

000065

IT'S

HAPPENING
IN
NEW YORK

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

SOCIALIST - LABOUR
COLLECTION



Anti - Semitism
Must Be Stopped

by
JOHN ARNOLD
and
LEON HARRIS

1c

JEWISH LIFE

answers your questions

- HOW TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE U. S.?
- WHY DID MUSSOLINI STRIKE AT THE JEWS?
- HOW CAN PEACE BE RESTORED TO PALESTINE?
- WHAT IS HAPPENING TO JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD?

JEWISH LIFE answers these questions, which are agitating every American Jew today, and many others. It is the English monthly organ of the New York State Jewish Bureau of the Communist Party.

**A magazine indispensable to every
Jewish home.**

32 pages

10c. a copy

\$1.00 a year

**NOW
IN ITS
SECOND
YEAR**

Jewish Life
50 E. 13th St., New York City
Please send Jewish Life for 12 months.
Enclosed is one dollar.

Name

Address

City State

It was a warm summery day in Union Square. The time was June, 1938. Groups of people were standing in the few shaded spots engaged in animated discussion. Suddenly two men in the uniform of the New York National Guard charged through the park shouting:

"Kill the Jews. Roosevelt is a Jew and we'll get him too."

One of them was caught and turned over to the police. He was identified as Andrew Gimlen, a private in the 1st Battalion of the 244th Coast Artillery. He admitted membership in the German-American Bund, U.S. Nazi organization.

The tie-up between many guardsmen in the 244th Coast Artillery and various Fascist organizations had already been exposed by the New York POST on November 23, 1937. A ball sponsored by a Russian Fascist organization had been arranged on the night of Saturday, November 13, aboard the U.S.S. Illinois, which serves as an armory for the First Battalion of the New York Naval Militia. Nazis, Italians and others in all types of Fascist uniforms were guests of the Russian White Guards.

"Also present", according to the POST, "were fully 30 men and officers in the uniform of the Army of the United States. Insignia on their tunics showed that they belonged to the 244th Coast Artillery of the New York National Guard."

Wine and vodka flowed freely. The toasts and ribald songs were almost all anti-Semitic. Jews were blamed for everything, for the Russian revolution, for the American dust bowl, for the C.I.O. and the excellent progress it has made in organizing the masses of skilled and unskilled workers, for the Wagner Act, for Roosevelt and the New Deal—which they called Rosenfeld and the Jew Deal.

A few months later, an inspired Nazi in a Yorkville beer-tavern sang a parody on the marching song of the seven dwarfs from "Snow White" which epitomizes everything the anti-Semites stand for in their offensive against labor and progressive government. It runs:

"Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, we join the C.I.O.
We pay our dues to the goddamn Jews,
Heigh-ho, heigh-ho."

This poisoning of Walt Disney's beautiful fairy tale was taken up by the Liberty Leaguers and spread throughout the land. It appealed to every business man, small or large, who had ever had a dispute with labor. The working conditions were alright, this vicious song told them, it was only the "Jewish agitators" who were to blame. Last June, the parody broke into the news as a marching song of the College reunions at Cornell, Harvard and other universities.

As for the National Guard, the storm caused by the public revelation of the anti-Semitic, anti-New Deal love feast of the Fascists aboard the Government ship, U.S.S. Illinois, aroused Governor Lehman to take action against aliens in the National Guard. But it seems that Governor Lehman's orders were not carried out efficiently (or should we say sabotaged) by his subordinates, because eight months after officers and men of the 244th Coast Artillery appeared in uniform at the fascist ball, Andrew Gimlen, an admitted Nazi, attacked the Jews in Union Square while wearing the uniform and insignia of the 244th Coast Artillery.

White Guard Fascists continue to form a considerable minority in the New York National Guard. Anti-Semitism is their chief stock-in-trade for winning over the officers and men to the support of the strike-

breaking reactionaries. Most of them are more subtle than the young Nazi who picked out Union Square for his Jew-baiting activities, but their general refrain is the same:

“Roosevelt is a Jew. The Jews’ aim is domination of the country. Kill the Jews and save America.”

Meanwhile, the anti-Semites would “save” America by making vice-President Jack Garner, the Liberty League’s Charlie McCarthy, President. Roy Zachary, Silver Shirt leader, publicly volunteered at a number of Fascist meetings for the job of assassinating President Roosevelt. And at a secret meeting of the Silver Shirts, the same Roy Zachary declared that the Jewish question in America would get its “proper” solution if Jack Garner became President **BECAUSE HE WOULD DRIVE ALL THE JEWS OUT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

UNIONS ARE A “JEWISH PLOT”

America’s sixty families are on the offensive. All the progressive features of the New Deal and the gains of labor are under heavy fire. Anti-Semitism is a tool of the Tory open-shoppers and isolationists. “Labor unions are Jewish rackets”, is their war cry. Unions are described as part of what a speaker at a meeting of the American Nationalist Party at the Steinway Building in New York City last March called the “plot of international Jewry to plunge America and the world into chaos”. President Roosevelt, consistently referred to at this meeting as “Comrade Rosenfeld”, was attacked for helping in this “plot”. The Wagner Act, the Social Security Law, the C.I.O., relief, farmers’ aid, and all the New Deal features of benefit to the workers, the farmers and

the middle classes are assailed as part of the "Jewish plot". The tangible results have been that Nazi misguided young men have been used to break the Kruger bakery strike on Long Island and anti-Semitism combined with red-baiting is used in behind-the-scenes-manouvers in many trade unions to fight the progressive forces and disrupt the unions.

To the employers, trade-union unity which every progressive worker desires is painted as a Jewish plot. The INDUSTRIAL CONTROL REPORTS issued by the notorious anti-Semite, James True, state in a recent issue:

"An authority in close touch with organized labor writes us: 'If FDR and Ma Perkins are successful in making peace between Lewis and Green, the fat will be in the fire. Then the kikes will have it with a down-hill pull.'"

STOP FASCIST WAR PLANS

Another aspect of the "Jewish plot" is collective security. The Jews are warmongers shout the vicious anti-Semites because the progressive forces of the world are trying to prevent Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia and the fascist war plots through concerted action for peace. In short every issue supported by the progressive movement and all legislation in the interests of the broad masses of Americans is immediately connected with the mythical Jewish plot and attacked on that basis. Naturally, the Communist Party, which is the most consistent fighter for progress, peace and democracy, suffers the brunt of the attack.

The real international plot of course is in the tie-up between the Liberty League, representatives of U.S. monopoly capital and the Nazi agents of finance-

capital abroad. Captain Fritz Wiedemann, personal adjutant to Adolf Hitler visited this country last December to confer with Senator Vandenberg, head of the Liberty-League-isolationist bloc in Congress, and others. A few weeks later, Congressman Cellar of Brooklyn, who is up for re-election this year, gave evidence to the State Department that Nazi agents were behind the agitation for the Ludlow amendment, which would effectively tie the hands of the U.S. Government in any attempt to forestall Fascist aggression. And Fritz Kuhn, U. S. Nazi fuehrer upon his return from a conference with Hitler last spring boasted of his intention of establishing Nazi-isolationist blocs in the American Congress and various state legislatures.

We must not forget in our contacts with German-Americans that less than ten per cent of the Germans in this city and throughout the country are followers of the local fuehrer. But through subsidies from Berlin and various pressure methods, the Nazis have won control of over 90 per cent of the German language press. Every morning the average German newspaper reader is filled with anti-Semitic slanders some subtle, others more open. The inspiration for the most obscene lies comes from Julius Streicher's DER STUERMER, thousands of copies of which reach this city every week and are freely distributed unhampered by customs authorities. Despite the effects of this anti-Semitic campaign on the German population, an understanding approach to them can and is bringing a great majority of them into the progressive movement.

The situation of the large Italian community in this city is somewhat similar. For years Italians and Jews have lived side by side in the Lower East Side

and other sections of the city; they have worked together in the needle trades and other industries and have co-operated in building strong unions, such as the I. L. G. W. U., the Amalgamated and others. Meanwhile, across the seas, Italian Fascism is suffering a severe crisis — Spain, Ethiopia and huge war preparations have drained the country's resources. Mussolini is becoming more and more subservient to Hitler's wishes. He went back on his former tolerance of the Jews, kicked out his Jewish mistress, collaborator, and biographer, Margherita Sarfatti, and declared his bulldog jaw to be pure Aryan. (Now we have the complete characteristics of the "Aryan man" —Mussolini's jaw, Hitler's black mustache, Goering's girth and Goebbels' club foot).

Italian Fascist agents swarm over this country, working closely with the numerous Italian consulates. They are in contact with the Nazi agents and the various subsidized shirted organizations of the Ku Klux and Black Legion variety. Very few of the Italian-Americans are consciously pro-Fascist. But again we find that the Fascists control the Italian language press and several radio stations. Subtly at first, the press and radio began about a year ago to carry anti-Semitic propaganda. As anti-Semitism came to the fore in Italy, the Jew-baiting here became more open. During the last year, anti-Semitism has penetrated certain sections of the Italian community.

DANGEROUS SIGNS

During the last year anti-Semitism has become more and more pronounced in the Metropolitan Area. In Staten Island, under the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, school kids of P. S. 45 found one morning that vandals had marked up the walls of their school with large capital letters:

KILL THE JEWS. BOYCOTT THE JEWS

We find a Fascist student organization at the city-owned City College. The American Guards, an anti-Semitic organization organized along military-fascist lines and maintaining close connections with William Dudley Pelley's Silver Shirts and Raymond J. Healy, self-styled "American Hitler," has been active since 1934. After a vigorous protest to Dr. Frederick B. Robinson, reactionary President of City College, by Congressman Dickstein of downtown Manhattan, up for re-election this fall, the use of the college rooms was discontinued, but the organization still flourishes.

Wherever the reactionaries are in power, there the anti-Semites have a field day. In Queens, there is Borough President George U. Harvey, red-baiter and "little fuehrer," who was associated with the infamous Ku Klux Klan. There the Jew-Baiters are particularly active.

With the first tinge of spring as the early birds from the South alighted on the steel girders of the coming World's Fair, the anti-Semitic vultures swooped down on the peaceful borough. All through March and April and most of May, the citizens of Queens were deluged with anti-Semitic leaflets openly distributed in the streets. "Communism is Jewish" shouted the leaflets. "Out with the Jews. LET WHITE PEOPLE RUN THIS COUNTRY AS THEY DID BEFORE THE JEWISH INVASION." The elevated lines and subway stations were plastered with insulting caricatures marked with the inscription "Boycott the Jews."

Protests poured in from all sides, but were ignored by the reactionary borough leadership, until representatives of the leading civic organizations in the

borough called on District Attorney Charles Sullivan and forced him to order an investigation. On May 23, the perfunctory investigation began and the plague slackened.

"SLUG THE JEWS FIRST"

But "little fuehrer" Harvey is still a couple of steps behind "big fuehrer" Hague in combining anti-Semitism with his fight against democracy, free-speech, the C. I. O., and 'Communism.'

"Slug the Jews first" were the orders that Hague's thugs received on that famous Saturday night when Hague gathered a lynch mob to prevent Congressmen Jerry O'Connell and John Bernard from speaking in Journal Square. Scenes from Nazi Germany had nothing on what happened in Jersey City that night. Any person with a slightly "Semitic" profile was set upon by the Hague storm-troopers "to teach the Jews where they belong." An eye-witness, Donald B. Robinson, gives us a description of one of these attacks on the platform of the tube station (NEW REPUBLIC, May 25):

"From the top of the stairs, the screaming came. We ran up the stairs. A slugger gang was at work. Eight or ten of them, hard, strong, some wearing sweaters: The Jersey City Athletic League. They were thumping a little fellow, obviously a Jew. The Jew was sobbing. 'Please, please, I'm a sick man.' But they kept on swinging, gouging. He broke away, rushed down a staircase to the platform. They followed at a run. 'Catch that Goddamned Jew!' one yelled at me as he ran by. They caught him and knocked him down. They punched and they kicked him—in the eye, the mouth, the stomach, the groin.

Blood streamed across the tube platform, dripped down the side. 'Leave me alone,' the little Jew begged. 'I didn't do nothing.' Two station guards stood nearby, did nothing . . . The train pulled in, and the guards finally pushed into the swirling group. They picked the little Jew up and helped him on the train. But a big, fat fellow wasn't quite ready yet to end his fun. He jumped in, too, and swung one last blow. 'That'll teach you Jew — to stay where you belong.'

These sluggings of Jews were no accident but part of Hague's typically Fascist drive on civil liberties and labor unions, which are all part of a "Jewish plot", of course. During Congressman O'Connell's second visit to Hagueland on May 28, Commissioner of Safety Daniel Casey told him that Jews were making all the trouble and Chief of Police Harry Walsh said to the Congressman: "Your friends are a lot of Jews. We are going to put the Jews in their place."

And across the river from Jersey City live 2½ million Jews, the greatest Jewish community in the world. Yet no outcry was made against this brutal manifestation of Hitler anti-Semitism at our own doorstep. "Hush, hush" was the slogan of the reactionary Jewish leaders. There were even prominent Jews in Jersey City, judges, lawyers and business men, who in subservience to the "fuehrer" ousted anti-Hague Rabbi Plotkin from the Jersey City Jewish Center and denounced him as a "Communist." And still little action was taken on either side of the Hudson to rally to the defense of Rabbi Plotkin and defeat Fascist tendencies among our own people.

Taking their cue from the Hague terror, Nazi thugs in Brooklyn, began a minor terror of their own. Four of them invaded the office of David Weiss, anti-Nazi editor, brandishing a swastika and demanding that

he kiss it. Weiss courageously refused, whereupon the thugs tore down an American flag from the wall, broke the staff on his head and as he lay helpless on the floor they used the ragged, broken staff end as an instrument of torture jamming it into his body. After scratching swastikas on his back, the thugs wrecked the office and left. No one was arrested for this bestial outrage in the heart of the Jewish section of Brooklyn.

SILENCE IS SUICIDE

The story of the rise of anti-Semitism in and around New York is not easy to relate. To tell it adequately we must follow Jewish students into the colleges where they face the "quota;" we must follow Jewish workers and professionals into factories and the professions where they meet discrimination; we must follow Jewish children into the city schoolrooms where they meet the anti-Semitic expressions of their teachers and some of their fellow classmates. But there is no need to accumulate all the horrible details to gather the full meaning of this poisonous pattern which is being woven into our social and political life. The picture stands out clearly in its harsh and brutal outline. Anti-Semitism is a disease gnawing at the heart of American democracy and menacing the rights and development of the Jewish community.

The mere recognition of the fact that anti-Semitism is a menace is far from enough. Very few Jews would deny the evil effects of anti-Semitism and the activities of the Nazi Bund and other Jew-baiting outfits have been publicly exposed time and time again. Too few Jews, however, recognize the *immediacy* of the anti-Semitic threat. Large numbers of Jews ignore the day to day expressions of anti-Semitism and dis-

crimination against Jews. Too many Jews, who can no longer plead ignorance due to the flagrant forms of present day anti-Semitism, tie their future to a blind, unexplained faith in the impossibility of anti-Semitism in America.

But recent months have taught us that anti-Semitism is no more impossible here than it was in Germany. Our native fascists, in alliance with agents of German and Italian fascism, are doing everything in their power to make violent anti-Semitism a reality HERE and NOW. The time for calm theorizing about the nature and origin of anti-Jewish movements has long past. The "hush-hush" policies, the cowardly capitulation to attacks on the Jews, the fear to raise a Jewish voice in protest or self-defense have proved their utter bankruptcy. While certain Jewish leaders were "hush-hushing" and singing sweet lullabies to the Jewish masses the anti-Semites were working day and night to foment hatred of the Jews. While Jewish retreatists were diplomatically approaching "the Jewish question" with silk gloves and honey-oozing phrases Hague thugs were beating up Jews. While Jewish "well-doers" were silent Nazis were bellowing anti-Semitic slogans.

Heywood Brown, criticizing this bury-your-head-in-the-sand approach to anti-Semitism in his column of September 7th, 1938, correctly said:

"I disagree thoroughly with this attitude. There is no health in hidden lesions, and maladies which are allowed to lie dormant are more dangerous than those which can be whipped into the open. When a patient has an attack of appendicitis it may be possible to get him by with ice packs. But the menace will remain. I believe in surgery."

And surgery means action — decisive action. Too often, however, the response of American Jews to

anti-Semitism has been characterized by gross inactivity. The relative security of the American-Jewish community has given rise to the false theory that anti-Semitism will never take root here. The alarming spread of anti-Semitic activities should prove the utter falsity of this contention. Today we are concerned with the immediate necessity of mobilizing all our forces for the defeat of the anti-Semitic plague. Jewish passivity to anti-Semitism today spells suicide and it is the duty of every Jew to participate actively in the struggle to expose and defeat every expression of the anti-Semites.

DIVIDED JEWRY IS POWERLESS

Our first question must be: **HOW CAN ANTI-SEMITISM BE DEFEATED?** In answering this question one fundamental fact must be borne in mind—notwithstanding the internal differences among the Jews anti-Semitism attacks ALL Jews regardless of their beliefs or organizational affiliation. A divided Jewry is powerless in the face of the united offensive of the Jew-baiters. This fact must penetrate the consciousness of every intelligent Jew. P

Our supreme task of the moment is to concentrate all our energies on the unification of the broadest number of Jews in a determined fight against anti-Semitism. Unashamedly and concretely our united forces must combat economic discrimination in the professions and industries. We must wage a consistent battle for the employment of Jews in the utilities and banks who are among the most flagrant discriminators. We must expose and put an end to the "quotas" in the colleges. We must struggle for adequate legislation to outlaw anti-Semitic propaganda and organizations. The Nazi purveyors of un-Americanism must be stopped in their tracks.

Anti-Semitism in America is not a mass phenomenon originating from below. It is a weed nurtured by conscious reactionary sources and it must be uprooted before it is allowed to stifle Jewish life and democratic rights. We have the power to stop the horrors of anti-Semitism. We must now exercise this power in direct struggle, in the support of such organizations as the Jewish People's Committee and in the broadening of the newly formed Council for Jewish Rights until it includes all Jewish bodies willing to participate in the defense of Jewish rights.

We Jews of New York, comprising the largest Jewish community in the world, must shoulder our responsibilities and lead the way in the forging of a united mass struggle against anti-Semitism.

But we Jews are not alone in this fight. Although anti-Semitism harms the Jews most, it is, as we have seen, an organic part of the present reactionary drive to emasculate the Bill of Rights and to wipe out the progressive features of the New Deal administration. Anti-Semitism is an expression of the labor-baiters, the red-baiters and all the enemies of democracy and progress. We Jews have allies for the struggle against anti-Semitism in labor and all the democratic elements in our city and state. We all have a common enemy and a common interest in the preservation and extension of democracy. Consequently, the successful fight for Jewish rights cannot be isolated from the general fight for democracy and peace and against fascism. The future of the Jewish people is directly linked with the future of progress and our PRESENT activities for our own defense cannot be directed in any direction other than cooperation with the forces of labor and progress.

In the alliance of democratic forces now being forged—in the democratic front representing Ameri-

ca's fighting front of democrats, workers, farmers and middle-class people, the Jews have a definite stake.

The basic issues confronting the Jews, whether reaction and anti-Semitism will march on unchallenged sowing their poisonous seeds and plotting their anti-Jewish plots or whether democracy and equality for the Jews shall triumph and prevail will be determined to a very great extent in the coming State and Congressional elections. These elections constitute our immediate battlefield. Their outcome has more than a passing meaning for the Jews. The sting of anti-Semitism will be sharpened or dulled as a result and it is the task of every Jew to participate in the democratic front and support the progressive candidates in order to disarm the anti-Semites. Here in New York the forces of the American Labor Party represent a progressive grouping in opposition to reaction, fascism and anti-Semitism. In the coming elections we must give our support to the progressive candidates, the candidates of the A. L. P. and the candidates of the Communist Party.

Before, during and after the elections we must exercise our constant vigilance and effective mass action to expose and defeat the cancer of anti-Semitism. The disease is spreading. We know its causes and its germ-spreaders. Now we must destroy the germs and safeguard our healthy development.

FORWARD TO UNITY AND THE DEFEAT OF ANTI-SEMITISM!

Additional books, pamphlets and periodicals on all vital subjects can be obtained from

WORKERS BOOK SHOP

50 E. 13th St., New York, N. Y.

Mail orders filled.



490

Printing, 120,000 copies