

JEWISH AFFAIRS

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May-June, 1980

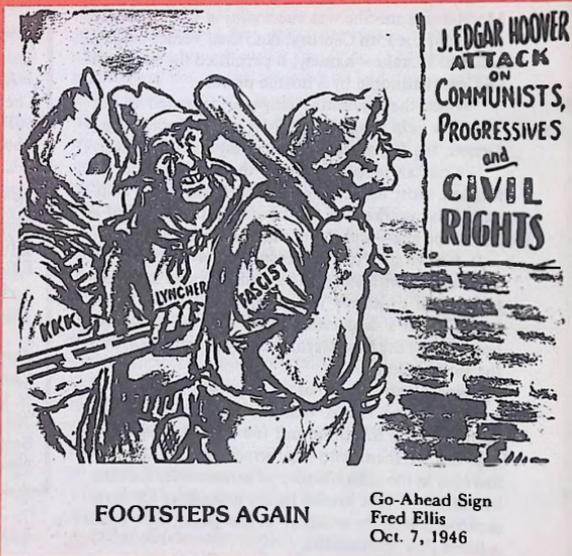
**The Holocaust:
Yesterday and Today**
by Herbert Aptheker

**The Begin Policy of
Expansion and Terror**
by Tom Foley

**The Menace of the Ultra
Right, Nazis and the Klan
Can Be Stopped**
by Phil Honor

**Senior Citizens—The
Problems and Fightback**
Interview with Rose Kryzak

Fifteen Years After
by Aron Vergelis



FOOTSTEPS AGAIN

Go-Ahead Sign
Fred Ellis
Oct. 7, 1946

The Increasing Threat of War

Just before President Carter left for Venice to meet with his European allies in what was billed as "an economic summit", an unnamed "senior White House official" (in all likelihood, Brzezinski) presented reporters with a so-called "history" of Venice in the mid-15th Century. This made it clear that Carter's concern was not the pressing economic problems that now face the United States and the rest of the capitalist world. The unnamed "senior White House official" told the reporters:

"Venice's prosperity depended on Venice's ability to manage her empire intelligently, and particularly to maintain her strategic superiority in the eastern Mediterranean. She was successful at both until the middle of the 15th Century. And then Venice made a colossal mistake—namely, it permitted the conquest of Constantinople by a hostile power.

"When the Byzantine emperor appealed to the West for help in the face of the strategic challenge, Genoa, the Papacy and Venice responded passively . . . Constantinople fell, and the consequences of this left most harbors, warehouses, factories, ship-yards and markets of the Levant in the hands of a hostile power—and the decline of Venice began."

It is obvious from this absurd effort at making a comparison with the world situation today that Carter's main objective is to establish United States imperialism's hegemony over all the countries bounded by the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

Washington's goal of U.S. world domination risks initiating World War III. The registration of millions of U.S. youth and the logical subsequent drafting of them into the armed forces, the vast increase in the manufacture of armaments, the establishment of elite armed forces groupings for invasion purposes are evidence of his plans for war to achieve that domination.

The Jewish people of the United States, concerned as they are for the safety and well-being of their country, must unite with all the peace-loving people of the nation and the rest of the world to prevent the Carter administration from enveloping the world in a new holocaust. Registration of the youth must be resisted. Moves to resume conscription into the armed forces must be defeated. Congress must be

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Correction

In the *Jewish Affairs* Dinner address by Herbert Aptheker which appeared in our March-April, 1980 issue there appeared a typographical error. In referring to his invitation to teach at Humboldt University in Berlin (GDR), the correct sentence should have read: "It is also the university at which Karl Marx did his graduate work before he got his doctorate at Jena."

The Holocaust: Yesterday and Today

by Herbert Aptheker

Robert McAfee Brown, formerly of the Union Theological Seminary in New York City and now at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, has contributed a moving essay, "From the Death Camps to Israel," to *Christianity and Crisis* (February 18, 1980) of which he is one of the editors. This piece is a result of Mr. Brown's having visited in the Summer of 1979, Poland, the Soviet Union, Denmark and Israel. He went as a member of President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust, charged with proposing a suitable memorial to the victims.

Mr. Brown writes well and, being an eminently decent person, he was touched to his marrow when standing in such factories of death as Treblinka and Auschwitz.

In Treblinka, the monument erected by Socialist Poland bears the legend and the promise, "Never Again." Mr. Brown writes that these words "are the point . . . the whole point." Yes, they are the point, but what is the point? Jews who are chauvinists and nationalists—ultra-reactionaries like the present Prime Minister of Israel—use these words and draw a message from them and, clearly, the Socialist Republic of Poland which caused these words to be engraved over Treblinka uses these words and draws a message from them. These messages are not the same and the whole tone and content of Mr. Brown's article leans in the direction of Begin and not in the direction of those forces which caused the words to be engraved on the stone. For the latter, the words "never again" mean never again fascism and never again imperialist war. Fascism in Europe was the intensifier and user of anti-Semitism, classic tool of reaction, and fascism was the basic source, too, of the catastrophe of World War II, where over fifty million were killed, among whom were some seven million citizens of Poland and over twenty million citizens of the Soviet Union.

Hitler's basic propaganda content was anti-Communism and anti-Sovietism. Jews were the carriers of communism, according to the nazi propagandists; democracy, reason, humanism were ingredients of the modern world. *The enemy was*

Communism, the ideological main foe was Marxism and the main home of both was the USSR; therefore, destroy the USSR, destroy advocates of democracy, of scientific reasoning, of concern for human values and, in particular, destroy the Jew, in Hitlerian mythology the embodiment of all these awful values.

That was the essential propaganda and it covered an imperialist movement—begun in 1917—to "throttle Bolshevism in its cradle" to cite the delicate language of Churchill. Fascism was imperialism's last gasp; it was "imperialism gone mad" to quote the words of a Soviet Army colonel to me soon after World War II. If all this is understood then the real meaning of the "Never Again" carved over Treblinka may be understood.

At Babi Yar, in Kiev, the Ukraine, one among President Carter's commission publicly protested to the Soviet hosts that there was no special mention of Jews as victims of that particular massacre by the nazis. Brown himself writes that later, in Moscow, a small group among the commission had supper with a few Soviet authors, several of whom, he states, were Jewish and two of whom were women. Here was raised again the matter of "singling out Jews for special attention" and the Soviet authors all replied—Brown meantly adds this may have been a "Russian line"—that they felt "all Soviet citizens should be remembered, without distinguishing between Georgians, Ukrainians, Jews, Muscovites or anyone else." The Soviet writers said they wanted to unite people and do nothing to divide them.

Brown reports that "we had no chance to respond", though he does not say why there was no such chance. He responds in this essay by declaring that "to have a prior concern for the Jews does *not* divide but unites, for it is out of the particularity of the Jewish slaughters that the universality of the slaughters of the others comes to light." Why this is so is not made clear; perhaps one gets a feeling of what Brown has in mind when one reads further along that "while other people were killed for their political convictions, or their ideologies, or because they were in enemy armies, Jews were killed *simply because they were Jews.*" (Italics in original)

Why is this more momentous than the fact that Communists were killed simply because they were Communists? Why is this more momentous than the fact that *scores of millions* of Slavs were killed by these Supermen simply because they were *untermenschen*?

Moreover, Brown suffers from the ignorance that afflicts most Americans of what Hitler actually did. Not only were Slavs killed as such by the millions; in addition, other particular peoples were killed because of the fact that they were such people. For example, scores of thousands—no one really knows how many—among the Gypsy peoples of Europe were systematically rounded up by Hitlerites and exterminated on so-called racial grounds. (In April, 1980, a remnant among such peoples in West Germany occupied Dachau in protest against the failure to provide them with any restitution and also against the *continued existence of racist laws aimed at them passed under Hitler*.) The nazis systematically sought out and murdered homosexuals because they were homosexuals; again, no one knows how many were thus done to death but the figure certainly is in the hundreds of thousands. Hitler ordered the extermination of all so-called retarded and physically disabled people and any child that was other than "normal" was killed at birth by the nazi monsters. How many lives were thus snuffed out also is not known but again came to hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions.

The fact that Hitlerism incarnated anti-Semitism is in no way hidden in the Socialist states of Europe; on the contrary it is pointed out at every opportunity. The magnificent and gripping monumental park, Treptow, to the Soviet soldiers who died in liberating Berlin contains a denunciation of the Hitlerite armies as "pogromists"; on the day these lines are written (May 3, 1980) *Neues Deutschland*, organ of the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic, carries a story by Professor Walter Bartel—organizer of the uprising in Buchenwald and himself not Jewish—about the life and death of Rudi Arndt, a Communist leader, executed in Buchenwald in 1940 (at the age of 31). Professor Bartel makes the point that Arndt, standing before the nazi prosecutors, was doubly guilty: "*Er war Jude and dazu noch Kommunist!*"—he was not only a Jew but also a Communist.

What a shame it is that Mr. Brown did not visit the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic and see which of the two has enforced the Potsdam Treaty; which of the two has wiped out the cartels, undercut militarism, eliminated nazism, eradicated anti-Semitism and raised an entire generation of Germans dedicated to equality and to peace and comprehending that Socialism *means* peace and peace *means* Socialism.

Let him go from the West Berlin airport to the border of the GDR; he will travel along Bismarck Strasse and he will pass a huge statue of Bismarck. When he passes the border he will find himself on Dimitrov Strasse and very soon come upon a statue of Thaelmann. He will come to a new Germany where the schools are named for Robeson and Du Bois and Liebknecht and Luxemburg and almost every street corner memorializes a martyr to the struggles for freedom, whether in 1848 or 1919 or 1933-1945.

As part of the common ignorance plaguing our people in the United States, Brown writes that only the people of Denmark "as a people" defended Jews despite the nazi presence. This is truly part of the glory of the Danes but they were not alone, as a people, in this. Thus, the Jews of Bulgaria were saved by the Bulgarian people; this was part of their commitment to anti-fascism which resulted in the mass uprising of the people of Bulgaria against the nazi occupiers several months prior to the liberating advance of the Soviet armies.

Above all, it was the peoples and the government of the Soviet Union which saved the vast majority of the Jews of Europe who survived Hitlerism. Many thousands of Jews fell to the nazis along with millions of fellow Soviet citizens during the years of nazi occupation of the eastern third of the USSR, *but millions of Jews were saved*. These being among the special targets of the nazi extermination squads, priority was given to them, by the Soviet government, to move them to the East out of the path of the Hitlerites.

It is because of this that the USSR has as many Jews as does Israel; and this act of humanism—taken during the awful war and at enormous extra expense and effort—was what Albert Einstein had in mind when he declared in 1945 that Jewish people would never forget the remarkable act of humanity on the part of the USSR. If Robert McAfee Brown does not know these facts and does not know that Einstein made this promise, he has not done his homework as a member of a commission to memorialize the holocaust victims.

It is really astonishing that a commission with such a mission should not visit either of the two Germanies. The best monument to the memory of those who resisted Hitlerism and those victimized by Hitlerism is the new Germany, the German Democratic Republic—the Germany cleansed of anti-Semitism,

Conclusion on page 15

The Begin Policy of Expansion and Terror

by Tom Foley

The Israeli-occupied West Bank continued to be a major focus of world attention in the recent period, the pivot around which revolved a wheel of political events in Israel proper, the Middle East and beyond. The June 2 terrorist bombing of two West Bank mayors, Mayor Bassam al-Shaka of Nablus and Mayor Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, deeply shocked world public opinion.

The reactionary Gush Emunim settlers' group and the Kach group led by Rabbi Meir Kahane were the most immediate suspects in the terrorist attacks. But Mayor Shaka, who had both legs amputated as a result of the bombing, placed the blame squarely on the Israeli intelligence services and the government of Premier Menachem Begin, in an interview with *The Times* of London. The Nablus Mayor also accused former Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman of complicity in the terrorist bombing. Mayor Shaka arrived in Amman, Jordan, on June 5 for medical treatment for gangrene. He told reporters that Weizman had repeatedly threatened physically to eliminate those struggling to end the Israeli occupation.

It does of course make a great difference if the inhuman terrorist attacks were acts of Israeli state policy—however well concealed—rather than the acts of private groups like Kach or the Gush Emunim. There are many people in Israel today, survivors of World War II, who know only too well what terrorism as state policy means. The fact that this question can even be raised gives added strength to the warning some time ago by Meir Vilner, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, that Israeli policy in the occupied Arab lands was creating the real threat of fascism in Israel itself.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) in Israel on June 3 strongly denounced this terrorism, in an appeal to all the citizens of Israel.

"This crime," the DFPE said, "was begotten by the expansionist policy of the Begin government which supports the fascist-type Zionist groupings. The interests of peace and democracy demand the immediate elimination of all Israeli paramilitary

settlements on occupied Arab lands, disarmament of the bellicose Zionist thugs, and the unity of all peace-loving democratic forces in the struggle against the danger of fascism in Israel."

In a statement in the Israeli Knesset (parliament), CPI General Secretary Vilner said the terrorist attacks on Mayor Shaka and Mayor Khalaf, the unsuccessful bombing attack on Mayor Ibrahim Tawil of El Bireh, and the tossing of an Israeli Army hand grenade into an Arab crowd in Hebron which wounded seven people, were all acts aimed at wiping out the Palestinian leadership in preparation for the forcible mass eviction of the people from the occupied lands. Vilner quoted former Information Minister Aharon Yariv as saying that certain Israeli politicians had plans for the mass expulsion of up to 800,000 Palestinian Arabs from the occupied territories. (This would be practically the entire West Bank population).

A joint statement June 6 in Paris by the French Communist Party and the Communist Party of Israel stressed that "terror by the occupation authorities has become the order of the day for the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The U.S. is supplying the Israeli government with all the necessary means for continuing its aggressive policy."

The United Nations Security Council on June 5 passed 14-0, a resolution condemning Israel for failing to protect the West Bank Mayors from terrorist attack and for trying to change the demographic composition of the occupied Arab lands in order to annex them. The U.S. abstained on the vote.

Zehdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at the UN, told the Security Council that Israel is in fact trying to establish a "Jewish Empire" in the region. "The recent killings of Arabs," he said, "are not merely acts of homicide, they are acts of genocide. Are we heading for another Holocaust, this time against the Palestinian Arabs?" The government of France officially denounced the attacks on the West Bank Mayors as "a disgusting manifestation of terrorism."

France said that Israel must ensure the observance of the 1949 Geneva Agreement in the occupied Arab territories, something that the present Likud and former Labor Party governments in Israel have publicly refused to do.

Concern over what the occupation is doing to Israel itself seemed to lie behind the May 19 statement issued in Jerusalem by 250 prominent Israelis,

including the former Israeli Chief of Staff, Gen. (res.) Haim Bar-Lev and four other Israeli Army reserve generals; five former Israeli cabinet ministers; 20 members of the Knesset; Deputy Mayor Elad Peled of Jerusalem; Amoz Oz, Israel's best known novelist; and others.

The statement warned that "extremists in the public and within the government . . . distort Zionism and threaten its realization. They advance the vicious cycle of extremism and violence, which nurture each other. Their way endangers and isolates Israel . . ." The statement said that "peace and security through compromise" and "coexistence and tolerance" are necessary. It urged people who believe in this to "stand up and be counted. We must build a wall to block violence and we must return to mainstream Zionism."

The May 14 arrest and detention of Rabbi Meir Kahane took place in this context. Israeli officials charged Kahane with participating in "activities endangering the safety and security of the state", that is, allegedly plotting to blow up Al Aksa mosque in Jerusalem. Kahane, while detained, received numerous visits from U.S. consular officials and his case was being investigated by none other than Amnesty International. Meanwhile, the *Jerusalem Post* newspaper attacked Kahane for "his racist message of undiluted hate for the Arabs" and said Kahane's current election platform "is nothing less, in fact, than a project for the overthrow of Israel's democratic system."

The man who ordered Kahane's detention, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, has since resigned from the Begin cabinet, accusing Begin of "marking time" in the Camp David talks. Weizman reportedly also had wanted to crack down on "unofficial" Israeli terrorists. With his resignation, the cabinet figure taking his place, but not his post, was Ariel Sharon, Minister of Agriculture and Settlements, whose ties with the rightist Gush Emunim are notorious, and whose views on the Arabs are not so very different from those held by Kahane. □

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pressured to vote for a reduction in appropriations of funds for armaments. All Congressmen who support these moves must be defeated.

The November elections will give all of us the chance to elect a peace Congress. And a strong campaign for Gus Hall as President and Angela Davis as Vice President, resulting in the piling up of a large vote for them nationally, will help to register the desire of the nation for peace, and not war. □

In honor of the 80th Birthday of
MAX AND MARION MILLER

from Jean and Sam Aronoff
Los Angeles

Birthday Greetings to
ETHEL REICHMAN

from Thelma and Meyer Potash

Best Wishes to Jewish Affairs
IRVING AND MARTHA LEVINE

Greetings from Sonia Schwartz
In memory of my Father,
NATHAN SCHWARTZ

Greetings from
SAMUEL FLICKER

A contribution of \$50 from
TWO FRIENDS IN LOS ANGELES

A group of friends mourn the
loss of our dear comrade,
EZRA STEIN

Died March 19, 1980
Our heartfelt sympathy to
Jean and the Children

Muriel Rothblatt, Los Angeles

The Menace of the Ultra Right, Nazis and Klan Can Be Stopped

by Phil Honor

There is mounting evidence that a wave of anti-Semitism is again stalking the American Jewish community. Emboldened by the resurgence of the ultra-right, the American nazis and the Ku Klux Klan have intensified their anti-Jewish, anti-Black hate mongering propaganda, which is rapidly becoming a lucrative business.

In 1977, fifty-five anti-Semitic outbreaks were recorded in the United States. At that time, the Jewish Yearbook noted with some complacency, that the number of such incidents had remained fairly stable in recent years. In 1979 they jumped to 129 cases. These incidents included vandalism of Jewish synagogues and day schools, desecration of cemeteries, damage to Jewish homes businesses, and even murder. In 1978 Sidney Cohen, a Jewish businessman in Chicago, was killed by a nazi. The nazi, Frederick Cowan, murdered six people in New Rochelle, N.Y. Last November five persons were killed at an anti-Klan demonstration in Greensboro, N.C. It was charged that they were shot by Klansmen and nazis.

Decent people throughout our country were outraged by the victory of Tom Metzger, Grand Dragon of the KKK in California, who ran for nomination for Congress in the Democratic primaries of the 43rd Congressional District. This is the largest Congressional District. This is the largest Congressional district in the nation, with a population of more than a million people.

Prior to the primaries, which were held last June 3rd, Metzger took part in a Klan cross burning, dressed in a hooded white sheet. Defying public opinion, he spewed his usual venom of racism, bigotry and violence. As a winning candidate for Congress, Metzger has the right to appoint six members to the Democratic Central Committee of California and to fill one seat on the local Democratic Board. This indicates how deeply the sinister forces of the Ultra-Right have entrenched themselves in the power bases of the Republican and Democratic Parties in California. Riverside County, one of the three coun-

ties encompassing in part the 43rd Congressional District, is a stronghold of the Klan.

In a most interesting development, Metzger would also become a member of the Presidential Electoral College if Jimmy Carter carried California in November. Carter, who likes to present himself as a "defender of human rights", would have to disavow the Klan leader, or accept him on his Electoral College team in the name of "party unity".

The bosses of the Democratic machine in California have readily acquiesced to Metzger's placing his candidacy for Congress on their ticket. They took no effective measures to stop this KKK hoodlum from being their "standard bearer" in the November elections.

Recently, Harold Covington, Fuehrer of the National Socialist Party in North Carolina, collected 56,000 votes (40% of the total vote cast) running for the office of Attorney General in the Republican primaries. He came close to winning the nomination.

The *Los Angeles Times* reporter, Al Martinez, pointed out in an article captioned: "Storm Trooper Footsteps Echo Louder" (August 4, 1977), that the nazis have become better organized and more daring and are gaining strength by joining forces with the Klan. The nazis and KKK are driving in two directions: 1) They are increasing their violence against Jews, Blacks, Chicanos and other minorities; 2) They are trying to improve their social and political image by running for public office.

Martinez writes: "Two leaders in the Ultra-Right movement, one a West Virginia printer, the other a Chicago street fighter, are making serious efforts to unite several previously inactive nazi factions under the single banner of "White Power".

The Chicago street fighter is Frank Collin, self-proclaimed "Fuehrer" of the National Socialist Party of America. The printer is George Dietz, of Ready, West Virginia, who runs, according to Irving Small, a spokesman for the Anti-Defamation League, "the largest anti-Semitic propaganda mill in the United States". Simon Wiesenthal, the hunter of nazi war criminals, stated that Dietz and Gerald Lauck of Lincoln, Nebraska are the main sources of nazi propaganda abroad. Tens of thousands of anti-Semitic posters, pamphlets, leaflets, magazines and books, which come off their printing presses, are flooding West Germany, even though the importation of such material is illegal in that country.

American anti-Semitic propaganda mills have been spewing their racist poison for decades

throughout Western Europe, and their hate-mongering is paying off. Louis B. Fleming, the *L.A. Times* staff writer, reported from Rome (3/12/80) that anti-Semitism is spreading like wildfire in many European capitalist countries. The small Jewish communities in West Germany, England, Italy, Spain and Portugal live in fear.

During a Klan rally in Oceanside, California last March, a well protected West German television crew was shooting a film for distribution in their country. The aforementioned Tom Metzger, leader of this Klan group, boasted that he has connections with like-minded organizations in other countries and they stand ready to help his cause. The Klansmen, who were heavily armed, attacked bystanders and counter-demonstrators while the police stood idly by. They left Lander Park, where the demonstration took place, with their weapons intact. No arrests were made.

Oceanside is located near the Camp Pendleton Marine Base, which is known as a hot-bed of KKK activity. Black marines are constantly provoked by the blatant racism which pervades the base. On November 13, 1976 a fight broke out while Black marines tried to disperse a Klan meeting. Subsequently, 14 Black marines were arrested. This incident led to a nationwide protest movement against racism in the Marine Corps.

One of the most effective Klan promoters is the Grand Dragon, David Duke. ADL researchers point out that he was the driving force behind the KKK recruitment drive which brought in 1,500 new members. (It is estimated that the Klan had an increase in membership from 6,500 in 1975 to 8,000 in 1978).

In a recently published book, "The Klan", the author, Patsy Sims, relates that Duke was also an organizer for the National Socialist White People's Party, a now defunct nazi outfit. Flaunting his "high connections", Duke told Ms. Sims: "We have a lot of people in government in D.C. They work in some government agency, or some government office, or some part of the armed services". Ms. Sims stresses that the Klan has been implicated in 70 unsolved cases of terrorist bombings.

Some right-wing circles condone the nazis and the Klan. The hatred and contempt for the rights of the American people preached by these "ultras" is acceptable and even useful to big business and those who serve them. Furthermore, the extremism of the nazis and fascists makes the more restrained right-winger more acceptable to the American public.

Charlene Mitchell, Executive Secretary of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression makes the following observation:

"The Ku Klux Klan and the nazis give a shield to the right-wing policies of government and monopolies in our country. This shield permits all the other interests of monopoly and rightist elements within the government to appear legitimate because there is a fanatic "Right" to the right of them."

The Klan and the nazis are widely used as anti-labor goons and strike breakers. Many of their activities concentrate on union-busting. Last March several hundred KKK members invaded Fontana, California demanding a permit to hold a cross burning rally there. Fontana being a steeltown with a large United Steelworkers local, the intent of the ultra-right gangsters was obvious. They came to an "understanding" with the city officials and were allowed to demonstrate and burn crosses "not higher than 25 feet." A union activist said:

"Our union is about 35% Chicano and 15% Black. We need all the unity we can get to take on the company during the upcoming negotiations. If the Klan is attempting to come into Fontana and divide us, it couldn't come at a better time for the boss".

Much can be learned from the encounter with the nazis in Skokie, Illinois, a predominantly Jewish city with many refugees from Hitler's oppression. The planned nazi parade did not take place as a result of the development of a strong united front movement against the nazis.

It is interesting to note that at the outset the leaders of the major Jewish organizations tried to discourage mass action against this nazi outrage. Albert Rosen, Regional Director of the ADL in Chicago said: "It would be best if we left them (the nazis) to march to empty streets". Finally the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and a Bnai Brith Lodge joined the struggle and the Hitlerites had to retreat.

Similarly, an Ultra-Right demonstration was averted in San Jose, California by a united coalition, although there were problems with extreme left groups who were clamoring for a fight. It should be noted that left sectarian sects frequently make the fight against the ultra-right more difficult by staging a confrontation, as was the case in San Jose, Greensboro, Oceanside and in other places.

Swayed by Zionism and nationalism, the priorities of the major Jewish organizations have changed

little in the past decade. Their main activities consist in providing financial aid and lobbying for Israel, anti-Soviet propaganda, and raising the divisive and phony issue of Black anti-semitism. The real problems which beset the Jewish people in common with other democratic sectors of the population—poverty, discrimination, lack of housing, the plight of the elderly, lack of jobs for young people, racism and anti-semitism—all this is put on the back burner.

However, there are new stirrings within the American Jewish community. From time to time, peace groups such as "Breira" have arisen and carried on activity. The euphoria which had gladdened the American Jewish Community after the Camp David agreement has given way to frustration. Resentment has been building up against Begin's suicidal policy of establishing settlements on occupied Arab lands. Young Jewish people are supporting in greater numbers the growing peace movement in Israel. Publications like the *Jewish Sentinel* are outspoken in their quest for peace in the Middle East. In articles in the U.S. press, in symposiums, conference and forums, Jewish students and activists are taking exception to the hawkish line of the Zionist leadership and their followers.

Even in the upper echelons of the Jewish establishment there are those who are forced to face reality. They have to realize that the present orientation of the major Jewish organizations is detrimental to the Jewish people in the United States.

No less than Theodore Mann, National Vice-President of the American Jewish Congress, has pointed out in an address to a conference of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (Jan. 1977): "I say that those who press us to devote ever increasing proportions of our energies and budgets on priority goals of Israel and Soviet Jewry give us poor counsel!"

Mann further stated: "Social injustice, the toleration of poverty, degradation and want amidst plenty—the evils in our American society cannot be remedied *except through the ceaseless endeavors of broad coalitions*, of which we must sometimes be the leaders and in which we must always be conspicuous." (Author's emphasis)

More recently, voices of moderation and peace were heard at Jewish Federation conferences and gatherings of other influential Jewish organizations.

At a *New Outlook* (Israeli magazine) conference on American Jews and Palestinian Arabs held last

October in Washington, the highly respected Jewish leader and founder of the World Jewish Congress, Nahum Goldman, made a scathing attack on the warmongering policies of the Begin government, castigating the Israeli hawks and religious fanatics. In his message Mr. Goldman pointed out:

"The unlimited support for whatever Israel does has become a policy of blind solidarity—despite the fact that many American Jews do not approve of Israel's present policies—It may appear paradoxical if I state that this blind support of the Begin government may be more menacing for Israel than any danger of Arab attack".

The fact that Nahum Goldman's call for Middle East peace has been heard in the United States is of some significance. It has strengthened that segment of American Jewry which is becoming aware that intransigence, terrorism against the Arab population, defiance of the U.N. and of world public opinion will not secure peace for Israel.

These new trends are encouraging, but they must not be overestimated. The power structure of the Jewish community—the Zionists, the affluent bourgeois leaders and Rabbis are continuously brainwashing the Jewish people of the United States. They are exerting every effort to perpetuate right-wing policies. Let me cite a case in point: The shockingly reactionary *Commentary* magazine has devoted its January, 1980 issue to a discussion of the new trends in Jewish American liberalism. The editor, Norman Podhoretz, a "born again" ultra-conservative, laments in his introduction that Jewish liberals have again tilted their position to the left in relation to such questions as Israel, the "plight" of Soviet Jewry, the P.L.O., Black anti-Semitism (so-called) and so on. Judging by the responses of 55 prominent figures in Jewish public life who took part in the symposium, Podhoretz need not have worried. The "liberals" he chose are banefully regressive in their views on the issues confronting the American Jewish community.

With few exceptions, the real source of anti-Semitism was overlooked. Racism wasn't even mentioned. Instead the participants concentrated on attacking Black people, who were fraudulently charged with displacing Jews in employment, education, business and other fields. Black leaders were accused of fostering anti-Semitism. These prejudicial attempts to incite Jews against Blacks will surely be welcomed by the monopolies who have been using the policy of "divide and rule" for

decades as a tool for super-exploitation.

Professor Nathan Glazer, who has shed his illusory pseudo-liberalism long ago, writes: "When it comes to anti-semitism—Blacks are more anti-Jewish than white small town Protestants and big business." Favoring the Democratic political machine, Glazer postulates: "The ideal Jewish choice (in the coming elections) is the Conservative Democrat—one who is immune to the New Left animus against Israel abroad and businessmen at home, and who is firm in his commitment to Israel's security".

Professor Murray Friedman, of LaSalle College in Philadelphia, is still more explicit. In an article "Black Anti-Semitism on the Rise" (*Commentary, October 1979*) he "educates" his readers with the following remark: "What has been especially disquieting, writed Friedman, has been the silence of establishment Black leaders in the face of Black anti-semitism—Black leaders have endorsed, rationalized, or actually promoted the expression of openly anti-Jewish attitudes as well as the effort to blame the Jews for Black dissatisfactions.

Last November a suit of white building contractors in New York against what they called "reverse discrimination" came before the Supreme Court. The racist contractors filed suit against the Secretary of Commerce for carrying out a provision of the Public Works Employment Act passed by Congress in 1977. According to this provision, 10% of the allocated public works funds have to be set aside to reduce the high unemployment rate among Black construction workers and construction workers of other minority groups. The contractors appealed to the Supreme Court to reverse the decisions of the lower courts which ruled against them. Many amicus briefs were filed in support of this law. *The Anti-Defamation League of Bnai-Brith was the only Jewish organization to file a brief siding with the contractors.* Supporting these racists, the ADL found itself in the unsavory position of consorting with right wing bigots. There is a saying: "He who sups with the devil needs a long spoon". The ADL leadership should be advised to reflect on this proverb.

Jewish workers and progressives will have to take the initiative in the struggle against racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry. Black workers, white workers and the workers of other minority groups must unite and become involved in this struggle. The agenda of such a movement calls, first and foremost, for a united action program. The immediate task is to

reach a broad strata in the Jewish community who are disenchanting with Zionism and who are concerned about the growing danger of racism and anti-Semitism in our country.

Not long ago I had an occasion to observe, first hand, how Jewish working men and working women are being victimized by anti-Semitism. A well qualified Jewish legal secretary came to San Diego to settle. It was hard for her to find a job in the heavily anti-Semitic atmosphere of San Diego. This lady will not require much prodding to join the fight against the all too pervasive bigotry existing in many areas in California.

The Communist Party of the United States has a clear cut position on the questions of Jewish-Black unity, peace in the Middle East, anti-Semitism and racism, and on dealing with the problems that confront close to a million Jewish-Americans who live below the poverty line. In an open letter to Black and Jewish leaders, the CP-USA stressed:

"We feel that it is extremely important to constantly make the important distinction between the "Jewish community" and those Zionist groups which have fought *Affirmative Action* and supported the expansionist policies of the Israeli government. There is a long and proud history of Black and Jewish organizations and individuals cooperating side by side and working for local progress. The notion of growing tensions between the two peoples is false and provocative and plays into the hands of those who would like to stir such a conflict or stifle full discussion of some pressing problems".

Experience shows that the outrages of the Ultra-Right can be stopped. Effective coalitions can be built in the wake of an aroused public opinion. The weakness is that these united coalitions do not take hold and consolidate themselves. As soon as the threat of the maniacal right-wing goons temporarily abate, the coalitions either break up or become inactive. It is necessary to build a lasting united movement around a program that should include:

- 1) Outlawing the nazi parties and the Klan.
- 2) A just peace in the Middle East.
- 3) Closing the perniciously anti-Semitic and racist propaganda mills and confiscating their genocidal printed matter.
- 4) Favoring detente and the Salt II Agreement.
- 5) Alleviating the plight of the unemployed and the poor among the minorities throughout the nation.

The adoption and implementation of such a program holds the potential of uniting labor, peace, and the Black people's liberation movement, and other democratic sectors of the population. It can administer a sharp defeat to the monopolies and to

the right-wing groups that they have spawned.

The interests of the Jewish people of the United States require that they be part of such a united coalition of struggle. □

News from the Cities

Brooklyn, N.Y.

A change has taken place in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. In almost a decade, about 14,000 Russian Jews have come to live here. This oceanfront community is now known as "Odessa by the Sea". A shadow covers this change, a racist shadow. One hears shopkeepers and others on the avenue say: "They (the Russians) saved the neighborhood". What they are really saying is Blacks and Hispanics are being kept out.

Who are these Russian Jews? Why did they leave the Soviet Union? The media and the Zionists have spread the big lie that they came for religious freedom. Yet the vast majority do not attend synagogues, nor observe the Jewish holidays and Jewish traditions. Talking with them you are told they came for "freedom". When one asks what they mean by "freedom", without hesitation they answer "freedom to go into business and make money".

As you walk west on Brighton Beach Avenue from Brighton 14th Street toward Ocean Parkway, one sees night clubs, restaurants, non-kosher butcher-shops, and new superette, all Russian owned. Some have bought homes, many have new cars, and most are well dressed in fine clothing brought from the Soviet Union.

Who funds these emigres? Let's take a hard look. The U.S. government finances this operation as they finance the Cubans, using the cover of political refugee status. The government funds them through HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and through NYANA (New York Association for New Americans). Apartments and jobs are found for them as soon as they arrive. They receive S.S.I. (Supplemental Security Income), Medicaid, food stamps, and a major portion of their rent. They also receive cash on the Jewish holidays, and more funding than a family on welfare.

The above process is described in the article, "The Noshrim: A Jewish Tragedy", which appeared in the February-March 1980 issue of *The American Zionist*. Its main point is that a crisis has arisen, and it expresses the alarm of Zionist circles that a large majority of these emigres is choosing not to go to Israel, and further describes these emigres as a drain and burden on the American Jewish community. It now becomes clearer that since most Jews from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and Western Europe do not wish to make the Aliyah, the Soviet Union has been singled out as the target to provide Jews for Israel. A hitch developed, however, when these Soviet Jews sought instead to come to the United States.

The article further confirms that the fostering of emigration of people from the Soviet Union is a deliberate policy of the U.S. government. It states on page 12: "In addition they feel they are getting something for nothing. The United States government, through its intergovernmental committee on European migration, pays the fare for the immigrants to come, and is providing matching funds for their support once they are here. We are practically getting Jews wholesale. Who can complain?". It states further on page 13: "The Russian Jews would go to Israel if passage to, and resettlement in America were not financed". And on page 14: "How can we put a stop to this diversion of Israel's future population? The Russian Jews in Italy will have to go to Israel, and so will all future emigres."

The children of the emigres are given full scholarships at neighborhood yeshivas, while other children of families of this community cannot receive these scholarships—not even partial scholarships. Funding for programs to aid the Senior Citizens are almost non-existent. Recently a conference was held at the Shorefront "Y" to come to grips with this problem. The conference was filled with pro-Russian emigre delegates from the Jewish organizations. One of the delegates who came to discuss the problems of the elderly in Brighton was shocked to find a stacked deck. She got up and attacked the con-

Senior Citizens — The Problems and Fightback

Rose Kryzak, a prominent leader of the Senior Citizens movement, was interviewed on the problems of Senior Citizens by this publication. She is a President of the Queens (N.Y.) Council for Senior Citizens, and Treasurer and former Vice President of the New York Statewide Senior Citizens Council. The interview follows:

With rampant inflation reaching as high as a more than 18% annual rate of increase, what are the effects upon the lives of Senior Citizens?

I believe the elderly are most adversely affected by the rampant inflation. The elderly are the fastest growing section of our population and whereas they represent 10% of the population, they comprise 29% of the poor. For at least 50% of Senior Citizens, Social Security is the only, or main source of income. In 1979 the average Social Security payment for an individual was only \$289 a month, and \$385 per couple, which is below the poverty level. An individual must spend on the basic requirements of life 75% of the combined income of a couple. And since the sharpest price increases occurred in the four basic necessities such as food, rent, health care and energy, you can readily see the effect that it has had upon the elderly. Just as important, it is estimated that 90% of Seniors' incomes are spent on these four basic necessities, which leaves the remaining 10% for everything else, including such essential needs as eyeglasses, perhaps even a set of teeth, and clothing.

What are some more of the problems that the elderly face today?

One major concern is the high increases in energy costs. 85% of the elderly have at least one form of chronic ailment which requires more warmth. This means that the elderly need to spend more on energy to keep warm than any other group in the population. It is estimated that the elderly pay between 14% and 30% of their incomes on their utility bills, and often they have to choose between heating or eating. And if the choice has to be made,

they heat and don't eat because a person can survive on bread and water for an extended period if necessary, but cannot survive extreme cold. Therefore, the need to make the choice whether to heat or to eat.

What are the problems of medical care? What is happening with regard to the movement for a national health plan?

As you know, the elderly as an organized force have participated in the struggles for a national health plan for many years now. The United States, by the way, is the only economically advanced country in the world without a national health plan. While the movement for a national health plan is growing, and with elderly among its leadership, the health industry lobby remains too powerful to date to overcome. The health industry, by the way, is the third largest industry in the country.

What are the housing problems of the elderly?

The elderly are increasingly forced into the streets or at best to remain in rundown, sub-standard housing, with no prospects for places to move. In 1971 the White House Conference on Aging set a goal for building housing for Senior Citizens at the rate of 100,000 units a year. Since then, only 40,000 units a year have been built. Many of the elderly are sandwiched into single rooms, since landlords subdivide former hotels and apartment houses into single room units for maximum income. Here in New York City, for example, there is a law which encourages and allows landlords to take over single occupancy hotels, to force out the tenants (seniors in the main) and offers attractive tax concessions to convert these buildings into high priced luxury apartments. They are then not only physically deprived, but live in loneliness and fear and are easy targets for the muggers and criminals who would take advantage of them.

How are Seniors managing to survive, then?

Reams of materials have been written about the plight of our elderly. Studies made among managers of supermarkets reported that 25% of the thefts in the supermarkets are committed by the elderly. Remember, we are talking about a group of people who are generally so law-abiding that they wouldn't even cross against a traffic light. And yet it is estimated that they are responsible for so high a proportion of theft. These same managers report

the noticeably high sale of cat and dog food preparations to the elderly with the suspicion that it is for their own consumption, and not for pets. For these elderly, it's so hard to get along, and particularly at the end of the month. A recent article in the *New York Times* reported that the elderly hate months with 31 days because they require an extra day's expense. One senior in our center recently said that, "new clothes means wearing whatever a friend leaves behind after the funeral." She also said that of her monthly check amounting to \$367, her bills add up to \$347 a month, which leaves her \$20 to "splurge". "When the Con Edison bill comes I have to wait until I can put a few dollars aside. Sometimes I go without buying food."

What would happen if some of the proposed cuts would be put into effect? What are the dangers of some of the attacks of the Social Security system?

The dangers are obvious. If the Social Security benefits and/or payments were to be cut, it would further endanger the lives of the elderly, particularly the poor and minority people among them, to a greater degree than they are being punished now. What is frightening is that there is a concerted effort to destroy the Social Security system.

As you know, there are no accidents to what is being reported in the *N. Y. Times*. In the February 15th issue, they reported an interview among 1,500 homeowners by two senior Fellows at the Hoover Institute of Stamford University who asked, "Are the elderly poor?" The article reported that most of those interviewed believed the elderly are not really so poor. I was so horrified by the report that I wrote a letter to the *Times*. It was not printed, nor were those written by many others I know of. However, a letter from Congressman Claude Pepper, Chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging, was printed on February 29th. In it he said, "Older Americans are the poorest Americans." He pointed out that the interview was conducted among 1,500 homeowners, which is not unlike testing 1,500 graduate school students to determine the extent of illiteracy among young Americans. Congressman Pepper called the report, "A cynical attempt to hide the staggering proportion of poverty among the aged."

Forbes, that elite journal of, by and for monopoly corporate interests, featured on its February front cover an article asking, "America's Elderly, can we afford them?" The article itself was headed,

"The Old Folks—The myth is that they're sunk in poverty. The reality is that they're living well. The trouble is that they're too many of them—God bless them." How outrageous! "Too many" Senior Citizens, eh? It smacks of fascist ideology. What do they propose to do? Send us to the coke ovens? Everyone I've shown the article to has responded with, "My God, that sounds like fascism."

As reported in the *Congressional Record* in August, 1979, Cong. Pepper had conducted a 2-year study on Poverty of America's Elderly and reported, "It is nothing short of a tragedy that the richest country in the world, with its vast resources does not allow its elderly to live out the remaining years of their lives in dignity and decency."

How are they trying to weaken services to the aged?

A few months ago, President Carter proposed his first cuts in Social Security and among them he sought to cut the \$250 death benefit. There was such an uproar at the indecency of that kind of proposal that he withdrew it. Now in Carter's campaign to cut the federal budget, the administration proposed a cut in the forthcoming cost of living increase. Again, there has been such an outpouring of protest that he has withdrawn this proposal. But we understand fully well his behavior and record, and there is every danger that after the elections he will probably go right ahead and cut the scheduled Social Security increases. It is a fact that even if we were able to secure these cost of living increases, the elderly will continue to fall behind as the records show, because these increases have never kept pace with the galloping rate of inflation. Even the report by the Senate Committee on Aging stated at one point that, "The elderly seem to run a losing race with inflation."

Having won these two battles, and perhaps only temporarily, are the legislators responding to the actions and needs of the elderly?

While it is a difficult struggle to organize against such formidable enemies, the organized elderly have become a political force that the legislators cannot, and are not, ignoring. They have even dedicated a whole calendar month in behalf of the elderly, but we have said over and over again that we are hungry twelve months of the year. We have to pay our rent and eat twelve months a year, and therefore, dedicating the month of May to the elderly does not answer our needs.

At a recent rally (March 12) to protest Pres. Carter's proposed tax on Social Security income, the cuts in death benefits and cost of living increases, we brought over 4,000 people in 40 buses to District 65 headquarters in New York City. Virtually every state legislator from the city and our entire Congressional delegation was present at the rally because they felt compelled to be on record against Carter's cuts.

Are Senior Citizens active with regard to other issues?

Certainly. As an example, our statewide Senior Action group has joined with a national coalition including trade unions such as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the United Auto Workers, and others like the New York Public Interest Research Group in a national series of conferences all over the country, called "Big Business Day." Its purpose is to begin to formulate a series of long range responses to the unbridled threat that corporate power poses to the American people. We elderly were asked to endorse this national call because its sponsors felt that we could play an important roll in the common fightback in defense of the people's needs. The list of individuals sponsoring this event includes Congressmen, national union leaders, civil rights figures, consumer advocates and an impressive cross section of democratic minded formations. We in Queens (N.Y.) for instance, held a mini-conference to consider the effects of Big Business on the lives of the elderly. This was all part of a series of actions which took place nationally in 150 cities across the country from April 17 to 19. We are also planning a conference to be held in New York later this month, which will be followed by a march to the Exxon building for a protest rally.

What are the demands of Senior Citizens?

Since so many of them depend upon Social Security as their sole, or main source of income, we seek a guaranteed minimum income that will keep pace with the necessities of life. We demand that Social Security payments, which are currently being financed by contributions from employee and employer, be financed instead as follows: one-third by employees (less than they are paying now), one-third by employers (also less than they're paying now) and one-third from our government's general revenue. No other country has its Social Security system based exclusively on employee and employer

contributions, as we do here. The fact that we have so high a rate of unemployment, and that neither unemployed workers nor employers contribute to the fund, further requires that the fund be supported by general revenue.

And we are not dismayed by the moans of those who would have us believe that there is no money. We know where we can get the money. Just a fraction of our current budget would take care of our elderly. Money transferred from our huge, wasteful, unproductive and inflationary-causing military budget should and could take care of our disabled, the poor, the elderly and oppressed minorities. In the *Congressional Record* of June 22, 1979, Congressman Vanik of Ohio revealed how criminally low are the taxes being paid by our wealthiest and most powerful corporations on their immense profits. Out of 7.1 billion dollars in income before taxes in 1977, they paid only 8/10's of one percent! The big banks paid a federal tax rate of 7.1 percent on their billions in pre-tax earnings!

Are there other major demands by the Senior Citizens movement?

Yes. Seniors surely require health security. We are now paying more for our health care than we did before Medicare became law. We pay 62% out of our own pockets of every bill we pay. Therefore we require an improved and expanded Medicare program. For example, we struggled hard to get generic drug laws passed despite the opposition and sabotage of the powerful pharmaceutical companies and their lobbyists. After all, they're not interested in our health, just in their profits. But we know that the elderly have a power in their numbers which is much greater than all the millions the rich medical industry is spending on its lobbies. Our need then, is to go on organizing the Seniors, and to unite with our natural allies in order to achieve these goals.

Then two major needs for Seniors are a guaranteed income and an improved health care system?

Yes, and to it we must add housing. There is a law in New York State, for example, that if one's income is less than \$6,500 a year, you may pay a maximum of 1/2 of your income for rent, with the rest subsidized by the federal government. We say it's still too much to pay, and our demand is to reduce the maximum payment to 25% of the

Senior's income, and to raise the allowable income to \$7,500.

Let's look at the Jewish elderly. What effects are the assaults in general having upon Jewish Senior Citizens in particular?

There are some 265,000 Jewish Senior Citizens in the New York Metropolitan area. It is estimated that half of them are poor, or near poor. Isolation is a major factor for them. While neighborhoods are changing rapidly and the old stores and institutions are disappearing, they simply can't leave the "old neighborhoods" they've known for so long. The movement away of their children, family and friends further deepens the isolation, so they are resigned to remaining in their communities until they die.

How are the major Jewish organizations reacting to all of these problems?

I am a member of the Advisory Board of JASA (Jewish Association for Service to the Aged), and we are responding actively to the attacks on the elderly. We are currently conferring with the Governor, who vetoed a bill that would give New York City $\$3\frac{1}{2}$ million to improve our weakened social services. The veto was indecent, and JASA is taking

the lead in the fightback. Considering the huge state budget, it was thoroughly indecent, indifferent and callous to veto so important a measure that required only \$3,500,000 for services in New York City. Statewide, it would have required $\$9\frac{1}{2}$ million to strengthen these social services. So when Gov. Carey announced a Senior Citizens Day to be observed in Albany, although invited, I don't feel very much like going. On the many other issues confronting our elderly, the important Jewish organizations have been playing a very positive role and have participated diligently in our activities together with the many other formations.

Do you have a parting message for our readers, particularly our Seniors?

We call upon the many elderly, who sometimes feel that they do not want to participate with older people, to join with us. I think they will find that joining the Senior Citizens movement is the most effective way to fight their enemies—the enemies of all the people. They'll find that when they join a Senior Citizens' center they can play a positive and fruitful role in raising the political understanding of the elderly and in achieving victories in an unending struggle. Join us, then, for our movement has great potential. □

The Holocaust *continued from page 4*

of war-mongering, of Junker overlords and armaments moguls, of unemployment and ghettos, of filthy slums for the poor and palatial residences for the parasites and their lackeys.

It is no wonder that the Carter-Brzezinski team would omit such a Germany from such an investigation but one would hope for better actions from Robert McAfee Brown. □

*The Jewish Section, C.P.—U.S.A.
and the staff of Jewish Affairs
express deep sorrow
upon the death of our comrade,
MEYER GELFMAN
died June 25, 1980*

*We mourn the death
of our dear brother,
HARRY EISMAN
Died March 8, 1980 in Moscow*

The Family

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Fifteen Years After

by Aron Vergelis

America is divided into states. On the map, it consists of forty-eight pieces. The forty-ninth is Alaska on the other side of Canada, and the fiftieth appeared when the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands "of their own free will" attached their ocean to the River Potomac. The lines on the map are straight. The hand that drew them was doubtless guided by a ruler and not by the irregularities of the terrain. Just as little girls draw their squares with chalk on the asphalt or with a stick on the soil, so that they can hop from one to another.

Let us carry the simile further. For instance, hopping from one square to another is, for many American citizens, not a game, but the very meaning of life. This is particularly striking, I think, in "Jewish America". Where have you gotten to, Jewish sweat-shop workers? Where are you written about, Jewish proletariat Edelstadt, Bovshover, Vinchevsky and Reizen—the first Jewish proletarian poets to live in America—and where are you referred to, revolutionary proletariat Olgin, a leader of the revolutionary movement of the Twenties and Thirties in the US Jewish population? Have you risen a step higher? But what does "higher" mean? "Higher"—to the petty bourgeoisie? On one leg, and from square to square . . . Have you given up the class struggle? Have you moved to the sunny side in the opposite square?

Yes, such, unfortunately, is the truth about the present life of part of the immigrant generation. The truth must be told! I know that what I've said will unleash a burst of malice from the unscrupulous renegades. But that is of no importance. The fact is that *former proletarians*, in the guise of *proletarians on pension*, are the bourgeoisie of today. The proletarian who has reached a certain age remains a son of his own class. The proletarian does not retire on pension from his mode of life and his mode of thought. Those who think and act in spite of this are not ideological pensioners, but ideological degenerates.

America, then, is divided into states. Each state has its own capital. And each capital has its own capital.

In Sacramento, the capital of California, the local capitol bears the following inscription: "Bring me men to match my mountains . . ." Such was the vivid and lofty style in which golden California spoke in its romantic period! Men to match mountains . . . Not everyone can shift them from their place or turn them to face a different direction; neither dust nor dirt will stick to them! Men like mountains . . .

The people I managed to meet in Los Angeles were as large-scale and as staunch as the California mountains. That is how I see two new friends of mine, Max Gitlin and Edith Beck.

In Moscow, I have often had occasion to read letters sent from California's old inhabitant Max Gitlin to the editorial office of "Sovietish Heimland". Each letter contains the post-script: "My sight is bad, so I dictate to my friend M. Karelitz, and he writes it all out in his own hand" . . . These letters are, in effect, polemical articles written according to all the rules of that genre in succinct style, with "theses" and "antitheses", with "let us have a look at what they say" and "here are our objections and arguments". Gitlin's articles in letter form are published in "Sovietish Heimland" and in the Israeli Communist newspaper "Der Weg". They are serious and courageous attacks on the contemporary revisionism that has become the scourge of the Jewish press. Gitlin reacts with particular decisiveness and promptitude to the anti-Soviet sallies by New York apostates from the progressive movement. As soon as a newspaper containing their attacks arrives in Moscow, we can expect to see a letter from Gitlin in our mail at any moment. There would be nothing surprising about this—friendship with the Soviet Union on the part of the American Jewish masses has become a tradition—were it not for the fact that in recent times there have been increasingly frequent cases of political apostasy and of cowardice among what, until recently, were progressive figures.

Of these people, Sam Lipzin wrote: "I know a man whose 'yes' isn't yes, nor is it no. 'Yes' and 'No', to him, mean exactly the same thing . . . He always shakes his head up and down and from side to side at the same time. Just you try and figure out what his real opinion is . . . As for another friend of mine, his 'Yes' is always 'No', and vice-versa."

In political terms, it may be said of certain figures to be met nowadays in the West that they are friends of the Soviet Union when circumstances permit them to demonstrate their friendship in private, without

witnesses. But as soon as anyone else draws near, they get the wind up in case their friendship with the Soviet Union should become generally known, and then their expression changes and their language turns evasive . . .

Max Gitlin and Edith Beck, my new friends in Los Angeles, are people with a well-founded, far-seeing and not under any circumstances selfish outlook on life. They are very much from the people, are simple by nature, and I enjoy their company. We have something in common to talk about—I as a Soviet citizen, and they as Americans. They don't lay down conditions like some others who hold that the Soviet Union deserves their approval if it acts according to their liking . . . My friends believe in principles. They are modest when tendering advice.

Edith Beck, I should remind you, is the uncompromising woman whose protest against the changed political platform of certain public figures was published in the press and was shown to me in New York at a meeting with progressive Jewish circles. When I visited her at her home, an interesting detail came up: we both had a common acquaintance in Moscow, the legendary American young pioneer of the Thirties, Harry Eisman (people of that period remember how in many cities all over the world, and in literally every town and city in the Soviet Union, there were at one time mass demonstrations demanding the release from jail in America of Young Pioneer Harry, and when world public opinion achieved this, the Young Pioneers of the Soviet capital met on the Red Square the youthful hero who had arrived in our country after being released from jail in America).

It transpires that Edith Beck is Harry Eisman's sister . . . It pains me deeply to write these lines: on returning from America, I met Harry Eisman and conveyed to him his sister's greetings. Two weeks later, he died of a heart attack. Edith flew to Moscow for his funeral. Her farewell speech at her brother's grave was published in "*Komsomolskaya Pravda*" and "*Sovietish Heimland*". She said:

"One cold foggy night, our whole family and thousands of friends went to New York harbour to see you off. We watched with tears in our eyes as the steamer took you away to an unknown life. We shouted, we sang, wept, and you too were singing something up on deck; and we listened to your voice until the steamer had gone down behind the horizon.

"The Soviet Union and the Soviet Young Pioneers met you; they gave you living quarters, they gave you

an education, they protected you from harm. This is where you found happiness: a wife, a daughter, and grandchildren. And you remained for ever in the ranks of the Young Pioneers. You responded to trust with trust, to love with love. When Hitler invaded your new homeland, you went off to defend it. You never let go of your rifle until the day when the hour of victory struck.

"You had one other weapon, the fiery word of a Communist, journalist, public figure . . ."

Edith Beck writes poetry in English. When I went to visit her, she presented me with a recently published collection of her verse. I spent a pleasant evening in her beautiful home. There were sixty others there, apart from myself and Alex Kolkin. A whole "meeting", as they say in America.

His closest friends were at Max Gitlin's place when we called on him two days later. Apart from his son Herbert, we found ourselves at table with Lazar Karelitz and his wife, the Galinskys and others. We drank to Gitlin's birthday. During the two hours we spent at the Hancock Hotel, so many fascinating Los Angeles anecdotes were recounted that I couldn't even write them down. For instance, I didn't know that Johnny Weissmuller, the actor who played Tarzan in nineteen films; had formerly been a professional athlete and had won swimming medals at the 1924 and 1928 Olympic Games. In his old age, he got a bee in his bonnet about being Tarzan to the end of his days, and Los Angeles has suffered badly from his habit of making his Tarzan cries and frightening the children. On these grounds, the Los Angeles court has declared Johnny Weissmuller to be of unsound mind and his sixth wife, Maria Weissmuller, has been appointed his guardian.

How's that for a story?

One of Gitlin's guests showed me a cutting from the "*Algemeiner Journal*", an obscurantist New York newspaper. It was an announcement by the California Burial Society to the effect that the institution has a specialist in the transport of the deceased to Israel at reasonable cost. In Moscow, such announcements appear in a humorous magazine called "*Krokodil*". In America, however, they don't laugh for the sake of their health. In America they make money. And if money is to be made by transporting the deceased to Israel, then why not?

Who Is to Blame?

Since a note of comedy has crept in, let us take a look at a small note published by the Jewish writer from Los Angeles, I.A. Ronch. The respected author informs his readers that in his city there are six clubs attached to the Emma Lazarus Women's Movement.

Before discussing this matter, we should explain what is meant by a Jewish club in the United States of America. In the Soviet Union, as is known, a club is a place where people meet to see a show, a concert, a film, hear a lecture, read a newspaper, and play at billiards or chess; the young people dance, the politically-minded argue . . . There are various groups—vocal, drama, ballet, and music. In the first decade after the revolution, we had *nationalities* clubs, but Soviet people are now so united that the citizens of all nationalities spend their time together at the factory or on the collective farm. If it is planned to hold an evening dedicated to, say, Sholem Aleichem, and it has already been decided that the participants will be people of various nationalities and that the evening will be conducted in the common language, that is, Russian, then the club is "universally Soviet". But if the audience is going to be exclusively Jewish and the discussion of Sholem Aleichem is to take place in Yiddish, then the club will be "Jewish" for that one occasion. If asked how many Jewish clubs there are in the Soviet Union, anyone will reply that any club is open to Jews and is always ready to hold cultural evenings in Yiddish if they have been planned in advance (this also applied to clubs for the other nationalities). This is the socialist approach, completely unknown to people in the capitalist countries. On the other hand, Soviet people cannot understand what is meant when it is said that there are six Jewish women's clubs in Los Angeles, but that there are no club premises or palaces of culture; such "clubs" are simply groups of women who meet in private apartments and from time to time hire a hall somewhere.

However, that is not what I had in mind when I advised you to try and find something amusing in Ronch's little note. He describes what the women do in the Los Angeles clubs. He reports: "At every meeting, the club management gives a report on the health of this or that member of the club." Further on, the author writes: "The women's clubs have recently begun taking on male members. . . ." If Ronch is to be believed, then the meeting of a women's club goes something like this: the chair-

person, in this case a man, reads the latest medical report. "The health of our women club members," he says, "is excellent. . . Mrs. Isaacs' cold is better, thank God. . ."

All very amusing. But I had a serious talk about the life of the Jews in Los Angeles with my old friend Abram Maimudes, who acted as my voluntary guide when I first visited the city fifteen years ago. Once again, he's showing me round the city streets, only as a mark of friendship and not as the representative of the newspaper "*Morgen Freiheit*".

The decline of Jewish cultural life is far more noticeable in Los Angeles than in New York.

The community here is growing like wildfire. It's the romantic story of how, in 1842, one Jew wandered into the village of Los Angeles, and a hundred and thirty-seven years later, in other words, now, that *one* became *six hundred thousand*. Yet these 600 thousand Jews, all residents in the same city, haven't even one wretched little theater, not even one newspaper the size of an exercise-book. The local Jewish big-wigs distract their Los Angeles compatriots by pointing out that the Jewish paper in Birobijan may be a daily now, but it's only Communist propaganda, since there are a mere fifteen thousand Jews in that city, so what would they want with a daily paper? And what use is a people's Jewish theatre to Birobijan? And why, for such a tiny community, have they founded a musical theatre? Why? Because it's all Communist propaganda, that's why. In the end, it works out that it's bad with the Soviets when something's lacking, and it's bad when they've got something, and it's bad when there isn't enough, and it's bad when there's plenty.

Let's imagine, for a moment, that by some miracle we've learned to understand the language of the bats. What is the meaning of the sounds which they emit in the dusty attics and which are addressed to the birds flying across the blue skies? In the eyes of the bats, the life that the birds live is senseless. . .

Here is what was written about the local community, shortly before his death, by bourgeois writer Yakov Gladstein: "Thirty years ago, that is, on the eve of the Second World War, there were a hundred and fifty thousand Jews living in California, and the state could boast not only of its own Jewish newspaper, but of some weeklies. Ten years later, that is, at the end of the Forties and the beginning of the fifties, California had half a million Jews, but their own newspaper had ceased to exist altogether, except for one English-language weekly in which a Jewish

page still survived as a reminder of the past." At the present time, the Jewish population of Los Angeles (600 thousand, as we have already said) would be enough for a city much bigger than Tel Aviv, with its population of about four hundred thousand; but here, in Los Angeles, there isn't even a single Jewish page left in the one and only weekly for Jews—even the reminder of the past has disappeared.

To put it bluntly, there is no Jewish cultural life in Los Angeles today in the true sense of the word. This tragic outcome has been imminent for many years. During my first visit to Los Angeles, the late Gina Medem, a Jewish journalist, presented me with a collection entitled "Californian Notebooks". A number of Jewish writers and journalists from Los Angeles wrote in the foreword that they were "making an attempt to publish a collection containing not only verse, short stories, and essays, but documentary material about life of the Jews in this city." They hoped that the collection would become a regular publication with time. This was not to be, however, and now I turn over the pages of Gina Medem's gift and reread the passages which the well-known publicist underlined for me *at that time* so that it would be easier for me to fathom the problems of life in the Jewish community. Very relevant today, I think, is what is said by writer Yakov Ashpiz in his article, "Jewish Life in Los Angeles Yesterday and Today".

Among the Jewish population of Los Angeles, he relates, lively activity only occurs during the campaigns by the Histadrut (trades-union centre of the *State of Israel—A. V.*), by the United Jewish Appeal and by the United Jewish Welfare Fund (an organization that collects money for *Israel—A. V.*) The Jewish community is mobilized for participation in these campaigns with the aid of the press, radio and TV, the organization of banquets and concerts, and speeches by notables imported from New York or from abroad. Guests from Israel are particularly numerous. These extremely large-scale campaigns for the collection of millions of dollars are vivid proof that there is a well-organized apparatus for planning psychological influence on the Los Angeles Jews and carrying it out with one sole aim—to ensure the success of their undertakings. That same apparatus, which organizes various campaigns for the collection of funds is gracefully inactive whenever there is a need to mobilize the Jewish community in the face of stormy events, in the USA and the world in general, which affect Jewish life.

The smooth-running apparatus, of which Yakov Ashpiz speaks with such restrained anger, is *Zionist*. Ashpiz wrote his article in 1961. Since that time, this *well-organized Zionist apparatus* has achieved all over America, with the aid of the country's authorities, Congressional lobbyists and cold war manipulators, an incredible but all too real phenomenon: the biggest Jewish community in the world (six million) which, in the past, in the course of many decades, took shape as a distinctive, socially restive milieu, has been turned, mainly as a result of unscrupulous national blackmail and political speculation, into a kind of periphery for the actions of Israeli Zionism, into its milch cow, in fact, and at the same time within this huge community the progressive Jewish movement has been destroyed, while cultural and literary development has virtually been brought to a halt.

From this unseemly picture there also arises the answer to the question *who is to blame* that Jewish cultural life in America is in such a state of neglect.

Maimudes is in a difficult position. He is trying to find a solution *for himself*. Let us hope that he finds it. Our present meeting is not meant for polemics, much less for the issue of a joint communiqué. We'll simply spend an hour or so together. We've dined in a cozy little restaurant and now we're strolling round the city. As we walk past the big reformist synagogue, we remember what the wits say about it. Such synagogues are really nothing more than clubs for the all-rightniks (maybe clubs in the form of premises for public assembly exist in America anyway, but not for ordinary people and not for the followers of Emma Lazarus.) The all-rightnik who wants to become a member of the congregation contributes a few hundred dollars. A Jew normally visits the synagogue two or three times a year, during the traditional festivals. A ticket has to be bought at the entrance. But what is the poor man to do? He resorts to little wheezes—he's just going to look in for a moment to see if he can spot a friend whom he urgently needs to see. The poor man is allowed in the reformist synagogue in such a case, but he is warned that he mustn't dare pray without having paid the entrance fee.

Maimudes escorts me into the "Jewish Pentagon", the local name for the information centre of the Zionist propaganda services. The first thing that catches the eye on the ground floor is an exhibition of pictures, and I gasp with astonishment: they are reproductions of works by Leningrad artist Tanhum

Kaplan! An elderly woman, the manageress of the hall, whispers something in a secretive sort of way (I have not been introduced to her, and she assumes me to be a visiting American): "The pictures by this unfortunate Jewish painter were smuggled out of Russia. . ." Maimudes tries to cover up: "Don't take any notice of her rubbish. A local Jew told her that the reproductions you see in the hall here were bought quite legally by him in Leningrad."

I remember something from my childhood, and I tell it to Maimudes. I had an aunt who could never succeed in shaking off the company of a neighbour named Braina. My aunt was a shrewd woman and she used to say:

"When Braina's hens stop laying and she puts her hand under one of my chickens, don't expect her to own up to stealing. She'll just say: 'Your hen got into my chicken coop with its eggs'. . ." □

News from the Cities

cont'd. from page 11

ference for having a callous and heartless attitude to the needs of the Senior Citizens, most of whom live on Social Security and their meager pensions.

An interesting article appeared in *Bay News* of June 2, 1980, which stated: "The Russians just love Brighton. Michael Katz used to work 42 hours a week at his job as an engineer in Russia. Now, he works 90 hours a week and hasn't had a vacation in 18 months. But Mr. Katz doesn't seem to mind the hard work. He says he might work twice as hard here, but he owns 20 times as much." This is Brighton today.

A postscript: In "Letters from our Readers" which appeared in the *Jewish Week-American Examiner* of June 8, 1980, Bernard Schnepf wrote, "In our community we have over one hundred Russian families. Our synagogue helped them with money, living quarters, prayer books translated into the Russian language, and even tickets for the High Holidays. Except one old lady, no one is showing up on Shabbos or the holidays. They do not wish to identify with us Jews. They want to assimilate into the mainstream. Their concern is only to make money." □

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אפֿסטעיט ניו יארק. די פאמיליע האט עס געטאן דער־ פאר וואס מאקס איז קראנק געווארן אויפן הארץ און מען האט מורא געהאט ער זאל נישט קריגן טובער־ קולאז.

אין פארלויף פון 10 יאר איז מאקס געווען א פארמער. ווי אויך געארבעט ביי דער באן אין א קאנ־ סטרוקציע־ענג צו באגרייכט די באגלייבטע. ער האט עס געמוזט טאן כדי צו העלפן דער פאמיליע. שפע־ טער איז ער געווארן א מילך־מאן אין ניו יארק און פון צייט־צורצייט ווידער געארבעט אין שאפ.

אין די יארן 1913 - 1914 איז מאקס שטיינבערג געווען א מיטגליד פון דער דזשיאנט בארד פון דער אמאלנאמיטעד קלאדינג ווארקערס יוניאן.

אין אפריל 1922 איז ער געווארן זייער אקטיוו ארום דער דערשיינונג פון דער "פרייהייט" און אין 1923 איז ער אריינגעצויגן געווארן אין דער פאר־ וואלטונג־ארבעט. ער איז פאר א צייט געשיקט געווארן קיין שיקאגא אלס דער דארטיקער פארוואלטער.

אין צייט פון דעם פראקציאנאלן קאמף אין דער פארטיי איז ער באזייטיקט געווארן פון זיין פאזיציע און ער איז ווידער אוועק ארבעטן אלס מילך־מאן ווי אויך ארבעטן אויף זיין פעטערס פארם אין אלאבא. ניו יארק.

ווען ער איז געקומען צוריק קיין ניו יארק האט אים זיין פריינט ביל גאלדין פון בראנוויל אריינגע־ נומען ארבעטן אין דעם "פלאמבער־טרייד".

אינגיכן איז דער פראקציאנאלער קאמף אין דער פארטיי איינגעשטילט געווארן און די פאסטער־רופע האט צוריק פאראייניקט די פארטיי. שטיינבערג איז צוריקגעקומען ארבעטן אין דער "פרייהייט" אלס פאר־ וואלטער און סעקרעטאר פון דער יידישער סעקציע.

אין 1932 איז ער געווארן ארגי־סעקרעטאר פון ניו יארקער דיסטריקט פון דער פארטיי און צוגע־ טראגן זיין צושטייער. 10 יאר צייט. ביז 1942. ווען ער איז איבערגעשיקט געווארן אלס ארגי־סעקרעטאר קיין ניו־דזשיורני וואו ער איז געווען ארום צוויי יאר צייט.

ער איז צוריקגעקומען קיין ניו יארק און בא־ שטימט געווארן אלס טוער אין דעם אמעריקאנער יידישן לייבאר קאונסיל.

מאקס שטיינבערג איז געווען א דעלעגאט צום אל־ וועלטלעכן יידישן קאנגרעס אין מאנטרע. שווייצאריע. אין 1948 און דאן געמאכט א טור איבער מזרח־איראָ פּע. די אסאציאליטישע לענדער און ישראל פאר דעם אמעריקאנער יידישן לייבאר קאונסיל. דער ציל פון טור איז געווען צו פארטיילן פאנדן. וועלכע זיינען גע־ זאמלט געווארן אין אמעריקע פארן יידישן מלחמה

רעליף צו לינקע גרופן. וועלכע זיינען דיסקרימינירט געווארן דורך די רעאקציאנערע טוער פון יידישן אר־ בעטער־קאמיטעט און דער דזשיאנט דיסטריבוישאן קא־ מיטע.

סוף 1950 ווען ער איז קראנק געווארן אויף א פארשארפטער אסטמא. איז ער אוועקגעפארן קיין קא־ ליפארניע. אין 1951 האט ער אנגעוויבן ווידער אר־ בעטן אויף א פארם אין אנטאריא.

אין 1955. בשעת בען האט געפראוועט זיין 65־ סטן געבוירונגסאג. האט ער געקראגן א הארץ־אטאקע און געצוואונגען געווארן אויפגעזעבן פארמעררי און אָנגעקומען קיין לאָס אנדזשעלעס.

נישט געקומען אויף זיין שוואכן געזונט האט שטיינבערג פארגעזעצט זיין פארטיי־אקטיוויטעט און זיך באטייליקט מיט ארטיקלען אין דער "מארגן־פרייהייט" און געהאלפן בויען די יידישע קולטור־קלובן און סא־ סייעטיס. ער האט פארגעזעצט זיין ארבעט ביז 1977 ווען ער האט שוין ניט געקאנט אַרומגיין צוליב זיינע קראַנק קע אויגן און אנדערע געזונט־פראבלעמען.

ער איז געווען א מיטגליד אין דעם דרום־קאלי־ פארניער דיסטריקט־קאמיטעט פון דער פארטיי.

זיין באליבטע פרוי טאניע האט מיט אים מיטגע־ ארבעט אלע זייערע יארן פון צוזאמענלעבן. ביז איר טויט אין 1975. זיי האבן זיך געטראפן פון פארליבט ווען טאניע איז אלט געווען 18 יאר און געארבעט אויף דער פארם פון מאקס פאטער אין 1910.

א מאָנעמענטאלער אַנדענק־צייכן פאַר מאַקס שטיינ־ בערג איז אויפגעשטעלט געוואָרן אין וויליאַמסוויל, ניו יאָרק.

אין יאר 1938 האט מען דארטן געשאפן א "טרע־ נינג־סקול" פאר יוגנט אין מאקס שטיינבערגס כבוד און אין אַנדענק פון א יוגנט קאָמוניסט פון באַפּלאַ. דזשעימס לעין. וועלכער איז געפאלן אלס העלד אין שפאנישן בייגער־קריג. מען האט א נאמען געגעבן די אינסטיטוציע — די "לעין־שטיינבערג שול".

דער געהילף־דירעקטאר פון דער שול דאָנאַלד לונד־ קוויט האט אין א בריוו אין דעם "דעילי וואָרלד" אַזוי געשריבן: "די גראַדואאַנט פון אונדזער שול האָבן צוגעטראָגן גרויסע באַשטייערונגען פאַר אַ בעסערער וועלט און צו דער עסטער גלאַריע פון אונדזער לאַנד. ציענדיק זייער אינספּיראַציע פון מאַקס און דזשיימס."

ערע דעם אַנדענק פון אונדזער חבר מאַקס שטיינבערג!

מאקס שטיינבערג

דער יידישער אקטיוויסט פאר שלום
און גערעכטיקייט
(אין ליכטיקן אנדענק פון א חבר און קאלעגע אין דער
פראגרעסיווער באוועגונג)
פון דוד סעלצער



מען האט אים געשיקט זיך אוועקשטעלן אויף א
ראג פון א געוויסער גאס און אויספירן א באשטימטע
מעלאדיע און ווארטן ביו אנדערע וועלן אנקומען און
זינגען דאס זעלבע ליד. ער האט אזוי געטאן און א צאל
ארבעטער פון אנדערע שפעער זיינען אנגעקומען. אים
ארומגערינגלט און געזונגען בשעת ער האט געהאלטן
אין איין פייסן. דאס איז געווען א סטרייק-סינגאל.

די סטרייק-פירער האבן אים שטארק געלויבט פאר
זיין געוואנטקייט און איבערגעגעבנקייט צו דער יוגיאָן.
נישט געקוקט וואס ער איז נאך א קליין יינגל. די האָבן
אים אריינגענומען אין זייער קרוין. אזוי האט זיך אָן
געהויבן מאַקס שטיינבערגס יוגיאָן-אַקטיוויטעט.

נאך זיין בר-מצוה, ווען ער איז קוים 14 יאר אלט
געווען, האט מען אים געשיקט זיך פאראייניקן מיט
זיין טאטן, וועלכער איז אוועק קיין קאנאדע, וואו ער
האט געקראגן א שטיק לאַנד און געארבעט אלס פאָר-
מער.

מאקס איז אנגעקומען קיין לאַנדאָן מיט דער הילף
פון "האיאס", אָבער ער איז דאָרט קראַנק געוואָרן אויף
אַן אייטערדיקן אויג און מען האט אים גלייך צוריק-
געשיקט קיין וואַרשע.

אין 1905, איז עלטער פון 15 יאר האט מאקס ווי-
דער עמיגרירט קיין אמעריקע. זיין פאטער האט שוין
דאן געוואוינט אין ניו יארק און געארבעט אין א פּע-
נערשער העמדער-פאַבריק. זיין פאטער האט אים באַ-
געגנט אויף "עליס אילאַנד" און פון דארטן מיט אים
געקומען צו א שאפ-מיטינג און פארגעשטעלט זיך
וונדל פאר זיינע שאפ-מיטארבעטער.

אזוי ארום איז מאקס שטיינבערג שוין דעם
ערשטן טאָג אין אמעריקע געווען ביי א יוגיאָן-מי-
טינג און אנגעהויבן אַרבעטן אין זעלבן שאַפ.

אין 1910 איז שוין די גאַנצע שטיינבערג-פאַמיליע
געווען אין ניו יארק.

דער פאטער האט מיט דער הילף פון דער יידי-
שער אַנטיקולטור-געזעלשאַפט געקויפט אַ פאַרם אין

אין עלטער פון 89 יאר איז לעצטן דעצעמבער,
דעם 20סטן געשטארבן אין קאליפארניע איינער פון
מיינע גאַנצנטסטע חברים און פריינט — מאַקס שטיינ-
בערג.

מיר האָבן זיך צום ערשטן מאל געטראָפן אין דער
רעדאַקציע און פאָוואָלסונג פון דער "פרייהייט" אַרום
1922. מיר האָבן אויך מיטגעאַרבעט אין דער יידישער
סקעציע פון דער קאָמוניסטישער פאַרטיי. אין די יידי-
שע אַרבעטער-קלובן, אין אינטערנאַציאָנאַלן אַרבעטער-
אַרדן און אין ניו-יאָרקער דיסטריקט פון דער פאַרטיי.
אַמאַנענטסטן זיינען מיר געוואָרן ווען איך האָב
אין 1932 פאַרלאָזט די באַוועגונג-דווקעריי, וואו איך
האָב געאַרבעט אלס וועצער און געקומען, לויט משה
אַלינס סאַרלאַנג, ווערן א מיטאַרבעטער אויפן סטעף
פון דער "מאַיגן-פרייהייט". שטיינבערג איז דאן געווען
דער סעקרעטאַר פון דער יידישער ביוראָ פון דער
פאַרטיי.

די קאָלירפולע ביאָגראַפיע פון מאַקס שטיינבערג

מאקס שטיינבערג איז געווען א שטארקער-מיט-
גליד פון דער וואַרקערס פאַרטיי און דער קאָמוניסטי-
שער פאַרטיי פון אמעריקע.

ער איז אויך געווען א ריטייערטער מיטגליד פון
דער אַמאַלאַגאַמיטעד קלאָדינג וואַרקערס יוגיאָן אין
פון דער טימסטער יוגיאָן.

מאקס שטיינבערג איז געבוירן געוואָרן דעם 15-טן
אויגוסט 1890, אין דעם שטעטל ראַזוואָלעווסק אין רוס-
לאַנד. פאַר אַ צייט האט די פאַמיליע אויך געוואוינט
אין קאַלק, ווען מאַקס איז אלט געוואָרן 9 יאר האט
די פאַמיליע זיך אַריבערגעצויגן קיין וואַרשע. ער איז
דאָרט געגאַנגען אין חדר און געלערנט ביי פּרויזאַטע
לערער.

נאך איידער ער איז געוואָרן בר מצוה האט מען
אים אנגעדונגען אלס אַ לערן-יינגל אין א גאַלדשמיד-
געשעפט. שוין דעם ערשטן טאָג ביי דער אַרבעט האָבן
אים די עלטערע אַרבעטער אַריינגעצויגן אין א יוגיאָן-
אַקטיוויטעט.

יודישע ענינים

מאי-יוני 1980

געלייטנט אין דער יודישער פרעסע

יידישע שפראך אין די שולן פון ביראבידזשאן

היינטיגע מאטעריאלן, וועלכע דארפן צו געבויט ווערן צום ערד'יגער, איין וויסן די לערנדיגער פון יודיש, וועלכע זענען ארויסגעלאזט געווארן נאך פאר די מלחמה יארן, זענען מערסטנטייל שוין פארעלטערט און מען קאן זיך נישט באצאן מיט זיי. האט מען קומען זיך געארבעט דערן די שפראך וועגן זייע לערנדיגער, און קומען מיט א סעסע אפ'יכ'ית, מיר האבן באקומען זענען צו געשאפן דעם מענטשליכע פונעם איד'ן בית, איבער און דער געזענדיגער איד'ן בערגענען געווארן אין אפטייל פון א צינגעלע שולן ביים ביהודונג'ליכע טעריע פון רוסלען און דער רע-אייניגער פון רעצענוע.

פראגע און אפ'יכ'ית א.י. ווי באר וועט, בלויז דער אנהייב פאר זענען-ער נען די שפראך, און ווי האלט עס מיט זיך גענוג און פאר די שולער און געהילפס-מאטעריאלן פאר די לערער און די ווייטערדיגע שטופען ענטפערן י.י. דאס איז זייער וויכטיק, האנדערט און זענען די פערסענליכע קעמפס, דארפן די שולער און אפטייל פערציג האבן א באוועגען און א ווערטער-באנאמען אפ'יכ'ית, א באוועגען

א לערנ-מעטאדעסער האט בראש מיט דער פארוואלטערן פונעם גענעלעכען ביהודונג-אפטייל פ.ג. באקאנטע אלס מיטגלידער פונעם האט זענען בא-שטימט געווארן די פארוואלטערן פון נעם אפטייל פון ווייטנשאפט און שולן פון דעם גענעלעכען פארטיי-קאמיטעט פ.ג. ביראבידזשאן די שטעט-פארטרעטערן פונעם ביהודונג-אפטייל ו.מ. קארט-טשייטע, די שרייבער ב. מילער און דער ראבינעקאו, דער רעדאקטאר פון דער צייטונג "ביראבידזשאנער שטרען" ג. קארטמינסקי, דער לערער-זונטעראן ג. קארולעך די פארוואלטערן פונעם קאבינעט פאר אפטייל-שולן ביים גענע-לעכען אינסטיטוט פאר פארפולקאמען די לערער ו.י. פאנטשענקא, דער מעטאדיסט פונעם ביהודונג-אפטייל ד.ו. ארינג, דער דירעקטאר פון דער וואלדיימער מיטלשול, פארדינסטער לערער פון רוסלען, א.א. פרישקא-ניק, די לערער י.י. בעלמאן, ב.י. לאשקע, ד.ג. געראשעוויטש, דער האט און געבילדעט געווארן אין מערץ 1978.

פראגע: וועלכע פראגן האט באר האנדלט און זיינע זיצונגען דער ראש-ענטפער: אייך דער ערשטער זיצונג איז בעטן ארויסגעבן געווארן די פראגע וועגן איינפירן דאס פארקלאר-טונג דערלערנען די יודישע שפראך, ווי אייך וועגן די לערנדיגער און גע-

אנהייבנדיק פונעם לויפנדיקן יאר אין אייניקע ביראבידזשאנער שולן איבערערט דער לימוד פון יודישער שפראך אין צוהאמערנאנג מיט דער דע-ווער וויכטיקער געשעעניש אינעם קולטור-צענטר פון דער יודישער ווייטנ-נאמע געבט און דער רעדאקטאר פון "סאוועטש היילאנד" פארבעסערען א באוועגעניש מיטן פארטייל פונעם ביהודונג-אפטייל פון דער גענעלעכען וועלכער ס'האבן אנטוויקעלט געווען דער מעטאדיסט פון יודישער שפראך פונעם גענעלעכען ביהודונג-אפטייל ד. אורינג, איינער פון די ארינג'ן פונעם אפ'יכ'ית בית, וועלכע ס'האט צוברעייט א גר-עסע תורים פון ביראבידזשאן, ג. קאר-ולע און דער אינספיקטאר פונעם אפ-טייל פון טעאטיאטע שולן ביים ביה-ודונג-מיניסטעריום פון דער רוסעני-יודישער פערזאנלעך סאציאליסטי-שער רעפובליק ג. בארישעוו.

מיר גיבן דא א שומעס, וועלכע די רעדאקטאר פון "סאוועטש היילאנד" האט געווען מיט דעם פארשטייער פון נעם ביראבידזשאנער ביהודונג-אפטייל ד.ו. ארינג.

פראגע: וויאזוי איז געגאנגען די צו-נענטערען צום איינפירן דעם יודישלימוד אין די ביראבידזשאנער שולן?

ענטפער: צום אלעם ערשט איז בייס ביהודונג-אפטייל געשאפן געווארן