in court — and lost.

But other and more weighty issues are involved than the formal and technical question of "discipline." Most important of these is the question of Dr. Silver's leadership as such and of the line of policy to be followed. The group which is now fighting Dr. Silver so bitterly and which has carried the fight into the non-Jewish press have been unfriendly toward him from the beginning and had opposed his entry in the first place. The history of this affair is clear and well known. These gentlemen had had ample opportunity to show what they could do for the cause of political Zionism for several years before Dr. Silver took the helm. From 1939 to 1943 they ran the Zionist Emergency Council. They were its officers and guiding spirits while Dr. Silver

headed the United Palestine Appeal. They had every chance to follow their cautious and conservative policies and to test them by the result. Actually, what did they accomplish? Unfortunately, the records speak eloquently of their failure. For more than four years after the White Paper had been issued, all their wisdom, their diplomacy and their alleged influence at the White House failed to produce any action, not even a public utterance on the part of the Government of the United States against the White Paper policy. The President himself maintained a frigid silence. For that matter, some of these leaders heading other organizations working in the field of rescue, accomplished as much or as little in that direction. Despite their failure, they evidently lacked the vision, courage and the boldness to adopt a more dynamic and more militant policy.

DR. SILVER'S RECORD

The scene changed swiftly with the advent of Abba Hillel Silver. He swept the whole Zionist movement as well as its leaders along the new road which he chose to travel. He resuscitated the half-dead Emergency Council and built it up into a powerful instrument for political action. He galvanized the Zionists and the Jewish masses throughout the country. He made a powerful bid for Christian support, and the Zionist issue became one of the great and live political issues before the American public. As a result of the agitation he led and his militant policy, the President spoke on March 9th, the two major parties acted in July, and Roosevelt and Dewey pledged their support for a Jewish Commonwealth in October. It is a brilliant record of which we are all justly proud.

Dr. Silver rendered a full report at the Annual Convention of the ZOA in Atlantic City and made a full exposition of his policy. On October 16th the Convention unanimously gave him a vote of confidence by expressing approval of his policy. Yet already at Atlantic City, in the midst of his triumph, the boardwalk was buzzing with the rumor that as soon as the National Elections were over, Dr. Silver would be forced out of the leadership of the Emergency Council and that the reason to be assigned would be that he was "persona non grata" with the White House. Apparently the program calling for his elimination had been set long before the most recent events.

Thus far not a shred of tangible evidence has been forthcoming to sustain the assertion that Dr. Silver is "persona non grata" in Washington, or for that matter, sufficient evidence to show that someone else is "persona gratissima" at the White House, as is claimed. Without evidence one cannot judge and we must therefore set down these rumors for what they are — rumors. But involved in this whole argument is a distressing and sinister implication — the assumption that the Zionist movement must check up with the State Department or the White House before electing anyone to leadership. It is a fallacious, dangerous and vicious principle to set up — one which must lead down the slippery path to disaster. It would place the whole movement in the position of abject subserviency to the powers that be, and the heads of Zionist leaders would rise or fall by a nod from on high.

Those who have undertaken to force Dr. Silver out of the leadership have assumed an awful responsibility. American Zionism is at the crossroads. It is called upon to decide not a legal and technical question of "discipline" but the great and momentous issues of the type of leadership it is to have and the kind of policy it is to follow. Dr. Silver has stated his position clearly in his last public statement. He stands for "a policy in which timidity, appeasement and backstairs 'diplomacy' will have no place." That is the real issue and on that issue I am persuaded the mass of American Zionists will stand with Abba Hillel Silver.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi of the largest Reformed congregation in the United States, The Temple, Cleveland, is the author of "Religion in a Changing World", "World Crisis and Jewish Survival", "The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History", and other works of a religious and sociological character.

He is National Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and of the United Palestine Appeal. He is also Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

During the last war, he was overseas for our government and was decorated by the French Government. He flew to England last year to urge upon British authorities to keep the doors of Palestine open for Jewish refugees and in the interest of the Jewish National Home.

I THE TEMPLE

During Rabbi Silver's ministry at The Temple, the congregation ^{has} more than doubled its membership and now it is the largest liberal Jewish congregation in the United States.

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His weekly lectures on Sunday Morning in connection with The Temple Service have been a civic institution for a quarter of a century and have attracted large congregations which included many non-Jews

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He has been active in all the charitable and cultural movements in our community, in the Cleveland Community Chest from its very inception, the Associated Charities, the Jewish Welfare Federation, the Consumer's League, The League for Human Rights.

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called upon to arbitrate in industrial disputes. His voice has been heard at many important gatherings of social workers and conventions of school teachers and administrators throughout the nation.

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Rabbi

ABBA HILLEL SILVER - D.D., Litt.D., D.H.L. - The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

~~Chairman of Executive Committee of American Zionist Emergency Council; Vice-President Central Conference of American Rabbis; Vice-President Zionist Organization of America;~~ former Chairman of United Palestine Appeal; Co-Chairman United Jewish Appeal; Honorary Chairman United Service Organizations. He is on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union, The Council for Democracy, the Cleveland Chapter of the National Red Cross and is on the Ohio Commission on Unemployment Problems of the Negro.

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ABBA HILLEL SILVER - D.D., Litt.D., D.H.L. -- Rabbi of The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio.

Born Jan. 28, 1893, Neinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania.

Vice-President Central Conference of American Rabbis;
former Chairman of United Palestine Appeal; Co-Chairman
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a Changing World" (1930); "WORLD CRISIS AND JEWISH SURVIVAL"
(1941).



[1945]

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Rabbi Silver has been Rabbi of The Temple for the last twenty-eight years. During his ministry, The Temple has become the largest Liberal congregation in the United States.

Dr. Silver took a leading part in the civic, educational and philanthropic life of the Cleveland community. He has been actively identified with the leadership of the Cleveland Community Chest since 1917.

He was chairman of the United Jewish Appeal in Cleveland which raised millions of dollars for overseas relief and for Palestine for seven years, and put Cleveland in the forefront of generous giving.

Dr. Silver sponsored the first Unemployment Insurance Law in Ohio. He has been called the Father of Unemployment Insurance in Ohio. He has been active in Child Labor legislation.

For six years, Dr. Silver was National Chairman of the United Palestine Appeal and co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. For a year and a half, he was the Executive Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, charged with the political responsibilities for the movement in the United States.

He is the author of Messianic Speculations in Israel; Democratic Impulse in Jewish History; Religion in a Changing World; and World Crisis and Jewish Survival.

[1945]

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

RABBI, author, social leader, traveler...Spiritual leader of one of the largest liberal Jewish congregations in America -- The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio (29 years)...President of The Central Conference of American Rabbis...Member of National Child Labor Commission, Commission on Militarism in Education, American Civil Liberties Union, leader in the movement for Unemployment Service....Leader in the Zionist movement in the United States and a member of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.... Travels have taken him to Europe, Africa and Asia. Has interviewed many European leaders....AUTHOR: "Religion in a Changing World" and numerous other works.



SILVER, ABBA HILLEL, rabbi, orator and Zionist leader, b. Neinstadt, Lithuania, 1893. He was brought to the United States by his parents in 1902, settling in New York City. As a boy he was a leading member of a Hebrew speaking club, named after Theodor Herzl, which conducted debates and performed plays in the Hebrew language. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College, graduating from both in 1915. He then became rabbi of Eoff Street Temple, Wheeling, W. Va. Two years later he received a call to The Temple of Cleveland, now the largest Reform Congregation in the United States, where he was still serving in 1942. During his ministry the beautiful new Temple which now houses the congregation was built. In 1925 he received the degree of D.D. from the Hebrew Union College.

Silver was active in the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College. He took ~~an~~ a leading part in the civic and philanthropic affairs of the Cleveland community. He sponsored the first unemployment insurance law in Ohio, ~~was a member of the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union,~~ and ~~was~~ interested in child labor legislation. He was chairman of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund from 1935 to 1941, and co-founder of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education and its first president. He was co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, and chairman of the United Palestine Appeal from 1938 on. He traveled extensively in behalf of these causes.

During the first World War he was sent to France by the United States Government and at the invitation of the French Government, which later gave him a decoration. He attended a number of international Zionist congresses and in the Spring of 1942 visited England on a diplomatic mission for the Zionist Movement as well as to aid the campaign of British Jewry for the Palestine Foundation Fund.

Since the beginning of his career, Silver had played an important part in the American Zionist Movement. He held a number of important offices, serving as vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America and a member of the Zionist Actions Committee, the Council of the Jewish Agency and of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. ~~In 1921~~ he was a leading member of the Brandeis-Mack group but was

one of the first of the dissenters to return to active Zionist service. He favored the plan for the extended Jewish Agency proposed by Weizmann and Marshall, which was later ratified at Zurich in 1929. He entered the lists actively against the British government's plan to partition Palestine, later abandoned. He was a consistent critic of British administration in Palestine and spoke with vigor and skill in condemnation of British violation of their mandatory undertakings. Together with Samuel Untermyer he organized the Anti-Nazi Boycott Movement in the United States.

In addition to skill in negotiation and administration, Silver possessed a unique and unrivalled gift of oratory. On occasion his fervor and passion made lasting impressions on large audiences. His sermons and public addresses were distinguished for grace of expression and vision, for fine style and originality of thought, which often rose to lofty dramatic heights, and for boldness and courage. It set a standard for Zionist platform utterances and Jewish pulpit oratory.

His writings include: Messianic Speculations in Ancient Israel (1927); The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History (1928); Religion in a Changing World (1930); World Crisis and Jewish Survival (1941). He was awarded honorary degrees by Western Reserve University (Litt.D., 1928) and the Hebrew Union College (D.H.L., 1941) and in 1940 was Dudleian lecturer at Harvard University.

Chairman v. the Am. Zionist Emergency Council

ABBA HILLEL SILVER - D.D., Litt.D., D.H.L. -- The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Pres. 2000
Chairman of Executive Committee of American Zionist Emergency Council; ~~Vice~~ President Central Conference of American Rabbis; ~~Vice~~ President Zionist Organization of America; former Chairman of United Palestine Appeal; Co-Chairman United Jewish Appeal; Honorary Chairman United Service Organizations. He is on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union, The Council for Democracy, the Cleveland Chapter of the National Red Cross and is on the Ohio Commission on Unemployment Problems of the Negro.

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DR. SILVER GRANTED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE
BY THE TEMPLE

In recognition of his thirty years as spiritual leader of The Temple, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver was granted a leave of absence by the Board of Trustees of The Temple at its last meeting. Dr. Silver will leave around the first of January. He plans to return and resume his congregational duties in ample time for the Confirmation Ceremony in June, 1948.

TP Dr. Silver plans to spend part of his
leave in Palestine.



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For seven years Rabbi Silver was Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland. He was among the founders and the first president, for nine years, of the Bureau of Jewish Education.

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Rabbi Silver has been a leader in the Zionist Movement of the world. Rabbi Silver is a member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Joint Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council and Chairman of its Executive. He is President of the Zionist Organization of America. Rabbi Silver has made many visits to Palestine, England and many countries in Europe in its behalf, and has been in contact with their leading statesmen.

He was for seven years National Chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, the central agency which raises funds for the rebuilding of Palestine. Under his leadership of this Fund, twenty million dollars were forwarded to Palestine to stimulate its development and to make possible the absorption of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Europe.

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Dr. Silver is President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the largest Rabbinical body in the United States.

Rabbi Silver has been actively identified with all the progressive social movements of our day. He was one of the earliest advocates of unemployment insurance in this country and helped to bring about unemployment insurance in Ohio. He has been a champion of the rights of organized labor and was frequently called upon to arbitrate in industrial disputes.

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THE NEW SCHAFF-HERZOG
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Published by BAKER BOOK HOUSE

1015 Wealthy St., S.E. • Grand Rapids 6, Michigan

March 20, 1952

Hillel Silver
E. 105th Street
Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

This letter is going out to persons previously asked to do their autobiographies and/or the biography of another for the new edition of the Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia. Unfortunately not all of you have responded to my first invitation. The time has now come when we must begin to send this material to press and we write you therefore asking for your prompt cooperation in order that this work may include your articles and so be as complete as we should like to see it.

You were asked to write 50 words about yourself and words about

We are enclosing a sample mimeographed copy of a biographical sketch to serve as a guide in your work. Also enclosed please find the printed instructions which we trust you will read carefully and follow exactly, especially rule VI, A, 1. We must have two copies.

If you live in North America will you please try to get this copy to me within thirty days after the receipt of this letter. If you live abroad please try to get this material to me within sixty days after the date of this letter. Please do not let modesty prevent you from sending your biography for this purpose. This method is the commonly accepted practise in the preparation of similar works. We would so much like to have your sketch included, so that this work may serve as the definitive reference work in its field. If, however, we do not receive this material after this request we shall not write you again about it. Please help us.

Please be sure to send the material to my home address listed in the left column and NOT to Grand Rapids.

Very sincerely,

Raymond W. Albright

Raymond W. Albright

We offer the following as a model form for biographical sketches to be included in the supplementary volume of the NEW SCHAFER-HERZOG ENCYCLOPEDIA. Kindly follow it as closely as you can, using your judgment in essential departures from this form.

WATSON, JOHN: Presbyterian; b. at Manningtree, Essex, Nov. 3, 1856; d. at Mt. Pleasant, Ia., May 6, 1907. He studied at the universities of Edinburgh (M.A., 1870) and Tübingen, and at the New College, Edinburgh; was assistant at Barclay Church, Edinburgh (1874-85); minister of Logiealmond Free Church (1875-77); of St. Matthew's Church, Glasgow (1877-80); and Sexton Park Presbyterian Church, Liverpool (1880-1905). He was Lyman Beecher lecturer at Yale in 1896, and in 1906 again visited the United States, where he was taken ill and died. In theology he was a liberal evangelical. He was in the front rank of the successors to Dean Ramsay and Dr. John Brown. He is most widely known for his sketch of Scotch life in the series of studies which was begun with his Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush (1895). He wrote: The Upper Room (London, 1895); The Mind of the Master (1896); The Cure of Souls (Yale lectures: 1896); The Potter's Wheel (1897); Companions of the Sorrowful Way (1896); Doctrines of Grace (1900); The Life of the Master (1901); The Homely Virtues (1903); and The Inspiration of our Faith (1905).
Bibliography: W.R. Nicoll, "Ian MacLaren." Life of the Rev. John Watson, London, 1908-09; Sir E. Russell, in Hibbert Journal, July, 1907.

CONTRIBUTORS' GUIDE — The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge

Published by BAKER BOOK HOUSE, Grand Rapids, Michigan

I. INTRODUCTION. Two new volumes are being prepared to bring up to date the famous *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. The original thirteen volumes of the Schaff-Herzog are being reprinted by a photographic process. It will be the task of the two new volumes to supplement these original volumes by the use of the scholarship of the four decades since the Schaff-Herzog was published. The Baker Book House of Grand Rapids, Michigan, is publishing both the reprinted and the new supplementary volumes.

II. KINDS OF ARTICLES. The two new volumes will contain three quite different kinds of articles: (1) supplementary articles, (2) rewritten articles, (3) new articles.

A. A supplementary article will not undertake to supplant or to rewrite the original article, but will assume that the reader has before him the original article, and will correct or add to the original article at specific points in order to bring it up to date in the light of the most recent scholarship. A supplementary article presupposes the original article and builds on it without duplicating or reproducing it, and deals only with those aspects of the original article which are to be corrected or supplemented. Thus a supplementary article will be much shorter than would be a new or completely rewritten article on the same subject. A few words or sentences will sometimes be found to be enough to bring an existing article fully up to date; though, of course, supplementary articles will sometimes be quite long. But they will always be different in purpose and method from a new article.

B. A rewritten article constitutes an entire rewriting of an existing article where recent scholarship has made the original article unsatisfactory. It will treat the subject matter *de novo*, quite without reference to any article in the original volume.

C. A new article deals with a topic on which there was no article in the original volumes.

III. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A. This should be a part of every new or rewritten or supplementary article.

B. The word length of an article includes the bibliography.

C. The bibliography should be fully up to date.

D. Where foreign (especially German and French) titles are important, the bibliography should include them.

E. In exceptional cases, where their importance necessitates it, article titles as well as book titles may be included.

F. Where subject matter of article warrants it, the majority of titles should be in English.

G. Very rarely should bibliographies be included for articles not otherwise supplemented.

IV. STANDARDS AND VIEWPOINTS.

A. The scholarliness of the *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia* is to be maintained. This is believed to be assured by our choice of contributors from the world's best scholarship.

B. Objectivity is a primary ideal.

1. Articles should give information concerning all the historically important views which have been held on the subject.

2. Do not "make a case" for your own theological point of view.

V. SUGGESTIONS.

A. Be brief.

B. Express yourself as clearly as possible with the simplest words possible.

C. Remain within the limits of length set for your contribution.

VI. FORM FOR CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

A. General.

1. All articles shall be submitted (1) in typewritten form, (2) double space (3) in duplicate (one original and one carbon), (4) on standard size sheet (8½ x 11), with a border of one inch clear margin (top, bottom, left side, right side).

2. Use as caption for your article the entry as it is to appear in the supplement.

3. The page number of each sheet in a particular article is to appear on each sheet except the first, preceding the digit by the caption of the article — in abbreviated form in the case of a lengthy caption, thus, "Alms — 2."

4. In case of supplementary articles, the abbreviation Sup. shall appear in brackets [Sup.] immediately following the final word of the body of the article.

5. Full name of the contributor, Christian name as well as family name spelled out in full, shall appear on the same line as the final word of the article where space allows. If space does not permit this, the signature is to appear on the next line.

6. The number of words in the article by actual count shall be placed in parentheses on a separate line following the article, as the last item.

B. Subheadings.

1. In articles of a thousand words or more, appropriate subheadings should be inserted by the contributor. If considered desirable by the contributor, subheadings may also be used in somewhat shorter articles.

2. Subheadings should be indented from the left margin and will constitute the first words of a new paragraph.

3. The subheadings shall be included as part of the word length of the article.

4. The following form should be used in preparing copy:

1. MAIN HEADINGS IN BOLDFACE CAPITALS — preceded by Roman Numerals. (Indicated in copy by underscoring with three lines, lower line wavy.)

A. First Subdivisions in Boldface Upper and Lower Case — preceded by capital letters. (Indicated in copy by underscoring with single wavy line.)

1. NEXT SUBHEADINGS IN BOLDFACE SMALL CAPITALS — preceded by Arabic numerals. (Indicated in copy by underscoring with double line, lower line wavy.)

VII. DEADLINES FOR ARTICLES.

- A. Contributors of one or a few short articles should send these in within three months after receiving the invitations to contribute.
- B. September 1, 1951, is the deadline for contributors of very long articles, by arrangement with the Department Editor.

VIII. REMUNERATION. Contributors shall receive one cent per word accepted for the encyclopedia.

IX. MATTERS OF STYLE.

A. Abbreviations.

1. The following abbreviations for books of the Bible are being used in the present work in citing exact passages in the Bible. But when the name of the Bible book is used by itself, it should not be abbreviated.

OLD TEST.				NEW TEST.		
Gen.	II Sam.	Prov.	Amos	Eph.		James
Ex.	I Kings	Eccl.	Obad.	Matt.	Phil.	I Pet.
Lev.	II Kings	S. of Sol.	Jonah	Mark	Col.	II Pet.
Num.	I Chron.	Isa.	Mic.	Luke	I Thess.	I John
Deut.	II Chron.	Jer.	Nah.	John	II Thess.	II John
Josh.	Ezra	Lam.	Hab.	Acts	I Tim.	III John
Judg.	Neh.	Ezek.	Zeph.	Rom.	II Tim.	Jude
Ruth	Esth.	Dan.	Hag.	I Cor.	Titus	Rev.
I Sam.	Job	Hos.	Zech.	II Cor.	Philem.	
	Ps. (Pss.)	Joel	Mal.	Gal.	Heb.	

2. Do not abbreviate March, April, May, June, July. Use the following abbreviations for other months: Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. when giving an exact date, but when names of the months are used otherwise, they should be written out in full.
3. Use small caps (indicated by double underscoring) for A.D. and B.C. and write as follows: 70 B.C., but A.D. 70.
4. When abbreviating, use the abbreviations as given in the *Webster's New International Dictionary*, Second Edition, Unabridged.
5. In biographical material abbreviate the words "born" (b.) and "died" (d.).
6. Spell out titles preceding personal names (except Mr., Messrs., Mrs., Dr., Rev., and Hon.).
7. Spell out all Christian (given) names.
8. Names of states, etc., should be spelled out when standing alone but abbreviated following name of city.
9. Use the standard abbreviation of the version parenthetically when it is desired to specify a particular version of the Bible following a reference.

B. Spelling.

1. Use the Anglicized spelling of proper names (although the foreign spelling may be given parenthetically).
2. Spell out in running text all numbers of less than three digits (except date or page numbers). But if numbers of less than three digits are used in the same series as numbers of more than three digits, numerals should be used for all in the series, for uniformity.
3. Form the possessive of a proper name ending in *s* or another sibilant, if monosyllabic, by adding an apostrophe and *s*; if more than one syllable (except names ending in *ce*) by adding an apostrophe only.

C. Period.

1. Do not use periods after titles, headings, or subheadings.
2. The period is always placed inside the quotation marks at the end of a sentence.
3. The period is placed inside the parentheses or brackets when the matter enclosed is an independent sentence; otherwise outside.
4. The period follows the indicated location of Scripture passages. Thus, "For God so loved . . . but have everlasting life" (John 3 : 16).
5. Use three periods to indicate omission of one or more words in quoted matter.

- D. Exclamation Point. The exclamation point is placed inside the quotation marks or parentheses when it is a part of the quoted or parenthetical matter; otherwise, outside. Thus: The captain shouted, "Cast off!"
Such delicious "brownies"!

- E. Interrogation Point. The interrogation point is placed inside the quotation marks or parentheses when it is a part of the quoted or parenthetical matter; otherwise, outside.

F. Colon.

1. Use the colon between chapter and verse in giving Scripture references. Thus: John 3 : 16.
2. The colon is always placed outside the quotation marks.

- G. Semicolon. The semicolon should be placed outside the quotation marks.

- H. Apostrophe. Use apostrophe and *s* to form the plurals of figures, letters, symbols.

I. Parentheses.

1. Place in parentheses figures or letters used to mark division of enumerations in the running text. Thus, The reasons for his resignation were three: (1) advanced age, (2) failing health, and (3) a desire to travel.
2. Parentheses should be used in indicating location of Scripture passages. Thus, "For God . . . everlasting life" (John 3 : 16).

- J. Ellipses. Omission of one or more words in quoted matter is indicated by three periods. If such an omission immediately follows the close of a sentence, the terminal period is added — to total four periods.

- K. Diacritical markings shall be omitted in the case of English words.

X. GUIDES FOR STYLE.

- A. In general, the University of Chicago *Manual of Style* shall be used as a guide.

- B. The latest edition of *Webster's New International Dictionary*, Second Edition, Unabridged, shall be used as a guide in the spelling, abbreviation, and hyphenation of words — unless indicated otherwise in this Manual.

April 10, 1953

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver has for more than 35 years been the spiritual leader of The Temple in Cleveland, the largest liberal Jewish congregation in the United States.

He has been actively identified with many social movements of our day. He was an early champion of the rights of organized labor, and one of the first advocates in the United States of unemployment insurance. He served as Chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and as President of the Zionist Organization of America. Dr. Silver is regarded as the foremost spokesman of Zionism in the United States. He represented the movement before the Assembly of the United Nations, and is one of the leaders who are responsible for the establishment of the State of Israel.

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October 15, 1953

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Am. nat'l.
1956

10/15/53
(see Feb 1956)

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver has for nearly 40 years been the spiritual leader of The Temple in Cleveland, the largest liberal Jewish congregation in the United States.

He has been actively identified with many social movements of our day. He was an early champion of the rights of organized labor, and one of the first advocates in the United States of unemployment insurance. He served as Chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and President of the Zionist Organization of America. Dr. Silver is regarded as the foremost spokesman of Zionism in the United States. He represented the movement before the Assembly of the United Nations, and is one of the leaders responsible for the establishment of the State of Israel. In December of 1955 he assumed national leadership of the State of Israel Bond Campaign.

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2/7/56

The Temple is honoring Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver upon the completion of forty years of service with the congregation. Dr. Silver has made the pulpit of the Temple internationally famous. Under his leadership, the Temple has become an outstanding institution in America's Jewish life.

Dr. Silver was elected to the Temple in the spring of 1917. At that time, the Temple's membership numbered 725 families. By the close of his forty years, the membership of the Temple had almost quadrupled, numbering today 2450. It is the largest Temple in the U. S. A.

The Temple in 1917 was located at 55th Street and Central Avenue. Within five years, a new Temple had been completed at Ansel Road and 105th Street. The present Temple building is considered to be one of the finest synagogue structures in America.

Dr. Silver brought into the life of the Temple a more positive attitude towards religious practices and observances. Hebrew was re-introduced into the services. Reading from the Torah at the Sabbath Services was begun again. Friday Evening Vesper Services were instituted. A Sabbath Morning Service was re-introduced.

Dr. Silver has, during the years, consistently applied himself to the improvement of standards of religious school education. He introduced the study of Hebrew into the curriculum. He brought into the school the best of modern educational philosophy and practice, so much so, that the Temple school has become a model throughout the country. In 1927, a Temple high school was established. It pioneered for the reform movement a three-year program of post-confirmation religious training. A special program of educational mid-week Hebrew instruction was instituted. Mid-week pre-confirmation classes were introduced. These Dr. Silver has personally taught during his four decades of service. Over 4,000 young people have been confirmed by Dr. Silver. Eleven confirmands have chosen the Rabbinate as a profession and have graduated from the Hebrew Union College.

During Dr. Silver's tenure, the Temple Women's Association grew from a few hundred to its present membership of 1900. In 1925, he inaugurated a Temple Men's Club which has made substantial contributions to the cultural and adult education programs of the congregation. In 1949, a Mr. and Mrs. Club of young members of the congregation was organized - a group who pioneered in increasing the interest of the younger members of the congregation in the religious, social, and cultural activities of the congregation.

A War Memorial Alcove was dedicated in 1947. In it were remembered with gratitude, the records of the nigh seven hundred men and women of the Temple who served in the armed forces of the United States in the second World War. The windows for this Alcove and for the adjacent Chapel were executed by the internationally famous artist, Arthur Szyk.

In 1950 as a part of its Centennial celebration, the Temple completed a museum for Jewish religious art and music. It was the first of its type in any congregation in America. It has, today, an unusually fine collection of Jewish ceremonial art and sacred music.

In 1953, the Temple bought the land adjoining to it to the west and dedicated a park to Dr. Silver. When completed, this park will become a fine addition to the Cleveland Cultural Center of which the Temple is a part. Presently, the congregation is completing preparations for a new wing of classrooms and an auditorium.

Dr. Silver's impact on Judaism and on the Jewish communities everywhere cannot be measured only by his congregational activities. He has been actively identified with the great social and education movements of our day. He has been called "the father of unemployment insurance in Ohio". He has been active in many humanitarian efforts for relief and rehabilitation. He served for seven years as national co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. He headed the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund from 1935-41. In 1956, he received the Eisenman Award from the Jewish Community Federation. He founded the Cleveland

Bureau of Jewish Education and was its first president from 1924-32. His colleagues in the American Rabbinate elected him president of their organization in 1945. He has been the recipient of awards of merit and honored as the man of the year by many national organizations and fraternities.

Dr. Silver is the author of 'Messianic Speculations in Israel' in 1927, 'The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History' in 1928, 'Religion in a Changing World' in 1930, 'World Crisis and Jewish Survival' in 1941, 'Vision and Victory' in 1949, and 'Where Judaism Differed' in 1956. Dr. Silver earned his doctorate at the Hebrew Union College in 1925 and an honorary degree of Hebrew letters in 1946. He is the recipient, also, of honorary degrees from several other American universities. During World War I, Dr. Silver was decorated by the French government for services to the Allied cause. In his book 'Inside U. S. A.', John Gunther called Dr. Silver "the first citizen of Cleveland".

Dr. Silver is especially known as the leader and spokesman of Zionism in America. During the years following the second World War when the issue of Palestine had reached a critical stage, Dr. Silver climaxed years of devotion by serving as president of the Zionist Organization of America, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, and chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. It was he who directed these organizations in their struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel. He was the representative of world Jewry at the Assembly of the United Nations. He had the honor to present the cause of the Jewish people and to see the triumph of his position in the favorable resolution of the United Nations on November 29, 1949 and the proclamation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. In honor of his service, a community and agricultural school in Israel have been named - Kfar Silver. His voice continues to champion the cause and needs of the Jewish people throughout the world.

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~~Dr. Silver is a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Jerusalem, Israel and of the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel.~~

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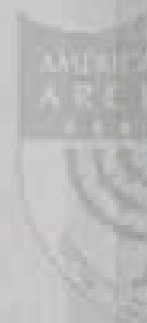
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Dr. Silver is a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Jerusalem, Israel and of the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel.

(Florida Jan 1952)

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United States. "There is no cause for joy in the Netherlands," commented the Dutch Foreign Minister Joseph M. A. H. Luns. He declared that the agreement had been accepted by the Dutch only because of United States pressure. "The Netherlands could not count on the support of its allies," de Quay said in a television address to the Dutch people, "and for that reason we had to sign."

Jan Eduard de Quay and Maria van der Lande were married in 1927, and they are the parents of five sons and four daughters. Designated a Commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau in 1959, de Quay is also a Knight of the Order of Netherlands Lion. He is a methodical, hard-working man and is soft-spoken and amiable. He has a good sense of humor and often tells jokes on himself, frequently about his below-average height.

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SILVER, ABBA HILLEL Jan. 28, 1893- Rabbi; author; organization official

Address: b. The Temple, E. 105th St. and Silver Park, Cleveland, Ohio; h. 19810 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio

NOTE: This biography supersedes the article that appeared in *Current Biography* in 1941.

A chief architect of the Jewish homeland in Israel and one of America's most prominent representatives of Reform Judaism is Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, who since 1917 has been the spiritual leader of The Temple in Cleveland, Ohio. A militant Zionist since his early youth, Dr. Silver stood in the vanguard of the Zionist movement during the crucial years that preceded the establishment of the independent state of Israel in May 1948. On the American scene Silver has been a consistent champion of civil liberties and social justice. His writings, which include the books *Religion in a Changing World* (1930), *The World Crisis and Jewish Survival* (1941), *Where Judaism Differed* (1956), and *Moses and the Original Torah* (1961), are regarded as major contributions to Biblical scholarship and to the understanding of the Jewish religion.

A native of Neinstadt, Schirvint, Lithuania, Abba Hillel Silver was born on January 28, 1893 to Rabbi Moses and Dinah (Seamon) Silver. The family included an elder brother, Maxwell, and three sisters: Bessie (Mrs. Samuel E. Liebow); Pearl (Mrs. Jacob Michelson), who is deceased; and Rose (Mrs. Jacob Matlow). Rabbi Moses Silver, who represented the third successive generation of ordained rabbis in his family, earned his living as a soap manufacturer. He was the author of two volumes of Biblical commentary, published under the title *Hishukei Kesef* (Filigree of Silver).



Karsh, Ottawa

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

In June 1902 the Silvers settled on the Lower East Side of New York City, and Moses Silver became a teacher in a Hebrew school. The political Zionist movement of Dr. Theodor Herzl profoundly impressed Abba Silver, and in 1904 he and his brother Maxwell established the Dr. Herzl Zion Club, the first Hebrew-speaking Zionist organization in America, which conducted debates and performed plays in Hebrew. Abba Silver was elected president of the club in 1906. Although the club met with criticism by opponents of the Zionist ideal, it received the encouragement and guidance of Rabbi Moses Silver.

Following in the family tradition of scholarship, Abba Hillel Silver was an excellent student at Townsend Harris High School, from which he graduated in 1911. With the approval of his father he entered Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio, the leading center of Reform Judaism in the United States, which Maxwell Silver also attended. At the same time he enrolled in the University of Cincinnati to obtain a general college education. Completing a nine-year program at Hebrew Union College in four years, Silver was ordained a rabbi in 1915, the same year he took his B.A. degree from the University of Cincinnati.

From 1915 to 1917 Silver served as rabbi at the Eoff Street Temple (Congregation I'Shem Shamayim) in Wheeling, West Virginia. In the latter year he served in France, where his ministry to Allied troops won him the French decoration, Officier de l'Instruction Publique in 1919. Installed as rabbi of The Temple (Tifereth Israel) in Cleveland, Ohio in 1917, Silver succeeded the venerable Rabbi Moses Gries. Although some of the more conservative members of his congregation criticized Silver's Zionist and liberal cosmopolitan views, The Temple grew into one of the foremost synagogues in the United States under his leadership.

In 1925 Silver received his D.D. degree from Hebrew Union College after submitting a dis-

SILVER, ABBA HILLEL—Continued

sertation that was later expanded and published as *A History of Messianic Speculation in Israel From the First Through the Seventeenth Centuries* (Macmillan, 1927; Beacon, 1959). The book is a documented collection of ancient and medieval prophetic writings and is considered a classic contribution to the study of Messianic ideas. In *The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History* (Bloch, 1928) Silver traces Jewish social thought to ancient times and notes the contributions of Judaism to democracy. His book *Religion in a Changing World* (R. R. Smith, 1930), is a collection of sermons stressing the relationship between political liberalism and modern religion, the absence of any real conflict between science and religion, and the need for better communication between Jew and non-Jew. Reviewing the book in *Outlook and Independent* (May 27, 1931), E. B. Chaffee wrote: "Dr. Silver writes with rare beauty and a depth of insight which places him easily in the front rank of our religious leaders." H. Y. Williams noted in *World Tomorrow* (March 1931) that "these sermons are splendid as far as they go," but that "one does not need to be told that they were preached to a wealthy congregation."

A strong advocate of civil liberties and social justice, Silver opposed the post-World War I anti-Red hysteria that was manifested in the Palmer raids of 1921. He supported organized labor in its demand for the closed shop, and he resigned from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce because of its antiunion stand. Silver was instrumental in effecting the adoption of state and federal unemployment insurance legislation. In 1928 he persuaded the Consumers League of Ohio to undertake a study of this problem, and as a member of a state commission appointed by the Governor he helped draft Ohio's first unemployment insurance law. President Herbert Hoover appointed Silver a member of a committee to help alleviate unemployment. Silver also helped bring about the arbitration of industrial disputes, and he helped introduce the city manager system in Cleveland.

As a leader of the American Zionist movement Silver addressed the international Zionist conference in London in 1925, sharing the platform with such noted statesmen as Lord Balfour and Dr. Chaim Weizmann. During the 1920's Silver was identified with the Zionist group led by Louis D. Brandeis. When a controversy arose between Brandeis and Weizmann over the administration of philanthropic funds, Silver, who supported Brandeis on this issue, left the leadership of the American Zionist movement. He was, however, among the first of the dissenters to return to active Zionist service, and he supported Weizmann's proposal for an extended Jewish Agency for Palestine, which was ratified in Zurich in 1929.

During the early years of Nazism in Germany, Silver, together with Samuel Untermyer, organized an anti-Nazi boycott at a time when such a move was still opposed by some Jewish leaders as unduly provocative. Organizations to which Silver belonged in the 1930's included the National World Court Committee and the American League for India's Freedom. He served as

president of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education from 1924 to 1932 and of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Federation from 1935 to 1941. As president of the United Palestine Appeal from 1938 to 1943 and as co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal from 1938 to 1944 Silver helped raise many millions of dollars for Jewish settlement in Palestine and for Jewish relief. In his book *The World Crisis and Jewish Survival* (R. R. Smith, 1941) Silver expressed confidence in the ability of the Jewish people to survive in the face of war and persecution.

During the 1940's Silver worked closely with the Zionist leader Dr. Emanuel Neumann to gain support for the creation of an independent state of Israel. He played an active role at the extraordinary conference of American Jewry held at New York in 1942, at which the Biltmore program was adopted, defining clearly for the first time the establishment of a Jewish commonwealth as the goal of Zionism. He also took part in the work of the American Jewish Conference, founded in 1943 to help World Jewry meet postwar problems and to support Zionist aims. An American Zionist Emergency Council, established in 1943, was administered at first by Silver and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and later by Silver alone.

In 1944 the American Zionist Emergency Council brought the cause of statehood for Palestine before the United States Congress. Addressing a Congressional committee in February 1944, Silver declared: "Just as there is an England, a France, and a Germany, there must be a land of Israel in order that the status of the Jewish people might be normalized throughout the world." Although bipartisan Congressional resolutions favoring a Jewish state failed to pass in 1944, both major parties included pro-Zionist planks in their respective platforms for the 1944 election campaign.

As a result of a controversy between the "Silver activists" and the "Wise moderates" Silver was forced to resign his co-chairmanship in the Emergency Council in December 1944. However, in July 1945 he was recalled to the chairmanship, and in 1945-46 he served as president of the Zionist Organization of America. In December 1945, following a vigorous campaign of the Emergency Council among the American people, a concurrent resolution was adopted by both houses of Congress, favoring a "Jewish national home" and a "democratic commonwealth" in Palestine.

In the following months Silver put pressure upon the Truman administration in the United States and upon the British Labour government to bring about a solution of the Palestine problem. He criticized as a delaying device the British proposal, agreed to by President Truman, for an Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry, and he also opposed a subsequent British proposal for the federalization of Palestine. At the twenty-second Zionist Congress at Basel in December 1946 Silver led the militant faction against the moderate position represented by Weizmann, who still favored negotiations with Great Britain. The congress overwhelmingly reaffirmed the Biltmore program, which called for the reconstitution of all of Palestine as a Jewish commonwealth. The

action of the congress is believed to have influenced the British decision in February 1947 to bring the issue before the United Nations.

During 1947 Silver, as chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, skillfully presented the case for a Jewish homeland to the U.N. The General Assembly gave final sanction to the creation of a Jewish state in a resolution passed on November 29, 1947 by a vote of 33 to 13 with eleven abstentions, and the state of Israel was officially proclaimed on May 14, 1948. Silver subsequently resigned his leadership of the Zionist movement because of a controversy with Israeli leaders, but he continued to work independently on behalf of Israel. Silver's philosophy of Zionism, which views Jewish history and the Jewish people in their entirety, differs from the Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's rejection of all Zionist activity that is not based upon the state of Israel.

A collection of Silver's addresses on the Zionist question, delivered between 1942 and 1948, was compiled in his book *Vision and Victory* (Zionist Organization of America, 1949). Speaking on the German question in a sermon delivered in March 1951, Silver said: "The re-arming of Germany means putting militarism in the saddle again in Germany, and aggressive nationalism. It means weakening still further whatever democratic forces and sentiment there still remain in the country. It means the blossoming anew of a neo-Naziism. It means the prelude to a third World War."

In January 1953 Silver gave the official prayer at the inauguration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In the following month, at a banquet at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City honoring his sixtieth birthday, Silver delivered a major policy address in which he expressed concern about the problems confronting Israel and about evidences of growing anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in the Soviet Union. At another banquet, in Cleveland, a charitable and educational foundation was set up in Silver's name, to promote his religious, civic, and social projects in Cleveland.

Silver's book *Where Judaism Differed: An Inquiry Into the Distinctiveness of Judaism* (Macmillan, 1956) emphasizes the individuality of the Jewish religion. His most recent work is *Moses and the Original Torah* (Macmillan, 1961). On the occasion of his seventieth birthday he was honored by the publication of a volume of essays *In the Time of Harvest* (Macmillan, 1962), edited by his son Daniel Jeremy Silver.

Dr. Silver is now Rabbi Emeritus of The Temple in Cleveland. He serves as chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, and he is honorary president of the Zionist Organization of America. Honorary doctorates were conferred upon him by Western Reserve University (1928), Hebrew Union College (1941), the University of Tampa (1951), and Dropsie College (1957). He has received the National Service Award of Phi Epsilon Pi (1948); the B'rith Shalom Award (1948); the Cardozo Memorial Award of Tau Epsilon Rho (1949); the Award of Merit of the Jewish World Veterans (1951); the Award of Merit of Zeta Beta Tau (1953); the Eisenmann Award of the Cleveland Welfare Federation (1957); and the

Human Relations Award of the National Council of Christians and Jews (1958). The Israeli communities of Nathanya, Ramat Gan, and Tel Aviv have conferred honorary citizenship upon him.

In 1940 Silver was Dobleian Lecturer at Harvard University. He has served as university preacher at Harvard, Cornell, Syracuse, Purdue, New York University, and the University of Chicago; as national chaplain of the Jewish War Veterans; and as a board member of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Institute of Technology in Haifa. He was president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis from 1945 to 1947 and has served as vice-president of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences and as a trustee of the American Civil Liberties Union. Other organizations in which Silver has been active include the National Child Labor Committee, the American Birth Control League, the Jewish Publication Society of America, the Ohio Race Betterment Association, the Ohio Commission on Unemployment Problems of the Negro, the Council of Democracy, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, the Cleveland chapter of the American Red Cross, the Cleveland Associated Charities, and the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Federation. His clubs are the Aluthians, the Oakwood, and the City Club of Cleveland.

On January 2, 1923 Abba Hillel Silver married Virginia Horkheimer, the daughter of a leader of the Jewish community in Wheeling, West Virginia. They have two sons, Daniel Jeremy (who was ordained a rabbi in 1952) and Raphael David. According to a sketch in *Life* (April 6, 1953), Dr. Silver has the imposing look of an ancient Jewish leader. Tall and dark, he has a massive head and a shock of graying black hair. When he preaches, his words come out in organ tones."

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SMADAL, JOSEPH E. (DWIN) (smä-dél') Jan. 10, 1907- Medical scientist; United States government official

Address: b, Laboratory of Virology and Rickettsiology, Division of Biologics Standards, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Md.; h, 1440 Hemlock St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

The 1962 winner of the \$10,000 Albert Lasker Award for Clinical Medical Research is Dr. Joseph E. Smadel, who has been chief of the laboratory of virology and rickettsiology in the division of biologics standards of the National Institutes of Health since 1960. The highly coveted honor was bestowed on Dr. Smadel in November 1962 in recognition of his pioneering work between 1947 and 1952 in showing that the antibiotic chloromycetin (chloramphenicol) could be used to cure diseases like typhoid fever, scrub typhus, epidemic typhus, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. This discovery reduced fatality rates significantly and affected millions of

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Mrs. Abba H. Silver
19810 Shaker Boulevard
Shaker Heights
Cleveland, Ohio 44122

Dear Mrs. Silver:

The enclosed revised biography, prepared for publication in this Cyclopaedia, is submitted to you for a final examination before it is sent to the printer. Corrections and additions must be noted at this time as they cannot be made once the article is set in type.

Whether or not there are any changes it is essential that this copy be returned for the printer.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) E. Asche
Editorial Department

EA:ase
1/enc.

*A Galaxy
of
American Zionist Rishonim*



ABBA HILLEL SILVER

by DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN

*An Address delivered at the
Meeting of the B'rith Rishonim,
March 30, 1967.*



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made possible through the generosity
of MR. MAX DOFT and MR. A.
GOODMAN.*

ABBA HILLEL SILVER—MILITANT ZIONIST

by DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN

ZIONISM has been a revolutionary movement from its birth. It was so conceived by its classical protagonists, Pinsker, Herzl and Nordau. From their bold and radical conceptions, reinforced by the deepening tragedy of Jewish life, the Movement derived its clan, its dynamic spirit, and that fanatical zeal which finally carried it across all hurdles to its breath-taking victories. The explosive idea with all its force and implications was capsuled in the slogan, the "Jewish State."

This essentially revolutionary character of Zionism, now so clear in historical perspective, was not always grasped by all Zionists, including many who made notable contributions towards its progress. A revolution that takes half a century to mature, cannot move on in one triumphant sweep. It dips and surges, passing through periods of decline and recession when the will falters and the great vision is dimmed.

In the face of seemingly insuperable obstacles, there emerged the doctrine of evolutionary Zionism, of gradualness, of accommodation to the distressing realities. The sights were lowered. The ultimate goal seemed impossibly remote, perhaps a chimera. Defeatism spoke with the voice of reason: why fix your gaze upon the distant peak, shrouded in mist and receding into cloud?

If not the regal castle upon the mountain-top, then a humble hut on its sheltered slope.

The trend toward compromise was often rationalized and sublimated into virtue. Thus, for many years the "Jewish State" became taboo—not merely on grounds of expediency. The very phrase was banned from official Zionist use and driven underground. The State was not only impossible of achievement, but of questionable morality. The National Home, interpreted as a spiritual and cultural center, was deemed a nobler and loftier conception—and one which offered practical advantages. A "spiritual center" required little space, no Jewish majority and no political sovereignty. It would avoid war with the Arabs and could even exist in the midst of an Arab nation. It could be built slowly, over many decades, even centuries. Above all, it had the supreme virtue of being acceptable to the British and promised to avoid a head-on clash with Imperial policy.

The attenuation of political Zionism and its revolutionary élan was manifested in other ways. The decline of "offensive spirit" and the acceptance of defensive attitudes involved loss of political initiative and the adoption of a Fabian strategy of delay and retreat before superior force, even when bolder and more aggressive tactics were called for. The accent was upon patience, caution and restraint, and the avoidance of risk. Zionist statesmanship was made synonymous with moderation—carried at times to an immoderate extreme.

But the original impulse was not spent. Time and again it erupted with volcanic force, sweeping through the ranks and convulsing the Movement. It was neither "moderate" nor "reasonable" and took little account of the "possible" and "impossible." Its truth was based on something deeper than calculation: the imperious instinct of a people at bay fighting for sheer survival and

an irrepressible urge for national greatness and sovereignty.

With every resurgence of militant Zionism there appeared upon the scene extraordinary personalities marked for leadership—men of vision and high voltage, inspired and rebellious, who disdained the beaten path and the circuitous route. They appealed instead to all that was young and daring in their followers and led them to the barricades.

Such a man was Abba Hillel Silver. Without him the Movement might well have drifted into dangerous shoals and lost its great historic opportunity. It was deeply fortunate that the quality of his statesmanship in combination with his personal temperament provided the leadership which Zionism so desperately required in the hour of crisis.

* * * *

The Zionist career of Abba Hillel Silver began in the Herzl Zion Club, one of the earliest boys' groups in the history of American Zionism, formed in 1904, the year of Herzl's death. It met on the East Side of New York and the meetings—at least its "literary programs"—were conducted in Hebrew. I joined a few years later when the club was celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of the president. Its president then and its natural leader for years thereafter was Abba Silver.

It was as a delegate of the Herzl Club that Silver, still a boy, attended his first convention of the Federation of American Zionists. Without precocity but with mature self-confidence, he addressed the convention, demanding greater financial support for the Zionist youth movement. He got little or no money, but his appearance was a harbinger of a new and younger generation who were soon to claim their place in the movement and its leadership.

Then came an interruption—or what seemed like one—in Silver's Zionist life. He went to Cincinnati to study at the University and train for the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College. With him went several other alumni of the Herzl Club. Many of us had unhappy forebodings about this move; for Hebrew Union College was reputed to be not only a nursery of Reform Judaism, but a stronghold of anti-Zionism. To those who remonstrated with Silver, he replied somewhat jauntily that if Cincinnati was an anti-Zionist fortress, he and his friends would capture it from within.

The years passed and a new Silver emerged, whom we did not easily identify with the boy we had known. Elegant in dress, polished in manner, faultless in speech, he appeared to have undergone a transformation. He had shed the habits and manners, the accents of his earlier environment. He seemed "goyish." It all smacked of "assimilation."

But it soon became evident that the changes were external: they had not touched the core of the man—his inner spirit. The fires, kindled at the parental hearth and in the company of his youthful comrades, were not smothered but had been banked against the time when they were to burst into ardent flame. Before long he found his place in the galaxy of distinguished personalities gathered about Louis D. Brandeis, and he began to appear on Zionist platforms in many cities. His reputation as an orator grew, but his role in the councils of the movement were still modest. He was a loyal and disciplined follower of Brandeis.

In 1920, the war against Germany having been won, a large delegation of American Zionists went to London, to the first international Zionist Conference in seven years. There a rift developed between the Weizmann and Brandeis forces. Our American delegation was divided,

Silver standing firmly behind Brandeis. At this Conference Silver first attained international prominence. Though one of the youngest delegates—still in his twenties—he was called upon to address a great public meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, where he shared the platform with such established celebrities as Balfour and Weizman, Max Nordau and Lord Cecil. He also addressed the closing session of the Conference, as spokesman for the American delegation pledging the continued support of American Zionism.

In 1939, Silver assumed the leadership of the United Palestine Appeal and of the United Jewish Appeal as well. In the same year he attended the Zionist Congress in Geneva when Europe and the world stood on the brink of the Second World War. It was shortly after the publication of the White Paper—the last and most deadly of a long series of policy pronouncements by the British Government. In Palestine, the Yishuv was seething with indignation and the first stirrings of active rebellion and even the official leadership of the Yishuv had begun to promote illegal immigration.

* * *

It was not, however, until the war had run half its course, and the ghastly rumors of the mass slaughter of European Jews had become accepted fact, that Silver's career entered upon its historic and heroic phase. During the first three years of the war he took no prominent part in Zionist political affairs, devoting himself assiduously and with success to the great fund-raising campaigns which were his immediate responsibility. But he could not suppress the authentic Zionist note and the Herzlian heritage which were part of his innermost self. Essentially he was concerned not with philanthropy but with statesmanship. He gradually converted the platform of the Appeal into a political forum, giv-

ing incisive and compelling expression to the Jewish demands for national freedom and a secure national existence on the ancestral soil.

Meanwhile, steps were taken to strengthen the organizational apparatus of the Zionist movement in America so as to enable it to cope with its constantly growing responsibilities. With the approval of the World Executive, the American Zionist Emergency Committee, representing all of the major parties, was established in New York in 1939 to undertake whatever steps appeared necessary, in view of the crisis. Slowly the Committee got underway and initiated a number of activities—notably, the formation of the American Palestine Committee, numbering hundreds of United States senators, representatives, cabinet members, governors of States and influential personalities in all walks of life. Regular official contact was established with the State Department. Public meetings were organized and the first steps taken to secure the ear of the American press. It was a brave beginning but far from that all-out effort some of us had hoped for and anticipated. Above all we had made no dent, not the slightest, upon the State Department and the White House. Roosevelt was at the height of his power and popularity. His sympathy and friendliness toward the Jews was beyond dispute; but for the Zionist cause he had little thought and less time. Actually we were moving in circles and getting—nowhere.

During Weizmann's second wartime visit to America in 1942, he suggested a reorganization of the Emergency Council and the drafting of Silver to its leadership. The latter had just returned from a successful tour in England and had won Weizmann's admiration both by his platform appearances and his dealings with British statesmen—and a warmer relationship developed between the two. However, Weizmann's plan met with

resistance and nothing came of it at the time.

But the stage was being set for Silver's emergence into leadership. The necessary and inevitable political struggle preoccupied his mind and invested his speeches with increasing dignity and importance. The orator was ripening into the statesman. The climax of this development came on May 2, 1943 in a memorable address which he delivered before the National Conference of the United Palestine Appeal in Philadelphia. It was a turning point in the evolution of American Zionist policy. For the first time a leader of commanding importance dared to challenge not only the State Department but the attitude of President Roosevelt himself. Dr. Silver's speech was a mercilessly frank and honest analysis of our own weakness and the unfriendliness of the American Government, however veiled in polite and meaningless gestures. It was a clarion call for a new approach based upon political realism and militant action.

American Zionists were stirred and began to rally about him. Within a few weeks a self-constituted delegation called upon Dr. Silver and urged him to assume the direction of American Zionism. As a result of the steps initiated by his friends, he was invited to become the active head of the Zionist Emergency Council that summer, thus ushering in a new era of American Zionism—the era of political "activism."

A decisive test came within a few weeks, at the first session of the American Jewish Conference convened at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria in New York. The principal and dramatic issue was a resolution endorsing the Zionist demand for a Jewish Commonwealth. Virtually all American Zionist groups had conducted their election campaign for delegates to the Conference on the basis of this program. Yet, when confronted with the

intransigent attitude of a small non-Zionist minority, some of the most prominent Zionist leaders wavered and sought a way out. On the plea of "unity," a compromise was in the making by which reference to Jewish statehood was to be eliminated from the resolution. Silver was incensed by what he regarded as an unwarranted retreat. He went before the Conference and delivered one of the most masterly addresses in his career. When the vote was taken, the Jewish Commonwealth resolution was carried with but four dissenting votes out of a total of the 502 delegates assembled.

* * * *

There followed a great mobilization of American Jewry and a prodigious effort to win American public opinion in support of the Zionist aims. Dr. Silver had not underestimated the magnitude of the task that he had undertaken or the strength of the powerful forces arrayed against him: the Arabs, the British, the U.S. State Department, the missionary circles, the oil interests and others. What he had underrated was the power of inertia within the Jewish camp and the iron grip which conventional ideas and established political traditions held upon the Zionist movement. He found that no revolutionary change could be brought about in the international arena without a revolutionary change on the internal front. He had to undergo profound changes of outlook himself and destroy many cherished illusions among his followers before he could strike out on new paths and in new directions.

It had long been accepted orthodox doctrine that Zionist policy must continue to be based on a British orientation. But as time passed Silver was forced to the conclusion that this was an illusion: Britain would not return to her original pro-Zionist line in the face of Arab opposition unless she was compelled to do so by a force

greater than Arab pressure. This superior force was America! Here again Silver realized earlier and more clearly than others the extent to which Britain was growing dependent upon American strength. He was therefore convinced that the key to Palestine's future lay in Washington, that this was the point upon which to concentrate all the strength, the influence, the pressure, we could muster.

But he also had no illusion about the difficulty and the dimensions of the task. Britain was America's closest ally. For many decades the policy makers of the State Department had regarded the Near East as a British sphere. They were prepared to extend and consolidate Britain's influence in the region even at the expense of France. They were certainly not prepared to override British policy in favor of the "vociferous Zionists" and their "quixotic plans" for a Jewish State.

Moreover, Silver was the first of the Zionist leaders to shed his illusions about Roosevelt's demeanor toward the Zionist idea. With keen insight he came to realize sooner than others, that behind Roosevelt's suavity and charm, and despite his humanitarian friendliness for the Jews as people, there lay a deep-seated skepticism about Jewish Palestine and a cool indifference, which Silver described as an attitude of "uninvolved benignancy." Roosevelt was ready to listen but unwilling to act and firmly opposed any step which might involve him in difficulties with the Arab rulers. But to the Jewish masses of America and throughout the world, Roosevelt loomed as the great friend and champion of their people. How could such a friend oppose or ignore Jewish national aspirations? Not only was it difficult to accept such a painful thought—there was a strong psychological need to reject it. In a tragic hour and a hostile world there simply had to be a champion and protector. If it was

not Stalin or Churchill, it had to be Roosevelt. This emotional dependence on Roosevelt was reinforced by eminently practical considerations. He might be re-elected, and he was re-elected for a fourth term. His would be the power to shape the postwar settlement. To cross him, to offend him, to alienate his affection, was to court disaster for the Zionist cause.

When Silver persisted in his attempt to force the passage of the Palestine Resolution through Congress after Roosevelt's re-election in November 1944, he was forced to resign as Chairman of the Emergency Council. He and his friends carried the issue to the American Jewish community; but it was not until Roosevelt's death in the spring of the following year, and the revelation of his secret correspondence with Ibn Saud, that the tide turned and Silver was recalled to leadership through the pressure of Jewish public opinion. His judgment had been vindicated and his leadership more firmly established than before.

The struggle in Washington went on during the early part of the Truman Administration, but the going became easier as Truman gradually became convinced that the overwhelming majority of the Jewish citizens were now solidly behind the Zionist program. Truman was moreover a far less complex personality than his illustrious predecessor—less adroit and sophisticated, simpler and more straightforward. He accepted the Zionist line reluctantly and under pressure, at first, but having accepted it, he followed through honestly and firmly. In the end he found himself in direct conflict with Britain's Bevin. He did not shrink from the encounter, but supported by popular opinion, he stuck to his guns and forced the State Department to acquiesce in his pro-Zionist policy.

Making the fullest allowance for Truman's gradual

but genuine conversion to the Zionist cause, as well as the beneficent influence of some of his personal friends and supporters, the record leaves no room for doubt that he would never have gone as far as he did were it not for the constant pressure exerted upon his Administration and the prospect of wholesale defection from the Democratic Party.

The whole procedure represented a revolutionary change in Zionist policy and political technique. From Herzl's earliest diplomatic explorations down to the days of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, and Weizmann's latest efforts, political Zionism was political mostly in the sense that it pursued political objectives. It sought to achieve these objectives largely by diplomacy; and considering how few and doubtful were the cards in their hands, Zionist diplomats had played them skillfully and at times brilliantly. But in the final analysis, diplomacy, to be successful, must be backed by something more concrete and substantial than ideas, sentiments and remote potentialities. It is a game of give and take, and the would-be diplomat must have something of value to offer or withhold. He must be in a position to benefit his friends and inflict injury on his adversaries. Herzl had grasped this principle firmly, but lacked the counters with which to negotiate. The greatest diplomat our people had produced since Disraeli died of a broken heart—for lack of bargaining power.

Weizmann was more successful in the circumstances of the first World War. For all his personal charm, persuasiveness and skill, he would have failed like Herzl—but for the fact that Britain, hard-pressed in the struggle with Germany, was anxious to gain the wholehearted support of the Jewish people: in Russia on the one hand, and in America, on the other. The non-Jewish world regarded the Jews as a power to reckon with.

and even exaggerated Jewish influence and Jewish unity. Britain's need of Jewish support furnished Zionist diplomacy the element of strength and bargaining power which it required to back its moral appeal.

The circumstances of World War II were radically different. Jewry was destroyed in Central Europe and politically immobilized in Soviet Russia. Hitler carried out his program of extermination without effective opposition from any quarter. In the eyes of practical politicians he had demonstrated that Jewish power and influence were a myth. What was really crucial in the new circumstances was the fact that the Jews of the world were now perforce solidly arrayed with Britain as the leader of the democratic world in the war against Hitler. There was no need to woo the Jews, for they had no alternative. On the contrary, it was the Arabs who had to be wooed, for they could flirt with the Axis—as they did. Disaffected, they had to be appeased; loyal, they had to be rewarded. So overwhelmingly were the British convinced of the reality of Arab power and the complete loss of our bargaining position, that our cause in England became hopeless.

The essence of Silver's revolutionary approach lay in the new realism which he introduced. He came to perceive that diplomacy, unsupported by some form of power, degenerated into mere *shtadlanut*—backstairs intercession—humiliating and futile. There was no other way but to recreate for Zionism the bargaining position it had lost, building it up out of such elements of strength as the Jewish people still possessed. The chief positive elements in our position were two: first, the growing strength of the Yishuv, its ability to resist and its offensive power to strike; secondly, the potential power of five million American Jews, if properly organized and led and if their collective strength was fearlessly em-

ployed. Activism—here and in Palestine!

The moment the war was won in Europe, Silver favored full support for the resistance movement in Palestine. If the rebelliousness of the Arabs was a factor, Jewish rebelliousness could be no less a factor, even more embarrassing to Britain in her international relations. Activism and resistance in Palestine had to be matched and supported by an equally aggressive and relentless policy in America—on the political plane. It meant abandonment of apologetic and defensive attitudes in favor of an "offensive spirit" sustained by striking power. The political offensive was to be directed in the first place against the British Government, but also against anti-Zionist influences entrenched in Washington. Both the British and American governments were to feel the full impact of an aroused and militant body of opinion comprised of millions of American citizens, Jews and Christians alike. Under Silver's leadership they did.

Dr. Silver and his colleagues drew the moral strength to persevere in their attitude toward the American government from the conviction that there was no incompatibility between Zionist aspirations and American interests in the Near East. On the contrary, it was their firm belief that the establishment of a democratic Jewish State in Palestine was not only consistent with traditional American policy but would redound to the advantage of the United States by helping to stabilize and strengthen the Near East through the stimulating example of modern progressive civilization and democratic processes similar to those of America itself.

* * * *

Another stormy chapter in Silver's stormy career was the controversy over the partition proposals put forward by the Jewish Agency in the summer of 1946. He did

not oppose partition in principle as a compromise solution which might ultimately be accepted, but he rebelled furiously against the tactical blunder of offering the ultimate compromise—our “irreducible minimum”—to so ruthless an adversary as Ernest Bevin. “Offer him partition,” he warned, and he will treat your compromise proposal as your maximum demand.” And subsequent events vindicated his judgment.

Having had two personal interviews with Mr. Bevin in the fall of that year, Silver placed no reliance whatever in further diplomatic negotiations with the Foreign Office. Instead, he favored political and physical resistance to British policy and vigorously advocated that course at the Zionist Congress in December 1946.

When Mr. Bevin finally referred the issue to the United Nations—confident that Zionism would be defeated in that forum—Dr. Silver accepted the momentous responsibility of marshalling the Jewish and pro-Jewish forces to win a favorable verdict. Again he threw himself into the struggle with renewed zeal. Again he insisted that the key to the situation lay primarily in Washington and once again he mobilized public opinion and used every avenue of approach and influence to overcome the inertia and thinly disguised hostility still lurking in the State Department.

Without abandoning the technique of mass action and public pressure, he also resorted to the arts of the accomplished diplomat. Skillfully and sagaciously he sought to isolate Britain and the Arabs by building up a majority for Jewish independence out of widely disparate elements: the United States, the Soviet Bloc, the Catholic countries of Latin America, the British Dominions, and Western Europe. Silver's colleagues on the Agency Executive worked feverishly as a team at his side and under his direction. Every avenue of sup-

port was thoroughly explored. Every clue was meticulously checked and pursued. Not the smallest or the remotest of nations but was contacted and wooed. Nothing was left to chance.

Even so, it was once more touch and go. Three days before the final vote in the Assembly of the United Nations we were just short of the required two-thirds majority to carry the Partition Resolution. Providentially, Thanksgiving Day intervened, giving us a respite of twenty-four hours for the last supreme effort to corral the additional votes. By Saturday, the 29th of November, we had succeeded. For the first time in history the nations of the world, in council assembled, gave moral and legal sanction to the re-establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.

The menace of Arab invasion and British sabotage threatened the implementation of the United Nations decision, which was to take final effect on the termination of the British Mandate, May 14, 1948. In March, the American Government suddenly reversed its position and declared for an international trusteeship over Palestine in place of partition. Silver threw himself into the struggle all over again, summoned a nationwide conference for political action in Washington, and resumed public pressure upon the President and the State Department. There followed a perilous period of behind-the-scenes negotiations. Representatives of the State Department offered a new plan of mediation if the proclamation of the Jewish State would be postponed. The offer of the State Department, reputed to have come also from the President himself, was rejected—though the course smacked of defiance. To be more precise, we informed Ben-Gurion of our vote in favor of rejection, leaving the ultimate decision, as we felt we must, to the Yishuv itself.

The Jewish State was proclaimed and was promptly recognized by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The political battle was won. For the moment, however, politics and diplomacy gave way to the test of war. The ultimately decisive victory of the cause was won on the field of battle, by the valor of the Yishuv and the sacrifice of its heroic youth. Without this military triumph the political victory would have been fruitless and evanescent. But without the political victory and the moral sanction of the world which it conferred, Israel's War of Independence would not have been fought and won.

Silver's resolute leadership, his militant and audacious policy, his overall strategy and the prodigious activity he unfolded—these were largely responsible for the political triumph. He had moved and acted in the great tradition of Herzl and Weizmann: the achievement was perhaps greater than they had dared hope for.

To gain international sanction for Jewish statehood had been the task of political Zionism since Herzl. To an extent scarcely realized as yet, the completion of the task has been the historic achievement of Abba Hillel Silver.



The Brith Rishonim of the United States aims to:

- I. Provide a central address to which any member may turn for advice or counsel and find companionship among men and women with the same historic past;
- II. Meet from time to time in order to give public expression to opinion on important issues in current Zionist life;
- III. Protect and defend the honor and prestige of the Zionist Movement;
- IV. Endeavor to collect and preserve data dealing with the history of the Zionist Movement in the United States, particularly the individual contributions made by American Zionists in the pre-State development of the Jewish National Home.

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LOUIS LIPSKY
Architect American Zionism
by MEYER W. WEISGAL

●
STEPHEN S. WISE
Foremost Leader American Jewry
by DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN

●
ABBA HILLEL SILVER
Militant Zionist
by DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN

AA

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WRHS

SILVER, Abba Hillel, rabbi,
was born in Lithuania, Jan. 28, 1893, son of Moses and
Dina (Seamon) Silver. The family came to this country
in 1901 (?) and settled in New York city, where his
father was a rabbi. Abba H. Silver received his
preliminary education at public (f) school; in New York
city (f), and was graduated B.A. in 1915 at the University
of Cincinnati. Simultaneously he had attended Hebrew
Union College, where he was ordained a rabbi in 1915. The Fifth
Generation, in a direct line
to be ordained.
From that year until 1917 he was rabbi of Congregation

Silver, A.H.

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L'Shem Shamayim, Wheeling, W.Va., and from the latter year until the close of his life he served as rabbi of Temple Tifereth Israel in Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest Reform congregations in the United States. In 1924 a new \$1,300,000 temple building was dedicated.

Silver served as visiting university minister at the University of Chicago, and at Harvard, Cornell, Syracuse, Purdue, and New York universities. In 1940 he was Dupleian lecturer at Harvard. Silver was a leader in Jewish affairs for nearly half a century. His adherence to Zionism dated to early childhood. ^{At the age of 11} ~~As a teenager~~ he

^{helped} ^{organize} ^{DR.} joined the Herzl Zion Club in New York city, the earliest boys' group in the American Zionist movement. In 1942 he took part in a historic conference of American Jewry in New York city, at which a definite program was adopted, defining the establishment of an independent Israel as

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the principal aim of Zionism. In 1943, with Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, he formed the American Zionist Emergency Council, of which he was chairman for a number of years. This organization brought the Israel statehood question before the U. S. Congress ^{which in 1945 passed a} ~~and although~~ resolutions favoring Israel's statehood ^{He was instrumental in} ~~failed to pass Congress, they were~~ ^{included in the 1944 platforms of both major parties. On} May 8, 1947, as chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, he presented the case before a committee of inquiry of the United Nations for the establishment of Israel as a nation. On Nov. 29, 1947, the partition plan was voted by the United Nations. He served as national chairman, board of governors, State of Israel Bonds; president (1945-46) and later honorary president, of the Zionist Organization of America; chairman (1938-43)

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of United Palestine Appeal; co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; director of American Friends of Hebrew University; and president (1945-47) of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. An early champion of the rights of organized labor and mediator in many labor disputes, he was one of the first advocates in the U. S. of unemployment insurance. He framed the first unemployment insurance legislation in Ohio; was a director of the American Civil Liberties Union; a member of the Ohio commission on unemployment problems of the Negro, the National Child Labor committee, and the Ohio Race Betterment Association (charter member). He helped to found, in Cleveland, the first Community Fund in the U. S., was a board member of the Cleveland chapter of the American Red Cross, and served on the advisory committee of the Birth Control League. He was author of "Messianic Speculations in

Silver, A.H.

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Israel" (1927), "Democratic Impulse in Jewish History"

(1928), "Religion in a Changing World" (1930), "World

Crisis and Jewish Survival" (1941), "Vision and Victory"

(1940), and "Where Judaism Differed" (1956), "MOSES AND

THE ORIGINAL TORAH (1961)

(Have any noteworthy details been omitted
from the above summary of his career?)



During the First World War the United States sent him to
France on a special mission, for which he was decorated as
an Officier de l'Instruction Publique de France. He received

Silver, A.H.

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the ^ACórdozo Memorial award of Tau Epsilon Rho in 1949; the annual National Service award of Phi Epsilon Pi in 1948; the Award of Merit of Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. in 1951; the annual award of Zeta Beta Tau in 1953; and the Louis D. Brandeis award of the American Zionist Council in 1963. He was the recipient of an ^{The}~~honorary~~ D.D. degree in 1925, and an honorary D.H.L. degree in 1941 from Hebrew Union College, and of honorary degrees of Litt. D. from Western Reserve University in 1928 and H.H.D. from the University of Tampa (Fla.) in 1951. A village ^{AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL} in Israel was named after him - Kfar Silver - by the Zionist

Organization of America. Silver was a member of the Jewish Publication Society of America, Jewish War Veterans (national chaplain), Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College (pres. 1936-37), the Cleveland Jewish Welfare

AN ABRA HILLET SILVER CHAIR OF JEWISH STUDIES
HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

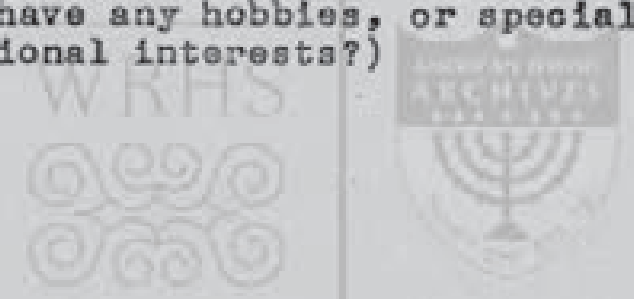
Silver, A.H.

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Federation, Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland (chairman 1935-41), Council of Jewish Federation and Welfare Funds, and the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education (pres. 1924-32). He also belonged to the Alathians, and the City and Oakwood clubs of Cleveland.

(Did he have any hobbies, or special recreational interests?)



Silver was married in Wheeling, W. Va., Jan 2, 1923, to Virginia, daughter of Louis Horkheimer of that place, a wholesale wool merchant, and had two sons: Daniel Jeremy, and Raphael David. Abba H. Silver died in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 28, 1963.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest Jewish congregations in America, visited France during the summer of 1918, in the interest of the Committee on Public Information, and at the request of the French High Commission to the United States.

Rabbi Silver visited the entire American and French front. He was with the American forces during the battle of Chateau Thiery and spent some time at Verdun.

He made a minute study of our Service of Supply, devoting many days to a careful survey of American Docks, Warehouses, Assembling Plants and Railroad Depots in France.

He also visited many of the Field and Base Hospitals of the American and French forces. He spent much of his time with the Boys at the Front and gained an intimate insight into their life, their problems and their ideals.

* * * * *

Article published in "The City", the Weekly Bulletin of the City Club of Cleveland; before which Club Rabbi Silver spoke very shortly after his return from France.

"No one who has ever heard Rabbi Silver will want to miss hearing his first public address since his return from overseas. He has selected a subject which has a large range: "Some impressions from the Front".

Rabbi Silver has returned to this country only within the past two weeks, and we may be sure that the message he will bring to us will be the very latest from the front. He was selected by the Bureau of Public Information and the High French Commission to be sent to France to inspect the work of the American Forces in the different branches of service. He spent some time in the vicinity of Verdun, and will tell of the almost unbelievable strides that the United States has made in establishing and managing the different branches of the work in France.

Many citizens will remember Rabbi Silver's impromptu address at the City Club last year, when the speaker scheduled for the day did not arrive. It is now a bit of City Club history, and proved to be the address of the past season that caused more comment than any other. One of the members has said that a greater compliment was paid to Rabbi Silver that day than the City Club has ever paid to any speaker. The compliment was that not a single man left the room during the address."

* * * * *

Article published in the Wheeling News, Wheeling, W. Va.,
October 13th, 1918:

Rabbi Silver tells of War on French Soil.

Former popular Rabbi of Eoff Street Temple returns to Cleveland.
Thrills audience in Forest City by impressive talk- appeals for
loan.

"Rabbi A. H. Silver, formerly of the Eoff Street Temple of this city, but now of Cleveland, Ohio, thrilled a city club audience which filled the Hollenden ballroom in that city last week, with an eloquent picture of the spirit and high devotion of the youth of America, in the war zones of Europe. He went to France in the service of the Committee on Public Information several months ago, and he has returned burning with faith in the eternal righteousness of the cause in which Americans are fighting and dying, and in the completeness of its destined triumph.

Unlike many noted observers of the conditions at the front and behind the battle lines, back to the French ports which have been transformed by American energy and American Mechanical resources, Rabbi Silver pays relatively little attention, in his address, to precise facts and material achievements. But he found time to rouse his audience to great enthusiasm by his fervent declaration that what the American Democracy was doing and what it had already done proved that the whole cult of German superiority in efficiency was based on a lie.

His reference to individual instances of ~~maxximum~~ heroism and devotion ~~tax~~ and wonderful fortitude and suffering were also subordinated to his main theme, the most powerful and beautiful plea to his hearers to interpret rightly and profit accordingly by the spiritual sublimity of war, yet the vivid glimpses of the magnificent courage, the absolute self-sacrifice and the fine human brotherhood of the American boys in France moved his fellow citizens as Cleveland audiences are seldom thrilled.

The speaker put his whole soul and all his force into his tribute to France, and again into his prophecy that the armies to return from the cleansing and testing of the fiery furnace of war would lift American thought and feeling and American life nearer to priceless ideals of human brotherhood, nearer to the spirit of all true religion and the very soul of justice, and service and love."

SILVER, ABBA HILLEL: rabbi; b. Weinstadt, Schirwindt, Lithuania, Jan. 28, 1893; s. Moses and Diana (Seamon) S.; A.B. from U. of Cincinnati, 1915; rabbi Hebrew Union College, 1915, D.D., 1925; Litt. D., Western Reserve, 1928; D.H.S., Hebrew Union College, 1941; D. Hum., Univer. of Tampa, 1951; Rabbi Congregation L'Shem Shmoyim, Wheeling, W. Va., 1915-17. The Temple, Cleveland, since 1917. Chmn., American section, Jewish Agency for Palestine, 1947-49; Chairman, American Zionist Emergency Council, 1947-49; Chmn. and co-chmn., United Palestine Appeal, 1936-43; American Friends of Hebrew University, dir.; Central Conference of Amer. Rabbis, Pres. 1936-37; Cleve. Jewish Welfare Fed., bd. member; Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleve., Chairman, 1935-41; American Civil Liberties Union, bd. member; Duffieian lecturer, Harvard University, 1940; In France, World War, decorated officer de l'Instruction publique (France); author, Messianic Speculations in Israel, 1927; Democratic Impulse in Jewish History, 1928; Religion in a Changing World, 1930; World Crisis and Jewish Survival, 1941; Vision and Victory, 1949.

Dr. Silver was an early champion of the rights of organized labor and one of the first advocates in the United States of Unemployment Insurance.

In his book, "Inside U.S.A.", John Gunther speaks of Dr. Silver as "the first citizen of Cleveland".

SECTION 3

YOUR BASIC FILE DATA

NOTE: (1) The SUPERSEDED SKETCH posted below is NO LONGER ACTIVE and is used only for filing convenience.

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(3) Therefore DO NOT supply again.

Any biography-in-brief of you to be hereafter published in WHO'S WHO will, necessarily, be based on the data below (and any revisions you may have supplied since these were originally typeset) UNLESS you now supply on this file card NEW, and/or current additional data having to do with the LAST THREE MONTHS (using Section 4 to the right), and/or additional changes or corrections (using Section 2 overleaf).

(SILVER, Abba Milled, rabb.; b. Neimish, Sefed, 1881, Lithuania, Jan. 28, 1881; J. Moses and Dina (Stamen) S.; A.B. from U. of Cincinnati, 1913; Rabbi Hebrew Union Coll., 1913, D.D., 1925; Litt.D., Western Reserve, 1928; D.H.L., Hebrew Union Coll., 1941; H.H.D., U. Tampa, Fla.; Litt.D., Dropsie Coll., 1937; m. Virginia, d. Louis and Clementine Berkman, Jan. 2, 1923; children—Daniel, Raphael, Rabbi Congregation L'Shem Shamayim, Wheeling, 1915-17, The Temple, Clev., 1917—; Nat. cham., bd. conv. State of Israel Bonds; former president Zionist Orgn. Am., now hon. pres.; former chm. Am. section, Jewish Agency for Palestine; Am. Zionist Emergency Council (chairman), United Palestine Appeal (co-chairman and chairman 1928-33), United Jewish Appeal (co-chm.); Am. Friends of Hebrew Univ. (dir.), Nat. Child Labor Com., Central Conference Am. Rabbis (pres., 1945-47), Almond Ann. Hebrew Union Coll. (pres., 1938-37), Jewish War Veterans (nat. chaplain), Jewish Publ. Soc. America (mem. bd.), Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fed. (bd. mem.), Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland (chm., 1935-41), Council Jewish Fed. and Welfare Funds (mem. bd.), American Civil Liberties Union, Cleveland Associate; Charles; member Advisory Committee American Birth Control League; charter mem. Ohio Race Betterment Assn.; mem. bd. Cleveland Chapter, Nat. Red Cross; Ohio Comm. on Unemployment Problems of the Negro; president Cleveland Bureau Jewish Education, 1924-32; Served as university preacher Harvard, Cornell, Univ. of Chgo., Syracuse, Purdue, New York, Madison lectures, Harvard University, 1948. In France, World War; decorated Officier de l'Instruction publique (France). Received Caruso Memorial Award of The Russian Eho, 1949; am. Nat. Serv. Award Phil Epitaph Pl, 1948; Award of Merit Jewish War Veterans of the United States, 1931; annual award of Zeta Beta Tau, 1933. Clubs: Alsthams, Oakwood, CTR. Author: Mesianic Speculations in Israel, 1927; Democratic Impulse in Jewish History, 1928; Religion in a Changing World, 1930; World Crisis and Jewish Survival, 1941; Vision and Victory, 1949; Where Judaism Differed, 1952. Home: 18818 Shaker Rd. Office: The Temple, R. 105th St. and Arzel Rd., Clev.

(The above sketch DOES NOT CONTAIN revisions recently supplied by you, but THEY ARE ON FILE AND WILL BE USED.)

SECTION 4

FOR NEW DATA NOT IN FILE AND THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE LAST THREE MONTHS

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NAT. BIOG. FILE REVISION

No. **W A / N B R**

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DR. L.M. BIRKHEAD
National Director, Friends of Democracy

will speak on the subject

WAR ON THE PROPAGANDA FRONT

CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY TO OCCUPY TEMPLE PULPIT

8 The Temple is happy to announce that its pulpit will be occupied, next Sunday morning, by one of the foremost leaders of anti-Nazi and anti-Fascist activity in the United States, Dr. L. M. Birkhead, head of the "Friends of Democracy".

A dynamic personality and one of the great preachers of America, Dr. Birkhead has devoted himself ever since the Nazis came into power to exposing their conspiracies in the United States. He has brought to light many of the subversive groups in the United States, their leaders and organizers. The information which he compiled has been used extensively by the press, the pulpit and our government.

Dr. Birkhead will speak on "War on the Propaganda Front".

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, distinguished Rabbi, noted Zionist leader and National Chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, has left for England on an important Zionist mission which will keep him there for several weeks.

Dr. Silver has responded to an urgent call and invitation which came to him jointly from Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the World Zionist Organization, and the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, representing all Zionist groups and parties in this country.

His mission to England has a three-fold purpose: Dr. Silver will confer with leaders of English Public Life on Jewish and Zionist questions and convey to them the views and sentiments of American Jews. Another object is to establish greater liaison between the British and American Zionist Organizations on matters of policy and method. Finally, on the invitation of the Baron Hayswood, Dr. Silver will participate in the launching of the United Palestine Appeal which has recently been organized in England on the model of the American organization which he heads.

Dr. Silver's life-long association with the Zionist Movement, his distinguished position in American life, his highly successful leadership of the United Palestine Appeal as well as his personal influence, eloquence and grasp of political problems, mark him out as pre-eminently qualified for the mission which he has undertaken at considerable personal inconvenience.

The American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs has long planned such a step, but its execution has been delayed due to the many difficulties involved. Dr. Silver's mission to England will be hailed with profound satisfaction throughout the United States and Abroad, and its progress will be followed with keen interest.

SILVER, ABBA HILLEL, rabbi, orator and Zionist leader, b. Neinstadt, Lithuania, 1893. He was brought to the United States by his parents in 1902, settling in New York City. As a boy he was a leading member of a Hebrew speaking club, named after Theodor Herzl, which conducted debates and performed plays in the Hebrew language. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College, graduating from both in 1915. He then became rabbi of Eoff Street Temple, Wheeling, W. Va. Two years later he received a call to The Temple of Cleveland, now the largest Reform Congregation in the United States, where he was still serving in 1942. During his ministry the beautiful new Temple which now houses the congregation was built. In 1925 he received the degree of D.D. from the Hebrew Union College.

Silver was active in the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College. He took ~~an~~ a leading part in the civic and philanthropic affairs of the Cleveland community. He sponsored the first unemployment insurance law in Ohio, was a member of the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union, and was interested in child labor legislation. He was chairman of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund from 1935 to 1941, and co-founder of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education and its first president. He was co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, and chairman of the United Palestine Appeal from 1938 on. He traveled extensively in behalf of these causes.

During the first World War he was sent to France by the United States Government and at the invitation of the French Government, which later gave him a decoration. He attended a number of international Zionist congresses and in the Spring of 1942 visited England on a diplomatic mission for the Zionist Movement as well as to aid the campaign of British Jewry for the Palestine Foundation Fund.

Since the beginning of his career, Silver had played an important part in the American Zionist Movement. He held a number of important offices, serving as vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America and a member of the Zionist Actions Committee, the Council of the Jewish Agency and of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. In 1921 he was a leading member of the Brandeis-Mack group but was

one of the first of the dissenters to return to active Zionist service. He favored the plan for the extended Jewish Agency proposed by Weizmann and Marshall, which was later ratified at Zurich in 1929. He entered the lists actively against the British government's plan to partition Palestine, later abandoned. He was a consistent critic of British administration in Palestine and spoke with vigor and skill in condemnation of British violation of their mandatory undertakings. Together with Samuel Untermyer he organized the Anti-Nazi Boycott Movement in the United States.

In addition to skill in negotiation and administration, Silver possessed a unique and unrivalled gift of oratory. On occasion his fervor and passion made lasting impressions on large audiences. His sermons and public addresses were distinguished for grace of expression and vision, for fine style and originality of thought, which often rose to lofty dramatic heights, and for boldness and courage. It set a standard for Zionist platform utterances and Jewish pulpit oratory.

His writings include: Messianic Speculations in Ancient Israel (1927); The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History (1928); Religion in a Changing World (1930); World Crisis and Jewish Survival (1941). He was awarded honorary degrees by Western Reserve University (Litt.D., 1928) and the Hebrew Union College (D.H.L., 1941) and in 1940 was Dudleyan lecturer at Harvard University.

I THE TEMPLE

During Rabbi Silver's ministry at The Temple, the congregation has more than doubled its membership and now it is the largest liberal Jewish congregation in the United States.

In 1924 the New Temple, at E. 105th Street and Ansel Road, one of the most imposing religious edifices in the country, was built.

The Temple Religious School which offers a systematic course in religious education under trained professional instructors is housed in a separate school building and has been a pioneering institution in the religious field in the country. Rabbi Silver has confirmed over ~~2000~~ ²⁸⁰⁰ boys and girls in the last 27 years.

His weekly lectures on Sunday Morning in connection with The Temple Service have ~~at~~ been a civic institution for ^{nearly} a quarter of a century and have attracted large congregations which included many non-Jews.

II IN THE COMMUNITY

He has been active in all the charitable and cultural movements in our community, in the Cleveland Community Chest from its very inception, the Associated Charities, the Jewish Welfare Federation, the Consumer's League, the League for Human Rights.

For seven years Rabbi Silver was Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Cleveland. He was among the founders and the first president, for nine years, of the Bureau of Jewish Education.

III NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Rabbi Silver has been a leader in the Zionist Movement of the world. He has made many visits to Palestine, England and many countries in Europe in its behalf, and has been in contact with their leading statesmen.

~~In the last five years he has been~~ ^{He was in 1939} National Chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, the central agency which raises funds for the rebuilding of Palestine. Under his leadership of this Fund, twenty million dollars ~~have been~~ forwarded to Palestine to stimulate its development and to make possible the absorption of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Europe.

Rabbi Silver ~~is~~ ^{was} also National Co-Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal which has devoted itself to the ~~insurance~~, protection, and the relief of refugees and war victims in all parts of the world and to the caring of the refugees who have come to this country. Rabbi Silver has visited hundreds of communities in the United States in connection with these activities. Since 1939, over \$2,000,000 were raised by the United Jewish Appeal. (4)

Rabbi Silver has been actively identified with all the progressive social movements of our day. He was one of the earliest advocates of unemployment insurance in this country and helped to bring about unemployment insurance in Ohio. He has been a champion of the rights of organized labor and was frequently

called upon to arbitrate in industrial disputes.

His voice has been heard at many important gatherings of social workers and conventions of school teachers and administrators throughout the nation.

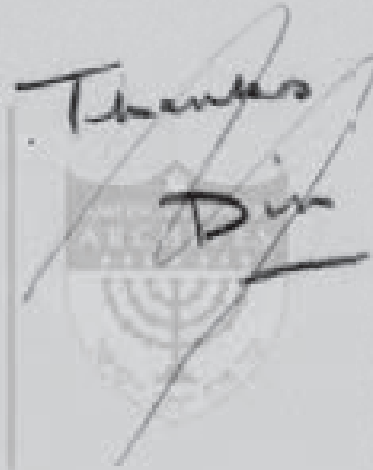
IV

AUTHOR

Rabbi Silver has written the following books: Messianic Speculations in Israel, 1927; Democratic Impulse in Jewish History, 1928; Religion in a Changing World, 1930; World Crisis and Jewish Survival, 1941.

Rabbi Silver was decorated by the French Government in 1919 with the Academic Palms. In 1928 he received the degree of Litt.D. from Western Reserve University; in 1941 the degree of D.H.L. from the Hebrew Union College.

He has frequently addressed University gatherings, and in 1940, he delivered the Duddleian Lecture at Harvard University.



A. H. Silver is member of

Exec. Bd. Consumers League of Ohio
Board Cleve. Associated Charities
Cleveland World Unity Council
Charter Member - Ohio Race Betterment Assoc.
National Child Labor Committee (N.Y.)
National World Court Committee (N.Y.)
Natl. Federation of Religious Liberals (Chicago)
Militarism in Education Com. - Astor Place, N.Y.
Exec Com. Larger Regional Govt. - Cleve. Foundation
Travelers Aid Society - Cleve. General Board
Advisory Board - Salvation Army
Memb. - Fathers - sons' Get-together Club.
Recreation Council
Perry Monument Com.
American Civil Liberties Union
Sponsoring Com. - 1 mill tax levy
American League for India's Freedom
Natl. Com. on Labor Injunctions
Near East Relief - State Com. - Cleve.

Chairman - City Com. Unemployment Ins. Bill
Citizens Com. - Benefit for Bertha Talisch
Puerto Rico Child Com. - Cleveland - (NY)

~~General~~
Jewish

President Hoover's Com. for Unempl. Relief
Cleve. Com. for Economic Conferences
Natl. Citizens Com. Welfare & Relief Mobilization 1932
Natl. Com. Assn. Community Chests (N.D. Baker) (Clyde)
Ex Bd. Cleve. Zionist District - mem com. on education
Central Conference American Rabbis
Response - Liturgical Literature Com. CCAIR
Natl. Council - Amer. Jewish Joint Distribution Com.
Jewish Welfare Fund
League of all Jewish Institutions
Board Governors - Hebrew Union College
Vice President Zionist Org. of America
Gen. Council B. O. Council of Jewish Agency
International Actions Com. IOA
Bd. Jewish Publication Society
Federation Jewish Charities - Cleve.
Ansi Ruth Stiller Foundation Commission
Natl. Advisory Bd. Jewish Daily Bulletin
Advisory Board Jewish Natl. Fund

Natl. Com. sponsoring Jewish Communal Directory
Chairman G. A. Com on Hebrew University



The Temple

EAST 129TH STREET AT ANGEL ROAD
TELEPHONES - CECIL 152-155

Cleveland

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D., RABBI

SOLOMON BLUM
DIRECTOR OF TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

HARRY A. LEVY
EXECUTIVE RABBI

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Rabbi, The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Silver graduated from the Hebrew Union College and the University of Cincinnati in 1915.
The Degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the Hebrew Union College in June, 1923.

He was Rabbi of the Congregation D'Shem Shmoyim, Wheeling, West Virginia from 1915 to 1917.
He was called to the rabbinate of The Temple, Cleveland in 1917.

He is a member of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; the Commission of Education, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Executive Board the Consumers League of Ohio; Director Intercollegiate Hebrew Association; Director of Jewish Publication Society of America; Board of Federation of Jewish Charities, Cleveland; Board of Cleveland Associated Charities; Vice President Zionist Organization of America and member of the International Actions Committee of that organization; Board of governors of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

Dr. Silver was in France during the World War, at the request of the Governments of the United States and France and was decorated by the French Government for conspicuous service.

Silver

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D.D., born *Neinstadt, Schierwindt, Lithuania*, January 28th, 1893; son of Moses Silver and Diana Seamon. Graduated from the Hebrew Union College and University of Cincinnati in 1915. Degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred by Hebrew Union College, June, 1925. Married Virginia, daughter of Louis and *Clementine* Horkheimer of Wheeling, W.Va., January 2, 1923.

Rabbi Congregation L'Shem Shameyim, Wheeling, W.Va. from 1915 to 1917. Called to the Rabbinate of The Temple, Cleveland in 1917. Member Executive Board Central Conference; Commission of Education Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Executive Board Consumers League of Ohio; Director Intercollegiate Menorah Association, Director Jewish Publication Society of America; Board of the Federation of Jewish Charities of Cleveland; Board of Cleveland Associated Charities; Vice President Zionist Organization of America and member of the International Actions Committee of that Organization; Board of Governors, Hebrew Union College.

Was in France during the war, at the request of the Governments of the United States and France and was decorated by the French Government for conspicuous service.

Address: The Temple, East 105th St. at Ansel Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

~~*Literary - 3 The Star*~~

Ex. R. Natl. Fed. Neg. Liberals

A. N. Marquis & Company,
Publishers Who's Who in America
440 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, Ills.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, is Spiritual Leader of one of the largest liberal Jewish congregations in America. He is one of the leaders of the Zionist Movement in America. He is a member of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. He has been actively identified with the great social movements of our day. He was a member of President Hoover's Unemployment Relief Commission and was one of the framers of the Unemployment Insurance Bill of Ohio. He is on the National Child Labor Commission, the commission on Militarism in Education, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National World Court Committee. He is also on the Board of the Hillel Foundation.

Dr. Silver has just returned from an eight months tour of study of the countries of Europe and Palestine, during which time he interviewed Mussolini, President Masaryk and many other political leaders in Europe.

Among the books which Dr. Silver has written are "Speculations in Israel," "Democratic Impulse in Jewish History," and "Religion in a Changing World."



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Yet, after twelve years at the head of the Temple in Cleveland, he survives. Not a syllable of a contract between him and this great synagogue has ever been put into writing. At a week's notice he can leave them and they can leave him. Yet, bound by loyalties and affection, they cling together.

Of his influence, there is an explanation. If a man is sincere, it is seldom that his principles, as such, give offence. What does cause trouble is the manner in which such principles are too often asserted. Between bravery and bravado, there is all the difference. A gentleman can say anything and get away with it. But nothing said by a cad and a bounder, even if his views be moderate, is acceptable. Rabbi Silver is not afraid of a label like Socialism. He is too much interested in life to care much for labels. But, even in his most Socialist moods, he wears the talisman of commonsense - the sense of what is common to him and others who disagree with him. His every word is graced by consideration for the other fellow.

Much has been written for and against the human value of the recent immigrant. If ever there were an Exhibit A, it is Rabbi Silver. The home of his birth and boyhood is Weinstein in Lithuania. If he is not a child of the ghetto, at least, he is a son of the Jewry that endured the Czardom, and it was only when he was nine years old that he was brought across the Atlantic to the United States. If he is quick to detect oppression, is it any wonder? If he believes in Zionism, need we be surprised? In Palestine, he sees a homeland where the Jew, everywhere else in a minority, may be himself, a normal man in a normal society, developing without social restrictions the best that is in him. Dr. Silver is a member of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization and of the Council of the Jewish Agency.

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The career of Rabbi Silver has been a miracle of precocity. He was only twenty-two years old when he graduated from the Hebrew Union College at Cincinnati and became Rabbi of the congregation L'Shem Shalom at Wheeling. Yet it was but two years later when he was invited to preside over the Temple in Cleveland, at that time one of the largest synagogues in point of numbers, anywhere to be found in the United States. Today, its membership is only exceeded by the amalgamated congregations meeting in New York at the Temple Emanu-El. A community of eight thousand persons, in sixteen hundred families, and a Sunday School of fourteen hundred students - that is, broadly, Rabbi Silver's responsibility. It is a position of worldwide prestige which he does not hesitate, as it were, to risk, when due occasion arises, by saying exactly what he considers it to be his duty to say in the highest interests of the community.

Amid a veritable whirl of engagements, Rabbi Silver has found time, somehow to study, to write and to think out the problems of life and arrive at a solution. "I begin," said he, "by recognizing the simple fact that I am a Jew. This means certain disadvantages - the disadvantages of finding oneself inevitably in a minority and subject to the prejudices to which minorities are liable. On the other hand, it means advantages which only a Jew enjoys. No community in the world has ever produced such a literature, and I am one who considers that this literature is supreme over the more ephemeral writings that are produced today. Also, as Jews, we have traditions and bonds of union which are our own and priceless. In dealing with our young people, therefore, I do not

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P.W. Wilson

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, is Spiritual Leader of one of the largest liberal Jewish congregations in America. He is one of the leaders of the Zionist Movement in America. He is a member of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. He has been actively identified with the great social movements of our day. He was a member of President Hoover's Unemployment Relief Commission and was one of the framers of Unemployment Insurance Bill of Ohio. He is on the National Child Labor Commission, the commission on Militarism in Education, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National World Court Committee. He is also on the Board of the Hillel Foundation.

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