

OFFICERS 1921-22
KAUFMAN KOHLER, HONORARY PRESIDENT
CINCINNATI, OHIO
EDWARD N. CALISCH, PRESIDENT
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
ABRAM SIMON, VICE-PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.
LOUIS WOLSEY, TREASURER
CLEVELAND, OHIO
ISAAC E. MARCUSON, RECORDING SECRETARY
MACON, GEORGIA
HORACE J. WOLF, CORRESPONDING SEC'Y
117 GIBBS ST., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE
OF
AMERICAN RABBIS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1643 MONUMENT AVENUE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE BOARD
ISRAEL BETTAN
LEO M. FRANKLIN
LOUIS J. KOPALD
JACOB Z. LAUTERBACH
FELIX A. LEVY
LOUIS L. MANN
JOSEPH RAUCH
WILLIAM ROSENAU
LEONARD T. ROTHSTEIN
SAMUEL SCHULMAN
NATHAN STERN
JONAH B. WISE

Jan. 2, 1922

Dear Colleague:

From a number of sources I have information that the violations and evasions of the National prohibition law are becoming more and more flagrant and numerous by so-called "Rabbis", some of whom are connected with congregations, while others are fakers pure and simple. Conditions have become so bad that scandals may break any day in one or more of the large cities, to the shame of Israel.

You are well aware that fermented wines are not absolutely necessary for religious purposes. Decisions that unfermented wine meets all requirements have been given by authorities whose orthodoxy, sincerity and scholarship cannot be questioned. (See Year Book Vol. XXXI, p. 91.)

In his presidential message to the Conference, at its meeting held in Washington, March, 1921, Rabbi Franklin urged that the Conference petition the Congress of the United States to rescind that part of the law which grants rights to Rabbis to issue permits for wine for sacramental purposes (ibid pp. 117-8). The Conference, out of regard for its orthodox brethren and in order not to create a schism in Israel, did not go as far as the message urged, but adopted a resolution recommending that unfermented wine be used, and that all members of the C.C.A.R. refuse to sign permits for the purchase of wines for sacramental purposes (ibid p. 91).

In the light of events it appears that it would have been wiser for the Conference to have adopted the recommendation of Rabbi Franklin. If such action had not been able to prevent the scandals that have arisen, and the greater ones that are imminent, it would at least have made plain the position of the C.C.A.R. and of the great constituency which it represents.

I feel that it is not only not too late, but that it is extremely desirable that we make some such representation to Congress and to the country at large. I am therefore asking for a referendum vote, as given below. Please answer at once.

While I am sending this letter to you I am going to add the following, for your information. In October I received a letter from Rabbi A. H. Silver, of the Palestine Development Council, asking that I recommend that the members of the C.C.A.R. co-operate with them.

This letter was referred to the Executive Board of the Conference, which met on Nov. 1st. After earnest consideration, the Board took the following action:

"It was moved and carried that the President notify Rabbi Silver that the C.C.A.R. is ready to co-operate in the work of the economic rehabilitation of Palestine, as it has been repeatedly affirmed, and would work with the P.D.C. on condition that the Board (of the P.D.C.) be re-organized with equal representation of Zionists and non-Zionists."

This resolution was forwarded to Rabbi Silver, and by him referred to the committee of the P.D.C. This is the extent to which the C.C.A.R. is thus far committed.

Fraternally yours,

Edward N. Calisch, President

Horace J. Wolf, Cor.Secy.

A. Do you vote to authorize your President, in the name of the C.C.A.R., to petition, or urge, Congress to repeal Regulation #60, under Table II, Article III, of the National Prohibition Law?

B. If not this, do you favor any sort of presentation of our position, and if so, state briefly what form you think it should take.

Please answer at once, direct to the President.