

Letters from Our Readers

Wants Analysis Of Palestine War

Editor:

Thank you very much for mailing me your two sample issues of *The Militant*, (May 17 and May 24) which I had requested in connection with Mr. Farrell Dobbs' radio speech over the NBC network.

According to your news coverage (in these two copies), either Arabs or Jews are not in battle (and dying) or if they are, it is apparently not worth your considering or reporting.

If this is your consistent policy I shall have to look elsewhere for a Socialist analysis of the Palestine situation about which I am deeply concerned. I'm not saying, nor implying that you have no position on the Palestine question, but I am stating that it is deplorable that during the height of the Palestine crisis, *The Militant* is silent.

C. K.
New York City

P.S. I'm voting for either Mr. Dobbs or Mr. Thomas in this election.

Ed. Note: C. K. is referred to the May 31 issue of *The Militant* for an editorial on the Palestine war.

Optimistic About SWP Presidential Campaign

Editor:

The many warm responses of the people whom I approached for signatures to the Socialist Workers Party nominating petitions in Bridgeport, Conn., were very heartening. I'll relate a few of my experiences there which have made me exceedingly optimistic about the results of our presidential campaign.

A group of workers gathered around me in front of a hardware store, to read our program which was printed on the petitions. While signing the petitions, one of them declared, "That's a good program all right." Then he turned to his friend saying, "Here, sign this, you should be for it too."

I discussed the differences between Stalinism and Trotskyism with a Puerto-Rican worker who had been in jail in Puerto Rico for revolutionary activities. He was interested in our party and was very eager to discuss political questions at greater length with us.

A Polish worker said, "You are

right. The workers have suffered long enough. We should take things over."

A Negro worker stated, "I won't vote anything but a socialist ticket."

According to one housewife, the capitalists want more than a monopoly in politics, "they want our blood too." As I was leaving her, she said, "I was glad to sign the petition and do something to help the working people. Lots of luck to you."

"I'm all for socialism," asserted a visitor from England who was sitting on a park bench while her grand-child was playing in the sand. "I'd sign your petition if I was a United States citizen." She said that if the British Labor Party does not move farther to the left, she and her husband would support another party.

Referring to the Republicans and the Democrats, one man said, "We've certainly had enough of them!" He gave me suggestions on where to go to procure the greatest number of signatures.

These and other workers' reactions convinced me that there are scores of potential members of the Socialist Workers Party in Bridgeport, Conn., and that we should soon have a party branch there. If the workers of Bridgeport are a representative sample of the workers throughout the country, the revolutionary movement in the United States will not fail to grow tremendously during our election campaign and afterwards.

E. V. P.

Takes Issue With Palestine Position

Editor:

As a member of the Socialist Workers Party who takes pride in the wonderful work performed by *The Militant*, I regret to have to take strong exception to your recent editorial on "The Arab-Jewish War in Palestine." The following are the main criticisms I have to make.

The editorial acknowledges that British imperialism is backing "the feudal princeling rulers of the Arab States." But, on the other hand, it implies that Wall Street is behind the Jews. This implication is not supported by the facts. It is very well known that there is a rift inside the administration between Truman and the forces within the State and National Defense Departments which represent the oil monopolists. Truman wants Jewish votes and he is ready to back the Zionists; but everybody

knows that the American reversal on partition was due to the pressure of Standard Oil, backed by its faithful stooge James Forrestal. Far from being behind the Jews, Wall Street is backing the Arabs as is proven by America's maintenance of the arms embargo.

And what does the Jewish state mean, for instance, for the survivors of Hitler's gas chambers? The only real prospective of finding a haven. Although it is true that with or without a Jewish state the Jews will be annihilated if the capitalist system is not destroyed, although it is true that only socialism will make it

possible for the Jewish problem to be finally solved, Jewish Palestine is the only corner of the world where there is a people truly identified with the sufferings of the Jews, ready to face war ships and bayonets in order to get them into Palestine. Many tens of thousands of Jews, have found and are finding their way into Palestine whereas the doors of the rest of the world were and are virtually closed to Jewish immigration.

Regarding the right to self determination of the Jews, in the area of the Jewish state they are in the majority, so if they exert this right this is self determination and not "the conquest of another people's territory."

The editorial asserts that the defense of the Jewish state is reactionary, and that the war of the Arabs against that state does not "deserve the support of the class conscious workers." The touchstone to determine the progressive or reactionary character of the fight of Jews and Arabs is given by their relative position regarding the imperialists. But the editorial does not analyze the

Palestine war in this light. Since before the end of the mandate, Britain has been helping the Arabs against the Jews. The Arab states' invasion was engineered by the British, as was known months before the end of the mandate. The spearhead of the invasion is the British-financed-and-officered Arab Legion of Transjordan. So actually the Jews are fighting directly against a coalition where the hand is Arab but the arm is British.

The Jewish war is an anti-imperialist war for national liberation. If the Arabs win it will mean that Abdullah, i.e. Great Britain, will be the unchallenged ruler of the whole of Palestine and that the Jews will be subjugated. If the Jews win the British will be out of this area, the Jews will be free and also the Arabs in the Jewish state will enjoy complete freedom.

Louis T. Gordon
New York City

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