



## Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series III: The Temple Tifereth-Israel, 1946-1993, undated.

Sub-series B: Sermons, 1950-1989, undated.

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The Problems of our City, 1958.



## THE PROBLEMS OF OUR CITY

Changed patterns of living in a changing age

## THE TEMPLE

October 19, 1958

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

This week the ten-day, \$11,350,000.00 campaign of our United Fund will again focus the attention of every one of our Cleveland citizens upon the social problems of our city. It is altogether fitting that this exercise in conscience take place. ~~For~~ All too often we take the city-home in which we live and work for granted. We use its facilities and sometimes we abuse them, but seldom do we pause to make repayment in service or in support. What is it that we will see as we look perceptively at our city at this moment in its history? To look at Cleveland through the perspective of the United Fund is to become acutely aware of the many psychological and financial and educational and moral problems which still distort and disturb the lives of so many of our fellow citizens. Here there is a young child sadly in need of competent psychiatric care. Here is an elderly widow seeking the companionship of other Golden Agers. Here is a youth group which needs constructive guidance in leisure time activities. Here is a young couple who require the sage wisdom of a marriage counselor. Here a bread earner seeks substance for his family. Here new migrants ~~into our community~~ are searching for adequate shelter for their families.

This list - the catalogue of human need - is infinitely long and infinitely varied, and the 128 social welfare agencies which cooperate in our city to serve this need are tendering a true ministry of love. These agencies are supported through our United Fund, and that Fund deserves our most generous support.

To look at Cleveland through ~~the~~ the perspective of our United Fund is also to become aware of the concerted effort which has been made and is being made



by so many dedicated men and women to make Cleveland a fit and healthy and happy place in which to live. You know, the history of our community is not written in dramatic colors. We have had few climactic political clashes, and at few moments in our history has Cleveland been overwhelmed by ~~all~~<sup>any</sup> type of upheaval and disturbance. The history of Cleveland is written in stable, sober colors, ~~its history is a~~<sup>and the</sup> record of persisting, determined effort on the part of its leading citizens ~~and~~ to make our city a fine place to raise a family, to educate ~~our~~<sup>the</sup> young, to earn ~~our~~<sup>a</sup> living, to find ~~our~~<sup>RELAXED AND HEALTHY</sup> pleasure. To look at Cleveland through the perspective of the United Fund is to become proud of the record of our city.

~~In so many areas of social service accomplishment, Cleveland ranks very high in these areas when compared and measured against~~<sup>WITH THE</sup> the other great population centers of our country. ~~A~~<sup>It</sup> A case in point is the record of the very social welfare agencies of which we have been speaking. Just over forty years ago, the leadership of Cleveland determined to improve the welfare picture as it was being practiced, and they freed the individual agencies of the time consuming responsibility of individual fund-raising, ~~and~~ they co-ordinated the activities of these agencies so that there would be no unnecessary overlapping in the field. Through the years the records compiled by many of these agencies have been, if not outstanding, certainly of a high level. Time and again many of our Cleveland services have been held up as prototypes by other cities and other welfare federations. It is ~~in~~<sup>in</sup> a record ~~of~~ which many in Cleveland take great pride.

Now this is not to say that Cleveland has done all that should have been done for the wellbeing of its citizens. And this is not to say that even if the current United Fund exceeds, as we pray it will, its quota, all that should be done at this moment in our history for those in need and those in distress will be done. There are still long lists of waiting people at all of our guidance agencies. ~~The recreational and group programs to occupy our leisure time con-~~<sup>programs</sup> ~~structively~~ do not begin to cover the field of need. Hundreds upon hundreds of those who require additional material help in order to solve their personal



problems are being <sup>AIDED IN A</sup> ~~helped~~ <sup>FASTER</sup> most niggardly. It is unfortunate that the realistic goal of the United Fund must be set, not by the realistic figure of the human need of our community, but by a realistic appraisal of the donations and the gifts which our community will give to such a campaign. If more would be given, so much more of good could be accomplished. It is a strange paradox - a very disturbing paradox - that even in this the decade of the greatest material prosperity that our country or any country in the history of the world has ever known - even at this the high point in our national wealth - the paradox of want amidst plenty, of scarcity amidst satiety, of ignorance amidst information, persists. America has been blessed with greater prosperity than any nation in ~~recorded~~ <sup>known</sup> history, and we have done more to diffuse this prosperity into all the levels of our society, yet in Cleveland, in our own city, you will find men and women who cannot find employment, and many more men and women whose employment is <sup>sporadic</sup> ~~temporary~~ at best. Despite our prosperity, many in Cleveland live in the most abysmal type of sub-standard slum shelter. Despite the high level of our medical knowledge which has accomplished ~~in the~~ research miracles in the past several decades, there are those ~~every day in Cleveland~~ who die from diseases which can be prevented and can be cured, who die because they lack the most rudimentary medical care. Despite the growing knowledge which the psychiatric field is bringing to the attention of our people, only one in ten of our citizens who suffer from a mental disease necessitating treatment is at this hour receiving adequate treatment. Now we have gone far in the last several decades and generations to blunt the edges of this paradox. Our world has come far in sharing <sup>its</sup> prosperity and its wealth among all of our citizens. But ~~the~~ tragedy remains. <sup>ADOLLING THE RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT</sup> ~~This paradox still persists among not insignificant sections of our community.~~

Much is being done. Much more remains to be done. We can be very proud of the extension ~~each year~~ of free clinical medical service to greater areas of our community. We can be proud that, under the prodding of our federal govern-



ment, ~~finally~~ important projects are being undertaken in the fields of slum clearance and in the raising of apartment buildings fit for the working classes. We can be proud that programs are about to be undertaken to provide men and women with the wherewithal to keep their older homes in a good state of repair. Wherever there are funds classrooms are being raised, libraries erected, youth centers constructed. ~~And~~ We can be especially proud of the record of our school system, which, faced with a population explosion in the last twenty years, an explosion which has seen sixty-five percent more young people in ~~its~~ classrooms today than eighteen years ago, and despite the in-migration of large numbers of young people from less literate areas of our country, has maintained a very high standard of education - one which finds few peers and fewer equals in the suburbs - and has taught not only textbooks but trades, not only studies but skills, and has filled as much as it could the ~~leisure time~~ the outside-of-school time, of its scholars, with constructive, well conceived programs of activity. ~~Oh~~, Many agencies, many individuals, are cooperating in this work of social reconstruction. Indeed, I was amazed when I was told that one hundred thousand of our men and women, professionals and volunteers alike, had during the past twelve months given a part of their day, a part of their week, or all of their time to the work of social welfare - of teaching and group leading, of guidance and of counseling - to all that ministry of service which is so important for all.

But the need remains. The need remains despite our prosperity. Last year seventy-five hundred boys and girls below the age of seventeen were apprehended by our police. Last year seven thousand boys and girls were involved in the trauma <sup>of a broken</sup> ~~the breaking of~~ a home. Last year seventeen hundred babies were born illegitimately in our community. Last year less than twenty-five percent of those who wanted to be involved in the recreational and guided leisure time activities of Cleveland could be afforded a place in these activities. Last year some five hundred cases of boys and girls who are emotionally disturbed and ~~who~~ require competent psychiatric guidance were buried in the waiting lists of our Cleveland



agencies. Just two weeks ago, one of our own religious school teachers who teaches also in an elementary public school told me of mothers who refused at the beginning of the term to send their youngsters to the school because they lacked adequate clothing.

Cleveland, 1958 <sup>is</sup> a city of great prosperity, a city which has achieved greatly for the social well-being of its citizens, but a city which still knows need and want, a city which must bestir itself for the good of its citizens.

You know, it <sup>is</sup> almost inconveivable to some of us that this privation ~~should~~ exist. All about us we see construction <sup>EVIDENCE OF</sup> physical growth. Everywhere we turn, in the down town, in the suburbs, ~~here~~ <sup>UNIVERSITY</sup> in the ~~civic~~ center, everywhere we turn there is the expansion of institutions, the establishment of new schools and new churches, the founding of new homes, the buildings of new offices and stores and shopping centers. We are thrilled by the prospect of a gateway and of a seaway. We thrill at the \$250,000,000 construction taking place in our own University Circle which promises to give Cleveland the continued presence and enjoyment in use of nationally important educational and religious and medical and cultural institutions. It <sup>SEEMS</sup> ~~is~~ inconceivable <sup>THAT</sup> ~~that~~ at this moment, when so many of our citizens are showing their faith in Cleveland's future, that those who look carefully at Cleveland's social fabric should be somewhat disturbed by much of what they see. Yet in all honesty we must admit that we are disturbed. For just as clothes do not make a man, so the buildings in a city do not guarantee the brightness of its future. Remember Rome. Rome, mistress of all the world. Into the coffers of the Roman treasury there poured the wealth exacted from a thousand provinces and ten thousand cities. The buildings of Rome were built by a munificence never seen before or since in history. Money was no object. The architects had free range in their budgets, and the sculptors and the artists could embellish these buildings to their heart's content. And yet by the second century of Rome's imperial grandeur it was worth your life to walk unguarded <sup>ALONE</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>THE</sup> ~~its~~ <sup>STREETS</sup> cities. The best of its citizens had deserted the city except on the most



urgent business. The city was a prisoner of its own mobs, of its own passions and of its own prejudices, because the city of Rome had done nothing to improve the lot of its lowest and <sup>most</sup> ~~un~~fortunate population elements. ~~And~~ Rome, for the last centuries of its existence as capitol of the Empire, was a city of decay, a dead city amidst the magnificence of its edifices and of its buildings. We think of Rome, <sup>FATE</sup> as we read in our papers of the tragic kidnapping and rape which took place in our own civic cultural center just two weeks ago, and we recognize this truth which comes to us through history -- that when the streets of a city become unsafe, when the population of a city becomes unruly, the fate of a city is sealed, unless action is taken to correct the lack.

Cleveland must look, it seems to me, not only to its city planning commission but to its police department to find the blueprint of a great future. Every community, urban and suburban, regardless of creed or breed or race or color, has its fringe of lunatics and demented people whose compulsions and whose antics must never be allowed <sup>Violent Express to</sup> ~~to be expressed~~ at the expense of the population. It is the obligation of the police to protect us from the psychotic eruptions of these people. Fortunately, our police have exerted themselves prodigiously since that tragic morning and have evolved an important and far-seeing program of protection for this area of the community. But if Cleveland's future is to be secure, such a scheme of protection must be extended to every quarter and every street and every block in our city. It must precede the crime, not follow upon its tragedy.

But you know, in all honesty, in all honesty the responsibility for these examples of wilfull anti-social behavior does not rest entirely upon our police. They rest upon us -- upon you and upon me -- upon the fears and the prejudices which have so often contorted our civic spirit. Cleveland in the last ten or twenty years has been the terminus of an important immigration of migratory workers from the near and the deep South. These workers have come to us lacking in wealth, with little baggage, <sup>but</sup> with a full measure of ignorance, primitive fears and ancient prejudices. Cleveland would be faced with a prodigious effort at best



if only our job was to shelter these people adequately, to educate them into the obligations of urban living, to teach them the ways of a city. But you and I have made that task even more difficult for our agencies and for our schools and for our police, because you and I have insisted that these new in-migrants must be compacted and compressed into the narrow limits of ~~our~~ <sup>The</sup> City. We have ~~forced~~ <sup>created</sup> them ~~to be~~ put upon and over the homes of those who already lived in sometimes ~~very~~ stable neighborhood areas, ~~because~~ <sup>AND</sup> we have denied access into our comfortable suburbs to many of those who live in these more stable neighborhood areas. We ~~have~~ <sup>BECAUSE OF COLOR OR CREED</sup> built up dangerously the population density of our city, and it is when the city becomes overpopulated that tension and confusion is bred and violence often erupts. We have built a curtain of zoning restrictions. We have based this curtain upon our prejudices. Unless this curtain is in many ways ruptured and broken and unless we overcome our prejudices and our fears and allow those who have attained a higher standard of living to live among us -- unless we do this there is danger that social unrest ~~for~~ may for the first time in Cleveland's history become a ~~problem which faces our community.~~ <sup>serious</sup>

Cleveland's problems are our problems. We do not escape the responsibility for Cleveland's future by having built our homes outside the city limits in ~~Cleveland's suburbs.~~ When an act of violence disturbs our equanimity and violates our sensitivities it is not the part of wisdom to retreat like the turtle into the antiseptic protection of our suburban homes and to loudly insist that our institutions must build new edifices just around the corner. It is not the way of wisdom nor is it a realistic way. The great institutions of a city must serve the whole city. The citizens of a city must serve the city. Were we to denude, to devitalize the center of Cleveland from all that makes it a great urban community we would find that our own lives would be the poorer, ~~and~~ our own income the less. ~~We ourselves would be living in turbulent times which we had sought to avoid.~~ For ~~a~~ devitalized central city, a city of overpopulation, a city of overconcentration, a city of inadequate housing, such a city breeds in



its street corners crime and delinquency. And those who will to perpetrate crime do not acknowledge the narrowness and the arbitrariness of the city lines. Greek Their crimes can be committed in the farthest outreaches of our suburbs and in exurbs. ~~and~~ If economic dislocation and blight is allowed to creep into our center city it will not stop at the block at which the city line is drawn. It will inevitably ~~in time~~ cross over like any disease into the neighboring areas and infect those bodies as well as our own. If the center city is devitalized then it seems to me that everything which makes for the hopefulness of our future will be destroyed, because it is after all true that in the center of the city all that is creative, all that makes for the color and the culture which is the greatness of our city takes place. It is in the clash of ideas in the market place, it is in the study of ideas in the great universities, it is in the interchange of ideas ~~which takes place~~ between the many heterogeneous minority groups of varying traditions ~~who make up a city~~ -- it is in that clash, that press and strain and growth that a city molds its philosophy, determines its future, sets its ideals, and builds its culture. ~~each of us must learn to live in and to love~~

The very word civilization, which represents all that is good and that is positive in our <sup>communal</sup> ~~communital~~ life, comes from the same root as city. Etymologically construed <sup>it</sup> means only the culture of a city; for there is an ancient truth in history, and it is this, that all the great empires of the world seemed to find their fertility, their seed, in a single city, a city in which <sup>there is</sup> ~~were~~ represented the best of their art, the best of their music, the best of their scholars, the best of their thought. ~~Because~~ <sup>in</sup> the press of that city, in the attraction of the city to the finest minds of the day, in that clash of ideas <sup>lies</sup> ~~was~~ the seed of culture. We think of Hellenistic culture as the culture of the whole of the Greek peninsula, and yet it was in Athens, a city of no more than forty thousand souls at its greatest, it was in Athens that the best of Greek art, the best of Greek theater, the best of Greek poetry, the best of Greek philosophy, the best of Greek science was developed and displayed to the world. Athens was the magnet



which attracted the scholar, ~~which attracted the bright young school lad~~. It was in Athens' arenas and its academies that the ideas which made for the Greek tradition of philosophy were discussed and debated and deliberated. It was in its temples that <sup>Hellenistic</sup> ~~its~~ oratory reached a peak. It was in its museums that ~~its~~ sculptors found inspiration and a place to exhibit their creations. And what Athens was to Greece, so Rome was to the whole of <sup>its</sup> ~~the~~ Mediterrean Empire, which it ~~ruled~~. ~~For~~ It was in Rome that the law and the literature of the <sup>LATIN</sup> ~~Roman~~ spirit were forged and were molded. ~~And it was~~ <sup>PLAYED THIS ROLE</sup> Jerusalem for our own people. There we built our sanctuary. There we found spiritual inspiration, and there we based our millenial hope. ~~It was Vienna to central Europe --~~ <sup>WAS CENTRAL EUROPE</sup> Vienna, the <sup>HUB</sup> center of music, the center of science. Paris, <sup>THE NEXUS</sup> ~~the center~~ of France's art and sensitivity, London the center of England's politics and theater.

These great cities are the catalysts which makes possible the continuing growth of a people's culture, of all that is worth while in a people's future.

We must learn, each of us must learn, if we are determined on a grand future as I think we are ~~for our community~~, each of us must learn to live in and to love our great metropolitan city. We must learn to take part in its forums and its debates, to enjoy the cultural opportunities of its museums and its schools and its symphonies, to relish the spiritual knowledge to be gained within its churches and its synagogues. We must learn that the homogeneity of the suburbs is fitting for the amateur. It is a place for rest and for relaxation. It is a fine and deserving place. Sylvan retreats have been part of the longing of man since time immemorial. But an amateur art, an amateur learning, an amateur religion ~~did~~ <sup>does</sup> not make for the greatness of ~~our~~ city. As the young people flow into our universities, as the young artists seek freedom from the shackles of convention in our <sup>CREATIVE</sup> ~~artists'~~ centers, as the best of our business and legal minds meet in downtown forums and fellowships to debate the problems of the day, there lies our future. I pray that each and every one of us will in the days ahead



admit to himself his responsibilities to our community and undertake in whatever way he sees fit his debt of obligation, his debts to our future.

Amen.





1) This needs to be done. \$11,358,000 is an impression of the New Bedford fund which  
 gives the attention of every Cleveland citizen on the current needs and  
 social problems of our community. This can be done with commendable  
 usefulness in all other fields and measures. To often we are just our  
 civic responsibilities. We are <sup>happy</sup> Cleveland's first for citizens, and we  
~~strongly~~ <sup>strongly</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> we should make any attempt of service or support,

What could we find on the shelves or on home of Garinwood?

To receive Cleveland from the perspective of the Jewish Fund is to become acutely aware of pressing <sup>social</sup> ~~ethical~~, financial, and medical needs. The basis of many of our problems. The catalogue of human need is long and infinitely varied. How do ~~we~~ <sup>could</sup> we meet these needs - a problem needs employment - a child ~~completing~~ <sup>completing</sup> his education - an elderly widow the compass of other golden ages. There is a vast group needs consultation with, a handicapped person - need lecture, travel, financial independence, a chronically ill patient can and otherwise, 1200 given in our community needs to meet ~~these~~ <sup>these</sup> needs. They are supported through the Jewish Fund. That Fund cannot can support for the need in the minority of Jews.

[illegible]







Our school would be improved yet each day seems to bring  
my school fund some interesting improvement. Our medical  
Nurse has a small microscope yet each day <sup>after</sup> becomes certain  
to discuss and on present still show how to present and to  
leave. My Doctor would also have recent in school and  
demonstrations and standing yet to do and I of 18 in our community  
and require complete ~~proof~~ <sup>proof</sup> helps in seeing and to protect.  
The school of music and that party - medical and athletic, 18 groups  
and our information written to play many of our improvements

[illegible]



2 - at you 7,000 bags & gills and 17 canals & ~~center~~ of a series  
across the

And your 2000 dollar was included in the budget of money  
I have

Just you 1200 Oulder now has ~~collegiate~~

This year 500 <sup>of young people</sup> were requiring counselling, treatment and <sup>trained</sup> ~~well~~ <sup>in</sup> agency working, etc.

Last summer Dave (Dan) 25% of the eligible young people could be  
mobilized in organized playground activities

But much a public school teacher, a public man of Indian blood and of  
a great knowledge of the Indian people and their customs.

These figures suggest in fact at least General's need and even desirability

Our city in the Fall of 1958 is undergoing a vast program of building & development. We are a city in transition. Our population is growing. Our population is expanding into surrounding suburbs. All around us there are visible signs of the pace of construction - new homes - new schools - new branches of banks - new shopping centers & office buildings. \$312, ~~million~~ <sup>million</sup> of construction work is underway in the Cleveland area last year. A vast program of highway expansion promises ultimately to relieve much of our traffic congestion. The 250 million dollar Metropolitan Council has promised that we must continue to enjoy the service of nationally prominent medical, educational, cultural, & religious centers. We are excited about the health & the laboratory program, 1958 is a difficult year in which to underscore some of the very real social problems which threaten to multiply rapidly in our city.











The fate of Cleveland - as of most ~~the~~ of America's great centers - lies in the ability & the willingness of its citizens to overcome their prejudices & to recognize that the only discrimination which has any morality or merit is that which judges men by their character and accomplishments.

The fact of Standard - as a great value of American great cities - rest must be secured and the colleges of it should begin to recollect themselves with the fact of their life. Of course of modern education as a standard are acquiring, it is not the better part of reason - value to copy the truth and useful education in education homes instead of hardly all the while that our institutions must have around the corner from us. ~~Therefore, and so on~~ Even more and an institutional migration finally possible - it would be about right - self defense.

6. Dentalized center city will spread the glens of its ridges into the  
no further reaches of the suburbs - for time does not stand still  
a city's ~~presence~~ presence is replaced and

A decentralized center will surely mean a blight and tension  
beyond the narrow borders. Everyone's economic prospects will  
suffer.

A centralized center city with about 100,000 inhabitants and cultural growth of the whole area. For after all the column, the culture, the art, music & ideas of a people are forged in the <sup>crucible</sup> ~~crucible~~ of its life. It is in the city that many of all needs & backgrounds meet, debate & exchange ideas - the very homogeneity of the suburban products and undertakings. It is in the city that the young, strong & mature, that the central business district, and the masses attend his education - suburban culture is the culture of the <sup>which truly accomplishes</sup> ~~which truly accomplishes~~ the amateur - Urban culture is the culture of the ~~which truly accomplishes~~ ~~the amateur~~.

The very name civilization by which we express the culture  
attained of a nation ~~is~~<sup>historical</sup> considered more from the  
same point as city means originally ~~the~~<sup>"the"</sup> enclosure of the  
city". True certainly requires it would appear the intelligence<sup>& power</sup>  
of urban life. Look at the great civilization of history - each  
can be identified until the city is reached & even here reached  
throughout its life fulfilled & expanded it grows - Athens  
is the mother of the world Rome Peninsular - yet it was



in culture principally the Greek plus & since received its European  
and first expression. Rome said Italy had and little else. Jerusalem  
gave David its poetry, its spirit in poetry & its <sup>millennium</sup> ~~millennium~~  
hope. Paris personified France out and its sentimentality - Vienna -  
Central Europe music & dancing - London England literature and  
politics.

If we need a identity as well as ideas & cultural expression as it is  
and a material ~~possessor~~ <sup>possessor</sup> then we must learn again to live  
in & love our cities. The great & open of highway which has always  
stood man's longings. Perhaps <sup>the best</sup> ~~and~~ is the proper setting for man's  
relaxation & recreation but only if it's human and heterogeneous -  
only if it's encouragement of intellectual intellectual in fashion  
to ~~the~~ <sup>as a true reality</sup> ~~out~~ & ideal of a people. Only city life <sup>as a true reality</sup> ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~made~~ <sup>made</sup> ~~civilized~~ <sup>civilized</sup>  
possible. Only a dynamic civilization creates the future of a people.

Our future is then entirely based to our effort in behalf of Cleveland  
and say. It is in the City - in our monuments & museum - in our colleges  
and city forum - in our fellowship and professional fraternities that  
the united group of our country find their fullest expression. Much from  
falling in indifference must be reclaimed to about that growth - and  
of us must meet toward its fulfillment.