

LETTERS

(Continued)

There was a minor error that I would like to bring to your attention. You mention quite correctly that the so-called Western democracies failed to do anything to save the Jews during and after World War II, but you missed two important exceptions to that rule, i.e., the Christian monarchies of Sweden and Denmark, who (both after the war and even today) have accepted many penniless Jewish refugees from Germany and Poland with no strings attached.

Again congratulations on an excellent article and an excellent issue.

Michael A. Brush
Los Angeles, Calif.

Editors:

David Horowitz's article "The Passion of the Jews" in *Ramparts'* October issue makes a number of subtle and perceptive points about the failure of modern Jewish ideology to come to grips with itself. But in saying: "Out of the negative community of those who have been singled out for persecution and extermination, there arises the community of those whose solidarity with the stranger, with the persecuted and exterminated, is unconditional." (p. 60) Horowitz missed the central point of Judaism. Judaism is a positive religion, its greatness comes

from working out its ethics on the anvil of history. People who seek for essences and purity in it are seeking for the dead—for pure Judaism exists only in romantic memory.

Real Jews seek the opportunity to live as Jews and this entails imperfection. It is this imperfection that creates the real double standard in Jewish existence. Horowitz incorrectly claims that Jews have eschewed the greatness of universalism for the narrowness of parochialism. It has become popular in recent years to see glory in the death of Jews. Judaism has never glorified death, only life. If life and the search to make it meaningful brings down wrath on the Jews, then we should try to show ourselves equal to the test. But to seek such a fate is in Judaism, no less than other western religions, self-destructive and essentially blasphemous.

Alan Gorr
Rock Island, Ill.

[AMNESTY]

Editors:

Re: "Amnesty, A Question of Justice" (Nov. '74), I would like to underscore a few points and add one more of my own.

First, as did so many others, I made all attempts possible to perform alternative service, and was abruptly refused. Something snapped then, and I have never felt unquestioned affection or loyalty to the United States since. The thousands of draft

board members across the country bear responsibility for an exodus of minds and youthful enthusiasms and courage of which the U.S. now has demonstrable need.

I found Gene Marine's comments on rites of passage illuminating. I count my coming to Canada as a great event in my life because here, for the first time, I learned a form of self-reliance that is becoming rarer in the United States. Perhaps it would have occurred there also, but here one is freer of obsessive role-expectations. It's alright for a man to show needs, to cry, to have aspirations, in other words, to be a human being. Personal growth is possible here, and it is not ridiculed when it appears.

Yet I will remain here. Gene's article makes a clear statement why. I would not give up my life here for two years service to "purchase" my "right" to visit my family and native land. If any quality of genuine compassion and understanding still exists in an embittered and embattled United States, may it return to *all* the expatriates their God-given right to emotional freedom from haunting past memories. Perhaps some, in that circumstance, may even choose to return and lend their lives' services to a country in need. If they do so choose, it will be their gift to the United States, more than the country has the right to have expected.

Paul B. Ohannesian
Vancouver, B.C.

Editors:

An important omission from your article on amnesty was any reporting on the amnesty movement in this country, for those who want to help out or for those who are eligible for the plan. There is a large-scale effort nationwide, given added steam by Ford's plan, that is continuing to work for universal and unconditional amnesty for *all* those in need of such a plan. Public education with an emphasis on trying to get Congress to override Ford's plan with a no-strings amnesty is the basic strategy right now. Keeping up the very effective boycott of Ford's plan is also very important, and to that it is important for those subject to the plan to know where they can get some good, straight information before they turn themselves in. So, it would be good if you'd publish the addresses of the following two groups:

National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty, 339 Lafayette St., NYC, NY 10012 (an umbrella coalition of many groups who are working for or sympathetic to amnesty), and

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 2016 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103 or CCCO/Western Region, 1251 2nd Ave., S.F., Ca. (a group doing much of the counseling of those eligible for the plan—they've done a good study of the plan and have good legal contacts).

It goes without saying, that these groups are desperately in need of money to carry on.

Steve Ladd
War Resisters League/West
San Francisco, Calif.



A

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An Investigation into
the Life, Political Thought,
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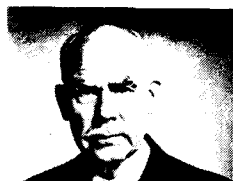
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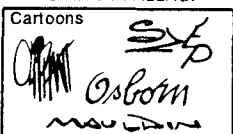
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LETTERS (Continued)

[BLACKS FOR WALLACE]

Editors:

This is in response to the article "Blacks for Wallace" in your November 1974 issue. What never ceases to amaze me is how people who do not live within the State of Alabama are able to develop such a broad knowledge about the motivation which causes Alabamians to take action that is necessary and in the best interest of their people and state.

The kind gentleman who wrote the article must realize that he does not live in the State of Alabama. Again, I want to make the record clear that I supported and chose to vote for Governor George Wallace for re-election as Governor of the State of Alabama. I have not made any decision as to

my choice for President. I would like to further indicate that my reasons for voting for the Governor are as follows:

1. He was the best qualified candidate.
2. My working experience with the Governor and his staff has been a fair one.
3. It is absolutely necessary for some blacks to be able to have a line of communication with the Governor of the state regardless of who he is.
4. It did not take a genius to predict that Governor Wallace would be the Democratic Nominee for Governor. I happen to be a Democrat and this time I chose to support the Democratic Nominee.

When the author speaks of the strife of the 60's during the heat of the racial turmoil, I would like to ask where was he? I was there, whether it was Selma, Tuskegee or Montgomery, Alabama. As a young man I was there marching, picketing, and demonstrating while the Governor was standing in the door. I say to you that I don't know whether or not the Governor has changed,

that is his business. I do say to you that I cannot speak for everybody and I don't try to convince other people to do what I do, but the Governor has convinced me that he is trying to be fair and work for all the people of the State of Alabama, and that is all I can ask of any Governor.

In the final analysis, it shall be the people of Alabama, both black and white, who are willing to put aside their differences of the past, come together and work in the best interest for the future of our state. It is these people who will be able to solve the problems facing the people of Alabama.

Johnny Ford
Mayor, Tuskegee, Ala.

[SMOKEY LIES]

Editors:

As Bruce Howard suggests in his excellent "Selling Lies" [December 1974/January 1975] Smokey is the Dancing Bear of Timber Imperialism, his (sic) function to keep us suitably reverent and ignorant when we set foot in our local forest. He's also right that the campaign itself rests on a lie: from 1960-66, when my husband and I were lookouts in the Willamette National Forest, the world's largest Douglas Fir timber stand, at no time did "man-caused" fires go above 15 percent of the total acreage burned. On top of that, lest the image of a careless family picnic rise too swiftly in mind, I should point out that nearly all the men causing the fires were involved in work in the woods: loggers careless with gasoline cans, machinery sparks, electrical shorts and train hotboxes. The vast majority of acreage burned was lightning-caused.

In fact, Smokey doesn't want you in the woods at all, and wants you to feel guilty as hell while you're there, so you won't notice that the Timber Imperialists are cutting the piss out of public lands while holding their own vast acreages behind "Private-No Trespassing" and "Tree Farm-No Trespassing" signs. The Department of Agriculture (motto: "The greatest good for the greatest number") polices and protects our forests from us, builds roads for the Timber Imperialists and develops new kinds of trees—all so private industry can pull in mammoth profits selling the rest of us what Dickens referred to as "cheap deal" and "shoddy."

If everybody who read this letter went out to their nearest forest and set a fire it still wouldn't equal mother nature's lightshows. In fact some Indian tribes set fires when they need cash money, being then hired on as fire-fighting crews, which is anybody's idea of a hard way to make a buck. Too bad their name isn't Weyerhaeuser; he bought Cal., Ore. and Wash. land with the Kaiser's money at twenty-five cents an acre just before the First World War from the guy who may have served as the prototype for Smokey: "Teddy" Roosevelt, who had his own Lie, that he was a conservationist, while he killed wild animals and gave away with both hands the lands of all the people.

M. F. Beal
Seal Rock, Ore.

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A Few Words

IT WASN'T THE CIA, and it wasn't the phone company, and it wasn't even the U. S. Postal Service. Frankly, it was us. We didn't publish a February 1975 Ramparts because we couldn't afford it.

At Ramparts, of course, economic crisis isn't news. But we're glad to say that, without a tax rebate or a public works grant, for our own finances at least, the worst seems to be over. To us that means survival is no longer a question, though as usual it will be a struggle. Or, in other words, if you can keep it up, so can we.

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The Editors



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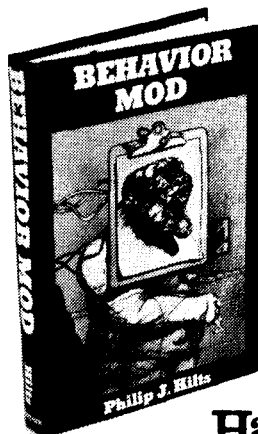
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