

# Which Way for the Jewish People: Zionist Politics Or Socialist Struggle?

By AL FINDLEY

Early in September the conservative bourgeois press of Palestine started its campaign to have the Jews of the United States vote Republican and thus punish the Democrats for their "treachery" to the Jewish cause. These attempts had little effect on the general Zionists. During the election campaign the Zionists stressed criticism of the Truman policy, but never actually broke with the Democrats. Truman's Yom Kippur statement, urging the admission of 100,000 Jews into Palestine, was hailed by the Zionists.

Even the mild Zionist criticism was too strong for the local Stalinists. Through the Jewish Labor Council, one of their front organizations, they published a statement accusing the Zionists of aiding reaction—completely neglecting the fact that the bulk of the bourgeois leaders of American Zionism are still tied to the tails of the same Democratic Party which they, too, were supporting.

The only open endorsement of the Republican Party came from the Revisionists—a reactionary, semi-fascist tendency in Zionism—who denounced the Democrats for their inaction during Hitler's terror, for Roosevelt's acceptance of the 1939 White Paper, for Roosevelt's promise to Ibn Saud, for the loan to Britain, etc. The Revisionists look to the United States to use its position as senior partner in the Anglo-American imperialist combine, to force its will on the junior partner—Britain.

In turn, the supporters of Rabbi Stephen Wise in the Zionist movement justify their aid to the Democrats by pointing to Republican indifference to the fate of the Jews under Hitler, to the facts that the Republicans agreed to the first partition of Palestine in 1921 and that a Republican Congress passed the worst anti-immigration laws in 1924.

**For our part, we agree with both—neither the Democrats nor the Republicans are interested in the Jewish people, except insofar as it will help garner a few votes, or insofar as their "interest" will enable them to use the Jews as pawns in the imperialist game of power politics.**

The bourgeois Zionists—liberals and conservatives—have taken their stand with one or the other of the capitalist parties.

## THE "SOCIALIST" ZIONISTS

The so-called Socialist Zionists, the left-wing Hashomer Hatzair and the reformist Paale Zion continue to exist in the stratosphere and refuse to sully their hands with "politics," giving no support to ANY working class parties or candidates.

The inaction of these latter organizations flows from the false Zionist concept that nothing effective can be done for the Jews outside of Palestine and that the Jewish problem and U. S. politics are separate. A tragic example of this false philosophy can be seen in the attitude of the Zionists toward demanding the admission of refugees to the United States. While LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party, mindful of the desperate need of the displaced persons, has demanded that the United States open its doors, the Zionists remain silent on this proposal.

Granting the Zionist assumption that Palestine can accommodate from two to six million Jews within a few generations—what is their answer to the problems of the nine million Jews who will have to live else-

where? Shall they submit meekly to anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism has deep historic and religious roots and exists in latent or potential form among millions. In times of deep social crisis, these latent ideas take on overt and outspoken forms. Capitalism is in the greatest social crisis of all history. We therefore find that anti-Semitism takes the most extreme and totalitarian forms, as in Germany. Support of, or compromise with the breeder of anti-Semitism, is a betrayal of the Jews.

It is not simply a question, as some put it, of "Why should the Jews fight for the interests of others?" Those Jews who are fighting for socialism are fighting not merely for others but also for their own personal survival and for the survival of their people.

Even if all the Jews could enter Palestine in the near future, what would be the fate of this small country in a world dominated by capitalist and Stalinist imperialism? The daily papers of the last few months have painted a grim picture and are impressing it into even the hardest head—that such a world offers no hope for peace and independence from outside interference.

## THE ROLE OF LABOR

"What about the British Labor government?" is the cry raised by the reactionaries, and some renegade socialists. J. Lischinsky, writing in the Yidisher Kempfer, says:

**"The Attlees and the Bevins have shown... that even socialists do not stop at any cruelty when they are dealing with Jews. Therewith they have demonstrated for the entire working class that their socialism is only holiday phrases to be thrown out root and branch when they conflict with the imperialist interests of their nation."**

The logical inconsistency of this argument is apparent from the writer's own words. He condemns the British Labor Party for sacrificing its socialism for nationalism, for departing from socialist anti-imperialist principles and for accommodating itself to an imperialist set-up. At the same time, Lischinsky himself completely embraces nationalism as the sole guiding principle of action.

In the same way, the Jewish nationalists, reformist-liberals and Revisionists, are as guilty as the British Labor Party because they too worship nationalism and accommodate themselves to imperialism in one way or another.

The only road for the Jews of the U. S., individually or as a group, is to support and join in the socialist struggle to destroy capitalist imperialism.

## NO REPORT YET ON SHACHTMAN VOTE

We have as yet been unable to get from the Board of Elections a record of the vote for the Workers Party candidate, Max Shachtman, in the 15th Congressional District of Brooklyn. On the day of voting, only the vote of the big parties is phoned to the Board and released to the press. It sometimes takes weeks, sometimes months, before a report is issued on the balloting for minority parties. As soon as we receive the information it will be published in LABOR ACTION.