



## Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.**

Series II: Subject Files, 1956-1993, undated.

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Men's Garden Clubs of America, correspondence and notes,  
1958.



1958 CONVENTION  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA**  
HOTEL CLEVELAND CLEVELAND 13, OHIO

April 22, 1958

COMMITTEE

**General Chairman**

Allen H. Frost — Cleveland

**Assistant General Chairmen**

Clarence D. Evans — Cleveland  
Harold Busch — Cleveland

**Vice Chairmen**

Jack Hobbs — Akron  
Barnett (Buck) Segelin — Cleveland  
Charles Frankhouser — Kent  
Fred Grimes — Mansfield

**Finance**

Evan J. Evans — Cleveland

**Information**

Ervin R. Geib — Cleveland

**Registration**

Harold Busch — Cleveland

**Program**

Dr. Ray C. Allen — Mansfield

**Hospitality**

David M. Ussher — Cleveland

**Entertainment**

M. W. (Biff) Staples — Kent

**Transportation**

Edward Lobser

**Ladies**

Mrs. R. L. Ross — Akron

**Secretary**

Phil Meyer — Cleveland

**Treasurer**

Ronald F. Lauer — Cleveland

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver  
The Temple  
Anset Road & 105th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The 1958 Convention Committee of the Men's Garden Clubs of America is pleased to confirm Arnold Davis' invitation to you to be the speaker at our banquet, August 21st, 1958 at 7 P.M. in the Hotel Cleveland Ball Room. We hope Mrs. Silver and you can be with us.

Sincerely,

Allen H. Frost  
General Chairman

AHF/gj



April 29, 1958

Mr. Allen H. Frost  
Men's Garden Clubs of America  
Hotel Cleveland  
Cleveland 13, Ohio

Dear Mr. Frost:

It will be a pleasure to speak to the Men's Garden Clubs of America on August 21, 1958. I am looking forward to being with you at that time. I will be happy to accept as honorarium whatever you have customarily given to your speakers.

With warmest personal regards, I remain

Cordially yours,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:lg





1958 CONVENTION  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA  
HOTEL CLEVELAND CLEVELAND 13, OHIO

September 2, 1958

COMMITTEE

General Chairman

Allen H. Frost — Cleveland

Assistant General Chairmen

Clarence D. Evans — Cleveland  
Harold Busch — Cleveland

Vice Chairmen

Jack Hobbs — Akron  
Barnett (Buck) Segelin — Cleveland  
Charles Frankhouser — Kent  
Fred Grimes — Mansfield

Finance

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Phil Meyer — Cleveland

Treasurer

Ronald F. Lauer — Cleveland

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th. Street & Ansel Road  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I want to personally thank you for the wonderful thought provoking talk you delivered at the convention banquet of the Men's Garden Clubs of America at the Hotel Cleveland Thursday evening August 21st.

The reaction of the audience was evidenced in their continuous applause which did not end until you acknowledged it the second time. Their action is more vivid and more eloquent than any words I could write.

Enclosed is a token of our appreciation.

Thank you,

Allen H. Frost  
General Chairman  
1958 Convention Committee

AHF/gj











It is my purpose, to show the great mystery which under man of  
child, a child of infant. As I watch the young grow with their power  
I am made aware again and again that under the hand is  
unwounded on the mind screaming troubled on the spirit tortured  
is not that of good ordering but all too often the result of slender  
unity between man & man. Exploitation, injustice, war,  
possessions, lust, revealing how our human side under a  
cold grey sky in love, guarded in mind, strong in character  
but is never lost to his freedom.

You'd show that a desire to limit human expression so that  
the latest beauty which had been placed in plant & person  
can come to the fore.

Some question the possibility of our need. They take a <sup>non-fictional</sup> desire  
view of life. War & upheaval are claimed as endemic qualities  
of human society. They have always been with us. They will always  
be. The human heart, it is claimed, will never change.

Now it is true that the history of human cupidities and selfishness  
is long and unbroken. <sup>meaner, mischievous, yet our sacred</sup>  
sheer loss of humanity have been <sup>removing</sup> ~~permanently~~ <sup>providing</sup> for human  
society - but they have not been unchallenged. The scroll of  
human gentleness & love of unselfishness & kindness is as  
ancient & as honorable as the blacker counterpart. Each of us  
stands at our balance between the two. What makes the desire  
reel far over on the unkind side that mankind may never have  
known - instead of a cultivated garden of delight the world  
may open in space or on unrelenting mountains of atomic  
death.

To promote culture  
& ~~to provide a demand~~ is still no mind one of the  
most demanding of disciplines. It requires constant attention -  
reading - writing - learning - without dilatory suppers  
it can easily get out of hand & become overgrown & unwell.



What is true of our condition is true of our future. We are  
prepared to lead a life of hard work & sacrifice for the sake of  
responsibilities imposed - but we will not let our own  
decay. At one of the limits of history and a nation





of a dog-eat-dog materialistic civilization. He saw about him a people which had forsaken ancient religious covenants and moved by urbane sophistication. They came, it was true, still to the temple, but did not live by the principles which they mouthed within those sacred precincts. He saw about him, in other words, a people corrupt from within, and he recognized a truth of history -- that a nation is more often destroyed from within, by its own debasement, by the sapping of the vital, virile virtue and character of a people, than it is overthrown by forces from the outside. ~~He was proven correct. And so also are there other examples of the correctness of his observation in history.~~ We have only to think of the great empire of Rome. Rome moved by the military courage and strength of a Caesar, by the civic virtue and civic pride of a Cicero, by the moral integrity and moral fire of a Cato, the small Roman city-state, under great leaders, moved out and conquered the whole known world and brought peace and justice to that world. And then in the fourth and fifth centuries of this era Rome fell before ~~a band of~~ or bands of forest and desert and nomad barbarians - Hun, Goth, Mongol, vandal. When ~~Atilla~~, however, conquered Rome ~~Malacra~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~conquered the city itself.~~ They conquered not the Rome of these ancient greats, but <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ Rome which was a shell, a feeble shadow of its former self, a Rome which had been debased by too much prosperity, a Rome whose patrician class had forgotten that noblesse oblige, that status means higher and ~~more~~ strict duty and obligation and lived a life of indolence, a life of carelessness and carefreeness, a Rome brutalized and dehumanized by slavery, a Rome of bread and sensual circuses, of ~~amusement~~ theatres and erotic literature and the violence of the gladiatorial games. A Rome which socially and economically and morally was corrupt, and being corrupt, had neither the will nor the strength nor the courage nor the vision to achieve deliverance from a few ill-clothed and ill-armed and ill-horsed nomadic warriors that threatened the boundary. A Gaellic French priest of the fifth century, Salvian, wrote what is probably the most fit epitaph for this great civilization. He wrote in his history of his day, "Rome MORITUR ET RIDET -



Rome is dying, but it is laughing. All that is left of the grandeur of Rome is a neurotic giggle, ~~is a sea, destruction of their whole civilization~~ <sup>Great Rome is now powerless to avoid it & it</sup>. What was true of Rome was true also of the great Spanish empire of the middle ages, of the Byzantine empire of the same day, and of the vast Manchu empire of China. These nations grew old from within. They decayed, they rotted before they were overthrown by outside enemies. They decayed because the virility, the virtue, the sense of purpose, the sense of the proper on which they had been built was no longer theirs. Their people were no longer willing or able to plan for their deliverance and to succeed with these plans. Now I mention these observations of ~~Jeremiah and of Salvia~~ and of world history because, strangely, competent observers of the American scene have begun to speak of a corruption of character which never before was observed among our people. And I have begun to wonder whether all ~~the money which we are spending on our defenses, all the programming which we are~~ <sup>have been sufficiently delayed in being brought on condition</sup> ~~the money which we are spending on our defenses, all the programming which we are~~ <sup>have been reduced by the one of human beings</sup> ~~hopefully venturing for peace, may not itself be wasted and be futile unless this~~ corruption of the body politic is stopped, and we learn again to live uprightly, morally and virilely. The competent long-time columnist and writer, Mr. Walter Lipman, in a nationally syndicated article <sup>in - Spring issue of</sup> ~~this past week in~~ Look magazine, spoke of the American people as "fat, torpid and indulgent". He wondered aloud where had gone the strict, Puritanical morality of our ancestors and the courage of our pioneers, frontier forefathers. He wondered where had gone our sense of civic duty. We no longer really cared about voting, many of us. Most of us no longer gave of our time to civic affairs. It is as if we were in a stage of "mole" living, each and every family unit, ~~more~~ self-contained, buries itself in the ground for its own needs, its own problems, and concerns itself not one whit with the manifold stresses and strains which are disturbing the American scene as we move into the Atomic Age. As might be imagined, Mr. Lipman was not sanguine as to the future of an America steeped in fatness, torpidity and indolence. And he was joined in this



observation by Mr. Max Lerner, famous for his biting political columns in the thirties and forties and now professor of American Civilization at Brandeis University. Mr. Lerner has just completed a voluminous work in which he has tried to analyse the American civilization in mid-century. He has a great deal to say about our strength, about our achievements. But he also speaks about the "Byzantine trend in American living", and by this he means a new trend towards self-indulgence, pleasure seeking, hedonistic, a trend not concerned with civic duty, social virtue, personal morality, but a trend which is concerned only with the acquisition of new luxuries, new erotic experiences. He speaks of the breakdown of the family ties. He speaks of the spread of crimes of violence and of adult criminality and of juvenile delinquency. He speaks of the growing problems of alcoholism and of drug addiction. He speaks of the fact that one out of every ten Americans - adult Americans - will be sufficiently mentally ill during the course of their lifetimes to warrant hospitalization. He speaks of the fact that almost fifty percent of the first two million young American men who presented themselves in World War II for induction into the service were found to be physically or mentally unfit for that service. He speaks of a moral interregnum existing in America today. He feels that all the traditional moral obligations, the do's and the don'ts of the Ten Commandments, have been watered down, rationalized away, psycho-analysed away, and have disappeared, and in their place there is a moral chaos in which our young people growing up by experimentation and by self-indulgence and do not always understand the way of strength as opposed to the way of weakness. And Mr. Lerner and Mr. Lipman are joined by the Professor Emeritus of the Department of Sociology at Harvard University, Dr. Petrim Sorokin, who just last year observed what he called the "progressive sexualization of our American culture". He spoke of the facts that our <sup>mass</sup> ~~xxxx~~ media of communication <sup>of</sup> -/the radio, the television, books, and the movies, had become one mass of erotica, of sensual literature, and he observed that creativity in America, virility in America, mental health in America,

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all that we hold precious and dear, has been undermined by a culture which is attuned to self-indulgence rather than to self-sacrifice. And these men were just yesterday joined by a column ~~which many of you may have read in our Cleveland Plain Dealer by the columnist~~ <sup>by one of our fine local newspapermen</sup> Mr. Phillip Porter, in which he observed, and I should like to quote a bit: "A considerable lather is being stirred up these days about why we're not training our young in pure science, how we have lost our idealistic bearings and have gone for the 'fast buck', how a lot of kids get into trouble when too young, how others go on to college with only the thought of extending their adolescence. I believe that these worries are all related. Lately I've read some startling news items which by themselves didn't seem so jolting, but when read together made me sit up and think, and steam. For instance, in last Sunday's paper Eugene Gilbert, the expert youth surveyor, reported that, first, nearly half the young folks today believe that wire-tapping is OK, and second, that one out of three believe a central government agency ought to censor movies, comic books, plays, radio, TV and newspapers -- even dress. In a recent issue of Editor and Publisher, a sampling of opinion from students at Purdue University revealed: 83% approved wire-tapping; 60% favored censorship; 58% saw no harm in the third degree; 50% were ready to dispense with the freedom of the press; 25% would grant police the right to search without warrant; 13% would restrict by law religious belief and worship. Gilbert also found, in an article in Look magazine, that young voters just turned twenty-one didn't know and didn't care whom they'd have voted for in the last Presidential elections: only two out of five said they'd have bothered to have voted at all. Translated, this means that our younger generation, whom we are counting on to make this a better country, and, among other things, to ward off the Russian Communist dictatorship, are in a mental mood where they've already accepted the principles and framework of dictatorship. Either they don't understand the freedoms on which this country was built 175 years ago, or they've already waived them. How come? and how come not enough kids are choosing a life of research on



pure science? and how come there is a feeling that far too many gifted children are not educated up to their capacity, regardless of their economic status? I have a theory: it's because the parents haven't raised them with a sense of responsibility to the country, and to the human race. The parents have lost their way: if the kids find theirs, it will be a miracle. Most kids in spite of their typical bravado, want to succeed and want to have their parents proud of them. But how can they achieve this pride when the parents have none themselves, when they worship the dollar, when they do not emphasize at an early age the sacrifices necessary to succeed in the arts, sciences and professions, when they do not stimulate a thirst for knowledge. Right now, as a nation we're just starting to think about this, and how we got that way. We've worshipped power steering, the movie bosom, the pressure cooker and the 21-inch screen instead of the Ph.D. Our sons and daughters might be learning by sweating twelve hours a night over a microscope, searching for some virus, the discovery of which might some day prevent cancer".

I have chosen these four reports because they come, not from professional moralists, from the preachers and ministers of our land, but from hard-headed newspaper people, from analytic university professors, who religiously and morally have no axe to grind, but who are profoundly shaken and disturbed by the materialistic, acquisitive, amoral nature of much of our present day American civilization. And we must ask, with them, some sober and serious questions. What is the future of a country which in the ten years between 1947 and 1957 spent nearly five hundred billions of dollars on itself, on alcohol, on jewelry, on tobacco, on drugs, on recreation, and less than fifty-eight billions of dollars on all of its educational programs, on all of its religious programs, on all of its social justice and social welfare programs, and all of its medical and scientific research. Less than one-tenth of the money with which we indulged ourselves was spent on programs to improve ourselves. What is the future of a country which is so lax as to its family ties and standards of sexual morality that one out of every three marriages contracted end in divorce? What is the future of a country where twelve million of the forty-

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seven million young people below the age of seventeen now live in homes which are either broken or controlled by others than both their parents? One out of every four children is today being raised in a broken home. What is the future of a country which has so indulged itself in erotic literature, shoot-em-up movies and television programs, that crimes of violence among our teen-age people have increased a thousand percent in ten years and among our adult population two hundred percent in the same period of time? What is the future of our country where the author of the "Studs Lonigan" Trilogy which so shocked our people thirty years ago was moved to observe in a national magazine just last week that the delinquency shown by Studs Lonigan in the Chicago slums of his day seemed almost sane, normal and law-abiding behaviour when compared with the sadism and the masochism and the wanton destructiveness of juvenile gangsterism today. What is the future of a country where the standards of personal integrity have tended to be rubbed thin, so that it is not so much whether we abide by our own conscience, but whether we can get away with something, and if we get away with it, then even our neighbors seem to be proud of us. Now I have overpainted the picture. I have done so purposely. I think it is time that we, as Americans, wake up, and are shocked out of our moral indolence, and become conspicuously, consciously, vitally, crucially aware of one basic fact - that unless we live by standards, by high standards of personal integrity and commit these standards to our children, to our neighbors, to our community and to our country, unless we learn to live as human beings rather than as highly sexualized and brutalized animals, the very democracy, the very way of life, the leisure, the standards of living which we are seeking to protect from Russian imperialism will decay from within more easily than they will be destroyed from without. All the billions upon billions of dollars which we are spending for national defense are not worth a single nickel unless as a people we have invested the time, the effort, the duty, the responsibility, the service, to protect, to encourage, to extend the way of life and the standards of freedom, liberty and moral living which we cherish.



Fortunato



The prophet Jeremiah knew the answer, as he knew the question. He counselled the people of his day to develop a B'rith Hadash, a new covenant between themselves and their God, a covenant in which each individual human being would promise God, not that he would bring sacrifices to the Temple, but that he would abide by the strict standards of the Ten Commandments, that in his personal life he would live by standards worthy of a servant of God, standards of justice, standards of mercy, standards of kindness, standards of integrity, standards of generosity, that he would again remember that the blessings of living in a free nation imply the responsibilities of living as a divine human being. This is our responsibility. The age of moral indifference, which has brought us only the tranquillizing pills, neurotic headaches, and a great deal of human unhappiness - the indifference of this age must be brought to an end. We must bring our personal lives to a fine peak of moral strength. Each of us in his own way must contribute creatively, through his integrity, through his interest, and through his service to the growth and the extension of our American dream. Fortunately America is not so sunk in its own weaknesses that this is altogether impossible. But the danger signs are there. We have not yet come to the point of no return. But I truly believe that each and every one of us must see to it that America never reaches that point, and that though some of us seem to think that we are near the meridian of our civilization, that the decay of our American dream may yet be at hand, that more of us will realize that we have not yet heard the cock crow or seen the morning star, and that an America of peace, prosperity, can yet breed a citizenry which is strong, filled with vision and virtue and virility.

Amen.