

Nov 1946  
162 Glenmary,  
Cincinnati 20, Ohio.

Dr. J. L. Magnes,  
The Hebrew University,  
Jerusalem, Palestine.

Dear Judah,

I cabled you \$3000 a couple of days ago, in answer, at Slawson's request, to your letter to him of December 9. I obtained it five minutes after I got into the office of the American Jewish Committee in New York.

I have been enormously distressed over the developments in Palestine since I left. If anything, they have increased my terrific longing to get back there as soon as possible. When it seemed fairly certain that Gruner was to be hung and martial law imposed at Proskauer's insistence I flew to Washington and spent almost two hours with the chap that you had a long interview with there. He is really a top flight personality and I enjoyed meeting him more than I can possibly say. He listened with absorbed interest, asked several searching questions, and after I was finished said some very nice things which I felt were more than courtesy demanded about what I'd had to say and how I said it. He said he agreed completely with my general position, which is yours, and with my criticisms which extended themselves to several quarters.

Sir Leon and Lady Simon were here at Cincinnati and my family did a large part in raising the sum of money that was raised. Dr. Julian Benjamin, who headed the committee, did about as inept a job as can be managed and left town in the middle of the work. Mrs. Iglauer, and Helen worked heroically to step into the breach. Less than half of the quota of 40,000 was raised.

I made a valiant effort to see Benedict and Frances in New York two weeks ago, but it seemed impossible for us to get together. I talked for some time to Benedict over the telephone and learned that he had accepted the position with Finkelstein. I am sure that he will do well. I found that it was well known in both New York and Cincinnati that Finkelstein was contemplating this step. I am delighted that Benedict and Frances will be able now to stay together and I am sure that there should be not only one Institute of the kind that Finkelstein is planning but that there is room for many of them throughout the country.

With regard to myself, the pressure upon me to accept the presidency has been unremitting. I have said that I would accede to the request with the understanding that a basic condition was the merger of HUC and the Jewish Institute of Religion and with activities carried on in both New York and Cincinnati.

Aside from all other matters, it is obvious that Helen and Charles Jonathan and I must remain together. I can sense that the boy is, so to speak, really drinking me in, as indeed I am drinking him in. As for Helen, as I believe I said to you previously, it is wonderful to be married to a continuously growing personality.

I have the copies of your letters with regard to Freed. You will let me know, please, if there is anything that you want me to do with regard to his insurance policy in New York.

Please tell me in as great a detail as you can find time for what you feel should be done from this point on with regard to Palestine.

Will you please see to it that I get the Baayoth hay-Yom sent to me here?

I am proud of Johnnie. I was interested in your reply to Isserman with regard to coming here next year. It would be wonderful if you could.

With love to you and Beatrice, in which Helen joins me,

As ever, yours,