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Does Cleveland Have a Future?, 1967.

#190

Does Cleveland Have a Future?

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

February 5, 1967

In 1920 eight hundred thousand people lived and worked in Cleveland, largely within the original city limits. In 1940 Cleveland numbered 1,500,000 individuals who was sprawled across the 104 governing units which comprised Cuyahoga County. In 1960 there were three million souls within the seven adjacent and economically inter-dependent counties of which Cleveland was the industrial heart. By 1980 Gleveland Cleveland will be a sprawling giant of five million persons within a thirteen county economic region, inter-connected by highways, interpenetrated by the same news and information media, and dependent on the same banking and financial system.

Cleveland has a future. Cleveland is not in danger of becoming a ghost town. Our industrial and financial roots are sound. Cleveland is a useful and convenient location for many of the nations most important manufacturing and distribution services. If population statitistics and physical size are the measurements we depend on, Cleveland seems certain to grow from strength to strength.

A few years ago a scientist working at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City allowed various rat populations to multiply. He provided adequate food and liquid but made no attempt to improve the cages, the living space. For a while the rats were able to adjust to their increase. After a while they became its victims. Pathology spread rapidly. Many became catatonic. Others went beserk. There were riots. Mothers watched impassively as outsiders attacked their children much as city dwellers stand aside while a purse is snatched or a stranger is mugged.

The question is not whether Cleveland will grow but how will Cleveland grow? The question is not does Cleveland have a future but what kind of a future are we creating for our children? The process of urbanization is just beginning to move into high gear and the damage we have already managed is staggering. We have denied ourselves the lake as a recreation area. The air is polluted. Clean water is increasingly scarce. We have scared the countryside with gerry built developments and have allowed many areas of the

core city to revert to the jungle and animal violence. There is little in our recent history that would encourage anyone to believe that Cleveland has the vision or the will to reverse the present pattern of deterioration. We are reaping a bitter harvest of indifference, carelessness and greed. There are few signs that we are prepared to husband for the day of the day of

The rat is far less than a man. We have infinitely more subtle brains and far greater power with which to control our environment. But brains must be used and powers must be disciplined. There must be a dedication to the common good. There must be a willingness to work together and to sacrifice for the good of the city. So far we have proven only that we are prepared to live off its abundance.

If the recent past offers any indication of the future, Clevelanders are willing to have public and foundation monies spent for careful plans to provide better housing, quality education, public hygiene, green spaces, metropolitan government. Attach a tax memorandum to these plans and they are quietly and conveniently shelved. We want a better city and we are not willing to pay the price of service. We want a sound and wholesome community but we are not willing to move out of the little enclaves of quite stability and special privilege behind which we have protected ourselves from the special deprivation and turbulence of correction parts of the community.

We are hypocrites. We speak the phrases of the American dream. We hire experts to blue print our dreams. We file these bule prints away before they reach too deeply into our bank accounts, or place a low cost housing unit in our secluded suburb. Cleveland prefers committees to commitments. Cleveland prefers gentlemently inaction to spirited speak action. Clevelanders prefer to be tolerant of each others parsimony rather than/forth-right/and truthfully. Gentility has replaced morality as our standard of conduct.

Cleveland history is the chronicle of a steady fall from grace. Our fathers were not saints. Cleveland had its robber barons and its prodigal sons who invested the family wealth in more convenient places, but the government of Cleveland and those who forged our early history often exhibited a courage and a conviction which shame our passivity and expose our pretense.

Cleveland was the first city in the Western Reserve to tax everyone for the schooling of the indigent. Some of the fat cows of the day objected that their hard earned profits were supporting the ne'er-do-well. A number of ministers rose in their congregations and did a little pulpit thumping and finger pointing. In those days greed was still called greed and avarice, avarice. The citizens voted for public education and the common good. Public education was launched as public policy and that early Cleveland set out to create an educational system of a high order. Believe it or not, there was a time when our major work classes, our foreign language courses and teacher standards were the envy of the nation.

Many of you graduated from these classes and repaid the system by moving to one of the county schools which sprang up to protect your children from the ignorance of newer arrivals. Perhaps it was inevitable that city folks move to the suburb. But how do Clevelanders explain their financial encouragement to the various real estate boards and the Chamber of Commerce as year by year these bodies forced the paring of proposed school levies and lobbied effectively against school bond issues. Well established Clevelanders drew dividends from the profits of local industries who during the war years brought thousands of semi-literate mill hands into the city. These same citizens wanted no part of the city's price tag for extra services, education, the The LATEST ARRIVALS housing which they required. Between higher taxes and education from someone else's child, Cleveland looked to its pocket book. Buildings became obsolete. Libraries disappeared from the elementary schools. Classes grew beyond functional levels. Teachers' salaries fell in relation to the suburban systems. The more established Clevelanders wanted the best teachers -- after all it was the education of their children which was at stake. Cleveland's once model educational system became a national scandal.

To be sure not all Cleveland sat aside and watched our tobaggon slide from grace as if it was simply a sport's spectacle. Some believed in the founding traditions—a new beginning is being attempted. There is an exciting new partnership between the school system, the foundations, the national government and some small but determined citizens groups. We were shocked to find that half the youngsters in certain areas of center city drop out of school before graduation and that High School diploma education area.

certify an adequate twentieth century education. Many gasped. A few got angry and acted. The rest majority agreed that it was folly to spend \$5.00 on delinquency and crime and only \$1.00 on education, but did nothing about it. Projects for pairing various school systems, plans for joint special facilities, projects for the pooling of tax receipts remain stillborn—though they represent the only feasible long term solution to our education crisis. Why are the not even submitted to the voters? The Goard recommendates that they would be overwhelmingly and resoundingly defeated. Between self-interest and the welfare of someone else's child, Clevelanders vote their narrow interest.

In the early days Cleveland was a hotbed of abolition sentiment. Cleveland was the Northern terminus of the underground railroad. Our cellars hid the escaping slaves. Our boats ferried them across to the free soil of Canada. We were the first major city in the North to elect a negro to a State legislature. We were the first major Northern city to elect a significant number of negro judges and councilmen.

How we have fallen from grace! Sociologists are hard put to find in the North a more segregated city. 95% of the negroes of Cleveland live east of the Cuyahoga River. 85% of the negroes of Cleveland live in census tracts that are at least 70% negro. 50% of the negroes of Cleveland live in census tracts that are 95% Once upon a time Cleveland prided itself on the warmth of the welcome it extended to all ethnic groups. The cultural gardens in Rockefeller Park stand as a symbol of that determination. There was no Negro garden. There is no Chinese garden. Our welcome stopped short of the color line.

As long as we lived in the center city we saw to it that Cleveland's sanitation, safety and housing were of a high order. Once we left the city we no longer cared. Industry left its litter and dirt in the worker's back yards. Industry dumped its workers on the city, and at the same time argued for tax relief. Executives expected Cleveland not only to provide services to their employees and to keep up the parks, the highways, the water filtration, the zoo, public safety, even the inspection of the milk for their benefit and that of their families. Needless to say they wanted no

to their shopping on well paved streets, they remained blind to the tenements and the squalor which was the way of life behind the store fronts and along the side roads. Indifferent housing inspection, lax garbage collection, inadequate policing, the spawning of rats were facts of other lives—out of sight is out of mind.

Established Clevelanders began to fight slum conditions only when the slums began to intrude across suburban boundary lines.

The failure of Urban renewal made many Clevelanders slum conscious. Urban renewal set the slums in motion. Land was cleared and no one thought to provide relocation housing. Families needed housing and none was provided. When the rolling slums threatened East Cleveland and the Heights, suburbanites suddenly became citizens. We urged public housing. We were careful to say, however, that public housing should be in the center Federally financed city. Not a single Cleveland suburb has a low cost/housing unit within its borders. We were prepared to pay the price of fixing up the slums as long as the Federal government paid the major share of the cost and as long as the poor remain where they were meant" to be.

How we have fallen from grace. Cleveland industry hired white men for white collar jobs until the Federal government threatened to withdraw lucrative contracts. Little effort was made to upgrade negro workers against the prejudice of white job superintendents until this became mandatory under Federal anti-discrimination hiring codes. Clevelanders did not concern themselves with the racially excluding practices of certain building trade unions until the government threatened to shut down building projects from which our hotels, our restaurants, and our merchants stood to benefit.

True in housing and employment, a new and exciting partnership has been born between the poor, the Federal government and a minority of dedicated citizens, but the vast majority of Clevelanders are still determined not to welcome a negro neighbor to their streets or accept a negro in their office or apprentice a negro to their union. The West side of

Cleveland remains more segregated than Birmingham Alabama.

Once upon a time Cleveland pioneered in the development of responsible and responsive city government. In an era when city government was notoriously corrupt—when promoters had their hands in the city's till—when tracter companies literally took possession of city streets—when votes could be bought—when privileged legislation could be bought—when many State houses could be bought, Cleveland found its integrity.

In 1904 the crusading editor, Lincoln Steffans, published a realistic appraisal of city government which he entitled deliberately, 'The Shame of our Cities' Steffans spoke of Cleveland as the best governed city in America Perhaps the only well governed city."

We had in the Mayor's office a reformed robber baron, Tom Johnson, whose credo was simplicity itself: "I know the utility companies are a bunch of thieves and robbers--I was one of them once." Johnson and his cabinet set out to protect the public welfare from the greed of the few. He rationalized the tax duplicate and assessed the wealthy full rates on their property. He saved the lake front from the railroads. He established a municipal light plant which provided power in competition with private menufaciumers and established cost figures which produced a measure against which utility rates could be judged. The patronage spoils system was replaced by a civil service. Within a decade the city had a city manager to carry out the normal executive functions of a city administration.

I wonder what Lincoln Steffans would write about our city today. One could hardly say that we are capably governed. Parsimony has kept the wages of city employees so low that they cannot afford to pass up the attractions of private industry. We lack even the office help to assemble the necessary reports required to receive Federal assistance monies. The recent studies of the Little Hoover Commission painted a sad picture of disenchanted men struggling with inadequate tools against the massive and mounting problems of a vast community.

It is tempting to blame the Mayor for the administrations disintigration of our city.

Mr. Locher has not been forceful but the fault is not his alone or preeminently. The rust is old rust. Money is the oil of government and this city has been consistently short changed by the State and straight jacketed by a penny wise and pound foolish electorate. You can not hire bright young administrators on subsistence wages when industry and other cities are offering them exciting inducements. What are the police asking? 85% of the average trade union wage.

It is tempting to blame the Mayor for the failures of our city. Mr. Locher has not been imaginative, but neither has the Union Club or the AFL-CIO. For a generation the economically powerful have wanted representation without taxation - power not responsible to the popular will. They have tried to manage public policy by a telephone call, by a discrete interview, and through committee meetings. You can not run a city from the outside. You are either a citizen or you are not. When this is insisted on by the minority of dedicated citizens and 6ity Hall, Cleveland votes down metropolitan government. When the Mayor suggests a revision in the requirements for annexation referendums--the suburban mayors rise in united opposition.

Between shared responsibilities and special privileges, a majority of us prefer to think only of our own neck. Yet the present government by economic enclaves is not only anachronistic but self-defeating. The rot at the core inevitably spreads across boundary lines. The criminal uses the same streets as the business man.

Cleveland seems determined to retain the present fragmentized political structure.

We have voted down metropolitan government decisively and seem unable to experiment imaginatively with new government al structures.

There is now a seven-county commission forced on us by the Federal government. I have not seen any eagerness to explore its possibilities. To be sure here is againa partnership of the Federal government, the foundations and a small minority of citizens but the vast majority live only for itself.

Physically Cleveland is not a particularly attractive city. In terms of the quality of life in the center city Cleveland represents a triumph of human callousness. Our government is archaic and anachronistic. The time reckoning is at hand. The cut off of

urban renewal funds, the shocking revelations of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission hearings, the quick rise of violence and crime, the Hough riots are symptoms to which no one can be blind.

Is there a solution? The solution is a new concept of citizenship—a new sense of responsibility. We must look at ourselves in the mirror and see ourselves for the self-centered and careless citizens that we have been. Blame the Mayor, the Council, the blame when you will -607 blame yourself fins? Establishment, the Police. The hour calls for anger and action. I, for one, was delighted to see an honest Mayor and an honest citizen leader flare up and speak hard words. Progress lags when men spend their lives exchanging courtesies. The city needs a legion of angry men - morally indignent men - who will brush aside the endless delays - who will tell their felhow citizens what citizenship is all about - who will act, stand ferresful, speak out, and do.

The time of anger is at hand Thou shalt burn out the evil from within thy midst."

The time of action is at hand Thou shalt establish righteousness in thy gates."

Kaddish

Friday FEB. 3

Sunday FEB 5

Those who passed away this week

OLGA REINFELD CAPT. PHILLIP IRVING ROSSMAN

GERTRUDE GOLDBERG ANNE J. KANE EVA B. ROSEWATER THEODORE T. SINDELL DR. DAVID B. STEUER BENJAMIN F. KOPERLIK JAY IGLAUER FRANCES ROTHMAN SAMUEL BAER TILLIE DEVAY NATHAN M. KAPLAN STEFI PROPPER RACHEL BLOCH MOSS BEN R. KERN

Hahrzeits

EDWARD ALEXANDER WEISKOPF
ISADORE SANDS
MINNIE H. MARKOWITZ
ALFRED M. EMERLING
NANCY BRENNER DRUCKER
EDWIN M. GLAUBER
SARAH LYNN
EVA FALLER
RALPH H. ROSENFELD
BESSIE BRAHAM DAUBY
MORRIS G. SCHAFFNER
HARRY SILVERMAN
REBECCA ALSBACHER

THE TEMPLE CLEVELAND, OHIO February 5, 1967

No. 18

Vol. LIII



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Each year the Central Conference of American Rabbis publishes a message dealing with the issues of race and civil rights. I am pleased to print the statement issued at this time.

Another race relations Sabbath returns to find the Negro American still a stranger within the gates of our country. Poverty, social isolation, discrimination, educational inadequacy, all serve to make him an alien among us.

The remarkable achievements of the civil rights movement have brought to the black man a fresh awareness of pride and dignity, and have successfully destroyed what remained of the white man's comfortable myth of the happy Negro gratefully willing to accept his deprived condition. That pride and dignity should be crushed by economic and social deprivation is now common experience for the Negro.

What we have learned, with disturbing immediacy, is that where pride and deprivation meet, frustration, belligerence, and violence are born. For with all of the progress of the past years, the simple, tangible realities of jobs that pay well, schools that educate, and housing that ennobles are largely inaccessible to the Negro. The bitterness, the rejection, the distrust engendered by these disappointments have spilled forth into the streets of a dozen American cities in violence born of desperate and conflicting longings.

And what has complicated and enlarged the crisis is that the prevalence of violence, the cry for black power, and the increased belligerence have touched the exposed nerves of fear, guilt, and self-righteousness in the white community, arousing a counterforce of resistance, resentment, and vigilantism. This counterforce against the Negro has brought innumerable signs of the erosion of the commitment to racial justice, not

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

February 5, 1967 10:30 o'clock

RABBI DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

will speak on

DOES CLEVELAND HAVE A FUTURE?

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES 5:30 to 6:10 SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES 11:00 to 12:00

the least of which was the scuttling by the Senate of the most recently proposed civil rights legislations.

On this Sabbath we affirm our determination to work for the achievement of full and equal human rights for all and not to be deterred from that work either by the awesome complexity of the problems of our society or the resistance of bigotry, confusion and fear. We will not permit our confidence in the realization of the ultimate goal to shrink before the difficulties that attend its achievement.

We believe it is a common responsibility of all Americans to end the discrimination and exploitation which have for so long enmeshed the Negro in a tangle of frustration. We will not be driven from this quest either by the bitter rejection of some Negroes or by the renewed and intensified resistance of some whites. The obligation to liberate the Negro people from the enslavements that continue to warp their lives belongs to all of us. Our history and our destiny are inextricably linked to one another. We affirm our determination to press the drive to make visible and real in law and in life the achievement of our common humanity; to uproot the racism that is etched so deeply and crudely into the structure of American social, economic, and political life

Work, housing and education are the realities of impoverishment that must be the measure of our accomplishment and (Continued on Page 3)

The Temple

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THIS SUNDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Squires will be hosts for the Social Hall coffee hour preceding the worship service. Mr. Squires is a member of the Board of Trustees.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers gracing the Pulpit on Sunday, February 5, are contributed in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Dworking by their children.

Flowers which will grace the Chapel Friday, February 10, are contributed in memory of Henry J. Berger by his wife, Myrtle.

MUSIC FOR SUNDAY

Prelude: Cantique	Jean Langlais
Opening Psalm: Mah Tovu	Isadore Freed
Bor'chu	Freed
Sh'ma	Freed
V'ohavto	Freed
Mi-Chomocho	Max Helfman
Tzur Yisroel	David Gooding
Ovos	Lazar Weiner
K'dusha	Isadore Freed
May the Words	David Gooding
Solo: Two Psalms	Arthur Honegger

Adoration:
Olenu - Vaanachnu from tradition,
arranged by Morris Goldstein

TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB

Wednesday, February 22, 1967 Social Hall-Luntz Auditorium 6:00 p.m.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL BROTHERHOOD DINNER MEETING

"People and Progress"
Will modern Technology Destroy Human Values?



Moderator:
Dr. Robert Morse,
President, Case
Institute of Technology

11/1



Panelist:
Dr. Bert Thomas,
President, Battelle
Memorial Institute



Panelist:
Dr. Frederick Herzberg,
Chairman, Department
of Psychology, WRU



Panelist:
Dr. Herman Stein,
Dean, School of
The Appied Social
Sciences, WRU



The 6th Annual Harry Gellin Award will be presented at this meeting.

Summation: Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver

> For reservations: call The Temple Office—791-7755 Tables of ten available \$4.00 Per Person

TEMPLE YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday, February 19, 1967 Social Hall 8:30 p.m.

A MIXER DANCE

R.S.V.P. Miss Anita Roth 14344 Cedar Road, 44121 Phone: 382-3348

Friday, February 10, 1967 Sanctuary 8:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY INSTITUTE



"King David, A Symphonic Psalm" by Arthur Honegger

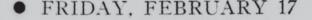
Presented by The Temple Choir and the Chamber Orchestra from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music.

King David is a symphonic Psalm for orchestra, choir and narrator. In a series of vignettes it retells the life and legend of David the King.

In the atmosphere of our magnificent sanctuary the music of a first-rank composer, the mood of a classic theme and the music of excellent performers combine for a memorable evening.

Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver The Golem—

Judaism's Sorcery and Science Fiction



(Continued from Page 1)

the subject of our rhetoric, our prayers, and our labors. The vehicle of genuine progress in all these interrelated areas may very well be a redistribution of economic and political power. It most certainly will require more inconvenience and sacrifice than the white community has thus far been willing to assume.

To bridge the hiatus in quality between Negro and white education will require the immediate establishment of racially balanced schools. It demands the flexibility to employ any one or more of the available devices: the redistricting of schools, the establishment of large educational centers or parks, the bussing of children are among the possibilities. But racial balance, even when combined with compensatory training, cannot guarantee educational excellence. Such a program must be joined with an endeavor to correct the conditions of segregation and discrimination which make these measures necessary.

That means access to decent housing. Without housing in the areas of one's

own choice, the right of a child to an unsegregated school is meaningless and the right to a job impaired. The housing problem cannot be solved by laws alone. Nor can it be solved by dependence on private investment. The Federal government must be engaged actively and directly in providing a significant housing program for low income families in areas of racial exclusion through building, and through rent subsidies. The failure of the Civil Rights Act of 1966 showed that we have still to reach a clear national policy that discrimination in housing is both morally and legally wrong.

Yet racially balanced schools, near livable homes, in attractive neighborhoods within the means of low-income families, and within reasonable distance of areas of employment, are inextricably related to the problem of poverty. Possibly a guaranteed annual income above a subsistence level, and certainly the extension of medical care, and the desegregation of craft unions are mechanisms which if pursued whole-heartedy might liberate millions of

Americans from the vicious cycle of poverty.

Governments, we would insist, have but one heart to give to their people. A nation whose heart is engaged in a war abroad cannot give that same heart to the war against racial injustice at home. A society massively mobilized to police the world cannot liberate the imagination, energy, and resources necessary to mount a full-scale attack on the blight of poverty. We can achieve racial justice and abolish poverty only within the framework of peace. Only then can we command the whole heart and mind to remove the ugliness that stains the integrity of our nation.

This Sabbath is then a call to action. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts become the deeds of our hands. And may it be God's will that we give the historic Jewish response: na'aseh v'nishma, we will do and we will hearken.

Daniel Jeremy Silver

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106
UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK
THE TEMPLE

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, February 3 - February Seminar

Sunday, February 5 - Sunday Services

Tuesday, February 7 — Temple Women's Association—Tuesday Activities

Friday, February 10 — February Seminar

- THE TEMPLE LIBRARY is open Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 and at the close of Sunday morning worship.
- THE TEMPLE MUSEUM will be open on all occasions of organization meetings. Arrangments may be made to view the Museum by special appointment.
- THE ABBA HILLEL SILVER MEMORIAL ARCHIVES are open Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and at the close of Sunday morning worship. Arrangements for records and tapes should be made directly with Miss Leikind.
- TUESDAY ACTIVITIES SHOPS are stocked with gift items for every occasion. Shop at The Temple and support your Sisterhood. Call Mrs. Paul Goodman, YE 2-1725, Mrs. Paul Meldon, 991-5577, Mrs. M. E. Weiner, SK 2-5632, Mrs. A. L. Sherman, LO 1-0288.
- GIFTS AND GADGETS. Orders or selection of gifts may be made by calling Mrs. Ronald Benjamin, WA 1-1855, or Mrs. Herman Davidson, 751-8527.