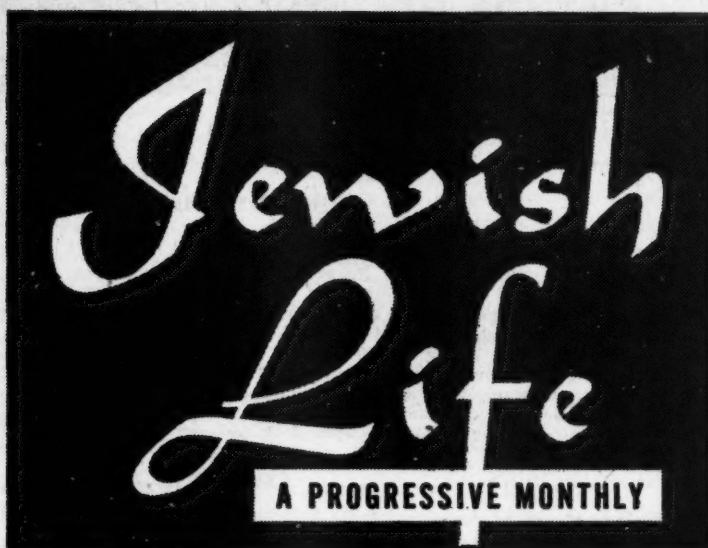


Resistance to Nazi Rearmament:



A World Roundup

MARCH 1951 • 20¢

THE BIG LIE: NEW PHASE *by Nathaniel Buchwald*

RACISM IN SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS *by David Alison*

POLITICS OF THE NEGRO FILM CYCLE *by John Pittman*

ANTI-SEMITISM IN BOSTON *by Robert Maynard*

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER: AN APPRECIATION *by Louis Harap*

From the Four Corners

Edited by Louis Harap

AT HOME

41 RABBIS from 13 states across the country were among over 1100 individuals who signed the open letter sent on January 19 to every member of Congress and calling for repeal of the Mac-Carran act. "The brief experience with enforcement," said the letter, "already confirms the worst fears that a bad act born of hysteria and unreason cannot be enforced in a manner that can safeguard our liberties. To content ourselves with amending it is to perpetuate its basic evils. Outright repeal alone will restore the rights imperiled by its provisions."

SOME MAPAM MEMBERS were refused visitors' visas from Israel to the United States recently, it was learned in early January. Yakov Zerubavel, Mapam leader and member of the Jewish Agency executive, was refused a visa recently to attend a conference of Zionist leaders in this country. Zerubavel had aroused State Department displeasure by statements he made in Argentina several months ago attacking United States intervention in Korea.

PAMPHLETS DEALING with so-called "Soviet anti-Semitism" have been prepared by the State Department for distribution in various countries, according to Assistant Secretary of State Edward W. Barrett. Observers found this concern with "Soviet anti-Semitism" strange in a State Department which has followed a policy of renazification in Germany and advocating recognition of the Franco regime by the United States.

A BILL TO GRANT Israel \$500,000,000 in economic aid under the "Economic Cooperation Act of 1948"—that is, the Marshall Plan—was introduced into the House of Representatives by Rep. John D. Dingell early in January. If passed, such a bill would bring Israeli domestic and foreign policy under control of the Truman administration, as has been the case with all Marshall Plan countries.

HADASSAH, national women's Zionist organization, bestowed the 1951 Henrietta Szold citation and Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service to President Harry Truman for his "leadership in the struggle to preserve the democratic way of life" and "for his far-seeing and forthright Point Four Program." The award has been interpreted as part of the campaign to get grants-in-aid for Israel from the Truman administration.

DEEP CONCERN over the current agitation in Western Germany for pardon and release of Nazi war criminals was expressed in telegrams sent on January 15 by Irving Miller, president of the American Jewish Congress, to Secretary of State Dean Acheson and High Commissioner John J. McCloy. The telegrams warned that amnesty or release of these war criminals would encourage anti-democratic and anti-Semitic movements in Germany.*

TWO VICTORIES over Jimcrow in Washington, D.C., were gained in January. Seventeen Negro veterans were promoted to apprenticeships in highly skilled plate printers jobs at the Bureau of Engraving. This promotion had hitherto been denied to Negroes despite their qualification through competitive examination. The victory climaxed a three year fight by the United Public Workers. Next campaign of the union is to force

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JEWISH LIFE is devoted to the scientific study of the political, economic, cultural and social development of the Jewish people, and to the militant struggle for equality and democracy. It carries on a consistent struggle against anti-Semitism and all other forms of discrimination in the United States. It fights for the building up of a progressive Jewish life in our country and throughout the world. It gives maximum support to the development of Jewish communities where they exist. It recognizes that the chief strength of the Jewish people lies in an alliance with the progressive forces of the world, particularly labor, and with the masses of the oppressed peoples.

THE EDITORS.

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upgrading of Negro women to higher paid skilled jobs. . . . Kresge's in Washington announced on January 21 that it would serve Negroes as well as whites at lunch counters of all its dime stores on Seventh Street. A two month picketing campaign, which cut store patronage by 85 per cent, preceded the victory.

THURGOOD MARSHALL, counsel for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, cabled to this country from Tokyo on February 1 that his investigation of Jimcrow courts martial in the Korean war left no doubt

that discrimination had been practiced against 39 convicted Negro GI's and officers. Marshall expects to discuss the cases with General Douglas MacArthur and other high ranking officers.

BAN ON WEARING of hooded masks and burning of crosses became law in Georgia in mid-January.

ALL BRANCHES of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order and the Emma Lazarus Division of the IWO were expelled from the Los Angeles (Continued on page 32)

FROM MONTH TO MONTH

THE NEW MUNICHISM

THE timing of wholesale clemency granted to nazi war criminals, including cartelist Alfred Krupp, a few days before General Dwight Eisenhower descended on Europe to charm the reluctant Atlantic Pact nations into rearmament, was obviously no accident. It was a brazen act of appeasement of neo-fascist German sentiment in order to put over German rearmament. The Truman administration has been preparing ever greater Munichs—from renazification to remilitarization to open declarations that “bygones are bygones”—all for the sake of dragging Germany into an anti-Soviet war. While the Chamberlains and Daladiers were the procurers of the first Munich in 1937, the Trumans, Achesons and Eisenhowers are the present-day engineers of the new Munich: both had the same objective, war against the Soviet Union.

If the people did not realize this before, the January roster of 89 grants of clemency to nazi war criminals should make this apparent. Among those shown “mercy” were killers of American prisoners at Malmedy, operators of camps of death, and assorted executors of Hitler’s unspeakable policies. The case of Alfred Krupp and eight Krupp directors who were released from prison is crucial. Cartelist Krupp, convicted of exploitation of slave laborers and plundering of foreign countries, was not only freed: the order confiscating his property was rescinded. Interestingly enough, Jack Raymond revealed in the *New York Times* of February 11 that the confiscation order had never been carried through in the first place. The new Munichers consider that this tsar of Ruhr basic industry will be a ready ally in the anti-Soviet war they are planning. The Krupp works would be a useful adjunct in that war, for they have the capacity to produce 11 per cent of Germany’s pig iron, 10 per cent of her steel, eight per cent of her rolling mill products and five per cent of her coal. The design of an anti-Soviet war is becoming plain for all to see: the Truman administration is walking in the tracks of Hitler.

And not only on the foreign policy front. For renazification, rearmament of Germany, rehabilitation of nazi war criminals, have their counterpart on the domestic front. The shadow of *Gleichschaltung* of culture and thought is lengthening over our land with the daily, callous violation of the Bill of Rights. The economy is becoming “co-ordinated” under Truman’s spurious “National Emergency” declaration. We have a fake “price control” under which prices—and profits—continue to soar while a wage freeze and heavy taxation on low income groups leave buying power falling behind every day.

The American people must recognize these policies for what they are—a straining to bring fascism at home and to

plunge the world into war. Just as events have brought the realization to the American people in their majority—as all signs indicate—that the brutal Korean war policy of the Truman administration is leading to catastrophe, so they must learn from this latest mass pardon of nazi war criminals that the Truman policy in Europe is leading to an even more destructive war than that brought on by those very nazis to whom mercy was shown.

The Jewish people all over the world, as we have reported in these pages, have almost unanimously expressed their condemnation of the clemency shown to the murderers of one third of their number and of millions more of many nationalities. On January 31, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States protested the commutation of sentences as a “disservice to justice” and “a serious deterrent to any hopes for developing a pro-democratic peaceful Germany.” The Central Council of the Jews of Germany protested that these criminals “have no right to mercy.” But aside from abstract considerations of justice, these pardons spell extreme danger not only to the Jews, but for democracy in the whole world. To prevent the ultimate consequences of such a policy of renazification and remilitarization of Germany, nerve spot of the whole war danger, the people of America should let the Truman administration know that they will not allow another war to come. The peace movement must be organized, and quickly, as the only answer to the revival of Munichism. There is still time to stop the descent into the atomic hell, and only an organized people can do it. All organizations should join the American Peace Crusade on Washington in March to convey unmistakably to President Truman and Congress the will of the American people for peace.

SAVE WILLIE MCGEE!

AT about the same time that the representatives of the Truman administration in West Germany were showing tender mercy toward nazi war criminals, white supremacist government officials in the United States were raining blow after blow on the Negro people. The country-wide and world-wide protests against the execution of the seven Martinsville Negroes were ignored. Chief Supreme Court Justice Fred M. Vinson refused to grant a stay of execution. Governor John Battle of Virginia refused to grant executive clemency. And the seven Negroes, who were framed on a rape charge, were executed in the opening days of February, although no white person in Virginia has ever been executed for the same crime. Negroes and whites in many cities, organized by the heroic Civil Rights Congress, held vigils for days to stop the execution. For seven days and nights many Negroes and whites walked be-

fore the White House in a vain effort to move President Truman to exert his influence to avert this mass execution.

At about the same time, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case of Willie McGee and his execution was set for March 20 in Laurel, Mississippi, again on a trumped up rape charge. Intervention of the Civil Rights Congress had saved McGee from the electric chair four times in five years, and the Civil Rights Congress will do it again.

And a few days later, the Department of Justice indicted the distinguished Negro scholar and fighter for his people, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, with four others on the charge that they failed to register as "foreign agents" while heading the campaign for collection of signatures to the Stockholm Peace Appeal. A movement for peace is adjudged an "alien" idea by the Truman administration and its Negro leader a "foreign agent."

This vindictive persecution of the Negro people and the mercy shown the nazi murderers of millions of people, form a pattern of mortal danger to our country. William L. Patterson, executive director of the Civil Rights Congress, in a recent interview noted the parallel of the intensified oppression of the Negro people with the nazi treatment of the Jews. "Today," he said, "the intensification of this persecution of Negroes becomes for the government a means of diverting the attention of the great mass of the people from attacks on their living standards and liberties. It is an attempt to create the illusion among the white people that Negroes will bear the brunt of the terror. It is also a symbol of the national chauvinism and growing militarism on the part of every state and the United States government."

The fight against this persecution of the Negro people is thus part of the world-wide struggle for peace. For this oppression and the drive toward war have the same objective of establishing dominance of America's 60 families both at home and all over the world. It is therefore of the greatest urgency that Jew and non-Jew, Negro and white, work together to stop this persecution. White people thereby are not merely helping the Negro people: they are averting great peril to themselves, as John Pittman has explained in his article in this issue.

The immediate task is plain and of the greatest importance—the saving of Will McGee from the electric chair. This can be done by immediate and overwhelming popular protest against carrying out the sentence against him. Every trade union, every Jewish organization, every kind of organization and every individual should urge President Truman to use his moral influence to halt the execution of Willie McGee, and should demand in letters and telegrams to Governor Fielding Wright, Jackson, Miss., that he use his executive power to save the innocent man.

ANTI-SEMITIC WAVE

WHILE nazi war criminals are freed and oppression against the Negro people grows more intense, it is not surprising that anti-Semitism is becoming more overt

and breaking into the hitherto forbidden realm of the respectable. A whole series of outbreaks of anti-Semitism in recent months should alert Jews to growing danger. Last May, the *Chicago Tribune* published an infamous article charging that Herbert H. Lehman, Henry Morgenthau and Felix Frankfurter were "the secret government of the United States." Only a little later the same paper published a thinly-veiled anti-Semitic attack on Supreme Court Justice Frankfurter. Then in December, the Senate committee considering confirmation of Anna Rosenberg as assistant secretary of defense took seriously a palpably absurd red-baiting smear against Mrs. Rosenberg that was originated by leading anti-Semites, who soiled newsprint with anti-Semitic innuendos against Mrs. Rosenberg.

A further evidence of weakening general sensitivity to anti-Semitism was the appearance in January of a hit song which was an insulting Yiddish dialect version of *Tennessee Waltz*. This song was widely played over the radio and elsewhere for weeks, apparently without a protest. Then late in January the National Broadcasting Company put on a communist-baiting radio show, called "Freedom Story," if you please, which had anti-Semitic overtones and which was prepared by a "religious" organization called "Spiritual Mobilization." This organization is presided over by a certain Rev. James W. Fifield, Jr., of Los Angeles, who was also heard on the show. Fifield has been propagating the anti-Semitic line that Zionism and Communism are alike "Semitic" movements and his organization has announced its willingness to cooperate with Merwin K. Hart's anti-Semitic League for Constitutional Government.

Then, at the end of January, at a "Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense," in which the Women's Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans participated, the notorious pro-fascist Joseph R. Kamp, who was a main speaker, told the women that the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is more dangerous to America than the communists. Mrs. William A. Becker, a former president of the DAR and chairman of the conference advisory committee, refused to apologize for this statement of Kamp's and refused to allow the JWV women to reply to this anti-Semitic smear from the platform. Other speakers were Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, anti-Semitic Major Racey Jordan and "Rabbi" Benjamin Schultz. The last named made such outrageous statements (red-baiting Secretary of Defense George Marshall and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz!) that the major Jewish organizations issued the blast that Schultz "in no way represents any section of the American Jewish community." In the face of all this the JWV women have chosen to continue participation in the annual conference!

This sequence of anti-Semitic outbreaks—and the list is far from complete—should warn the American Jewish community that something is radically wrong with our national policy that relies on anti-communist hysteria and frenetic preparations for war. In self-defense and in the interests of democracy and peace, Jewish organized life must do some hard thinking about the support that it is giving to the war policy of the Truman administration.

"Let bygones be bygones"

General Dwight Eisenhower said in August 1944:

THE German people must not be allowed to escape a sense of guilt, of complicity in the tragedy that has engulfed the world. Prominent nazis, along with certain industrialists must be tried and punished. Membership in the Gestapo and in the SS should be taken as *prima facie* evidence of guilt. The general staff must be broken up, all its archives confiscated and members suspected of complicity in starting the war or in any war crime must be tried. . . . The warmaking power of the country should be eliminated."



General Dwight Eisenhower said in January 1951:

WHEN General Eisenhower met with nazi Generals Hans Speidel and Adolf Huesinger in Germany on January 21 to discuss plans for German rearmament, he said that for his part, "bygones are bygones."

Several days later General Eisenhower said in Frankfurt after a talk with German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer: "As I told the chancellor and the other German gentlemen with whom I spoke last night, I have come to know that there is a real difference between the regular German soldier and officer and Hitler and his criminal group. For my part, I do not believe that the German soldier as such lost his honor. The fact that certain individuals committed, in war, dishonorable and despicable acts reflects on the individuals concerned and not on the great majority of German soldiers and officers."

SIDNEY HILLMAN SAID IN 1945 . . .

On September 28, 1945, Sidney Hillman said the following at the first congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Paris. Hillman was the leader of the CIO delegation to the congress.—Eds.

WE recognize that only the full and complete application of the Potsdam decisions can give us the assurance that Germany, which twice in our lifetime has plunged the world into war, will not again threaten the peace and freedom of the democratic nations. World labor, therefore, holds an obligation to itself and to all peace-loving people to be ever vigilant to prevent any hesitation or weakening in the application of the Potsdam programme. In the United States

zone, I know that American big business is very effectively represented on all high policy-making bodies. Yet the people cannot look with confidence to these gentlemen for the swift and full execution of the Potsdam programme.

We must recognize that there are those—and not in Germany alone—who do not want to see Germany's war potential utterly destroyed and the roots of fascism relentlessly eradicated.

We of world labor must firmly and effectively express our will that these forces, who bear primary responsibility for plunging the world into war, shall not again prevail.

LABOR LEADERS PROTEST NAZI REARMAMENT

FIFTY trade union leaders in 14 industries in New York City issued a statement in January condemning German rearmament. The labor leaders called upon all trade unionists to attend a Protest German Rearmament Rally at St. Nicholas Arena on February 8. The text of the statement follows:

"Speaking to the American people a few months before his death, Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared:

"As for Germany, we and our Allies are entirely agreed that we shall not bargain with the nazi conspirators. . . . We shall not leave them a single element of military power. The German people are not going to be enslaved. But it will be necessary for them to earn their way back. . . . And in their climb up that steep road, we shall certainly see to it that they are not encumbered by having to carry guns. They will be relieved of that burden—we hope, forever."

"Six years later, by decision of our government, that sacred pledge has been broken. The guns are being returned. A nazi army is being recreated. Six years later, Lt. General Hans Speidel, former chief of staff to Rommel, and Adolf von Huesinger, chief of operations on Hitler's general staff, are back in the saddle. Six years later, General Eisenhower, who helped smash nazi power, is back in Europe, dining with nazi generals and planning their return to power.

"An attempt is under way to make men forget the barbaric crimes perpetrated by the nazis against mankind. But the truth cannot so easily be erased. The gas vans are the truth. The human guinea pigs are the truth. Six million Jewish dead are the truth. The pillage and rape of Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Poland and the Soviet Union are the truth. Ten thousand documents, millions of dead and countries ravaged and devastated testify that this is the truth.

"Yet, Americans are to believe that the salvation of democracy and civilization is to be achieved by putting

guns into the hands of war criminals and mass murderers. Americans are to accept as allies and comrades in arms those who killed American youth on the beaches of Normandy, in the battle of the Bulge, in the massacre at Malmédy.

"What a betrayal of those who gave their lives to rid the world of nazism! What a threat to millions of American youth who are in danger of being hurled into an even greater holocaust, if a nazi army arises!

"The rearming of Germany is a deliberate provocation of another World War. For over a century, German rearmament has brought on war, death and devastation—to Americans as to all peoples. Shall the same ghastly mistake be repeated again, this time in the age of the atom bomb?

"It is time that Americans speak up, before this Frankenstein of a nazi army is refashioned, before it turns upon us as upon all humankind.

"We, leaders and members of American trade unions, urge all Americans to join with us in protesting the present policy of rearming Germany.

"We call upon all Americans to urge upon our government that it enter into immediate negotiations with the Soviet Union, Britain and France for the disarmament of Germany, for the creation of a democratic, peaceful and united Germany."

THE Joint Council of the International Fur and Leather Workers appealed to the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in January to join in the protest movement to stop the rebuilding of a nazi army in Germany. No reply was received from David Dubinsky and Jacob Potofsky, presidents of these unions.

THE GERMAN TRAGEDY

By W. E. B. DuBois

Following is the text of the speech delivered by the eminent Negro scholar and leader of his people, W. E. B. Du Bois, at the Protest German Rearmament Rally in New York City on February 8.—Eds.

MORE than most Americans not of German descent, I have had opportunity to know the German nation. At perhaps the most critical time in my spiritual development I was for two years a student in the Friedrich-Wilhelm University at Berlin. I lived in the shadow of Luther's Wartburg, I made the *Harzreise*; I visited the Hansa cities, Munich, the Rheinphalz, Leipzig and Breslau; I have heard Wagner at Bayreuth; I have sailed the Rhine from Rotterdam to Mainz, and sung the *Lorelei*. I sat under the lectures of Schmoller, Weber and Von Treitschke and my certificate was signed by Rudolph Virchow. I was in Germany from 1892 to 1894, in 1926 and again in 1936.

Indeed I think that before I knew the German people, I had never before considered white people as human beings, and that despite the fact that I was born and educated in the most liberal part of America, where my fathers had been citizens and voters for a hundred years. I am convinced that never in the world have so inherently fine a people, of high intellect and deep sensibility, been so utterly ruined by war and the theory of war as the Germans.

The one recompense which civilization owed them in return for their philosophy, science, literature, poetry and music was to defend them from war and the fruits of war; after two of the worst possible conflicts the world has seen, with Germany the center of both, to rescue them from the impoverishing costs of military mindedness and shattering delusions of grandeur and world conquest. But no! As mocking fate would have it, Germany was surrendered in fact to the domination of the one country in the world which in race hate and human degradation in some respects out-Hitlered Hitler and which often put the worship of wealth and power above the love of God and brotherhood of man. They placed in the seats of the mighty a general from Georgia to exercise near absolute rule over the economic development of Germany for four crucial years after the hell of defeat in 1945. His successor, egged on by American imperialists, has dragged Germany in as pawn between the American itch for world rule as heir to Britain and Soviet determination to defend East Europe against the West.

It is fatal repetition of history. Once Germany was torn for 30 bloody years between raging religious fanatics; once Austrian, Russian and French imperialism fought out their quarrel on German soil and left Germany a name and not

a nation, and once again on German soil and with German souls and bodies, the first world battle between big business and socialism again covered the soil of Germany with the blood of German Jews and Gentiles.

Any one who knew Germany in the height of her scientific and artistic leadership of the world and then saw her after the end of the first World War, can understand, if not forgive, nazism. I saw in 1926, a nation overthrown, turned upside down and ruined, with more young girls for sale on the streets of Berlin than Paris ever offered. I saw the whole middle class driven down into poverty and the intelligentsia facing utter despair, while the world led by America was bleeding the corpse. It is no wonder that on this foundation, a psychopathic criminal induced laborers and small shopkeepers, who had long envied the thrifty and talented Jews, to see in them an undefended victim to be sacrificed to German degradation and drive a crazed and misled people into murder of six million Jews.

There is an analogy to this which few see but which is forced to our minds by the sadism of Virginia in the case of the Martinsville Seven and the crucifixion of the Trenton Six. Seven poor black laborers of Virginia have just been murdered by the state without ever being faced by their insane accuser in court and on the strength of confessions beaten out of them by police. In Trenton again six Negroes have been held in jail two years on a charge of murder which has never been proven and based again on confessions elicited by torture, while in Germany the torturers of thousands of Jews and murderers of hundreds of unarmed American soldiers are freed to induce Germany to arm for war.

Germany nurtured the Jewish group as it fought its way up to leadership in art, music and industry; so the United States stole and held in slavery a group of Negroes for 300 years until they numbered four million slaves in 1863. These Negroes had no chance to lead in any human endeavor or save the hard toil on which the wealth of America today rests. When emancipation came through Negro soldiers as well as white, and when the threat of uncounted thousands of more black soldiers forced the South to surrender, then it was that for 85 years after the hate and jealousy of the white Southern laborer and greed of the former slaveholder has vented itself on black folk. They have lynched 4,000 with mobs, they have killed tens of thousands by mob violence; they have stolen and destroyed property; and now by legal pretense they are hanging Negroes daily for deeds for which no white American is usually even arrested. The plight of German Jews and American Negroes differ in detail and circumstance, but both are based on the degrada-

tion of the human soul by which today wealth and power are being built. And the tool of this blasphemy is war and more war; world war after world war, imperialism against imperialism with humanity forgotten and trampled in the dust.

Considering the history of Germany since 1800, it must be clear what currents of opinion are today there manifest: first there must be a large number of Germans, probably a clear majority of both the educated and the working classes, who say that war as a method of social progress is absolutely unthinkable; that Germany needs peace for social development, for the normal education of youth, for health and happiness; that therefore rearmament is distinctly inadmissible.

Another portion is afraid for the future of property and capital. They are under compulsion from international capi-

tal to seek a place in the future development of commerce and industry, in Europe and the world. This party is pushed by American industry in every way to agree to defend investment by rearming. They do not wish to rearm but they fear the possible attitude of the capitalistic world and the retaliation of the world by communism. They will submit to rearmament if they must.

Finally there are the remnants of Hitlerism in Germany who want revenge or annihilation of Europe. It is these leaders whom the United States is releasing from punishment and consulting about a new German army. Every effort of all Americans who believe in peace and a restoration of the real greatness of Germany, should be exercised in behalf of the majority of Germans who, like the majority of the French and Italians and like all sane Americans, want no more war.

STORM IN THE KNESSET

By I. Berman

A HEATED debate took place in the Knesset in December on the question of German rearmament. The proposals of the Israeli Communist Party and of the United Workers Party (Mapam) to condemn the decision of the Brussels conference of the Western powers to create a new nazi Wehrmacht were defeated and the whole question was turned over to a sub-committee.

In the second week of January the Knesset was the scene of an even stormier debate on the same issue. The sub-committee had been unable to agree and therefore submitted three resolutions, those of the Communist Party, of Mapam and of the majority parties along with the so-called opposition party, Herut.

The first speaker was a representative of the majority resolution, M. Arguv of the Mapai. The majority resolution called upon the Knesset to protest the rearmament of East and West Germany, and further proposed that the Knesset appeal to all nations to carry out the decisions to demilitarize Germany, to prosecute the war criminals and not to give arms to either East or West Germany. The resolution did not even mention the decisions of the Brussels conference, the freeing of many nazi war criminals by the American High Command in West Germany or the rehabilitation of the Hitlerite leaders and their gradual return to power in West Germany. Thus the majority resolution was in fact only a deception and a device to confuse the people as to the actual rearmament that was taking place and the threatened rise of a new Wehrmacht.

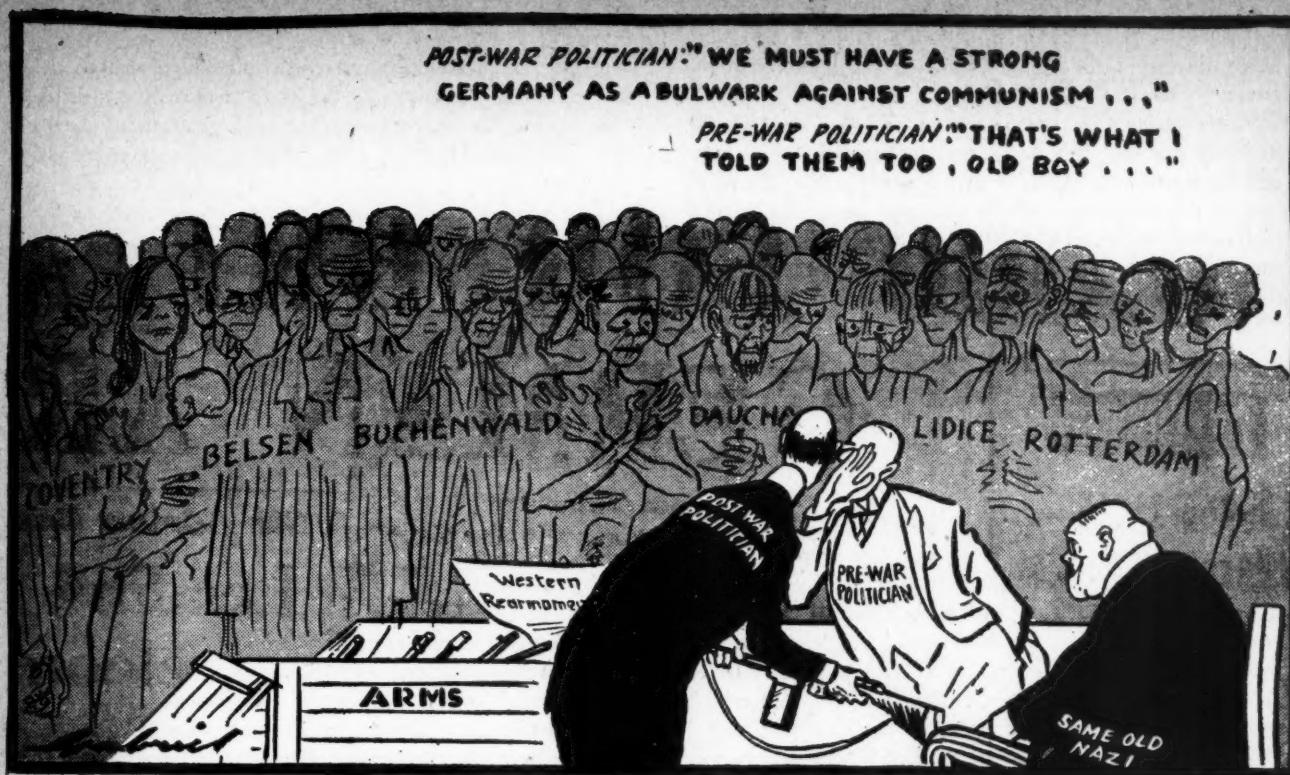
The second speaker was Mapam deputy Yakov Riftin, who had no difficulty in exposing the demagogic character of the majority resolution. "If one speaks in the name of

the Jewish people and in memory of the millions of Jewish martyrs," declared Riftin, "one should speak the truth or otherwise have the decency to remain silent. It is true that a part of the Knesset chose from the outset to remain silent. This was evident from their failure to participate in the mass demonstrations of the Israeli population and in their slight interest in having the question considered at all by the Knesset. But now it is no longer possible to remain silent. So they try to obscure the truth and stubbornly refuse to answer the simple question, who is responsible for the rearmament of Germany and the rebirth of German militarism."

After stressing the fact that the Soviet Union and the people's democracies have unequivocally declared themselves opposed to the rearmament of all Germany and after pointing out that the East German Democratic Republic has rooted out Junkerism, nazism and militarism, Riftin read the resolution proposed by Mapam, which called for the condemnation of the Brussels conference and of the freeing of nazi war criminals.

Meyer Vilner then made an impressive speech in which he placed the issues squarely. He incisively exposed those who tried to evade a clear-cut position on Germany. The Communist deputy then declared: "The great danger in the struggle against the rearmament of the nazi army is that some people are trying to hide the proper address of the culprits. They are trying to confuse people as to where a nazi army is being formed and who is creating that army. If one says that 'All are thieves,' the only result is that the real robbers will be enabled to escape and to continue his stealing. The majority proposal has no other purpose than to confuse people and to wriggle out of real struggle against the remilitarization of Germany."

I. BERMAN is the Israeli correspondent of the Paris *Neie Presse*.



Vilner then backed up his point with facts. He referred specifically to the two conferences recently held, the Prague and Brussels conferences. "The first conference at Prague," he said, "in which the Soviet Union and the people's democracies and the German Democratic Republic participated, unanimously adopted a decision against the remilitarization of all Germany. The second conference, that of the 12 Western countries at Brussels, under the leadership of the United States, publicly adopted a decision for the recreation of a German army and German air force with nazi generals in command. Any one who really is seeking the truth, must ask himself: is there no difference between these two conferences?"

Members of the Knesset were disconcerted by this clear-cut question. "No, there is no difference," they shouted. But Vilner retorted with merciless logic, "Is there no difference between a conference that vigorously opposes rearmament of Germany and a conference which publicly calls for and decides upon rearmament?"

A babel of comments issued from the majority benches. Knesset Chairman Shprinzak then had to call the Knesset to order and Vilner continued. "If anyone denies any difference between a conference that takes concrete steps to rearm Germany and a conference that decides against German rearmament and even calls upon all peoples to fight against it, he not only has abandoned objectivity altogether, but he is consciously trying to cover up the real rearmament of Germany. Of course it is correct to say that nazism must be destroyed everywhere, both in East and West Germany. But that is exactly what is being done in East Germany, while it is not being done in West Germany. On the con-

trary, nazism is being revived in West Germany."

Vilner was not content merely to expose the methods of those who want to confuse the issue of German rearmament, but he also sharply castigated those who demagogically and with a show of anger attacked all Germans and placed them all in one basket. "I am opposed to Hitlerite rule even as it concerns the German people. I wish to state clearly and emphatically that, as a Jew and a socialist, as a human being whose father, mother and sister were murdered by the nazis, the German Wilhelm Pieck, who fought in all his years against a Hitlerite Germany, is much closer to me than such Jews as Emanuel Shinwell, Bernard Baruch and Jules Moch, who are helping to create a new nazi army."

The Communist deputy then referred with deep anger to the mission of the nazi General Hans Guderian in the Middle East, where he is supposed to advise and give leadership to the military forces. He spoke bitterly of the British Labor members of Parliament, Ian Mikardo and Richard Crossman, as imperialist agents who came to Israel to negotiate for British military bases in Israel. He then read the resolution of the Communist Party, which condemned the Brussels conference and called upon the Knesset to protest the rearmament of West Germany, which was threatening a new world war.

At the end of his speech, Vilner explained that for obvious reasons the Communist fraction in the Knesset would not ask that a vote be taken on its own resolution, but would vote for the Mapam resolution, which, even though not as concise and clear as its own resolution, nevertheless gave expression to the conviction of the entire Israeli

peace movement and of the overwhelming majority of the Israeli people.

Vilner thoroughly unmasked the real character of the majority position. But the Mapai spokesman Arguv himself did a pretty good job in exposing the role of his party and of the proponents of the majority resolution. Arguv besmirched the Soviet Union and the new democracies with slander and lies. He tried to create a proper atmosphere for his slanders by assuming a tone of righteous indignation. "This is not the first time in the history of our people that our people stands alone in its tragedy," he said. Of course, this is the usual melody of those who cry, "We are so alone in our struggle," when they see any possibility that the Jewish people in large numbers are on the way to joining the militant and progressive forces of the world for joint struggles.

Arguv then revealed the hocus-pocus in which the commission had engaged. He told how it was proposed to Mapam and the Communist Party that if they agreed to accept the wording "East and West Germany," the majority would include in the resolution a protest against the Brussels decision. Arguv tried with a pretense at naivete to make it appear that he simply couldn't understand why anyone should oppose inclusion of "East Germany."

Mapam deputy Meyer Yaari replied, "Quite simply, because East Germany is not being rearmed." Only then did Arguv really give himself away. His assumed naivete

left him and he began to utter filth and slander against the Soviet Union. He went so far as to make the incredible charge that "the Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1919 with the Ukrainian Hetman, who inflicted fierce pogroms on the Jews."

This remark unloosed a storm of protest such as the Knesset had never seen before.

M. Vilner and Moshe Sneh exclaimed together, "You are falsifying history!" Moshe Sneh added, "How dare you desecrate the memory of Petlura's victims! Do not defend Denikin!" M. Erem said, "Is this the truth that you know about the Red Army? Is this the truth about the Soviet Union?" Arguv squirmed, as people do when caught in a lie, and cried out, "How do you know? Were you there?" A. Ben Eliezer, of Herut, tried to help his Mapai friend but immediately sat down when Riftin called out to him, "Listen, you agent of MacArthur, you'd better keep quiet." Tewfiq Toubi, Arab Communist deputy, then turned to Arguv, and asked scornfully, "Tell me, are you for or against the Potsdam agreement?"

It was some time before the chamber was quiet again. The several resolutions were put to a final vote. To the everlasting shame of the Knesset, the proposals of the majority parties were adopted. But more important than the actual vote is that, long after this vote had been forgotten, the people will remember who opposed the recreation of a nazi army and who tolerated it.

CASE HISTORY OF A LIBERAL JOURNAL

In the past the Reconstructionist, semi-monthly organ of a movement of Conservative Jews, among them some well-known Conservative rabbis, has generally been noted for its liberal position on most issues. Although never consistent in its positions and although dedicated to the overall policies of Washington, one was accustomed to find in the journal some note of questioning, apprehension and even dissent on one aspect or another of domestic and foreign policy. In recent months, however, dissent has become more rare and capitulation more frequent. So far has the journal now gone, that in its February 9 issue we find an editorial entitled "A Painful Decision," that is so shocking in its implications and so completely bereft of even a shred of understanding of the tragic era since the rise of Hitlerism, that one reads and rereads to convince oneself that this really appeared in the Reconstructionist.

The editorial deserves more fundamental treatment than is possible at this time. However, we are reprinting parts of this editorial below, as well as excerpts from past editorials which contradict their position out of their own mouths.—Editors.

February 9, 1951.

ONE of the grave decisions facing those concerned with the moral issues of the world struggle against Russian expansionism, is the question of the inclusion of non-democratic nations in the coalition of resistance to Communist aggression. There are those who are repelled by the thought that war and politics make strange bedfellows and are unwilling to countenance a joint effort with such regimes as that of Franco Spain or West Germany. The democratic liberal is quite disturbed over the political character of his allies and longs for the kind of struggle in which a pure white democracy can be pitted against a jet black totalitarianism. Unfortunately, the struggle is not of that character. To insist on the purity of our allies is to misread the nature of the current struggle and to jeopardize the ultimate achievement of democratic aims.

Any resistance to aggression which cannot mount the power required to stop an armed aggressor cannot win in the war of ideologies, because ideological victory depends on the freedom which the aggressors deny to the victims. The present conflict is in the nature of a resistance to armed

aggression fomented by the Soviet powers, and if we deem it of value to block the spread of that aggression, we cannot neglect any means that are indispensable to that end. The inclusion of non-democratic powers in the coalition must then be measured by the yardstick of the contribution which they can make to the fight against Stalinist-Communist aggression.

In the case of Spain and West Germany similar criteria must be considered. In the latter case our revulsion over the German behavior in the last war and the usual fears of a resurgence of German power, are the real motives of our opposition to German rearmament. These are, to be sure, strong arguments, but they must not blind us to the military and economic needs. . . . Whatever decisions are made, must be taken in the light of the contribution offered to the resistance of aggression. It would be well to consider that the East German army might well be on the march while we debate the advisability of using German troops.

As for Franco Spain, that too is a bitter pill to swallow; but again, if it can be proved that there is a real military need for accepting Spain as an ally, then we are morally justified in availing ourselves of Spain's cooperation in our defense.

We must hold fast to the democratic ends of the struggle and make certain that our acceptance of Spain and Yugoslavia as allies does not lead us to imitate their ways or to condone their past crimes. We are fighting for survival. If we do not survive the assaults of totalitarian Communism, democracy cannot exist. If we do survive, we can then carry the ideological battle for democracy even into those totalitarian countries which, for the sake of their own survival, are willing to make common cause with us.

December 12, 1947.

THE prevailing mood in the United States today is fear. There is fear of war, fear of depression, fear of communism, fear of increased immigration, fear of minority groups. . . .

We fear expansion of communism in Europe and Asia. Therefore we adopt a "get tough with Russia" policy in foreign affairs. We fear the tiny segment of Communist Party members and Communist sympathizers in America. So we countenance the antics of the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a means of combating them. We seem not to see the grave threat to civil liberties which the Committee itself constitutes. . . .

We abhor particularly, those totalitarians who would use the democratic process to destroy democracy. But we maintain that the current hysteria in our country which causes everything departing from the ordinary or the usual to be labelled "Communist" is dangerous and destructive.

March 19, 1948.

WHAT can we do now to stop the drift to war?

First, we should eliminate as far as possible all war thoughts and war talk. No magazine, no newspaper, no book, no course of studies, no radio, no film, no private talk should represent war as inevitable. It would be well if the very word "war" were for a time taboo.

November 26, 1948.

IT is unfortunate that the Western democracies have not yet learned that the strongest bulwark against communism is democracy itself. Supporting tyrannous, intolerant, undemocratic regimes, or permitting them to be set up by default, however justified each may seem from the standpoint of grand strategy and timing, is self-defeating.

"U. S. NEWS" SAID: EAST GERMANY IS NOT REARMING

THE rearmament and renazification of Germany have today become imperative, the argument goes, because of the Soviet threat to the West and particularly because an East German army has been created by the Soviet Union.

In our last issue we cited the statement of the Soviet Union blasting this argument as a big lie. The Soviet Union flatly asserted that there was no East German army and that the propaganda that such an army existed, was intended to cover up the rearmament and renazification of West Germany.

Proof of the Soviet contention is to be found in the ultra-conservative *U.S. News and World Report* of October 6, 1950. A report from Frankfurt, said this journal, based on the highest Allied military intelligence sources, flatly asserts that East German rearmament is a myth. Since *U.S. News* does not permit quotation, we shall here summarize some of the evidence which the journal spells out in great detail.

According to *U.S. News*, the Soviet Union would

not mind having a German army at its beck and call but is afraid that such an army might turn against the Soviet Union.

The East German police force, says the weekly, contrary to many fantastic tales that have been spread, is not a military force, has had no military training and can in no sense be considered a combat unit.

There is no East German air force; no Germans are training in Russian planes.

The *Bereitschaften* (preparedness units) number no more than 60,000 men and are organized in battalion strength. They are very lightly armed. There is no evidence of tank training. Allied army men believe it would take at least nine months to train a single East German division out of these units. It would take about two years to train five or six divisions.

Russians do not trust the former Wehrmacht officers.

Manufacture of armaments, except for revolvers, rifles and small machine guns, is prohibited in East Germany.

BRITISH JEWRY IS AROUSED

London

AT the January meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, member after member rose to express the concern felt by British Jews at the policy now pursued towards Germany particularly on rearmament and release of war criminals from jail.

These alarmed sentiments were increased by General Eisenhower's recent statement that for him "bygones were bygones," and that he "no longer bore any resentment whatsoever against Germany."

Colonel Bean, chairman of the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's movement, drew to the attention of the Board that Jewish Ex-Servicemen are revolted at the utterances of General Eisenhower. Colonel Bean drew great applause when he said that Jewish boys could never forgive or forget the criminal misdeeds of German fascism. He stressed that British Jewish veterans are deeply concerned over the prospect of being "allies in arms with Germany in any future conflict." He called on the Board of Deputies to initiate activity which would help to prevent rearmament of Germany and a resurgence of fascist terror.

Other speakers drew attention to the statement reported to have been made by the British High Commissioner in Germany, Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, that he was reviewing the sentences on war criminals in the British zone of Germany and that he saw no reason why the "Big Seven," Nazi war criminals Hess, Raeder, Doenitz, von Neurath, Speer, von Schirach and Funk, should not also have their cases reviewed. "There is no man in prison in Germany for war crimes whose sentence I will not be willing to reconsider in view of the changed circumstances," he said, and the Board shuddered at the brazenness of this assertion.

At the same time Sir Ivone expressed regret that "Unfortunately, the Western high commissioners have not got sole control. We can do nothing without Russian approval."

The deep feeling with which many speakers addressed the Board and the anger expressed at government policy on Germany, reflects the sentiments of the masses of Jews outside the Board. Wherever Jews meet, the topic of discussion invariably turns on what is happening in Germany. These feelings have found expression also in a number of resolutions passed by Jewish organizations, such as the Grand Order of the Sons of Jacob, which endorsed the protest of the Board of Deputies against German rearmament. The Mantle and Costume branch of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, composed largely of Jewish workers, unanimously approved a protest against the rearming of Western Germany which they forwarded to their executive board for further consideration. The British Section of the World Jewish Congress expressed its anxiety at and condemnation of the policy of rearming of Germany.

The leadership of the Board of Deputies expressed full agreement with the speeches made by members of the Board, which termed the Eisenhower statement quoted above as a "betrayal of those who fought and died for the allied cause." The Board decided to send a delegation to the Attlee government to protest the statements of General Eisenhower and Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick.

The spirit displayed at the meeting is sure to stimulate the broad Jewish masses and their organizations to support an active campaign against the policy of rearming and reviving nazism conducted by the British and American governments.

L. ZAIDMAN

WHERE DOES THE DANGER COME FROM?

West Germany? . . .

DR. KURT SHUMACHER, *Social Democratic leader, Western Germany*: "The complete integration of Germany as an equal member of the European community will be but the minimum reparations for the wrongs committed against the Germans."

DR. KONRAD ADENAUER, *premier of West German Bonn government*: "The German people were not responsible for the last war."

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE *of the Bonn government*: "We want the restoration to us of Silesia, East Prussia, and the Saar region."

THE BONN GOVERNMENT: "Anti-Semitism is not a crime but a belief."

or East Germany?

WILHELM PIECK, *president, German Democratic Republic, Eastern Germany*: "The new Germany feels responsible for the Hitler atrocities and the indescribable agonies of the victims of aggression. We shall atone with good for the evils we have perpetrated." OTTO GROTEWOHL, *premier, German Democratic Republic*: "The German people must pay with reparations for its heavy guilt."

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: "We recognize the Oder-Niese river boundaries."

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: "We regard anti-Semitism as a crime against humanity. Every anti-Semitic manifestation in Democratic Germany will be punished as severely as possible."

THE BIG LIE: NEW PHASE

By Nathaniel Buchwald

THE American Jewish Committee has taken a new tack in its "Soviet anti-Semitism" smear campaign. In January the committee issued a report to the effect that religious Jews are oppressed and persecuted in the Soviet Union. As usual, the right people were put on the job to find the "evidence" for these lies. The "study" is "based on a series of interviews with Jews formerly resident in the Soviet Union who have escaped to this country," reported Harry Schwartz in the *New York Times* on January 20. "The persecution of religious Jews is also given partial confirmation by the independent evidence contained in letters written by Soviet Jews to the Union of Russian Jews in this country."

Only a short time ago the Soviet-haters were shouting that Soviet Jews aren't even allowed to send a letter outside the Soviet Union. Now we are asked to believe that Soviet Jews are writing letters to the Union of Russian Jews—a small clique of professional Jewish Soviet-baiters.

But let us look into the report itself and its "evidence." According to this report, religious Jews in the Soviet Union are forced to practice their religion in secret and by underground methods. They are forced to hold their services in private homes and in secret rooms. Children can learn their religious texts only by committing them to memory because no religious books are available. As to kosher slaughtering, it seems that this practise must be carried on in a conspiratorial manner. Strangely enough, the report grudgingly admits that *there are* public synagogues in the Soviet Union where Jews may pray and that kosher slaughtering is legally carried out under the supervision of the religious and synagogal community.

The New "Angle"

In order to square this obvious contradiction, the fabricators got themselves an "angle." Religious Jews don't trust the synagogues, they proclaim, because they believe that these religious institutions are "under the control of the secret police." But dozens of reports tell of synagogues filled with Jews on the religious holidays. Therefore we must conclude that all of these worshippers who fill the

synagogues are the irreligious Jews. Absurd? Of course it is. But since when is absurdity ruled out as a technique of the anti-Sovieteers? Certainly this little chestnut is no less absurd than the other fabrications that the oil magnates and bankers of the American Jewish Committee have produced about "Soviet anti-Semitism."

The purpose of this latest fabrication is clear. The effect of the previous campaigns is beginning to wear off. Anti-Soviet sentiment among the Jewish masses in America must be kept heated up. It does not matter if this newest report is full of lies and contradictions from one sentence to the next. The anti-Sovieteers are not embarrassed by such considerations.

The character of those who deal in such fabrications becomes especially clear when one considers the lengths to which they will go to exploit every piece of gossip, every false word out of the mouth of any anti-Sovieteer. At the same time, they are struck dumb when it comes to reports like a recent interview with Mordecai Namir, former Israeli ambassador to Moscow. Not one of the leading Jewish newspapers reported this interview concerning his two and a half years in Moscow. Why? Because Namir said things that do not at all square with the lies, inventions and fabrications of the American Jewish Committee and its "Soviet experts."

Soviet Peace Sentiment

Since this interview was not published in the American press, we shall quote from the lengthy report on it by the Israeli journalist, Yitzhak Rieman, which was published in a number of Yiddish papers outside the United States. First let us discuss Namir's account of general problems in the Soviet Union before we come to his report on the question of religion. We quote from Rieman's report of the interview, which was originally published in *Davar*, Histadrut daily in Tel Aviv.

"How is the Soviet Union reacting to the war in Korea and the pro-war sentiments in the world?" was the first question. Namir answered: "Since the Korean episode there is no doubt that the peoples of the Soviet Union are to some extent spiritually depressed. There is no doubt that they are honestly striving for a durable peace and that they shudder at the very thought of a third world war. The people of the Soviet Union are certain that their govern-

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ment is working for peace with the world and that Soviet policy is a peace policy.' . . .

"'But in spite of the tense world situation no outer signs of any change whatsoever can be observed,' declared Namir, who had left Moscow on November 14, 1950. 'In Moscow and in all other Soviet cities and villages,' he continued, 'life goes on its normal course. Nowhere did I see any panic buying in the stores. Construction work was going ahead full blast in Moscow and all other cities that I recently visited. A very high Soviet government official told me just before I left Moscow that the Soviet Union not only does not want war, but has absolutely no interest in war. Ranking highest in importance for the Soviet people are the gigantic building program and the tremendous reconstruction projects to heal the wounds of the last war and the immense effort that these tasks demand. To this day the greatest concern of the Soviet Union is the new economic projects to fructify and irrigate waste regions, to improve and raise living standards.'"

Namir on Jewish Religious Activity

The anti-Soviet press in America suppressed this interview, since its aims would hardly be furthered by an objective report of the sentiments and activities of the Soviet people. And certainly the anti-Sovietes would not dare to convey what the Israeli ex-ambassador had to say about the attitude of the Soviet Union to the state of Israel and about Jewish religious activities in the Soviet Union. We quote again from Yitzhak Rieman's report of the Namir interview in *Davar*. The *Davar* representative asked Namir: "What sort of relationship does the Israeli embassy have with the Soviet government? Have you in the recent past been aware of any changes in the attitude of the Soviet government toward Israeli representatives and toward Israel in general?"

According to Rieman, Namir replied: "Relations between the Israeli embassy and the Soviet government are normal and friendly. Whenever important questions relating to Israel came up (and this happened very often), I would visit representatives of the Soviet foreign office. Never at any time were important discussions delayed or put off in any way. As for the second question—the Soviet Union has taken a firm stand on Israel in world affairs [i.e., in the United Nations], which has been maintained since the founding of the state of Israel. The Soviet position has in most cases taken full cognizance of the problems and position of Israel in the Middle East."

Concerning Jewish religious activity in the Soviet Union, Rieman writes: "Namir declared that the only time he could meet the masses of Jewish inhabitants in Moscow was on the Jewish holidays. The entire embassy staff . . . went to the big Moscow synagogue on Maroseika Street and were enthusiastically and heartily received. Every time Namir appeared in the synagogue he was honored with a *Maftir* and reading of the *Haftorah*, while the other mem-

bers of the staff were called to the *bina* for *Aliyohs*. During Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur the synagogue is jammed with thousands of worshippers while other thousands, because of lack of space, jam the street in front of the synagogue. Among the worshippers there is a large percentage of boys and girls and young people. Among them are officers and soldiers of the Red Army and people wearing uniforms of many other government services. Namir also saw great masses of worshippers during his visit to Odessa and Tiflis.

"According to Namir, there is a Yiddish paper published in the Birobidjan Autonomous Region. Yiddish and Russian are the two official languages there. Aside from the regular Russian schools, there are also Yiddish schools. There is also a Yiddish drama circle."

This Truth Not New

Actually, there is nothing new in this report of the Israeli ex-ambassador. His information is news only from the standpoint of anti-Soviet propaganda. In fact, this news strikes people as practically sensational only because there is no relation whatsoever between the truth and the whole mass of phony stories, rumors and fake investigations of the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Labor Committee and the daily press. One can therefore understand why the anti-Soviet press has not to this day been able to bring itself to publish an accurate report of the Namir interview.

Generally speaking, Namir's report tells us nothing new. Everybody—that is, everybody who is interested in the truth—knows that religious people have full freedom to "practice religion" in the Soviet Union. But there is no freedom in the Soviet Union for religious people to terrorize the non-religious as in Israel or in New York, where the Catholic hierarchy acts as a censor. And of course there is similarly no freedom to engage in reactionary political activity under the guise of religion. So far as Namir's report about the presence of "officers and soldiers of the Red Army" and "a large percentage of boys and girls and young people" in the synagogues are concerned, we may hold a different opinion. Not only many recent visitors to the Soviet Union, but the reactionary press itself, have over and over stated that Soviet youth is not religious. We may cite the following instance, which also contains interesting data on Jewish religious life in the Soviet Union.

Eye-Witness Report

On February 26, 1950, the Yiddish *Morning Journal* published an interview of Israeli correspondent S. Yitzhaki with a rabbi from Rumania newly arrived in Israel. "In eight large Russian cities and in many smaller towns," Yitzhaki wrote, "there are *Yeshivas* [religious schools] as in the good old days.' This news was given to me by a well-known

Jewish personality of Rumania who recently arrived in Israel . . . and who was in the Soviet Union a few months ago.

"He himself studied *Mishnayis* [portion of the Talmud] with Jews in Moscow, Zhitomir and Odessa. It is no secret that there are *Yeshivas* in Grodno, Kiev, Tiflis, Baku and Kremenchug and that the Soviet power doesn't interfere in these purely religious Jewish affairs. The *Yeshivas* are open all day Saturday and on week days during the evenings. Most of the *Yeshivas* are short of books. In Moscow and Zhitomir there are ample supplies of Talmudic and Biblical texts. [Compare this last statement with the fantastic assertion in *The Day*, "All Sacred Texts have been Destroyed"—N.B.] . . . The *Yeshiva* in Grodno is always full of *Yeshiva* students, among them many former officers and soldiers of the Red Army who are invalids and supported by the government. But there are no Soviet-born youth among these students.

"This Jew is categorically certain that there is no anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. In the past year he saw masses of Jewish officials in government offices, masses of Jewish engineers and doctors and a great number of Jewish workers in all branches of economic life. He does not

believe that Jews are now regarded 'any differently than before' in the Soviet schools or universities. He knows of instances where people were punished by imprisonment and in a number of cases expelled from the Communist Party, which is the extreme punishment in Russia, for insulting Jews."

All this is nothing new. Such a piece of honest reporting about the Soviet Union rarely finds its way into the columns of the *Morning Journal* or any other anti-Soviet paper. But the existence of such facts doesn't prevent the local anti-Soviet press from continuing to manufacture the most fantastic lies. When it becomes necessary, lies are cooked up in the home office and date-lined from abroad—a regular procedure with these papers. Honest people will understand that the most recent fantasy created by the American Jewish Committee about persecution of so-called orthodox Jews in the Soviet Union is not an accident. The new "report" is part of the war incitement originating in Washington. These lies are intended to mislead American Jews into acquiescence in the feverishly mounting preparations for war against the Soviet Union and in the plan to revive nazi militarism. The Jews dare not fall for these incitements. That way lie new Maidaneks.

THE "FORWARD" MAKES A "CORRECTION"

ON Friday, January 19, the Jewish daily *Forward* published a "Correction of an Article by C. Vital" which had appeared in its issue of December 27. Apparently Mordecai Namir, who recently relinquished his post as Israeli ambassador to Moscow to take his present position as general secretary of the Histadrut, cabled the *Forward* a correction relating to this article in the *Forward* about himself. The *Forward* then quotes from Vital's article. "During the entire time that he [Namir] spent in Moscow, two and a half years, first as advisor to the Israeli embassy and later as Israeli ambassador, the Soviet power did not grant him permission to make a trip to visit his old mother. However, before Namir left his post in Moscow and returned to Israel, he finally succeeded in wangling permission to visit his old mother."

This interesting report finally reached Namir, who then cabled the following message to the *Forward*, which was published on January 19:

"I was never refused permission to visit my mother because I neither did nor could have asked for such permission. I did not know where she was or what had happened to her after her wanderings during the war years. It was not until the last part of my stay that I succeeded in hitting on some real leads as to her whereabouts. At that point I applied to Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrei Gromyko and within a few days I was given the opportunity to travel to the place where she lived and to visit her. What is

more, despite the fact that my mother lives in a region which is forbidden territory for foreigners, the government made an exception in my case and allowed me, accompanied by a member of my embassy, to travel to my mother by the fastest and most comfortable transportation.

"It is my duty to emphasize that in this instance the Soviet government displayed an attitude of sympathetic understanding, cooperation and a humane approach which is worthy of praise and gratitude."

This is the *Forward's* slight "correction." It is perhaps unnecessary to note that the *Forward* had no alternative but to publish Namir's telegram and thereby to stamp itself as a purveyor of propaganda lies. After all, Namir is a well-known personality, a leader of the Histadrut and belongs to the same ideological and political grouping as the *Forward*. If the *Forward* had not printed the "correction," many other newspapers would have done so. Hence the *Forward* was obliged to make an exception in this case. We say an "exception" because in hundreds of similar cases the *Forward* has printed fabrications about the Soviet Union, was caught red-handed in the lie, but did not "correct" them.

The swindle concerning Namir's mother is in itself a great scandal. At the same time, it is a characteristic example of the techniques used by the *Forward* to heat up its insane campaign of hate against the Soviet Union.

RACISM IN SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

By David Alison

Following is a chapter from the recently published Searchlight, An Exposé of New York City Schools, by David Alison. This book, published by the Teachers Union (206 West 15th Street, New York City; paper edition, \$1.00, cloth edition, \$2.00), is a fully documented analysis of the corrosion of democracy in the New York schools.—Eds.

AT A recent conference in Harlem, a young Negro mother described how she felt when her child brought her first reader home and asked, "Mother, where am I in this book?"

The truth is, this Negro child will not find herself portrayed in the texts she studies in school. She will find nothing to make her feel a real part of our country and of our culture.

She will look in vain to find the story of her people—their contributions to the rich heritage of America, their past struggles for freedom—portrayed with the dignity they merit or with respect for historical accuracy and scholarship.

In not a single text commonly used in our schools will she find a word about the participation of the Negro in the American Revolution. Not a single reference will she meet to Crispus Attucks, a Negro leader of the townspeople of Boston, first to fall at the Boston massacre.

The vast majority of our children, white and Negro, will leave school without once having heard of Harriet Tubman, or Sojourner Truth, or that magnificent leader of his people, Frederick Douglass. They will have read nowhere of the military exploits of Negroes or of such statements as that of Abraham Lincoln that "without the military help of black freedmen, the war against the South could not have been won."

Instead, our children are subjected to a portrayal of Negroes which is a disgrace to all democratic concepts of education. In most textbooks, New York City school children receive their first impression of the Negro as a care-free, lazy, banjo-strumming, watermelon-eating slave, suited to being a slave, abjectly loyal to his master, without the desire or will to freedom.

Biased Picture of Negro Slavery

The young student will read this happy description of slavery: "When the master was kind, these black people lived very happy lives. They were provided with food, clothing and shelter and were cared for when they were old or sick." (*America Then and Now*, by Edna McGuire, p. 247; approved for fifth and sixth years.)

He will study this passage, which might have been written by the slave-owners themselves: "Most planters treated their slaves fairly. Without making any apologies for the system, one may say that on most plantations, the slaves were not harshly treated. The owners were kindly, humane men. The Negroes had to be encouraged to work because many of them were irresponsible, if not lazy; but there were ways of doing this, short of actual force." (*Story of America*, by Ralph V. Harlow, p. 195.)

He will form this impression of the slaves' desire for freedom: "Most Southern people treated their slaves kindly. It was true that most of the slaves were happy. They did not want to be free. The people of the North did not understand this." (*Our America*, by Herbert Townsend, p. 131; recommended for fourth to sixth grade. This text, incidentally, was written as late as 1949!)

The most shocking thing about this mass of prejudice is that a great many texts containing such passages have either been written or edited by *high-ranking school officials themselves*.

For example, this idyllic portrayal of slavery by a superintendent: "It was often a happy life for the slaves. They had no cares except to do their work well." (*Our United States*, by [Assistant Superintendent] Frank D. Whalen & Parkhill, p. 102.)

Or this defense of cruelty from an assistant superintendent of schools: "Was the slave system cruel? The usual method of punishing a slave was by whipping. This was not thought cruel. White children were frequently whipped by their parents and school teachers. White sailors in the navy and merchant marine were whipped." (*The American Story*, by Gavian and [Assistant Superintendent] Hamm, p. 274.)

These quotations are all from texts *on approved lists for use in our city schools or from texts still being used*.

Omissions and Distortions of Negro History

The biased treatment by these texts of various aspects of Negro history does incalculable harm to the cause of bringing the Negro citizen up to his full stature in the day-to-day life of our country.

The record of slave revolts—which completely shatters the beautiful picture of the benefits of slavery presented by the quotations mentioned previously—is simply ignored by most of our school texts.

The abolition of slavery and the emancipation of the Negro are treated in many cases with condescension, scorn and contempt.

The Reconstruction period is completely distorted and written almost wholly from the point of view of sympathy for the former slave-holders.

The Ku Klux Klan is justified in text after text, including those written by the assistant superintendent assigned to the high school division, who went so far as to call the purposes of the Ku Klux Klan "patriotic." (*The American Story*, by Gavian and [Assistant Superintendent] Hamm, p. 331.)

Is there a Negro leader who will not condemn the following from a New York City assistant superintendent: "There are few Negro leaders who demand absolute equality for members of their race." (*The American People*, by Hamm, p. 585. Not on the approved list, but still in use.)

In the texts studied by our children are also found numerous instances of insulting comments about Mexicans and other foreign-born groups.

In the spring of 1950, the Teachers Union of New York City published a documented study of the bias and prejudice to be found in textbooks in use in our city schools. They wrote to the publishers involved and to school officials, asking for the removal of biased passages, the revision of texts and the development of new material to present the truth about the contributions of minorities to our democracy.

From several publishers the Union received thanks for calling attention to the passages. From the superintendent of schools—*silence*. Not even an acknowledgment of receipt of the report.

This was not strange.

For in the report were almost four pages indicting the textbooks that had been co-authored by the superintendent himself! The section was entitled "Dr. William Jansen—Bearer of the White Man's Burden." It pointed out the un-scholarly and prejudiced treatment of the people of Africa and the various colonial countries.

Dr. Jansen, Biased Textbook Writer

In its study of geography texts, the American Council on Education comes to the following conclusion:

"Africa is usually dealt with in world history and geography textbooks as a continent of strange and backward peoples, except, of course, for the Europeans who live there. Native people are assumed to possess only the simplest culture, vastly inferior to our own. The Negro, having come from such a place, is seen as a man without a worthy past. . . . The facts concerning African culture have a bearing upon the competence of the Negro as a man." (*Intergroup Relations in Teaching Materials*, p. 116, 1949.)

The first page of Dr. Jansen's text on Africa contains the following sentence: "Because the native people of Africa, most of whom belong to the Negro race, are very backward, the greater part of the continent has come under the control of European nations since its opening up began." (*Distant Lands*, by Jansen & Allen, p. 151.)

From then on the recurring theme is the backwardness of the Negroes as contrasted with the industry and benign

assistance of the Europeans.

Here are a few quotations from *Distant Lands* (7B) by Jansen and Allen to illustrate this point: "Many people predict a bright future for the Sudan. The climate here is more healthful and less unpleasant for Europeans than is the land further south, and the British and French are helping to develop the region. . . . (p. 187.) Belgian Congo. Thus the natives do not have to work hard to obtain their food, and they have few other needs. For these reasons the Belgians have had some difficulty in securing a steady supply of labor for work on the plantations that they have established." (p. 191.)

It can be seen, therefore, that Dr. Jansen's text fits the pattern of those rejected by the American Council on Education.

But, apart from the question of culture, the false picture of the benevolence of British, French and Belgian colonialism reveals the fundamental outlook of our superintendent of schools.

Any writer with the slightest pretense to scholarship would be constrained to present a more balanced outlook, even if he hesitated to condemn a colonial policy which pays ten cents for a day's work and practices what amounts to slave trading in Tanganyika (British), according to a UN Trusteeship Council Visiting Mission, or maintains the vile pass system in South Africa, or in Kenya (British) spends 63 cents a year for the education of the African child as against \$205 per white child, or imposes forced labor in the French Cameroons or pays African skilled workers one-tenth the wages of whites in the Belgian Congo, or shoots down scores of miners striking for a wage of 80 cents a day in Nigeria!

The note is the same whenever Dr. Jansen deals with colonial areas. He reveals considerable anxiety to demonstrate the solicitude toward their workers of textile manufacturers in India, fruit companies in the Caribbean, of American mine operators in Peru.

Consider this passage concerning Puerto Rico. This is Dr. Jansen's *total* discussion of social conditions in Puerto Rico: "Since Puerto Rico has been in our possession, we have aided the people in building good roads, establishing schools and hiring good teachers, and living in a more healthful way." (*Our Own Lands*, by Jansen and Allen, p. 223, 1947.)

Compare this with the facts concerning Puerto Rico schooling as reported in 1949: "Half the children of Puerto Rico are receiving no education whatever and the other half are getting inferior and inadequate schooling." (Institute of Field Studies, Teachers College, Survey for Puerto Rican Government, reported in *The Sun*, Nov. 17, 1949.)

Or with this statement: "For almost all dietary constituents the findings indicate that the majority of the people of the Island is living in the danger zone of clinical deficiency." (Institute of Field Studies.)

An extraordinary insight into the working of the superintendent's mind is given by an exchange that took place between the Teachers Union and Dr. Jansen in 1948.

"Who, Me?"

This occurred in connection with an earlier study of bias in textbooks.

As an example of prejudice against colonial peoples to be found in the textbooks used in the New York City schools, the Teachers Union had cited several passages which came from a textbook of which Dr. Jansen himself was one of the authors. These were the passages which the Union criticized:

"Thousands of Mexicans have had little or no schooling and are so easily led by others that as a result Mexico has had several revolutions." (*Our Neighbors in America and Europe*, by Jansen and Allen, Part I, 6A, p. 37, Ginn & Company, 1937.)

"The poorer working people in Mexico . . . farm in the old-fashioned way with the simplest tools. They are not greatly interested in their work and seem satisfied as long as they have enough to eat." (p. 46.)

When this was brought to the attention of Dr. Jansen, he wrote to the Teachers Union objecting to the Union's characterization of the passages as showing prejudice.

Here is how the superintendent of schools justified the passages in his book, in a letter to the Teachers Union, dated July 20, 1948: "Both these sentences were true to fact. Neither sentence put the blame on the people but rather on the conditions under which they live. You will find, however, on both pages, a statement to the effect that conditions are improving."

Then to clinch his proof that these passages were wholly unobjectionable, Dr. Jansen hastened to add: "Finally, when I revised the book in 1943, I took out both sentences, and if you will secure a copy of the book (copyright 1944), you will find that neither sentence appears." (My emphasis. —D. A.)

Jews in History Ignored

A survey of the treatment of the Jewish people in history texts approved by the Board of Education and used in the secondary schools of New York City indicates that the treatment of the Jewish people is also unsatisfactory.

In a great many of the approved texts, the treatment of the Jewish people shows a shameful insensitivity to their problems, a lack of appreciation of their contributions and, on occasion, actual hostility.

In some texts the crucifixion of Christ is treated in such a way that the Jewish child is robbed of his self-respect and security in being Jewish, and the Christian child is given to feel the correctness of the age-old accusation that the Jews killed Christ, a pretext for persecution that has caused bloodshed through the centuries.

Most books show less hostility, but betray a definite lack of appreciation of the place of the Jews in history. From some of the textbooks, the secondary school student learns merely that there were Hebrews in ancient Palestine, and that they had some kings, among them David and Solomon.

And then they were conquered and carried off into captivity, and—finis! Except for a few remarks, Jews do not appear in the narrative again in most of the books, until the rise of Christianity and then not again after that until Hitler's attacks on the Jews are mentioned. It should be kept in mind that a great deal of space is devoted in the texts to peoples of ancient times who no longer occupy the stage of history, and whose relation to the modern world is very remote.

The effect of feudalism and of the medieval, Church-inspired legal restrictions upon the social and economic position of the Jews is rarely mentioned.

While the social, economic and political forces that led to the persecution of the early Christians in the Roman era are vividly re-created, nowhere is there similar treatment of the way in which the Jews were placed by various historical forces in a position to be made scapegoats.

In the American history texts, there is a pattern of neglect of the Jews as a people who were involved in the progress of the American nation. Much is made of the various religious and national groups that contributed settlers in colonial times, but few books bother to include the Jews as one of them. In the sections devoted to pre-Revolutionary society, one rarely comes across a reference to such Jews as the Hart family, who joined the pioneering waves that opened up the frontiers for settlement in the early 18th century.

The lack of attention to their contributions becomes more obvious in the time of the Revolution. Although a number of Jews signed the famous non-importation agreements; although many fought in the Revolution, both as officers and enlisted men and, like Benjamin Nones, were recommended for unusual bravery; although men like Haym Salomon, who was a member of the Sons of Liberty, devoted their lives and fortunes to the cause of liberty, very few of the books give as much as a sentence or two to note their presence in America before 1880.

"Unwelcome" Immigrants

In many textbooks, the difference in treatment of immigrants who came before and after 1880 is a real disservice to the development of wholesome, intercultural understanding. The immigrants to America in the periods of 1830 to 1880 seem to please the textbook writers. Pleasant details are given about Norwegians and Swedes and Germans, English and Irish immigrants with the conclusion: "Here are migrants whom any country would have welcomed." In dealing with the nationalities that came to the country after 1880—from Italy, Poland, Russia, etc.—many of the texts present these groups in such a way as to create the unflattering impression that they had little contribution to make to American life and culture and created serious problems of assimilation.

The reader will recall that school officials were not greatly impressed when it was brought to their attention that a teacher was telling her pupils in Williamsburg, many of

them the children of immigrants who came to this country after 1880: "Immigration should have been stopped after 1880, because since then we've been getting nothing but the scum of Europe. Although America has been called a melting pot, you can't very well make stew out of garbage."

The criticisms of the Teachers Union were not the first or only criticisms made. In 1939, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People came to similar conclusions about school textbooks. In the period of 10 years since their report was issued, little has been done by school officials to meet the criticisms.

The United Parents Association, after surveying New York's reading and social studies texts, stated in February, 1950, that these texts "contained no favorable pictures of any racial group except the white race." They called upon the Board to take leadership in revising textbooks.

Most recently a study on prejudice in the textbooks of the nation was made by the American Council on Education, in cooperation with the National Conference of Christians and Jews. This study, which is summarized in Public Af-

fairs Pamphlet No. 160, *Prejudice in Textbooks*, by Maxwell S. Stewart, comes to similar conclusions concerning the inadequate treatment of Negroes, Jews and immigrants in the nation's textbooks.

There is no evidence that our school authorities have given serious heed to the numerous studies which have been made or paid real attention to the problem of improving inadequate courses of study and textbooks. In a city like New York, this neglect is indeed a serious one.

In banning *The Nation*, Superintendent of Schools William Jansen declared that two of his standards in selecting reading material were:

1. Does the book contain any derogatory statements concerning racial or religious groups?
2. Does the book contain matter which is so interwoven into the text as to give rise to misunderstanding and prejudice?

The superintendent did not apply these standards to a great number of books still being used in the schools.

He did not apply them to his own textbooks.

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER: AN APPRECIATION

by Louis Harap

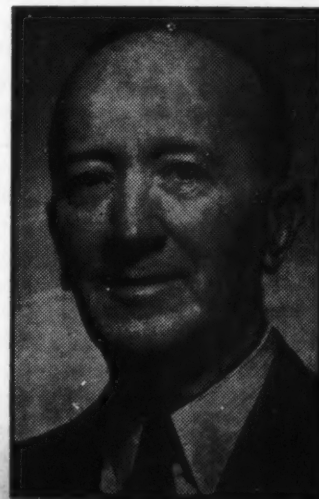
THROUGHOUT our land there are many thousands of Americans to whom the name of William Z. Foster recalls historic labor struggles over half a century. Many workers in steel, packing, railroad, the needle trades, lumber, mining can tell stories about this man who heads the Communist Party and whose whole life has been inextricably linked to the struggles of American workers.

William Z. Foster's seventieth birthday falls on February 25. As one pauses on this occasion to think about the career of this remarkable working class leader, one central fact emerges most profoundly: it is impossible to write a biographical sketch of this man that is not at the same time a history of the labor, political and social movements of our time. He is a striking example of a social being whose individual interests are totally merged with the interests of his class, whose personal goals coincide completely with the social goals of his class and of all oppressed people. He is the embodiment of the new type of personality which Walt Whitman celebrated when he wrote, "The great word Solidarity has arisen."

"I was born," writes Foster in *From Bryan to Stalin*, "in Taunton, Massachusetts, near Boston, February 25, 1881. When I was six years old, our family moved to Philadelphia, where for the most part, because of my father's small wages and big family, we lived in slum and semi-slum neighborhoods. From the age of seven to ten I went to school, selling newspapers the while. But at ten, so meager was the family income, I had to quit school and go to work...."

"In these years as a boy worker, denied the opportunity for an education and living in a poverty-stricken home, I early felt the iron of the class struggle sink into my heart. I, of course, had no inkling of what was wrong and who was my real enemy, beyond a vague feeling that the rich were somehow at the bottom of it all. But I deeply resented the poverty in which I had to live, for even my boyish eyes could see that there were many well-off people who did no work, yet lived in luxury."

The impact of his boyhood experiences and his almost



William Z. Foster

instinctive, though as yet immature sense of the class struggle became the guiding motif of his rich and turbulent life. Perhaps nothing can better symbolize the man than the phrase he was so fond of repeating: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

The Worker-Intellectual

During most of his early life, Foster was a worker in many basic industries such as transport, lumber, mining, metal, chemical and he was a seaman for three years. And, all this time, wherever he worked, he was busy organizing to redress workers' grievances, organizing workers into unions and into the Socialist Party (1900-1909), the International Workers of the World (1909-1912) and various left wing labor organizations. Foster's name became known to the whole American people when he led the historic organization drives in the packing house and steel industries (1917-1919). His constant search for a mature and rounded answer to the problems of the working class led him to Marxism and finally in 1921 to the Communist Party, in which he has been in the leadership uninterruptedly from that time to this.

Foster was no pragmatic working class leader. Indeed, the quality of his leadership would not have been possible if not for his profound grasp of theory. He has always been at the center of the theoretical, as well as the practical struggles of the American working class. Although he had only three years of schooling as a child, he has produced theoretical works that stamp him as the highest type of worker-intellectual. His writings in the theory and practice of trade unionism and on political economy are surely among the most profound and important in the United States.

Tribune of the People

Nor is it an accident that Foster should have concerned himself so intimately and deeply with the national question. For his own experience, enriched by the general experience of the working classes in all countries, taught him that a Marxist cannot be simply a trade unionist. A Marxist must be a "tribune of the people," sensitive to and active in all the problems that face the people. Labor, as he saw it, could not achieve its own emancipation without winning to its side the millions of oppressed peoples who yearned and fought for equality and self-determination. And Foster repeatedly affirmed that chauvinism, oppression and discrimination against minorities were vicious and corrosive, poisoning everyone contaminated by them and destructive of the moral fiber, the class consciousness and militancy of workers. The working class must for its own sake and for its future become the leader of the struggles of all peoples for equality and self-determination.

Foster had already begun to divine the elements of this Marxist teaching as a youth. Once, when he was 19, Foster tells us he was working with both whites and Negroes

under conditions of virtual peonage in a Florida lumber camp. One night a group of mounted Ku Kluxers galloped into the camp, drunk and brandishing pistols. The Negroes escaped to the woods, to the chagrin of the riders; Foster was warned that as a Yankee he was "almost as good as a dog" if he "minds his own business"; and the hated boss fraternized with the Ku Kluxers. Foster never forgot the lesson of this incident—that the enemy of the workers and of the Negro people is the same. In that same year in Florida he encountered an inhuman example of Jim-crow, when he happened one night upon a Negro hobo who had been run over by a train. Foster ran to a nearby freight-house to get help in moving the Negro and telephoning for an ambulance. The watchman refused to help. "I was amazed and revolted," writes Foster. "In the South I had seen many manifestations of the brutal Jimcrow practice, but this cold-hearted act exposed in all its rotten nakedness the system which robs the Negroes of their rights and treats them as though they were sub-human beings."

With the years came deeper insight into the special character of the oppression of the Negro people and of the crucial role that the Negro liberation movement would play in America. Foster's part in helping develop an understanding of and more militant struggle against all forms of chauvinism has been a significant contribution towards ridding our country of oppression and inequality.

There is hardly any phase of the national question in the United States that Foster has not dealt with at one time or another. His writings on the independence struggles of the Puerto Rican people and his insistence on the special responsibility that the working class in our country bears towards this people, oppressed and subjugated by American imperialism, has done much to expose the hypocritical pretenses of Washington and Wall Street about "saving" democracy all over the world.

Among Jewish Workers

Nor was Foster a stranger to the problems of the Jewish people. He was in fact intimately associated with many struggles in which thousands of Jewish workers were involved. During the Coolidge and Hoover periods he was active in the trade union movement in the fur and needle trades, where Jewish workers were for a long period concentrated. Even though these unions were under "socialist" leadership, they suffered from the employers' drive to impose speed-up and wage cuts on all workers. The so-called socialist leaders not only accepted, but even cooperated with this drive. These leaders maintained themselves in office despite their cooperation in these anti-union techniques by their anti-democratic methods and with the aid of gunmen.

At this time Foster was the head of the Trade Union Educational League, which was a center for the development of militant trade unionism. The aims of the TUEL were to organize the unorganized and to further the amalgamation of craft unions into industrial unions. The

TUEL also opposed dual unionism, that is, the organization of new unions where unions already existed, because this splitting and disuniting tactic weakened the workers' defense of their interests. The TUEL was strong in the fur and needle trades, where a tradition of militancy existed among the intensely exploited Jewish workers. Under Foster's leadership, the TUEL led the massive rank and file resistance to the drive for speed-up and wage cuts in which the leaders of their union were collaborating. The regimes of President Morris Kaufman of the International Fur Workers Union and President Morris Sigman of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union used the techniques of expulsion and terrorism through gangsters to suppress the increasing influence of TUEL policies.

Fighting the Labor Bureaucrats

Foster tells of one incident during this bitter fight for union democracy and genuine labor policies in which he was involved. In August 1923, 11 rank and file members of the ILGWU in Chicago were expelled on the false charge that the TUEL, of which they were members, was a dual union. A meeting attended by 3,000 workers protested this undemocratic and anti-union act. Foster explained the meaning of the expulsions. When he mentioned Sigman's name, a gangster suddenly entered the room and fired three shots at Foster, which lodged in the ceiling over Foster's head. This was only one incident in a bitterly fought campaign to restore genuine trade unionism.

The bureaucratic "socialists" who led the fur and needle trade unions finally adopted the tactic of expelling the rank and file leaders, who actually had the support of the majority of the workers in these unions. (It is interesting to note that this expulsion technique that was later used to drive the left wing unions out of the CIO, had its try-out under "socialist" leadership in the twenties.) While temporary victories were won by the left wing in the ILGWU, who were in the leadership of three important locals in New York and had 70 per cent of the executive of the New York Joint Board, Sigman employed blatant undemocratic maneuvers to expel these locals from the union—about 35,000 members. The left wing fight in this union was finally lost and today the ILGWU bureaucracy under President David Dubinsky is one of the most reactionary influences in Jewish life and is among the most ardent supporters of the war-breeding policy of the Truman administration. In the fur union, however, the story was different. The courageous fight of the TUEL-led progressive workers finally led to the creation of a tightly unified union under left leadership. And today the fur union is one of the strongest sectors of the progressive labor movement and is resisting the wave of reaction.

A Great Historical Book

We have sketched a few of the respects in which Foster influenced the development of the Negro, Puerto Rican and

Jewish people's fight for equality. Foster's seventieth birthday, however, is also the occasion for greeting the appearance of his epoch-making book, *Outline Political History of the Americas*, in which he presents on a broad canvas the struggle for freedom of the peoples of Latin and South America, as well as of the United States. But the book is, far more than that. It also points the way toward liberation of all the oppressed and exploited nations of this hemisphere. This book will doubtless revolutionize the history of the Americas. It introduces a new and grand conception of the progress of the multi-national peoples of the Americas as one organic, interrelated development which looks forward to the time when the victory of socialism will unite all of them into one cooperative community founded on equality. The grandeur of the conception underlying this book is breath-taking. It could only have been conceived by a Marxist. It is amazing to consider that a man who has been involved in the most severe daily struggles for a decade has been able to perform the gargantuan research and strenuous thought that the writing of this book demanded. Foster's *Outline Political History of the Americas* is the climax of his half-century of thought and action for the welfare of the working class and is therefore understandably a landmark in the writing of history in this hemisphere. The light that it sheds on the struggle of the exploited peoples of America is a logical outcome of his leadership of the working class of the United States and of all the Americas.

One incident of this man's life will stand out in the memory of thousands of Jewish men and women. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the *Morning Freiheit*, celebrated at Madison Square Garden in 1947. Foster had just returned from a visit to both Eastern and Western Europe. In the new democracies he had witnessed and personally confirmed once again the transformation of man and of nature that can take place under socialism. Foster spoke movingly of the deep changes in those countries, so long oppressed by fascist and feudal rulers. He told how anti-Semitism was being wiped out and of the new life opening up for the people of those lands.

At the close of his speech Foster related that he had gone to the area where the Warsaw ghetto had once stood and where nothing but rubble remained. No one, he said, could see this without vowing unending battle against the scourges of fascism and war that were responsible for this devastation. He opened a package at his side and revealed to the audience a rock fragment. I have brought this piece of rock from the ghetto, he said, and I present it to you as a reminder of the great fight for peace that we must wage. Keep it before you as a reminder that a new Warsaw is rising and that socialism will put an end forever to hatred, persecution, inequality and oppression of man by man.

These words return to us on this occasion of Foster's seventieth birthday. For the deepest hopes of this man are with the cause of the people; he has no greater wish than that all men and women should join more strenuously and militantly in the struggle to save the peace.

POLITICS OF THE NEGRO FILM CYCLE

^{*}
By John Pittman

NUMEROUS parallels between the strategy and tactics of German imperialism during the Hitler period and of Wall Street imperialism at the present time are becoming increasingly apparent. But none more clearly expose the inherent imperialist tendency to world war and the subjection of peoples, to brutality as an end in itself and to a cold-blooded policy of genocide, than the parallels which relate to the treatment of small, weak or dependent nations, or of national and religious minorities.

Of these, especially pertinent is the parallel between the nazis' hoax of a "New Order" in Europe, which they claimed would fulfill the needs and aspirations of all peoples for peace, freedom and material well-being, and Wall Street's pretensions—voiced by its political spokesmen of both old parties—to "defense" of a so-called "Free World," whose characteristics are represented as being peace, liberty and security. Goebbels and his propagandists fabricated an entire system of ideas, attitudes and viewpoints to bolster the nazi hoax; Wall Street's Washington politicians and their monopoly-coordinated communication media—coordinated as efficiently as were the German mass communication media under the nazis—shore up their "Free World" fraud with an even more elaborate system of ideas, attitudes and viewpoints.

In both systems of ideologies and artistic productions, one concept is central. This is racism—a distinctive body of bourgeois irrationality and obscurantism. It asserts the superiority and inferiority of different peoples. It declares the right of "superior peoples" to rule over and live at the expense of "inferior peoples." In nazi ideology, the "superior people" were "Nordics," "Aryans"; in the ideology of United States imperialism, the "superiors" are primarily the white people, as distinguished from colored peoples, such as Negroes, Indians, Spanish-Americans; and Anglo-Saxons, as distinguished from Italian, Jewish or Slavic Americans.

Today, even the politically naive understand that the nazi "New Order" and its system of supporting ideas were but devices for corrupting the German people, for deceiving and disarming the peoples of neighboring countries, as preliminary steps toward making the German people accomplices of the nazis, destroying the national independence of Germany's neighbors, plunging the world into war and carrying through a program of mass physical extermination of entire populations. And it is also clear today that what began with the racist propaganda against the Jewish people,

ended in the attempt to exterminate not only the Jewish people, but all other peoples designated as "inferior."

The Hitler Parallel Is Unfolding

Fortunately for all of us, the parallel has not yet fully unfolded in the United States. There are no Maidenecks, Buchenwalds, or Dachaus in this country—yet! It is true that the goal of the United States billionaires' drive to war and fascism has not yet been attained by them. But some people deny even the possibility of its attainment. Such people proceed blithely about their affairs, perhaps mindful of the Hitler period, but refusing to relate it to the conditions of life in present-day United States. And many such people have absorbed and now preach and practice the Wall Street variant of Hitler's racist ideology, namely, the ideas, attitudes and viewpoints of white supremacy.

These people seem not ever to have considered that what exists today as racist propaganda and persecution against colored peoples, specifically against the Negro people, can become—if its very source is not controlled and subordinated to the welfare of the peoples inside the United States and outside—another attempt to exterminate not only colored peoples, such as is happening in Korea today, but also all peoples whom the "Anglo-Saxon" billionaires in Wall Street regard as "inferior," or whose possessions certain of these billionaires may covet. For example, General Douglas MacArthur recently told Hearst reporter Bob Considine that "the truly momentous event" of this era was "the bringing by the vital and wonderful United States of America, of Anglo-Saxon civilization to Asia, through Japan."

To warn such people as these, to strip the blinders from their eyes and show them that they can save themselves not by living in the opium-dream of "it-can't-happen-here," not by parroting the words and aping the practices of the white supremacists, but by joining the struggle against this racist poison, the struggle against the sources of this poison in the system of national oppression—this is a life-saving function, a peace-saving and freedom-saving function. Whoever does this for any man is indeed this man's friend.

Racist Root of Reaction

In the sense of performing these life-saving, peace-saving and freedom-saving functions, V. J. Jerome, the editor of *Political Affairs*, theoretical organ of the Communist Party, chairman of the National Cultural Commission of the

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Communist Party and the author of the recent book, *Culture in a Changing World*, has proven himself a friend to many men and women in the United States today. His recent pamphlet, *The Negro in Hollywood Films* (New Century, New York, \$.25), lifts the mask from Wall Street's attempt to sell its own version of racism, streamlined to meet the present conditions in which the United States billionaires have embarked on their program for world conquest. Its service in doing this is, of course, eminently useful to the Negro people, who also are not immune to the blandishments and ideological sleight-of-hand of Wall Street's stage magicians. However, if the Negro people are not immune, they are a great deal less susceptible to such racist hokuspokus, especially since it directly refers to them. The greater usefulness of Jerome's pamphlet, therefore, is for those persons in the United States who are already infected with racism and who either do not realize or do not wish to realize that whoever utters racist nonsense, and whoever abets or acquiesces in racist practices, becomes himself a victim of racism and inevitably reaps a share of the harvest sown by racism.

No single section of the people of the United States demonstrate in their material, social and psychological conditions the truth of this more strikingly than the masses of *white working men and women* in the Black Belt of the United States. These people can be said to be as much the victims of racism as the Negroes against whom racist ideologies and practices are primarily directed. But it is these very whites who are disfranchised, exploited, suffer the highest sickness and death rate, have the lowest literacy, the lowest living, housing and working conditions in the United States—excepting the Negroes amongst whom they live. More, the tentacles of Negro oppression in this Black Belt stretch into the homes of white people in Brooklyn, Seattle, Milwaukee, Los Angeles. There is no escaping the present tax, price and rent gouge which is causing wholesale malnutrition among the children of the country; nor the current witchhunt against outspoken advocates of peace; nor the frantic drive to war and fascism. Yet, this entire climate of war preparations and repression, of pillaging the earnings and savings of the working millions of the people of the United States, is directly related to the power in the government of a clique of politicians from the Black Belt, uniting with their spiritual comrades from the rest of the country. This clique holds power unconstitutionally by dint of fraud and force against the Negro people, by dint of racist practices, the mainstay of the national oppression of the Negro people. Truly, racism against a Negro anywhere in the United States boomerangs many times against white people everywhere in the United States.

Cycle of Films on the Negro

Jerome has laid bare this system of inter-connecting consequences of racism in the United States. And he has done it by utilizing the method of Marxist criticism in respect to the recent output of the imperialists' most im-

portant mass communication medium, the motion picture industry. He has reviewed and analyzed the films *Pinky*, *Home of the Brave*, *Lost Boundaries* and *Intruder in the Dust*. He has extracted from these films their hard core of political and social ideology, related this ideological core to the conditions and needs in which Wall Street pursues its program toward world domination, and shown the significance of these ideas to the present urgent interest of all the people of the United States in peace.

Marxist criticism, of course, is the sole scalpel by which such a health-giving operation could have been performed. For only the method and science of Marxism, in approaching the reality of economic and political relations through the ideological or artistic reflection of these relations, is able to perceive the often involuted and deceptive character of the reflection and to understand the cause of this. For the imperialist bourgeoisie is compelled to deny the existence of reality or to conceal or distort its meaning when it is no longer possible to deny it. Hence, the ideologies and art-forms of the bourgeoisie generally falsify or deny economic and social reality.

In specific relation to its system of national oppression of the Negro people, the bourgeoisie today attempts to deny the existence of the national character of this oppression, and to portray the facts of oppression which cannot be denied as rapidly vanishing survivals of past *beliefs* and *ideas*, as passing remnants of *prejudices* in the minds of *Negroes* and *poor whites*. Such prejudices, moreover, are represented as in no way attributable to the bourgeoisie and its system of national oppression. They are made to appear to exist in thin air. And along with this, the bourgeoisie paints the picture of their eventual disappearance, gradually, slowly, by the painless unfoldment and realization of "American democracy."

Bourgeois Tactics on Negro Question

The bourgeoisie is constrained to do this by two compulsions. First and most important is the compulsion generated by the Negro people's liberation movement—a movement clashing at every turn with the billionaires' drive to war and fascism. The growing militancy of this movement reinforces and advances the entire struggle for peace and democracy. It challenges the billionaires at the very seat of their power and super-profits. And this challenge has far-reaching effects on the international aims and propaganda of Wall Street and Washington. Hence, that section of Wall Street controlling the film industry is forced to register the importance of this challenge. And it does this by sometimes portraying Negroes with dignity and avoiding the old stereotypes of buffoons and ne'er-do-wells which were the principal type-portraits of Negroes in earlier films.

The other compulsion is the bourgeoisie's own tactical considerations. By making concessions on small things, on the portrayal of certain Negro characters for instance, it tries to facilitate the reception of its main, ideological message implicit in the entire film. It thus uses tactical

concessions to further its main strategy, as we shall see later in Jerome's own words. So that the total impact of the films substantiates the bourgeoisie's claim that prejudices are gradually disappearing from life in the United States through the realization of democracy.

Such a falsified picture of today's reality, intended to disarm not only the Negro people but also the white people of the United States (the pictures were made primarily for white audiences), is torn to shreds by Jerome's analysis. "The treatment of Negro themes and characters by Hollywood during the past 50 years," he writes, "has borne a clear relationship to the concrete political program of monopoly capital in each successive period. Each phase of Hollywood policy in this regard must be considered in the frame of reference of the particular stage of the Negro people's movement and of its alliance with the American working class."

Jerome's Thesis

Jerome's conclusions concerning Wall Street's objectives for these films in the present period are a good summary of his conclusions. Here they are:

"While making certain concessions on the screen, designed to 'adjust' to the Negro people's forward movement, the controlling interests have sought tenaciously to retain the cliches and discriminations of the past in one form or another. *These concessions, being tactical in character, have always been utilized by monopoly capital with a view to furthering and strengthening its basic strategy.* The objective of that strategy is to perpetuate the odious myth of 'white supremacy' in order to hold back the developing labor-Negro alliance for the common struggle against fascism and imperialist war; to weaken the fight of the trade unions and white progressives for a Fair Employment Practices Commission bill, for the abolition of the poll tax and for the outlawry of lynching; to prevent the organization and the full integration of the Negro workers into the trade unions, in order to hamper the unification of the white and Negro workers in a powerful American labor movement. It is the objective of that strategy, at all times, to undermine the movement of the Negro people and to prevent it from developing its full force, and to keep the Negro people from understanding the true basis and nature of their oppression. The objective is to keep them from understanding that the lynch law and Jimcrow discrimination and segregation are inspired by Wall Street and Southern landlord reaction.

"The objective is, furthermore, to keep from the Negro people the scientific teachings of the Communist Party that their oppression is *national* in essence, and that their struggle is fundamentally a struggle for national liberation.

"Finally, it is the objective of that strategy to weaken the ties of the Negro people with the white workers and other popular allies and thereby to retard the general working class struggle for emancipation from capitalism. It is the aim of that strategy to isolate the Negro people's move-

ment and rob it of self confidence, thus to prevent the Negro people from taking the anti-imperialist road to national liberation."

If, therefore, such objectives of United States imperialism are today being furthered by the ideological and artistic production of the monopoly-coordinated media of mass communication, is it not clear that the billionaires' weapon of racism is being utilized against white people of the United States as well as against Negroes? This special emphasis has been stated by Jerome throughout the pamphlet, but not enough, and the inadequacy here constitutes, in this reviewer's opinion, the sole weakness of the work. However, that the films were made, not for the limited audiences of the movie houses in the Negro ghettos, but for the predominantly white audiences of the entire United States, shows that the real target of Wall Street's streamlined racist poison is the white population. And the fact that Jerome has singled out for analysis this art form of the imperialist, war-bent United States bourgeoisie, makes the message of his pamphlet of direct interest to white movie audiences. Such analyses, using the weapons of Marxist criticism, are required for all the other art forms. And Jerome's work can be said to be a sound model for such efforts.

The Negro in Hollywood Films, I believe, states an all-important truth today—a truth as vital to the interests of the white people of the United States as to those of the Negro people. It is that today, peace is a life-or-death matter for every man, woman and child; and that peace and the freedom of the Negro people are indivisible. To win either, it is necessary to fight for both.

Democracy in Poland

THE conception of democracy prevailing in the new Poland was set forth in January by Zlyniew Byrske, Polish consul, at a panel discussion participated in also by the consuls of France, Italy and Canada at Wayne University in Detroit.

"I admit," said Mr. Byrske, "that we have to limit freedom in Poland. In the old Poland before the war anti-Semitism was very strong among some groups. National hatred between Poles and Ukrainians and Byelorussians was also quite strong. In Poland today the freedom of raising racial and religious hatred has been liquidated." The Polish consul also pointed out that equality in a socialist country means "there should be no economic dependence of one man on another. Poland is building toward a goal where economic goods will be distributed from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." Regarding the question of unemployment, the Polish consul said that there was no unemployment in Poland and, in fact, that there was a labor shortage. He pointed out that there is complete freedom of religion in Poland but that the special privileges which the Catholic Church enjoyed before the war have been taken away.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN BOSTON

by Robert Maynard

ANTI-SEMITISM is not new to Boston. But in today's supercharged atmosphere of war preparations and support of fascist elements on a world scale, anti-Semitism is on the increase there. The city's anti-Semitic potentialities had already become evident in the 1930's, when Coughlinite elements among the Irish were stimulated by anti-Semitic literature financed by pro-Nazi business and financial interests. The fact that areas of heavy Irish and Jewish population lay side by side in the Dorchester and Hyde Park sections was a further stimulus for these elements.

During the war years anti-Semitic attacks became so violent and widespread that a New York City journalist investigated in order to blow the lid off the stinking mess. The lid had been held down by the combined efforts of the state and city authorities, the press and Jewish community leaders. On October 18, 1943, Massachusetts Governor Leverett Saltonstall angrily ordered the journalist from the State House following the appearance of his article exposing the mounting wave of anti-Semitic violence in Boston. The articles, said the governor (now a senator), were "stinking." Looking down from the eminence of his social and political position, the millionaire Brahmin found that conditions in the Commonwealth were "good, from a religious and racial point of view," and that "everyone is working well together."

This action, however, broke the virtual conspiracy of silence that existed among the newspapers, public officials and Jewish community leaders. Rabbi Samuel I. Korff, of the Dorchester area, said the next day that anti-Semitic violence had persisted in that area since early in 1941. In a vain effort to end the outbreaks, he said, a committee of Protestant, Jewish and Catholic clergy had been working quietly "for fear of stirring up trouble."

Ineffectual Action in 1943

Thereupon the governor ordered an immediate investigation by John F. Stokes, state commissioner of public safety.

Stokes' report on November 10, 1943 and ensuing developments uncovered a shocking condition of anti-Semitism and neglect of duty among the police, unhampered and widespread dissemination of anti-Semitic literature, failure of police even to report known cases of attacks on Jews and Jewish-owned property, police intervention on the side of anti-Semites and police brutality against Jews. All this had brought no public protest except by progressive organ-

izations in the Jewish community. The press and public officials, including Mayor (now United States Secretary of Labor) Maurice Tobin, had laid a blanket of censorship and silence over the mess.

On November 26 the governor removed Boston Police Commissioner Joseph Timilty under pressure from Attorney General Robert Bushnell. Timilty was replaced by the present commissioner, Thomas Sullivan. On the day he was appointed Sullivan belittled the anti-Semitic rioting as "kid stuff," adding that "I think a couple of officers from another division, working in plain clothes, could stop most of it." But the commissioner took no note of what everyone in Boston knew: that the anti-Semitic Coughlinite-inspired rioters came mostly from Irish Catholics in nearby wards.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League was charging that anti-Semitic literature was being spread "in increasing volume" and the local American Jewish Congress chapter bemoaned the fact that "the community has not decried this threat to our country nor taken any action to meet it."

But that was all.

To this day no effective action has been taken by public officials or community leaders to remedy the situation. The police department did not even discipline any of its men guilty of aiding the anti-Semitic rioters. One police officer was sent to Harvard to take a course in "group tensions." On his return to regular duty, he found his fellow officers so uncooperative, that he resigned to take a job with the state FEPC.

Climax in October

Anti-Semitism continued to flourish in the post-war years and received new impetus after the Korean war broke out. Every anti-Semite in Boston, as well as in western Germany, began to feel the United States government was his friend. Since the end of the war, anti-Semitic violence in Dorchester has centered around the Hecht Neighborhood House, a Jewish community center. Developments at the end of October 1950, brought the situation to wide public notice. The chronology of these events reveals the complete pattern of police support for anti-Semitic rioting, government apathy and the impotence of Jewish organizations, whose stated purpose is to combat such conditions.

October 26. Three young hoodlums, apparently under the influence of liquor, were ejected from Hecht House after creating a disturbance and shouting anti-Semitic remarks. Edward Disman, executive director of Hecht

House, asked the police for adequate protection. *The police told him that the Hecht House young men should protect themselves.*

October 31. Gangs set upon three young men approaching Hecht House, bashing in the face of one with a tire chain, striking the legs of the second with a baseball bat and beating the third with an iron pipe. Soon afterward that evening, a large gang from the Hyde Park section of Boston assembled on the Hecht House grounds, obviously bent on trouble. Police reinforcements were demanded. On their arrival they dispersed the gang but arrested or detained no one.

November 2. Hecht House workers were warned of possible trouble this night. They again demanded additional police protection. Several cars filled with young men from other parts of the city cruised past Hecht House but apparently were deterred by the presence of police. Again the police made no move to intercept the cars. Remembering the police suggestion that the Hecht House young men should "protect themselves," a group of young men from the Dorchester area set off in cars for the Hyde Park section to search for the hoodlums.

Police did not attempt to intercept the cars along the way or disperse them when they arrived in downtown Hyde Park. Instead, the police, with drawn pistols, arrested 25 of them, pushed them into station wagons and took them to the police station. The police made much of the fact that in one of the cars they found an unloaded, rusty war souvenir pistol with the firing pin missing. The 25 young men were charged with "participating in an affray"—although no violence had taken place—and seven of them with possession of a weapon.

On this same evening, two young men were accosted by police in the Dorchester section, insulted with anti-Semitic epithets and struck in the face by one of the officers. A clerk of court refused to issue a complaint against one police officer when so requested by one of the youths.

People Demand Action

November 6. The first public conference on the incidents was held on the initiative of progressive people in the Jewish community. It was called in reaction to the hush-hush policy of the official Jewish organizations, which had been trying to prevent any public discussion. The Jewish agencies tried to sabotage the meeting, which, nevertheless, drew an attendance of about 100. This meeting and another held on November 8 agreed upon a general program of the following:

- 1) A petition campaign for withdrawal of the police charges;
- 2) a large "open hearing" to which Police Commissioner Thomas Sullivan would be invited to hear local grievances on police behavior;
- 3) conferences of religious leaders;
- 4) conferences with school committees and school principals to develop an intensive intercultural education program in the schools;
- 5) creation by city ordinance of a commission to train police and teachers, search out tension

areas and develop night-time recreational facilities.

The head of the lawyers' committee for the Jewish Community Council attended one of these meetings. He refused to participate in the discussion, but after the meeting he publicly denounced the conference program as irresponsible.

November 21. More than 600 persons crowded Jeremiah Burke High School for the "open hearing" planned by the November 6 conference and sponsored by the FDR Chapter, American Veterans Committee. Preceding the open hearing, however, the Jewish Community Council and some of its affiliates did everything possible to sabotage the hearing. It tried to get AVC to call off the hearing; it urged people not to attend; it warned the families of the young men who had been arrested to accept no aid or legal aid from anyone other than the council. The Anti-Defamation League sent a letter to its membership urging them to report any information to the ADL office and to refuse to participate in any activity sponsored by "irresponsible" groups. The *Jewish Advocate* published an editorial assailing "rumormongering" and urged a "dispassionate" approach to the problem of the "incidents."

Former State Representative Daniel Rudsten, who had himself been physically assaulted by anti-Semites during his election campaign, praised Police Captain Graham and his lieutenants and said the trouble was due to "the few policemen who themselves beat up and manhandle Jewish youths under the protection of their uniforms and who are then protected by court officials who refuse to swear out complaints against them. These officers should be transferred from this area."

Boston Mayor John B. Hynes publicly revealed he was "disturbed" by the events. But the only public official to sit on the platform at the open hearing was City Councillor Julius Ansell. The Irish mayor sent his Jewish assistant corporation counsel. Police Commissioner Sullivan sent a Jewish police officer in plain clothes. Apparently intimidated by the attitude of the Jewish Community Council, the three state representatives from Dorchester sat in the audience but did not participate. Councillor Ansell delivered a plea for a disciplined and unemotional attitude. The assistant corporation counsel said the mayor was going to create a commission on inter-group relations.

The audience, however, was in a different mood. It was visibly angered by failure of the police commissioner or Captain Graham to show up. It cheered demands for a police department shake-up after hearing reports of at least a dozen other anti-Semitic outbreaks immediately preceding the October 31 attack.

Aftermath

November 27. The Jewish Community Council continued its behind-the-scenes maneuverings and on this date held a conference attended only by a selected group of 350 people to whom invitations had been sent. These invited were presidents of all Jewish clubs, societies, chapters, posts, lodges, trade unions, etc., as well as all rabbis and members

of the boards of the YMHA and Hecht House. But only 40 persons came to the meeting. They heard a report concerning all the conferences the council had held with public officials, from Governor Paul Dever down. The conference urged increased police cooperation and expanded recreational facilities.

To this factual record we add a few postscripts.

1. The Boston police sent a Jewish police sergeant to Harvard to take a course in "group tensions." (Shades of 1943!)

2. On January 5 charges were dropped against 18 of the youth arrested in Hyde Park. The seven, in whose car the unloaded, rusty pistol was found, will be left for six more months with the case hanging over their heads. But no arrests were made of any of the hoodlums who had attacked Jewish youths.

3. The Boston School Committee on January 28 passed over Isadore Muchnick, its ranking member, and elected as chairman Mrs. Kathleen Ryan Dacey, who was attending her first meeting. The *Jewish Advocate* editorialized that this "stench bomb" had "horrible implications" for the majority of the persons elected "to frame the policies of a school system entrusted with moulding the minds and characters of our youth." Somewhat timidly, the *Advocate* editorial ended with the question, "Why was Mr. Muchnick by-passed?"

When all the facts in the Hecht House case are taken into account, certain conclusions can be drawn.

The jingoistic, pro-war policy pursued by the Truman administration has encouraged national chauvinism, contempt for other peoples, particularly Negroes and Asians. This attitude is easily turned against all minorities, especially Negroes in this country and Jews. The American alliance with fascist forces all over the world encourages anti-Semites here at home.

Enactment of repressive legislation at home, such as the McCarran law and the new "little Dies" committee in Massachusetts, has intimidated the "respectable" leaders and organizations in the Jewish community. In the Hecht House case, even the Frances Sweeney Committee (local branch of the Friends of Democracy) collapsed under pressure and dropped support for the "open hearing." No Jewish labor leader spoke up.

The press and the police, who have proved to be obedient to the financial and industrial interests who control the community, have rendered effective aid to the anti-Semites—the first by careful censorship of the news and the second by active participation. The courts, too, did their part in support of the anti-Semites. The "respectable" Jewish community leaders, who themselves have political and financial ties with these reactionary interests, would not break these ties or even strain them by making a real fight.

The educational system, to say nothing of the churches, has done nothing to promote intercultural understanding. It is a fact that the two forces exerting major control over the educational system are the banking-industrial groups and the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. The

close tie-up between the two in this situation is shown by the fact that the big money in Massachusetts provided the funds to elect to state-wide office a complete slate of Irish Catholics, an Irish Catholic mayor and an Irish Catholic majority on the Boston School Committee.

Despite the pressures of the "respectable" Jewish organizations and leaders of the community, who urged that nothing at all "militant" be done, the rank and file of the Jewish community reacted favorably to the vigorous campaign of the progressive leaders in the area—as illustrated by their attendance and attitude at the "open hearing." Many people have learned from recent events that the hush-hush policy can bring no gains against such a powerful foe; that only a united effort based on a program of effective, positive action against the anti-Semites and those who tolerate and encourage them can bring any change.

Why Asians Distrust the West

THERE has been much, and often derogatory, talk about the so-called Complex, Inscrutable Indian Mind, or the Asian mind in general. Yet it is no more complex than any other mind, once there is the will to understand it. And secondly, how could it be anything but different. Why should we all think in the same way as Westerners? Why should we be judged by Western standards? What is so sacrosanct about them?

We don't judge the West by our Eastern standards and condemn it. We accept it for what it is worth and as it is. The West's very insistence that it would measure us by its particular yardstick puts our back up and makes us suspect Western professions and motives, makes us fear the West is trying to impose its will on us, the people of the East. . . .

There are dangers, however, which it would be foolish to ignore. First of all, the democracy which the Indian mind sees in the West holds out little hope for the colored man. Western democracy today has a double standard, one for the white man and another for the colored.

As we see it, the West has always looked upon the East as a region tenanted by lesser human beings, who should be satisfied with lesser standards of life, as a region to be exploited for the benefit of the white man. . . .

It is also the Indian and the Asian belief that Asian lives are held cheap by the West. This belief took deeper root when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Somehow, bitter memories prevent the Indian mind from accepting at face value the excuse that the A-Bomb was not dropped on Germany merely because it wasn't ready in time. . . .

Of all the Eastern people (I advisedly avoid the word "Oriental" for in recent times it has taken on an unsavory meaning) the Indian is most sensitive to this vexed question of Color. This is why he is prone to judge the United States by her treatment of her Negro population. Tell the Indian about the finer aspects of life in the United States and he will agree with you. But invariably the question will follow: "What sort of democracy is it which treats its Negroes that way?"

K. BALARAMAN, *New York correspondent of The Hindu, Madras, in United Nations World*

Letters from Abroad

ISRAEL AND A MIDDLE EASTERN BLOC

By Esther Vilenska

Tel Aviv

Two parallel roads have opened up for Israel and the whole Middle East. Both roads lead to the formation of a Middle Eastern Anglo-American bloc and the start of a third world war. One road leads to open militarization and rearmament of the whole Middle East, the other to economic mobilization that would pave the way for drawing Israel completely into the bloc of the aggressor nations. Economic mobilization is designed to convince people that only by permitting the establishment of strategic bases throughout Israel can economic crisis be averted.

Constant maneuvering is going on in Israel to steer public opinion in the direction of an anti-Soviet orientation. The demand of the left groups in the Knesset, the Communists and Mapam, that the Israeli government protest the decision of the Brussels conference to rearm Germany, was rejected on the ground that "East Germany is also rearming." With such arguments it is hoped to justify the rebuilding of nazism by the United States and Britain, as well as to convince the Israelis that the Soviet Union—which is cleansing East Germany of fascism—is a partner in the rebirth of nazism.

See, then, this tragic paradox: the government of a Jewish state tolerates the rebuilding of German fascism, which murdered six million Jews.

This reluctance to protest the rebirth of fascism, which destroyed one-third of the Jewish people, is part of the plan to indoctrinate the people of Israel with the orientation of the Mapai-middle class anti-Soviet coalition. Ben Gurion's disgusting statement that the question of the rebuilding of German fascism is "out of our hands" is a would-be whitewash of the criminal Brussels agreement. This is treason, deliberate betrayal disguised as helplessness.

Up to now, American, British and Middle Eastern diplomats were only preparing the stage. But in recent weeks they have gone ahead full blast. Three important facts bear this out. First, a division of labor is carefully being planned and coordinated so that the United States and Britain are assigned respective spheres of

activity. While the United States carries the burden in Korea and West Germany, Britain takes care of anti-Soviet activity in the Middle East. In the second place, intensive official negotiations are going on toward formation of a Middle Eastern anti-Soviet military alliance. And in the third place, the British are making official and unofficial efforts to draw the Middle Eastern countries (including Israel) into an anti-Soviet bloc.

Negotiations for a Middle Eastern military alliance are proceeding among Israel, the Arab countries, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy. In the last few weeks the foreign ministers of Lebanon and Syria have visited Turkey for talks on so-called "Middle Eastern defense problems." Turkey and Greece have conducted discussions. On orders from Washington a close rapprochement is being developed between Tito and the Greek fascist regime. The Italian foreign minister has publicly proposed a Middle Eastern bloc to include Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Italy, and this was followed by a visit of Greek Prime Minister Venizelos to Egypt. An Israeli representative carried on discussions in Turkey at the same time that Ben Gurion was negotiating in Greece.

Although Israel has not yet signed peace treaties with the Arab countries, the United States and Britain are trying to smooth over differences between them so as to facilitate inclusion of all these countries into one bloc. These talks are not in contradiction with Anglo-Transjordanian provocations against Israel. The latter are maneuvers carried out to afford the Arab and Israeli leaders an excuse to rearm on the ground that they must be prepared to defend themselves against one another,

while Britain controls the situation at both ends.

The Middle Eastern bloc is to be allied with the North Atlantic Pact nations. The shores and islands of the Mediterranean, the ports of that sea and the Suez Canal are all strategic outposts for an attack on the people's democracies and the Soviet Union. The military negotiations in the Middle East and the Anglo-Egyptian talks concerning withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal are intended to give weight to official declarations of peaceful and friendly intentions by Ben Gurion and Bevin. The series of visits to Britain of Israeli parliamentary delegations, journalists and Histadrut delegations are not accidental. They are an organic part of a plan to prepare Israel for a military tie-up with British imperialism.

The economic policy of the Israeli government has from the very beginning aimed to subject the economy to the needs of the Anglo-American imperialist war drive. The Ben Gurion government has tried to convince the people of Israel that the only hope for Israel's economy is subservience to the United States. The Ben Gurion government is systematically starving the population by spreading phony slogans of *Tzema* ("the austerity plan"), by flooding the country with unessential imports, by a deliberate restriction on native industries and by encouraging inflation. Ben Gurion has been deliberately creating an atmosphere of crisis, in order to make it appear that reliance on the Anglo-American military bloc is the only solution.

The imperialists are making plans to build military bases all over the Middle East. At the same time, the American and Israeli press are joining in the ever louder chorus demanding that Israel immediately identify itself with the Western powers.

The anti-Soviet aims of Anglo-American military preparations can be clearly understood in the light of their intensive anti-Soviet propaganda and their absolute control over all military bases in the capitalist world. The anti-Soviet, anti-Israel

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and anti-Semitic goal of the Middle Eastern-Atlantic bloc is obvious. For experience has shown that *attacks on the Soviet Union are always accompanied by attacks on the freedom of peoples whose countries lie on the road to the Soviet Union. Experience has proved that the Nazi attack against the Soviet Union transformed itself into an all out attack against all the European peoples.*

The reactionary press is deliberately and systematically creating an atmosphere of hysteria by raising up a specter of so-called "Soviet imperialism." This is the excuse for the imperialist powers to be allowed to spread their sheltering wings over helpless Israel. But if Israel enters a Middle Eastern military bloc, certain inevitable results must follow. The Israeli army will be at the beck and call of the Anglo-American high command, which

is collaborating with Nazis. Israel will lose every shred of military and political independence. If the warmakers succeed, our cities will be destroyed.

The fact that British military forces stand at our borders does not make it necessary to capitulate to the ultimata of foreign imperialist circles. On the contrary, the presence of foreign imperialist forces at our gates demands that the Israeli nation take a patriotic stand and oppose attempts to drag it into an anti-Soviet bloc which is inherently also an anti-Israel bloc.

The people of Israel desire a policy of independence and resistance to every imperialist pressure. The people of Israel will never join a common front with the warmakers. They will have no part of any anti-Soviet aggression. They want no partnership with nazism, no partnership with the murderers of the Jewish people.

(Trans. from the Yiddish by Nat Green)

the program of the ruling class in socialist phrases. The ordinary demagoguery by which the capitalist class appeals to and confuses the working class is good enough for American "social democrats," who merely echo the slogans about a "Fair Deal" or "Point Four" or a "national emergency" or "communist aggression."

But there was a time when the mass of the members of the ILGWU were inspired by socialist ideals and fought their heroic, historic strike struggles not only under the banner of the improvement of their immediate working conditions but also under the banner of socialism. Now all this is in the record of ILGWU conventions, in contemporaneous newspaper accounts and even in Louis Levine's official history, *The Women's Garment Workers*, published in 1924. Yet the new social democratic revision of their own union history required the obliteration of this element from the *News-History* under review.

From this elaborate volume one would never learn, for example, that at the 1902 ILGWU convention an amendment was passed barring Democrats and Republicans in public office from addressing conventions after the delegates had refused to listen to a non-socialist assemblyman who had been invited to address them; or that the 1903 convention resolved to recommend the study of the socialist movement to all members; or that the 1904 convention passed an amendment "to permit the discussion of socialism at the conventions of the ILGWU"; or that at the 1905 convention an open enemy of socialism was able to secure the passage of a resolution in support of the union label only by describing it as "the best means of emancipation of the working classes from the oppression of capitalism." All this and infinitely more of the same is omitted completely.

But we do find mention of the fact that Dubinsky, after 25 years of membership, resigned from the Socialist Party in 1936, partly because Norman Thomas was too close to the communists! Fittingly, the

Book Reviews

DISTORTED LABOR HISTORY

By Morris U. Schappes

ILGWU News-History, 1900-1950, The Story of the Ladies' Garment Workers, edited by Max D. Danish and Leon Stein. Published by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, New York. \$1.

The revision of history in the image of an ever more reactionary American monopoly ruling class continues apace.

Such a tendentious revision and obliteration of the past marks this official *News-History* of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, compiled by the editors of *Justice*, national organ of the union. Unless one knows the history of this union, one may not notice the omissions and revisions, since the form of the *News-History* seems to promise objectivity and truth. In its 120 pages, newspaper tabloid size, and its 500 pictures, there are of course many facts and a union member or general reader who merely flips the pages as he would those of a daily tabloid would find much that would interest him. And in the five pages given to the Triangle Fire of March 25, 1911, in which some 140 young workers were burned to death behind the locked doors of a garment factory in the upper stories of a "fireproof" building, the reader will find this gruesome crime against labor most fascinatingly and movingly reported in the contemporary press accounts.

Usually, however, the combination of newspaper clippings, excerpts from convention reports and magazine articles that makes up the contents of the pages is confusing in form, more useful to the journalist or historian, who will be glad to have some of this scattered material conveniently assembled, than to the general reader. The absence of editorial connective tissue makes consecutive reading difficult and therefore true historical understanding impossible.

From the omissions and revision of the union's history as presented in this compilation, however, there emerges a silhouette of a distinctive feature of American social democracy as distinguished from the European type. In European countries, the capitalist ruling classes infiltrate the labor movement by social democrats who bring ruling class ideas into the ranks of organized labor. But they try to disguise the class nature of these ideas by wrapping them up in the phrases of "socialism." With the workers wanting socialism, social democratic lieutenants of the capitalist class can "appeal" to workers and can fool them only by seeming to offer them socialism. An example of this classical European type of social democracy is the British Labor Party.

In the United States, however, the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class do not, at any rate today, have to try to wrap up

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first reference to socialists in this *News-History* occurs on page 33, where it is reported that in the 1910 cloakmakers' general strike of 60,000 in New York, the lawyer for the bosses, seeking an injunction, denounced the workers to the judge as "socialistic." In his preface, Dubinsky, secure in the belief that only a small portion of the present membership of 425,000 knows the real history of the garment workers, expresses his contempt for the workers themselves when he writes of the "pioneers . . . who rose from a docile mass of underprivileged labor . . . to found our . . . union." Docile the garment workers never were!

Having eliminated the mass socialist consciousness of the workers from their history, thus changing even the meaning of the mass strikes against the sweatshops, the editors of course wipe off the slate the record of hostility and resistance to the imperialist World War I. With Dubinsky spending millions of the workers' money to support the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan and the Atlantic Pact, as preparations for imperialist World War III, it follows that the editors of this history would not want to remind old-timers and inform the bulk of the newer members of the extensive garment workers' opposition to World War I.

These are but some of the cardinal sins of omission; sins of commission accumulate as the open anti-communist campaign unfolds. From the report of the

1925 convention on, direct falsification is heaped-upon omission to make a tower of misrepresentation. The turning point is the 1926 General Strike in New York; although the distortions in this account are too numerous to detail in a review, a couple should be noted. For instance, we are told this was practically a wild-cat strike forced upon an unwilling membership by "communists." As a matter of fact, at the Madison Square Garden meeting at which the strike vote was taken, Morris Sigman, then president of the ILGWU, Sidney Hillman of the Amalgamated and a representative of the AFL spoke in favor of the strike, William Green sent a telegram supporting it and the AFL convention officially endorsed it (see *New York Times*, June 30, 1926; *Justice*, July 16, 1926; *Proceedings*, 46th AFL Convention, pp. 94-95).

Then again this strike is described as a cataclysmic defeat for the workers and as responsible for the virtual collapse of the union, until 1933. In fact, after 26 weeks of bitter struggle, hampered in the latter months by the open sabotage of the top leaders of the ILGWU, the workers made a compromise settlement on terms better than those originally offered, including wage increases of \$4 to \$8 a week and other gains. It was the splitting of the union by the wholesale expulsion of entire locals in New York and elsewhere on charges of "communism" that left the right wing with only a shell of a union.

With the mass drives to organize the unorganized that the workers launched after the election of Roosevelt, new masses were brought into the ILGWU. The capitalist press is now full of hymns of praise to Dubinsky and the ILGWU for his "labor statesmanship." The Hearst press coos and purrs at the mention of Dubinsky and even the fascist-mouthed Pegler is struck dumb when Dubinsky swims into his ken. Yet it is the workers themselves who have to bear the high cost of Dubinskyism in their very pay envelopes. Consider that while left led unions were trying to overtake the soaring cost of living by winning third, fourth, and fifth rounds of wage increases, the ILGWU top leaders obligingly did not even raise a demand for a wage increase between March 1947 (when they won a seven and a half per cent raise) and November 1950!

Meantime, the Labor Department's price index had risen from 134 to 178, an increase of about 33 per cent. The actual dollar wages of the dress workers in New York (where the pay is highest) declined, and so did the hourly rate: the New York State Department of Labor reported that in May and June 1946, average weekly wages were \$67.33 or \$1.88 an hour and \$63.79 or \$1.82 an hour, respectively; in

May and June 1950, the average was \$62.17 or \$1.82 an hour and \$59.79 or \$1.79 an hour, respectively. To come up to his earning power of 1946, the worker would have had to demand an increase of about 35 per cent; the ILGWU asked for 15 per cent and in New York quickly settled in mid-December for an eight and a half per cent wage and pension package, while knitgoods workers in New York got only seven per cent, cloakmakers in Chicago only five per cent, sportswear workers in Boston only four per cent, dressmakers in Philadelphia only six and a half per cent, and so forth. And at that, rank and file workers complain that the union is far from alert in preventing the chiseling down of even these meager and belated gains. But of such matters there is no breath in this *News-History*.

Finally, attention must be called to the atmosphere of white superiority and national chauvinism that pervades this book. In the women's garment trades today, there are tens of thousands of Negro and Puerto Rican workers. These are ignored in the book, as their special problems are ignored in the union. There is no mention of a single Negro or Puerto Rican worker; not even Frank Crosswaith, Negro social democrat employed by the ILGWU to stifle the demands of the Negro garment workers, is mentioned. And on the national General Executive Board there are no Negroes and no Puerto Ricans—and only one woman in a union in which some 75 per cent of the membership are women! In this respect, as in others, the editors of this *News-History* truly reflect the theory and practise of American social democracy.

BRUTE FACTS ON THE FBI

By Albert E. Kahn

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, by Max Lowenthal. William Sloane, Inc., New York. \$4.50.

The reception accorded Max Lowenthal's *The Federal Bureau of Investigation* provides a measure of the book's importance. The nature of our culture is such that the headlines in the press are ordinarily reserved for such impressive events as bank robberies, air raids on "enemy" civilian populations and torso murders. The appearance of new books, no matter what may be their value or interest, is of course considered as being of very minor significance. Not so, however, in the case of Lowenthal's recent work. Immediately

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upon publication, the book became the subject of a heated national controversy. Not only book reviewers but also editors, columnists and radio commentators rushed into the agitated debate. In Washington horrified congressmen took the floor in both Houses to deliver fiery denunciations of the author. White House reporters eagerly sought an opinion of the book from the president himself (who, for once, remained discreetly silent).

Strangely enough, the book which created such an unprecedented furore bears little resemblance to the general concept of a sensational book. It is a scholarly, in fact rather dryly written work, replete with lengthy quotations from various public records and painstakingly documented with 82 pages of source notes. It contains no startling new revelations and by no stretch of the imagination can it be described as popular reading. Why then all the excitement?

The answer to that question is that *The Federal Bureau of Investigation* presents a compilation of factual material which incriminates the FBI and clearly establishes its character as a ruthless secret police agency. There was a time when such censure of this government body was not considered extraordinary. In August 1933, for example, an article in *Collier's* stated that J. Edgar Hoover was a "law and czar unto himself" in the FBI and that under his directorship it had become "a miniature American Cheka."

But today comment of this sort would be unthinkable in any widely circulated publication in this country. The FBI has become a sacrosanct institution. Questioning the constitutionality of its functions or the motivation of its chief is regarded as practically treason. The frenetic attacks on Lowenthal's book are in themselves evidence of the vastly influential role of the FBI in American life, of the widespread fear it commands and of the grim determination of those in high places to keep secret its sinister character. For if the facts in Lowenthal's book are not actually new, they have certainly been systematically kept for years from the American people.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation traces the history of the Bureau from its origin in 1908, when Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte—without the authorization of Congress—created the agency as a small federal detective force, until the present time, when the Bureau maintains an elaborate nationwide network of branch offices, employs a clerical and administrative personnel of 5,000 individuals and thousands more as secret operatives, operates on a yearly budget exceeding \$50,000,000 and retains on file the fingerprints of 112,000,000 Americans. ("They come from the crossroads of America," FBI chief

Hoover has proudly related regarding his fingerprint collection, "from the villages, from the towns, cities and metropolitan centers, to be concentrated in Washington, and there to form a vast cross-index.") Without editorializing, letting the facts speak for themselves and offering documentary evidence from irrefutable sources, Lowenthal draws up a damning indictment of the anti-democratic and frequently illegal practices of the Bureau during the four decades of its existence.

The major portion of the book deals with the infamous Palmer Raids, which were conducted by the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Investigation in 1919-1920 under the pretext of combatting a "Bolshevik plot to overthrow the U.S. Government." The wholesale arrests of some 10,000 innocent persons, the violent invasion of private homes without search warrants, the inordinately brutal treatment of prisoners, the forging of "incriminating documents," and the extortion of "confessions" by torture—these and other appalling crimes committed by the Federal authorities during the Palmer Raids vividly demonstrate that the Bureau of Investigation antedated the techniques of the Gestapo by more than a decade. In recent years J. Edgar Hoover has publicly declared that he had nothing to do with the Palmer Raids and that, indeed, he thoroughly disapproved of them; the fact, however, is that he played a key role in supervising the raids, as is amply proved in Lowenthal's book.

It is unfortunate that so much space is devoted by Lowenthal to the Palmer Raids that he is able to provide only a somewhat cursory and inadequate examination of the Bureau's subsequent record. There is, it is true, interesting material showing that the wartime operations of the FBI were far from impressive when it came to combatting enemy espionage and sabotage activities. On the other hand, Lowenthal neglects to deal with the utter failure of the Department of Justice and the FBI to counteract Axis operations and the machinations of native fascist fifth columnists in the pre-war years. For a proper evaluation of the FBI's record, it is essential to note that scores of pro-Axis, fascist, anti-Semitic and anti-Negro organizations were permitted to operate with complete impunity in this country up until Pearl Harbor (the FBI has consistently failed to act decisively in any case of lynching and anti-Negro brutality); and that even after America had entered the war, many of these organizations (including even the German-American Bund until the mid-summer of 1942) continued to function without any interference from the FBI.

The major weakness in *The Federal Bureau of Investigation* is that the author discusses the FBI as if it exists in a vacuum, that he does not study the relationship between its operations and other contemporary political events, that he fails to place its development within the framework of a definite historical period. Nor does he appraise the workings of the FBI in terms of its basic aims (as, for example, to help destroy the organized labor movement after World War I) or in terms of the effects of its actions (as, for example, the restoration of the open shop and the crippling of the progressive movement following the Palmer Raids). It happens to be impossible to understand the real significance of the FBI without recognizing that this secret police agency came into being and grew during the period of developing American imperialism and that it has achieved its zenith of power at a time when the United States government has embarked upon an aggressive war program.

The FBI today is a fascistic agency functioning as part of a government with increasingly fascistic tendencies. It is one thing to indicate, as does Lowenthal, that President Truman may have personal differences with J. Edgar Hoover; it is another and far more meaningful matter to record, as Lowenthal does not, that Truman initiated the "loyalty" program and has given his seal of approval to other fascist trends in our land.

Despite these shortcomings, however, *The Federal Bureau of Investigation* is a most valuable book and one that should serve as a warning signal to those Americans concerned with the preservation of democracy in this land.

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FROM THE FOUR CORNERS

(Continued from page 2)

Jewish Community Council in January after six months of hearings. The charge that these organizations were not "Jewish" was based on such "accusations" as their sponsorship of a concert by Paul Robeson.

PHI EPSILON PI, national Jewish fraternity, adopted a resolution in January affirming that membership "shall not be denied to anyone because of his race, his color or his religious beliefs." The fraternity had in October suspended the Connecticut chapter for pledging a Negro. This chapter received full support from the three New York chapters and those at Boston University and Tufts College, and the above resolution was the result of intense pressure on the national organization. The suspended chapter is now expected to be reinstated.

THE NEW YORK CITY Board of Education was charged by the Teachers Union on January 29 with continuation of the policy of approving textbooks which contain insulting and derogatory comments about racial and other minorities. Protests for some years on this matter have been largely ignored by the Superintendent of Schools and the 1951 list is practically the same as that for 1950. The union cited textbooks which contain such terms as "dago," "heeb," "fat black mummies," "nigger," "darky" and others.

"OLIVER TWIST," British film containing a vicious anti-Semitic stereotype, is being reconsidered for approval by the Production Code Authority of the Motion Pictures Association. It has been suggested that the film might be approved with some cutting. The National Conference of Christians and Jews, whose staff previewed the film, did not think that the film was "as serious" as some might think, and agreed that the film might be shown with certain cutting. It has been pointed out that it would be impossible to cut out the offending figure of Fagin, who is central to the film. Continued pressure is necessary to prevent release of the film.

THIRD ANNUAL observance of Jewish History Week is set for May 6-12 this year.

EUROPE

HUNGARIAN JEWS who emigrated to Israel are returning to Hungary in great numbers, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Budapest dated December 27. "The number of Hungarian Jews, who left for Israel and who returned, is surprisingly high," says the dispatch. "The government provided those who came back with transportation, clothing and food." Returning Jews explained that they had gone to Israel because of "Zionist deception."

NOTES ON FRENCH RESISTANCE . . . Over 1,000 students demonstrated despite police attacks in Paris' Latin Quarter on January 13 in commemoration of the publication of Zola's *J'accuse* (published in 1898 on the Dreyfus case). The demonstration became one against anti-Semitism and fascism today and united broad sections of French student youth, including the Jewish Student Union of France, Student Committee of the Christian Progressive Union, Liaison Committee of Anti-Colonialist Students, Union of French Republican Youth students, Communist Party

students, Socialist Party students, MRP students, and Socialist students, among others . . . Jewish organized life in France is unanimous in condemning German rearmament. . . . Three organizations of French Jewish war veterans and Jewish war victims have brought a libel suit against the anti-Semitic French weekly, *Aspects de la France*. Pro-fascist lawyers for the weekly held in court that the Jewish veterans "have no legal right to sue a French paper because they are foreigners." . . . The Representative Council of the Jews of France, French Jewry's supreme representative body, appealed to the French government in January to combat Nazi propaganda and specifically asked that all Nazi films in the custody of the French government should be destroyed, rather than made available to fascist groups, as was done recently with the anti-Semitic film *Jew Sues*.

NEO-NAZI STUDENTS at Innsbruck in Austria broke up a film show organized in January by the Jewish community of the town, despite the presence of police. Local movie houses had refused to show the film, which was directed against anti-Semitism.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS against Judge H. Kettner, who was suspended a few months ago for making anti-Semitic statements in court, were dropped early in February by the Wurtemberg ministry of justice. The judge had remarked that it made no difference to him whether a defendant is "a former Gauleiter or had thrice unsuccessfully gassed a rabbi." While the ministry of justice held that such a statement was "a serious mistake if committed by a judge," it held that it had been made to keep litigants to the issues of the case and that it had not been proved that the remark was "prompted by an anti-Semitic attitude."

GINO BARDI, former secretary of the Italian Fascist Party, who was sentenced in 1947 to 22 years in prison, was released in January as a result of an amnesty recently granted by the authorities.

BRITISH OCCUPATION authorities refused in January to extradite Nazi war criminal Heinz Reinefahrt to Poland. Reinefahrt, a former police general and SS-Gruppenfuhrer, is said to have been given the rank of advisor in the newly-formed West German security police by Walde-mar Kraft, prime minister of Schleswig-Holstein.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL of the Jews of Germany in January protested plans to stay execution of 20-odd Nazi war criminals, pointing out that the mass murderers "have no right to mercy."

TWO OF GOEBBELS' chief collaborators in the film industry are coming back to power in West Germany films, it was reported in January. Oswald Cammann, Nazi film chief from 1939 to 1943, now has a key position in the West Berlin film industry. Veit Harlan, producer of the anti-Semitic film *Jew Sues*, has just completed a film and is trying to overcome a boycott against public showing. Protests and picketing are being carried on against showing of Harlan's new film. It was disclosed that Harlan had planned just before the end of the war to make a second anti-Semitic film on Shylock.

MANY CHURCHES in Germany prayed for the

exoneration of Ilse Koch, "Bitch of Buchenwald," according to the paper, *Welt von Heute*, published in the Soviet sector of Berlin. The paper added that a church in the town of Kinsten had collected money to establish an "Ilse Koch Chapel." Koch was convicted to life imprisonment on January 15 by a German court for her crimes.

ISRAEL

POWER TO FREEZE WAGES was asked of the Knesset by Yaacov Geri, new "non-party" minister of trade, in mid-January. Although Geri made clear that he was not requesting this in the name of the government, it is reported that the labor ministry and the Histadrut are looking for a "formula" whereby wages would not be increased but bonuses for increased production would be provided. *Kol Haam*, Communist daily, in early January characterized this effort to freeze wages as an attack on the living standards of the workers and urged that the workers should strike if this is attempted.

EMPLOYERS LOCKED OUT the workers of the metal industry of Israel, one of the country's most important, in late January and early February. The lockout followed a strike by 500 metal workers for higher wages. Histadrut is supporting the workers in the situation, while the Ben Gurion government is said to be "divided" on the issue. About 8,000 workers are involved. This situation is regarded as an important test of power with the manufacturers over the whole issue of the wage freeze.

POLICE CLASHED with more than 150 striking cobblers in Haifa in late December when the cobblers staged a sit-down in the office of the controller of supplies to demand immediate allocation of leather for work. Spokesman for the strikers said that the cobblers had received no materials for work in the past three months and that the government had not even replied to their many requests for help. Eight strikers were hurt when police ejected the sit-downers, among whom were women and children.

AN INTRA-PARTY ELECTION takes place in Mapam in April. There are three factions in the party, the largest of which has a pro-Soviet orientation, while the other two are right wing in tendency. All groups, however, are at one in attacking the Communist Party of Israel. The pro-Soviet left wing is expected to win the election.

THE KNESSET APPROVED in late January the Israeli government's UN vote in favor of declaring China the aggressor in Korea despite efforts of Mapam and the Communists to prevent the Israeli delegate from voting on this issue. These groups urged the holding of a national foreign policy referendum.

A RESOLUTION PROTESTING rearmament of both East and West Germany was passed in the Knesset in January. Mapam and the Communists did not support the resolution because they affirmed that East Germany was not being re-armed by the Soviet Union.

POINT FOUR "AID" was extended to Israel by the Truman Administration in late January. Israel will request experts in public health, road construction, railways, irrigation and citriculture and will send Israeli citizens for training to the United States in various industries. Although it was asserted that no political strings were attached to this aid, observers noted the increasingly close orientation of Israeli foreign policy on Washington's plans.

(Items marked with an asterisk (*) were drawn from Jewish Telegraphic Agency news reports.)

