

Readers of Labor Action To

British Labor Party And Palestine

Dear Editor:

I read the recent issues of the Trotskyite press and was gratified to see that both LABOR ACTION and The Militant denounce the cruelty of the British Labor Government (whom they supported in the elections) toward the Jewish refugees of the "Exodus 1947" and for not allowing them to land in Palestine.

One thing puzzles me. I have been told that you are opposed to Jewish immigration into Palestine. In that case, what would you have done to enforce your opposition to Jewish immigration under the same circumstances?

I realize of course that your opposition to immigration is not immutable. Have you changed your position? If so, why?

Yours truly,

H. S., Brooklyn, N. Y.

It is impossible to reply thoroughly in this form to the letter from H. S. We can only indicate our positions on the several questions he put to us and refer our readers to back issues of LABOR ACTION (and The New International) where these views are presented in considerable detail.

It cannot be said that our policy was one of pure and simple support to the Labor Party of Great Britain. In everything we wrote about the party of Attlee, Bevin and Morrison we pointed out that it was not a genuine party of socialism and that it would not and could not carry out a socialist, consistent, uncompromising policy because it was essentially a reformist party of socialist colora-

tion taking over the job of custodian of the British Empire. But it was and is the party of British labor. And in hailing the victory of the Labor Party in the last national election we pointed out that this victory reflected the tremendous ferment in the working class; that the victory of the Labor Party, given the prospects outlined above, could hasten the radicalization of the British working class and elevate the struggle for socialism.

In the period in which it has been the ruling party, the BLP has carried through a partial nationalization under the most difficult world and domestic economic situation, made doubly worse because the Labor Party tries to solve the problems of the nation on a fundamentally capitalist basis, employing socialist phrases in the place of socialist action.

It goes without saying that we are sharp critics of this regime and if we were in England we would oppose its verbal socialism with a consistently revolutionary socialist program which would seek the reorganization of the country on a genuinely socialist basis as the only means of solving the problem of the masses and initiating once again the world movement for socialism against capitalist imperialism and Stalinism.

The fact of the matter is that the bulk of the working class in an overwhelmingly working class country is in the Labor Party and while many of them are dissatisfied with the party they are dissatisfied with it because of its watered-down policies and lack of strong revolutionary action. Yet they know that the deep crisis which afflicts the country is the fault of capitalism and the capitalist political parties which governed for so many years, and they continue to this very moment to support unequivocally the Labor Party,

The need in Great Britain is for a genuine revolutionary socialist party; the base for that party lies within the Labor Party with its millions of worker members, there to carry on the struggle against the party bureaucracy and lay the basis for a party of British socialism.

We are not, never were and could not be supporters of British imperialist policy whether it be under the helm of a Churchill or an Attlee and we are vigorously opposed to the latter's policy in Palestine. That should be obvious since we call for an independent Palestine, an end to the mandate and British rule.

You have been misinformed about our position on Jewish immigration to Palestine. As socialist internationalists we have everywhere and always opposed border restrictions, the passport and identity systems, restricted immigration, etc. In the specific case of Palestine, we have been consistently for the right of Jewish immigration since the development of this new situation several years ago. Naturally, as Americans, our first slogan is "Open the Doors of the U. S." to the homeless Jews. But it would be nothing short of hypocrisy if we were for the right of the Jews to emigrate to Palestine but not to the United States, or vice versa.

You have confused our position with that of The Militant, which is opposed to Jewish immigration to Palestine, though it favors such immigration everywhere else.

The Editors.

Reader Defends Right Of WP in Elections

Dear Sirs:

Detroit election methods allow all the tricks played elsewhere to be