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Zionist Organization of America, speaking engagements, correspondence and speeches, 1963-1964.

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# Zionist Organization of America

145 East 32nd Street . New York 16, N.Y. . MUrray Hill 3-9200

ZIONISTS, N.Y.

IN ISRAEL:

1 DANIEL FRISCH ST., TEL-AVIV

CABLE ADDRESS:
ZOAOUSE, TEL-AVIV

December 10, 1963

Rabbi Daniel Silver The Temple Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

A room reservation was made for you at the New York Hilton Hotel, 53rd Street and Avenue of the Americas, N. Y. C. for Sunday afternoon, January 5, 1964.

The hotel will confirm to you directly.

Kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

Aeron Taub

Technical Administrator

AT:fr

December 16, 1963 Mr. Aaron Taub Zionist Organization of America 145 East 32nd Street New York 16, N. Y. Dear Mr. Taub: If things work out as we now plan I propose to bring my wife with me to New York on Sunday, January 5. You were kind enough to make reservations for me at the New York Hilton. I wonder if you would change the reservation from a single room to a double. Sincerely yours, DANIEL JEREMY SILVER DJS:1g

### FILM WAYSING.



DIRECTOR OF
ADVERTISING & PUBLICITY

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 51 WEST 51st STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 TELEPHONE LT 1-9200

December 18, 1963

Dear Dan:

We have a date, Monday, January 6th, for breakfast.

Drop me a line and let me know what time you would like to make it and what hotel you will be staying at and I'll be there.

Dorothy sends her best to you and Adele, and tell your wife I'm disappointed she won't be coming along, too, but I'll give you all the dirt.

Best regards,

Jack

December 23, 1963

Mr. Jack Brodsky Filmways, Inc. 51 West 51st Street New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Jack:

I'll meet you at the New York Hilton at 9:00

Monday, January 6.

3.

Cordially,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:1g

December 23, 1963 Dr. Sidney Marks, Executive Director Zionist Organization of America 145 East 32nd Street New York 16, N. Y. Dear Dr. Marks: Harold Manson sounded me out a week ago about the January 5th meeting for Dr. Neumann and my part in it. I said I would be happy to attend but that I would speak my own words rather than any written by Dad. I have not yet heard from anyone, by way of correspondence, what precisely is expected of me. My wife plans to be with me in New York for the dinner. Cordially yours, DANIEL JEREMY SILVER DJS:lg

"There is a time to weep and a time to laugh. There is a time to mourn and a time to leave off mourning." I appreciate this most sensible wisdom. But, Dr. Neuman, you will understand when I say that I wish with every fiber of my being that I would not be rising to this podium.

Certainly no other celebration would have brought me here. The ties are close, and I am conscious of the Biblical statement, I am the conscious of the Biblical statement.

My father's words are printed before you. What words shall be mine?

Not so long ago, Sir, I read a brief biography of yours in one of those single volume Jewish encyclopedias that are currently being published. The rich accomplishment of seventy years was, I must say, inadequately compressed into two brief paragraphs. What I recall most was their description of you as "one of the major architects of Zion." Your right to such a title is, of course, universally agreed. However, I was disturbed by the imagery. An architect blueprints his lines and designs, and then, by a predictable and dependable process, these lines become transformed into steel and stone. I have had the feeling for some time now

The Closed POORS AND that many have forgotten the White Papers and the blue chill of frustration which was the normal atmosphere of the early years of this Movement. Hope achieved erases earlier doubts. Many seem to feel that Israel was historically inevitable. It is as if 1948 had to be. 1948 was never a foregone conclusion. There were no political or prophetic guarantees. We like to think that our cause was just -- and it was -- but justice is not the final arbiter of international affairs. We like to think that in the Balfour Declaration we held an international claim-check to a Jewish State -- and we did -- but such claims are not always honored. November 1947 and May 1948 were not historically necessary. They were, rather, the handcrafted victories of devoted and driven men and of a disciplined movement. I confess me that I am awed at the constancy of purpose and the doggedness of will which enabled you, Dr. Neuman, and my father, and the other lifelong builders of Zion to remain staunch and steadfast. How did you keep head and heart through the death decades of Nazi barbarism and the cruel decades of British machiavellism and the frustrating decades of world-wide moral torpor? How did you keep your confidence and your selfcontrol? How did you find the strength to turn from rebuff and speak necessary encouragement to the Movement?

been broad. In all of history, only a few have enjoyed the satisfaction of dreams fulfilled. Moses died short of the Promised Land You, Sir, have had the naches of size years of Statehood, years in which Israel has grown from infancy into strength, from privation into economic wellbeing, from insignificance into world stature.

I would speak this evening not of your reward, but of the faith -

and labors which ultimately brought your joy into being. It is easy to despair -- to see only the obstacles which lie before. Your perseverence THAT MIND I FLOW TO THE PROPHETS OF DOOM CAN ALWAYS COMMAND A and your winning through, Dr. Noumann, justify my hope for mankind. -I FOLLOWING, GIVEN THE COLD WAR I LAN UNDERSTAND THE FOREBODING WARY squirm when I hear the prophets of atomic doom. I find no virtue in self pity. Yet I can understand the foreboding that many feel. There are not many international encouragements, but there is Israel. Israel permits me to expose the fallacy of doom speaking. If Israel can be, there can be peace. If Israel can be, we can put out the cold war. be what we make it. Man is truly, as our people have always confidently 18100 A SYND & Fill asserted, a partner with God in the work of creation. In so far as he masters himself, be is the master of his future. Your (Ensenvenence AND YOUR WINNING THROUGH JUSTITY MY HOPE FOR MANKIND. Fear paralyzes. Hope strengthens. Israel underscores the immemorial optimism of our people that "weeping may tarry for the night but with the morning there is joy." The drama of 1947 and '48 has a symbolic as well as To The Truth that there are AN INCIDENTAL force. It offers a case in point to no lost causes and no little people. The would does not belong to the TODAYS DECKION MAKERS ITALE N.T LORDERED THE FUTURE. powerful. There shall come a day "when every man shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree and none shall make him afraid." Zionism was the passion of a people who went nameless, cies. Zionism is the The sceptar political achievement of men who were not listed in any International Who's War Zionism is the proof text that my voice, your voice, need not go unheeded. If you believe deeply enough, if you fight with discipline and determination, if you have a just cause which can appeal to man's instinctive sympathy you can attract a following. You can alter the course of history. An Abba Hillel Silver and an Emanuel Neumann can mount a political energy which ultimately permits a majority of pations of the world to vote LOBPLES OF WASHINGTON LAN NOT STOP.

for a Jewish State.

I speak sermonically, but I have something far more concrete in mind than the power of positive thinking or the soothing virtue of vague euphoria. Hope and wiscom spurred on Zionist energy, but they were never the principles of its program. Dr. Neumann, men will call you visionary -- and you are. But if visionary you be, then you are certainly the most practical minded dreamers that has ever lived. You have never deluded yourself that the hope is father to the reality. You have always insisted, and this was your leadership, that Zionism had a political program, the establishment of a Jewish State, and that political ends could be achieved only by political means. If we must call you a visionary, we must underscore the remarkable clear-eyed judgment with which you assessed political ambition and diplomatic opportunity. You were an organizer of mass rally. You are the author of a thousand precise and prescient analyses. You had no patience with theologies and apologetics. You knew that Israel would not be won on the debating platform, and you knew that although Israel had to appeal to the world's conscience, it could not rest its case upon national good will. You set little stock in a political handshake or a platform handout. You were a statesman -- a tough minded realist.

It is high time that the humanitarians of our world rediscover the priority of the political. Today good causes do not lack organizational support, but these organizations are often irrelevant to the democratic process. There is no profit in elaborating on the justice of a cause to those who are convinced. It is not enough to believe in co-existence or civil rights or disarmament, unless you are prepared to go down and slug it out in the political arena. If you are -- then all is possible Jewish life also needs to rediscover this priority. At our conventions we pass

resolutions by the carloads, and ship them out into oblivion. But nowhere is the News to reestablish the priority of the political more manifest than in the Zionist Movement itself. During the past decade the Zionist Organization has shied off, Dr. Neumann, from the emphasis which you helped to give it. Our energy is now on projects in Israel, on Hebrew education, on Youth Aliyah -- all good causes but not your priority nor my father's nor Herzl's.

There are many reasons for this shift in emphasis. Some rest at our doorstep, others elsewhere. But I suspect that the major reason is was psychological. We have assumed that since Israel is, it must ever be. We delight to celebrate Chanukah, and we forget that Tish'a B'Av is also in our religious calendar. Israel is not the first Jewish commonwealth but the third. The first two went down in flames.

My friends, Zionism is not the philosophy that for wholeness Jewish life requires the establishment of a Jewish State; but the principle that Jewish life requires the existence of a Jewish State. Israel alone, whatever its defense budget, cannot guarantee its ultimate security. I am confident that Israel can cope with any conceivable external attack, but her ability to purchase arms, to tap international sources of finance and to enjoy preferential trade relations must be protected. Every friendly action of our own government from the recognition of 1948 to the sale of Hawk missiles in 1963 was motivated partially at least by harrow political considerations. Why not say it? The reverse is equally true. Every new Arab refugee repatriation scheme -- every shipment of arms to Iraq or Egypt has been motivated at least in part by other narrow political considerations. Israel cannot depend alone on the justice of ambassadorial

representation: Israel requires friends at court -- the alert support of the dedicated Zionists the world over. The priority of our Zionist Movement must, then, be what it has always been, the fostering of a climate of opinion favorable to Israel's ends/ the presentation to legislator and statesman of our interest in concrete acts of support and aid,/the underscoring of shabby State Department compromise or the applauding and encouragement of courageous administration decision. The Zionist Movement exists, not because it was once necessary but because it is now necessary. The Zionist Movement exists because the sympathetic Jew -- the non-Zionist -- is not always prepared to face up to an urgency and to call a spade a spade and a sellout, a sellout. Dr. Neumann, you helped to teach us the primacy of the political in Zionist activity. May this celebration remind us that first things come first.

May your days, Sir, be long. May your strength be constant. May your health be vigorous. And may each of us here be present ten years hence to celebrate your eightieth in the same spirit of joyousness that envelops us tonight.

#### the american jewish community, inc.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: WEST NEW YORK, N. J.

NEW YORK OFFICE: 15 WEST 44th STREET, NEW YORK 36, N. Y. TN 7-6292

reply to: 136 Liberty St, N.Y.6.

N.Y. January 6th, 1964.

Rabbi Daniel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland - Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It was a pleasure meeting you last night, and listning to your interesting speech at the Z.O.A. dinner honoring Dr. Neuman's.

Your speech which was no dougt the highlight of the evening, was in the great tradition of your late father.

I will appriciate very much if you will kindly mail me a copy of your speech as soon as possible, so I can use it in our next issue.

I do hope you had a chance to read our magazine.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Baal-Teshuva

#### January 9, 1964

Mr. Jacob Baal-Teshuva The American Jewish Community, Inc. 136 Liberty Street New York 6, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Baal-Teshuva:

At the request of Dr. Silver, I am mailing to you a copy of the speech which he gave at Dr. Neumann's seventieth birthday testimonial.

Sincerely yours,

Lee Goldstein Secretary to Dr. Silver



5000 Watts - 1420 Kc.

FULLTIME REGIONAL SERVICE TO SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

POPE'S ISLAND NEW BEDFORD, MASS. WYMAN 3-1767

From: Greacen Point Mamaroneck, N.Y.

January 13, 1964.

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver The Temple Cleveland, Ohio.

DearRabbi Silver:

your meaningful address to us at the ZOA Dinner in honor of Dr. Emmanuel Neumann made a deep impression, on those who believe the organization should concentrate on its original program, as both Dr. Herzl and your late father inspired the movement.

His passing was a loss to me especially since I was privileged to know him and admire him, not only for his public record, but for his rare quality of devotion to people in all walks of life.

In 1948 my wife and I were fellow passengers with your parents on the "Queen Elizabeth" and spent many pleasant hours together. Later when I served as special consultant to Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, your father and I were in contact. He never spared himself, when he believed in a cause, and courageously led the timid into the fray.

We shall never forget his gracious attention when my daughter was at Western Reserve, and he proudly took us around The Temple.

Pray convey to your dear mother my very good wishes for 1964.

sincerely yours,

Moses Schonfeld

January 16, 1964

Dear Mr. Schonfeld:

I am grateful to you for your kind note. It was a pleasure and a privilege to be part of Dr. Neumann's fine Testimonial. I would hope that the Zionist Movement would concentrate on its primary mission. It was most kind of you to drop me a line.

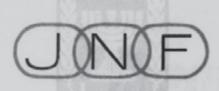
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Sincerely yours,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:bfm

Mr. Moses Schonfeld WBSM Pope's Island New Bedford, Mass.



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Rabbi Daniel J. Silver The Temple Ansel Road at E. 106th Street Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Danny:

A dear friend of mine, who made a special request, is eager to have the full text of the address you gave at the Neumann Dinner.

If it is too much trouble for you to copy it, please send it and I will make a photostat. I hope it is available, and if it is, do please mail it to me.

I was very much touched by Mother's note to me. Please give her my very best.

Warmest regards.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary and Consultant

MNF:rz

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית



145 EAST 32nd STREET NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

ERNEST E. BARBARASH, Director PRESS AND PUBLICITY DEPT.

September 10, 1964

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I would deeply appreciate your courtesy in furnishing me, for press coverage purposes, with the advance excerpts of the address you are scheduled to deliver at the Friday evening (October 2nd) session of our forthcoming Convention in Washington, D.C., on the theme of the Unification of the American Jewish Community.

In order that your remarks may receive the publicity merited it is vital that copy reach me not later than September 27th, in view of the intervening holidays before the Convention date.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest E. Barbarash

EEB/kys

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית



145 EAST 32nd STREET NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

ERNEST E. BARBARASH, Director PRESS AND PUBLICITY DEPT.

September 24, 1964

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I hope that I shall be receiving the excerpts of your address at our forthcoming Convention any day now.

Would you be kind enough to rush to me a biographical sketch of yourself which is needed both for the introduction to be given you as speaker as well as for our press coverage.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Ever Essuberus

Ernest E. Barbarash

EEB:esf

Willard Hotel

0 .

Date Sept . 22, 1964 195

We are pleased to confirm your reservation as indicated below, and shall look forward to welcoming you. Should you plan to arrive later than 6 p.m., we suggest a deposit for one night.

Oct. 1 Late P.M. Single, bath \$11.00 advise arrival hour if later than 9 PM

Departure Oct. 3

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver c/o The Temple 105th St. & Ansel Road Cleveland, Ohio Charles L. Ornstein Vice President and General Manager đ

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#### RABBI DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

Thursday, Oct. 1 -

United Flight #666 - non-stop
Lv. 7:35 p.m. - arrive Baltimore 9:05, arr. National
Airport in Washington 10:01.

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Saturday, Oct. 3

United Flight #771
Lv. International Airport, Washington 8:05 a.m.
Arrive Cleveland 9:40 a.m. - non-stop

Confirmed

This Sabbath the story of Creation is to be read in our synagogues.

According to our Torah, after each creative act God affirmed the goodness of Creation. Of the whole, He judged, "And behold, it is very good." Yet we live in a world where each breath is a challenge, a world in which Israel, chronically, has been out of breath.

Was Creation, then, less than perfect? It was meant to be. There was to be room for man's handiwork. "The heavens are Thine, the earth belongs to the sons of man." A world without challenge would be a tiresome place. Indeed, a Midrash suggests that Adam ate of the forbidden fruit when he could find no other way to escape the boredom of Paradise.

Several years ago, mountain climbing was all the rage. Do you remember Annapurna, K-9, and the famed Sherpa guides? Why do men climb mountains? The poor Sherpas climb for pours, to support their families. They are paid to accompany rich men whose lives are so drably secure that they must manufacture excitement. When life gentles down we find ways to dare the devil. Perhaps this psychological quirk explains why Israel was never hunter nor mountaineer. Just to live has been challenge enough. We never had to invent excitement.

Unexpectedly, we find that the philosophies of pessimism and fatalism breed in the palace rather than in the hovel. The poor are restive and rebellious. They do not despair of life, they only want a fuller share of it. The rich become sluggish and find life tasteless. "So I hated life because the work that is wrought under the sun was grievous to me. For all is vanity and a striving after the wind." At first glance, we see in these lines the silent peasant, "dead to rapture and despair." "The emptiness of age is in his face, and on his back the burden of the world." No peasant wrote these lines, but a king of Israel,

of men. Buddhism is the classic expression of resignation and dismay in the face of life. We would expect the Buddha to be one of India's unseen millions, perhaps an emaciated and diseased untouchable. We find him instead high born -- a much pampered princeling.

There is another edge to this paradox. The conclusion of most philosophies has been to despair of man and of mankind. The world is a via dolorosa, a hapless and hopeless way, the grave its only certainty.

Only Israel, the most outraged and the most beaten of all peoples, managed a hopeful philosophy. "And it shall come to pass in the end of days . . ."

"Weeping may tarry for the night, but with the morning there is joy."

Israel did not despair of mankind or of man. Though our fathers trembled before the hot rage of the human beast, they held fast to an image of man which emphasized his capacity. Are we not created in God's spiritual image? "

Profile Are we not potentially but little lower than the angels?

Many have puzzled the secret of our survival. Perhaps we were kept alive by the simple fact that each dawn was a sizable challenge. No Jew led a dull life. Our fathers wisely described many of the difficulties which face us in the as " pank of pain and worry inflicted on us by God out of His love for us. Israel did not need to climb the windblown precipice to totter on the brink of disaster.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." Israel has always been remarkable for the breadth of its vision and the measure of its aspiration. Imagine the impudence of an insignificant Near Eastern people assuming that it could be a light unto the nations, the teacher of mankind in the things of the spirit.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." I am afraid that in this generation we look no higher than the footbills. Indeed, we are by way of being the most ardent footbill climbers in Jewish history. We trudge vigorously up the trail of annual membership drives and of building and of mortgage campaigns. We move briskly along to raise impressive national headquarters in New York City or in Washington. We are busy being busy, and within narrow institutional limits we accomplish and all seems well. Budgets are met. Buildings are reason. Now and again a new ward or a new clinical service is added to our hospitals or our homes for the aged.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." Can Israel be satisfied to live in and for its institutions? You cannot live in the valley and not be conscious of the surrounding heights. I personally find a philosophy of survival for survival's sake cramped and narrow. I want to feel myself not only a partner in a hospital fund desce or in the WA, but a partner with God in all the work of man. "

I lift up mine eyes and I see the challenge of war, the challenge of poverty, the challenge of population, the challenge of the city, and the challenge of rapid technological and water change. I cannot believe that my faith is irrelevant to these challenges, and I want to feel that my people's institutions are active in meeting them. Jewishness is not a passport from the larger world into a private and parochial empire, but a visa to be a bearer of light in the dark loneliness of stricken lives and of shadowed times. Moses took all of many back though and all all of the Hebrew tribes, which into freedom. God commanded Jonah to preach to the pagan city of Nineveh. We were a nation set apart, but only because other nations refused the responsibility of the high and demanding moral law. We were a nation set apart, so that out of Zion would go forth the law to a

world where justice is turned back and truth is lacking. We were a nation set apart to summon mankind to a vision of a world welded in a brotherhood of men and nations, reconciled in the love of one God, beating the swords into ploughshares; and of a social order where every man shall sit under his vine and his fig tree and none shall make him afraid.

These are the true heights of Jewish aspiration -- can you wonder then that I am disturbed that our institutions are so have in rather pedestrian purpose? I have no argument with building funds or new psychiatric services. These are good and they are necessary, but surely they do not exhaust our energy or our vision. Must not the synagogue provide civic leadership as well as followship and worship? How can we obey the commandment to establish justice in the gates if the voice of the Torah is never heard character the sanctuary walls? No one lends his time to a synagogue to keep the boiler in good repair, but to repair and improve his soul and to find specific insight and practical guidance to repair the tattered fabric of family and of city.

It is necessary and prudent that our community relations agencies be alert to the particular needs of our community, but must they not also be of the forefront in civil rights and racial justice? God commanded, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," not that we pursue righteousness only for " bear off The evil FROM the Jew. Similarly, God commanded, " parpa x >> 5 > 2 - in this era of violence and social unrest, who which fulfills the mendate to burn out the evil from our midst by seeing to aparts COMMOTINO? it that Chanukah candles never burn in public school electrooms? Our various health and welfare agencies have performed remarkable service but their Boards are not made to see the relationship of cruel streets and grimy slums. and unemployment, limited psychiatric facility, to intake rolls and admission MUST NOT OUR SERVICE AGENCY schedules. If we truly seek the wellbeing of our cities, our THE

become champions of welfare legislation, the poverty program, of Medicare, and of adequate supportive taxation. Tragically, many -- most -- stick to their last. All that executives ask of their Boards and of their community is the wherewithal for the task at hand. Why? History provides part of the explanation. Sealed off behind ghetto walls, no one cared for us and we learned to care for our own. The synagogue, especially, learned to bite its tongue. To cry out against indignity and economic outrage was to invite violent repercussion. But the real answer lies, I am afraid, in institutional timidity and professional prudence. No one wants to rock the financial boat. A decisive and political stand invites the walkout from of in big givers. If a federation insists on the morality of public welfare, many who may spring from the tradition of our prophets but who care only for their profits, are angered and sulk in their tents during next campaign. A number of our defense agencies responded vigorously to the racial crisis, and each of these has learned that it did so at a cost; and the cost was not only the alienation of chapters in Birmingham or Jacksonville, but it must be measured in the restiveness of many east, north, and west, who have substituted "Have I not an investment in my home?" for the traditional "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us all?"

American Jewry seems to have assimilated the conventional attitudes

of the far more radically than many of us might have guessed.

The time is now for our leadership, religious and institutional, to insist that a Jewish institution be Jewish in spirit, in heart, in attitude.

Judaism has no vested interest in laissez faire. We have a vested interest in human welfare. Judaism sets little value on States' rights, but a high priority on human rights. Jews were pioneers for peace. Centuries ago we

learned that not by power nor by might but by understanding, by justice, and by good will. I am afraid we have come to a moment in our Jewish life when our institutions and our synagogues must pay a price, in membership and in budget, for our tradition. "We unto them that are at the part of "Hate evil and love the good, and establish justice in the gates"-- it may be that the Lord, the God of Hosts, will be gracious unto the remnant of Israel.

- OUR CONDAMENTAL PRINCIPOS MORAL American Jewish life must rediscover our covenant principles, and it must rediscover the priority of political action. The leaders of Jewish life, from Moses to Herzl, have always been eminently practical and political men. It is not enough to pass pious platforms and to ship them out into oblivion. We must be specific in statement and specific in act and deed. Paradoxically, Thene Fire , AND THE WAY OF TEWISH AFFIRMATION the way of Jewish survival lies in breaking down self involvement and the parochial. Our survival in health depends upon the prosperity and the openness of American society. A hot war means the end of all our settlements and of all the settled. If reaction triumphs, it will not be long before our own hard won rights have been taken from us. If racial bitterness breeds bitter war, there will be an inevitable spillover, and we are the world's favorite scapegoat. If poverty walks the land, if we cannot adjust the economy to the revolution of automation, how long will it be before a demagogue whips the unemployed and the bitter into a frenzy of hate.

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source of support. If the going gets sticky in the Near East, Israel will have sore need of a disciplined Zionist Movement.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." American Israel needs a new consecration, we need a new confidence. Most of all, we need a renewal of faith. I often think of American Jewish life as a body kept alive by some miracle of modern surgery. The life juices are being pumped by some artificial organ. In a confusing and changeful age, it is not surprising that the ties of faith have been frayed and waakened. But without faith the whole body must inevitably wither and die. The urgency of rescue and of building a land was a sufficient preoccupation for many to feel close to our people. There was work to be done, and one could suspend the awkwardness and the uncertainty of theology. But my generation lacks an overriding reason to remain Jewish unless Judaism comes alive for us and we can draw close to the synagogue and to God. We can be active as easily in the Civil Liberties Union or the A.D.A. or the United Appeal as in the American Jewish Congress or the American Jewish Committee or the United Jewish Appeal. If Judaism cannot validate itself, our entire communal structure will some day topple of its own weight. The burden is, of course, on the synagogues. For far too long many synagogues have been centers of an active Jewish life but peripheral to the life about. Children have been taught, but not their parents. Good manners have been preached but not hard morals. There are signs that the synagogues recognize the lateness of the hour and the urgency of their mission -- at least the rabbis do. But there is also every indication that even that half of the Jewish community which Sofeniciated to Torah and Avodah belongs to a synagogue remains indi -- study and piety AND MUTINELY FEARFUL OF THE BROADER WAS BARAM GEMILLET OF MANDATES

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"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from God, who hath made heaven and earth." I do not despair

of our American Jewish community. There are signs of a new and welcome

seriousness among at least a saving remnant. But I would suggest tonight

that a discussion of organizational unity among the American Indonesia.

is premature. We have not yet validated our mandate to remain distinct and

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## Address Delivered Before the ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA CONVENTION

Washington, D. C. October 2, 1964

#### Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

This Sabbath the story of Creation is to be read in our synagogues.

According to our Torah, after each creative act God affirmed the goodness of Creation. Of the whole, He judged, "And behold, it is very good." Yet we live in a world where each breath is a challenge, a world in which Israel, chronically, has been out of breath.

Was Creation, then, less than perfect? It was meant to be. There was to be room for man's handiwork. "The heavens are Thine, the earth belongs to the sons of man." A world without challenge would be a tiresome place. Indeed, a Midrash suggests that Adam ate of the forbidden fruit when he could find no other way to escape the boredom of Paradise.

Several years ago, mountain climbing was all the rage. Do you remember Annapurna, K-9, and the famed Sherpa guides? Why do men climb mountains? The poor Sherpas climb for \_\_\_\_\_\_, to support their families. They are paid to accompany rich men whose lives are so drably secure that they must manufacture excitement. When life gentles down we find ways to dare the devil. Perhaps this psychological quirk explains why Israel was never hunter nor mountaineer. Just to live has been challenge enough. We never had to invent excitement.

Unexpectedly, we find that the philosophies of pessimism and fatalism breed in the palace rather than in the hovel. The poor are restive and rebellious. They do not despair of life, they only want a fuller share of it. The rich become sluggish and find life tasteless.

"So I hated life because the work that is wrought under the sun was grievous to me. For all is vanity and a striving after the wind." At first glance, we see in these lines the silent peasant, "dead to rapture and despair." "The emptiness of age is in his face, and on his back the burden of the world." No peasant wrote these lines, but a king of Israel, cushioned in his pleasure palace, provided with every luxury, and a master of men. Buddhism is the classic expression of resignation and dismay in the face of life. We would expect the Buddha to be one of India's unseen millions, perhaps an emaciated and diseased untouchable. We find him instead high born -- a much pampered princeling.

There is another edge to this paradox. The conclusion of most philosophies has been to despair of man and of mankind. The world is a via dolorosa, a hapless and hopeless way, the grave its only certainty.

Only Israel, the most outraged and the most beaten of all peoples, managed a hopeful philosophy. "And it shall come to pass in the end of days . . ."

"Weeping may tarry for the night, but with the morning there is joy."

Israel did not despair of mankind or of man. Though our fathers trembled before the hot rage of the human beast, they held fast to an image of man which emphasized his capacity. Are we not created in God's spiritual image?

"Are we not potentially but little lower than the angels?

Many have puzzled the secret of our survival. Perhaps we were kept alive by the simple fact that each dawn was a sizable challenge. No Jew led a dull life. Our fathers wisely described many of the difficulties which face us in life as "," as pain and worry inflicted on us by God out of His love for us. Israel did not need to climb the windblown precipice to totter on the brink of disaster.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." Israel has always been

remarkable for the breadth of its vision and the measure of its aspiration.

Imagine the impudence of an insignificant Near Eastern people assuming that it could be a light unto the nations, the teacher of mankind in the things of the spirit.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." I am afraid that in this generation we no longer look up so high. Indeed, we are by way of being the most ardent foothill climbers in Jewish history. We trudge vigorously up the trail of annual membership drives and of building and of mortgage campaigns. We move briskly along to raise impressive national headquarters in New York City or in Washington. We are busy being busy, and within narrow institutional limits we accomplish and all seems well. Budgets are met. Meetings are held. Now and again a new ward or a new clinical service is added to our hospitals or our homes for the aged.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills." Can Israel be satisfied to live in and for its institutions? You cannot live in the valley and not be conscious of the surrounding heights. Personally I find a philosophy of survival for survival's sake cramped and narrow. I want to feel myself not only a partner in a hospital fund drive or in the U.J.A., but a partner with God in all the work of man. "

I lift up mine eyes and I see the challenge of war, the challenge of poverty, the challenge of population, the challenge of the city, and the challenge of rapid technological and economic change. I cannot believe that my faith is irrelevant to these challenges, and I want to feel that my people's institutions are active in meeting them. Jewishness is not a passport from the larger world into a private and parochial empire, but a visa to be a bearer of light in the dark loneliness of stricken lives and of shadowed times. Moses took into freedom men of many backgrounds, an

, not just the Hebrew tribes. God commanded Jonah to preach to

the pagan city of Nineveh. We were a nation set apart, but only because other nations refused the responsibility of the high and demanding moral law. We were a nation set apart, so that out of Zion would go forth the law to a world where justice is turned back and truth is lacking. We were a nation set apart to summon mankind to a vision of a world welded in a brotherhood of men and nations, reconciled in the love of one God, beating the swords into ploughshares; and of a social order where every man shall sit under his vine and his fig tree and none shall make him afraid.

These are the true heights of Jewish aspiration -- can you wonder, then, that I am disturbed that our institutions are so preoccupied in rather pedestrian purpose? I have no argument with building funds or new psychiatric services. These are good and they are necessary, but surely they do not exhaust our energy or our vision. Must not the synagogue provide civic leadership as well as fellowship and worship? How can we obey the commandment to establish justice in the gates if the voice of the Torah is heard only inside the sanctuary walls? No one lends his time to a synagogue to keep the boiler in good repair, but to repair and improve his soul and to find specific insight and practical guidance to repair the tattered fabric of family and of city.

It is necessary and prudent that our community relations agencies be alert to the particular needs of our particular community, but must they not also be of the forefront in civil rights and racial justice? God commanded, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," not that we pursue righteousness only for the Jew. Similarly, God commanded, " "-- burn out the evil from thy midst. In this era of violence and social unrest, is the burning of candles or the burning of mortgages really a proper fulfillment of this command? If we truly seek the wellbeing of our cities, must not our service agencies become champions of welfare legislation, the

poverty program, of Medicare, and of adequate supportive taxation? Tragically, many -- most -- stick to their last. All that executives ask of their Boards and of their community is the wherewithal for the task at hand. Why? History provides part of the explanation. Sealed off behind ghetto walls, no one cared for us and we learned to care for our own. The synagogue, especially, learned to bite its tongue. To cry out against indignity and economic outrage was to invite violent repercussion. But the real answer lies, I am afraid, in institutional timidity and professional prudence. No one wants to rock the financial boat. A decisive and political stand invites the walkout of differently opinioned big givers. If a federation insists on the morality of public welfare, many who may spring from the tradition of our prophets but who care only for their profits, are angered and sulk in their country clubs during the next campaign. A number of our defense agencies responded vigorously to the racial crisis, and each of these has learned that it did so at a cost; and the cost was not only the alienation of chapters in Birmingham or Jacksonville, but it must be measured in the restiveness of many east, north, and west, who have substituted "Have I not an investment in my home?" for the traditional "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us all?"

American Jewry seems to have assimilated the conventional attitudes for more radically than many of us might have guessed. The time is now for our leadership, religious and institutional, to insist that a Jewish institution be Jewish in spirit, in heart, in attitude — be righteous in spirit, in heart, in attitude. Judaism has no vested interest in laissez fairs. We have a vested interest in human welfare. Judaism sets little value on States' rights, but a high priority on human rights. Jews were pioneers for peace. Centuries ago we learned that not by power nor by might but by understanding, by justice, and by sacrifice. I am afraid we

have come to a moment in our Jewish life when our institutions and our synagogues must pay a price, in membership and in budget, for our tradition — when we must heed the prophet, "Hate evil and love the good, establish justice in the gates — it may be that the Lord, the God of Hosts, will be gracious unto the remnant of Israel."

American Jewish life must rediscover our moral covenant -- our fundamental principles -- and it must rediscover the priority of political action. The leaders of Jewish life, from Moses to Herzl, have always been eminently practical and political men. It is not enough to pass pious platforms and to ship them out into oblivion. We must be specific in statement and specific in act and deed. Paradoxically, therefore, the way of Jewish survival and the way of Jewish affirmation lies in breaking down self involvement and the parochial. Our survival in health depends upon the prosperity and the openness of American society. A hot war means the end of all our settlements and of all the settled. If reaction triumphs, it will not be long before our own hard won rights are taken from us. If racial bitterness breeds bitter war, there will be an inevitable spillover, and we are the world's favorite scapegoat. If poverty walks the land, if we cannot adjust the economy to the revolution of automation, how long will it be before a demagogue whips the unemployed and the bitter into a frenzy of hate.

ment cannot escape a similar criticism, even though our province is necessarily with and for the people of Israel. We have been very busy, this past decade, with membership drives and membership meetings and all manner of special projects, and the unhappy results are all too apparent. Often when I address a Zionist audience I feel myself at a class reunion, again this year in diminished numbers, met to recall and relive the glories of an earlier day.

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RJG/as