LETTER FROM THE COLLECTIVE

Dear Readers,

We are at a crucial point in our short history. As a new journal we are still struggling to establish a broad readership and a firm financial base. In addition we share the general fate of the left press which has been hit hard by the current economic crisis.

We have received an encouraging response with the publication of our first two issues. Readers have sent letters of support, manuscripts, and offers to help in distribution of the JSC in their communities. Some have even proposed the establishment of support committees which will solicit subscriptions, articles, and organize for discussion and development of ideas along the same lines as the JSC is working.

While we have been heartened by these developments, we still need a great deal of additional support and involvement in order to survive — especially financial. If most of the 1500 copies which we print were sold through subscription, we would meet our costs. Currently, however, most of the copies are sent to commercial distributors and, when sold, we receive only a small part of the cover price. Also, we have learned the hard way that distributors often fail to meet the expectations of their clients.

Clearly, we need more subscriptions. So, if you bought this issue at a bookstore, please subscribe. If you already subscribe, get all of your friends to follow you in your wisdom by sending in their own subscriptions.

The Bay area group is suffering some loss in membership with some going off to concentrate on other interests and others moving across the country, hopefully to put in their efforts for us there.

While we are seeking more people to work with the collective in the Bay Area, we also want people around the country to give the journal wide publicity, distribution, and political impact. If you are interested in helping out, please write and we will get you in touch with others in your area.
Contributors:

JACK EISNER lives in Toronto and is a member of Canadian Friends of Pioneering Israel (MAPAM).

MADELYN KATZMAN has recreated papercuts in silk screen form, using traditional styles and motifs from throughout the Diaspora. The ones reproduced in the JSC are a sample of the designs available from her.

IRWIN ROSEN from Brooklyn is living in San Francisco. He wrote a book of poems, "The Land Of Dress Me Up Nice," is currently developing a one-man show of it for The Julian Theatre and teaches a community center workshop in How To Perform Your Own Poetry.

DR. IDA COHEN SELAVAN, an author, editor and translator, is the founder and director of the Nonformal Academy of Jewish Studies in Pittsburgh.

MARK STEIN is currently Playwright-in-Residence at New Playwrights' Theatre of Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he was a staff writer of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, AFL-CIO.

VICTOR TRESCHAN works at York College of the City University of New York and is a member of the Professional Staff Congress (CUNY Faculty Union). He teaches Jewish and Latin American History.

ALAN WALD teaches English Literature and American Culture at the University of Michigan; he is the author of James T. Farrell: The Revolutionary Socialist Years (New York University Press, 1978)

JACK ZIPES is on the Editorial Board of New German Critique and teaches at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

We would like to apologize to Jan Heller Levi for leaving her name off the page on which her poem appeared in our last issue.

INTRODUCTION

Rise of Fascist Party

There is ample evidence of increased activity on the part of racist and reactionary groups in this country. For many, this situation is directly related to social/economic conditions. Jack Eisner, leads us through the Anatomy of a Fascist Party, first offering an analysis of Fascism and then describing the National Caucus of Labor Committees. Originally a "leftist" party, NCLC/US Labor Party has become a growing and dangerous fascist organization.

Holocaust Consciousness

Jack Zipes' quest for a "holocaust consciousness" is more a probing exploratory search than a systematic analysis. Charging that the holocaust continues to be exploited and mystified, preventing a real understanding of it among West Germans and Jews as well, he suggests that we must examine the holocaust in light of contemporary political and personal forces. Zipes highlights some of the post-war events within Germany and the West which have contributed to the repression of its real meaning: in particular the collaboration among many Jews and West Germans in order to combat the "new real enemy", the communists. In the interests of rising German capitalism, leftists have become for West Germans the "new jews." Instead of simply holding up the holocaust as a moral lesson to German youth, Zipes feels, an analysis must be made of the political role of Anti-Semitism within Fascism and Capitalism, which led to the holocaust itself, in order to combat the resurgence of Fascism today.
New York Intellectuals

The New York Intellectuals, that vague corps of 1930s writers which Irving Howe attempted to define for the world, undergo a reanalysis and evaluation by Alan Wald. While the conventional wisdom is that this group represented an assimilationist and national nihilist orientation, Wald argues that in fact they held a cosmopolitan and revolutionary internationalist perspective. Taking ten writers who worked on the Menorah Journal in the late 20s and early 30s, he demonstrates how a new political literary form emerged from the interplay of their politics, Jewish identity, and literary modernism. In his ensuing book on this topic it would be interesting if Wald expands on the interrelation between political stance and artistic/ literary experimentalism in this period and how that developed over the following decades, including a further exploration of the connections between Menorah Journal and Commentary. Alan Wald's article leaves us with the challenge set forth by Isaac Deutscher: to integrate Jewish identification into the service of internationalist politics.

Maxim Ghilan

Maxim Ghilan is editor of Israel & Palestine a monthly review widely respected for its detailed coverage and analysis of events in the Middle East. In an extended discussion, Ghilan covers a wide range of subjects, from the current political situation in Israel to the possibility of yet another war in the area. Ghilan's perspective is that of a non-Zionist Jewish socialist who desires a "two-state" solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although he admits such a solution would be an "imperialist peace," he prefers it to what he sees as the only other alternatives — a "limited" war or a nuclear war between Israel and its Arab opponents. Ghilan's account of the Israeli political scene reveals a deep scepticism concerning the Labor Party's desire to withdraw from the occupied territories and details the growing strength of chauvinist/religious elements in Israel. Although Ghilan is convinced that only a two-state solution can avoid disaster in the Middle East, he seems much too sanguine about an imperialist peace; seeing only the possibility of "incredible development" after such a peace. However, one has to consider another possibility: should the United States foster a two-state solution it would surely be to strengthen the hands of the dominant forces in dealing with potential threats in the area.

ANATOMY OF A FASCIST PARTY

Jack Eisner

Part I: What is Fascism?

A discussion on Fascism seems relevant at this moment because of disturbing trends in the western world which parallel similar trends existing in Europe before World War II. The increasing conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union and continuing economic stagnation is symptomatic of a more generalized economic crisis resulting from the search for new markets on the part of the big powers; the breakdown of the old markets; and the re-alignment of the power blocks. Since the end of the Vietnam War the American economy has been sluggish and in recent years the Soviet Union has made significant inroads into Africa, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Internal developments within the United States are symptomatic of the present condition of instability. There is increasing austerity, political repression, and racism.

The tax rebellion of the California Proposition 13 type are eliminating many social welfare, health, and education programs which mainly effects low income groups. Real wages are being cut by inflation and taxes (because the government will not index tax rates to the inflation rate.) Consumer debt is doubling and tripling because credit is the only means by which the standard of living is being maintained.
The Kennedy-sponsored judicial reform bill 1722 is a foreshadowing of increased government control over people's lives. This bill will make such activities as anti-draft conselling and anti-government protests illegal.

There is a marked increase in the extreme right. The Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan are receiving more media coverage than ever before. David Duke of the Klan has appeared on over 600 television and radio talk shows in the past two years. The January 12, 1979 Waxman Poll found that 51.1% of the people polled were not opposed to Nazi groups being given permits to march. Last summer 4 labour organizers were killed in Greensboro, North Carolina by a Combined group of Nazis and Klansmen. And Scientists such as Arthur Jensen, William Shockley, and Edward O. Wilson are once again reviving racial theories.

All these trends are symptoms of a society going through stress, and allowed to continue, will develop into Fascism. Fascism is capitalism's last resort to survival in a period of intense economic and political crisis. It is a tool used with conscious intent by those who control the economy and have the most to lose through a serious challenge to the status quo.

There are four conditions which give rise to Fascism:
1. An intensification of an economic crisis and class polarization.
2. Disillusionment with parliamentarism.
3. The existence of a large middle class and sections of the working class who identify with the middle class.
4. The absence of an independent class-conscious leadership of the mainstream of the working class.

Our society is based on Liberalism and the parliamentary system. Liberalism can exist only when economic conditions are relatively stable and successful parliamentary institutions exist only when the general population sees these institutions as serving their interests. The general economic security which capitalism has brought made it possible for the bourgeoisie to enter a partnership with the working class on the basis of concessions the bourgeoisie was willing to extend such as the right to organize trade unions and setting up social welfare. These concessions were necessary to ensure political stability. As long as capitalism can continue to provide these benefits, faith in the parliamentary system will continue.

In a period of economic stress austerity must be implemented and productivity maintained or increased to meet the new challenges of international competition. The first sectors to be effected by austerity are social welfare programs, and to increase productivity levels, workers' rights begin to be ignored. As the erosion increases, those most effected by it, the working class, becomes more militant and begins turning to more radical solutions.

At the same time, the middle class is also affected by the economic situation. Small independent businessmen are forced to close down by increasing interest rates or competitions from the big corporations. Government employees, teachers, and social workers become unemployed as a result of government budget cutbacks. Pensioners and others living off their savings are wiped-out by inflation. These people begin to see the government as a coalition of big business and the labour bosses that is constantly squeezing them with increased taxes to subsidize big business and social welfare programs.

The middle class becomes easy prey to the demagogery of the right. They begin to blame the labour unions and ethnic minorities. They begin to look for their own radical answers as expressed through a political movement.

Normally the middle class does not play an independent political role. It has to ally itself either with the bourgeoisie or the working class. In a period when the working class is divided, however, the middle class takes on a more significant role. The working class experiences a major split when there is a strong Social Democratic movement (those who believe that "reformism" can ensure workers' rights in the capitalist system) and a strong Communist movement (those who have lost all faith in the capitalist system and seek total revolution).

Both the working class and the middle class are experiencing serious economic dislocations and begin to express their frustration through political movements. Both classes have in common a desire for radical change and increased government control over private industry. In the 1932 elections in Germany, on the eve of the Fascist takeover, 74% of the vote went to parties proclaiming socialism as their aim. Some of these parties, however, such as the National Socialists (Nazis), espoused anti-capitalist policies but in reality represented capitalist groups.

Today we see that you don't have to be a socialist to demand more government involvement in the private sector of the economy. Petrocan is a clear example of the majority of Canadians wanting public ownership of oil resources rather than private ownership. We
also have the government involved in subsidizing ailing corporations; wage and price control; and marketing boards.

The results of the 1932 elections in Germany posed a direct threat to the continued hegemony of the German bourgeoisie (the industrialists and Prussian Junkers) over the economy. Their response was to use the Fascist parties to absorb the dissatisfaction of the middle class and turn it against the working class. The ideology of the Fascist movement satisfied the call for radical change but in reality hid the true nature of the Fascists.

Fascist ideology was vague and ambiguous but contained enough essential elements to appear to be fulfilling the desire of a large number of people. The "national" principle against private egoism and capitalism but in reality represented the control of private capital over the workers. National planning boards and economic councils were proposed as means for the state to intervene on behalf of the unemployed and to control inflation but in reality these institutions became the means by which the bourgeoisie could completely subordinate the workers to the needs of private capital. Revolutionary slogans such as the "conquest of power" falsely presented the Fascists as the political vanguard of the people seizing power from the ruling class but in reality they were the agents of the ruling class.

The development of a Fascist party is a complicated process involving much trial and error in the early stages. The awkwardness of the early stage tended to make most people laugh at the Fascists. But more important in this initial stage than the specific Fascist movements is the direct tendency within the leading circles of the bourgeoisie towards open Fascism, and therefore towards the creation of a Fascist movement or towards the support of the most effective Fascist movement already existing.

Once in power, Fascism becomes the expression of the most violent policies of capitalism in crisis. The violent suppression of all socialist and pacifist opposition; the militarisation of labour; the centralised dictatorship; and the glorification of war reproduced the conditions of a country at war in the pre-war period. These tendencies are not peculiar to Fascism. They are common, in greater or less degree, to all imperialist states. They only receive their most extreme expression in Fascism.

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Part II: The National Caucus of Labour Committees: American Fascism

There exist today in the United States at least a dozen neo-Nazi parties. The NCLC, however, is unique in that it evolved into Fascism from its beginnings as a leftist party and has emerged in the last two years with resources and political skills unseen since the heyday of the German American Bund in the 1930's.

NCLC and its electoral front, the U.S. Labour Party, have their national headquarters in New York. They have an estimated membership of 2,500; cells in 33 cities; an election machine in more than a dozen states; an active press which includes the bi-weekly NEW SOLIDARITY, THE CAMPAIGNER, FUSION, an annual subscription costing $400; and an estimated annual budget of well over $2 million. NCLC is led by Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, a 58-year-old management consultant; The organization has a tightly unified command and members who are far better and more highly motivated than those of smaller Nazi sects and the Ku Klux Klan.

The effectiveness of NCLC is seen most clearly in electoral activity and in the organization's success in building single issue alliances with forces as diverse as the ultra-rightwing and anti-semitic Liberty Lobby, the Black Muslims, and conservative-oriented Teamster union officials.

In the 1978 elections in the U.S., USLP fielded 72 candidates in 17 states — more than any other minor political party. In at least a dozen election races since 1974 — ranging from Congressional level to the municipal school board lever — USLP has polled between 8 and 30% of the vote. LaRouche is presently running in the Democratic primaries and is the third presidential candidate to qualify in 1980. He has received $327,864 in federal matching grants for his campaign.

In July 1978, LaRouche and Black Muslim leader Wallace Muhammed formed an "Anti-Drug Coalition" which has spread to at least 8 cities. The coalition is based on LaRouche's theory that Jews are responsible for the drug traffic. The coalition's activities include mass rallies in ghetto churches; intensive and effective lobbying for stronger narcotics laws; and seminars in inner-city high schools. Wallace Muhammed has repeatedly refused to break-off this alliance despite appeals from Jewish organizations and responsible Black leaders. The coalition has attracted an amazing range of clergy, businessmen, mayors, law enforcement officers, state legislators, Masonic leaders, and trade union officials. In an article in the Los Angeles Times of February 16, 1980 it says, "The Anti-Defamation
League of B'nai Brith, which LaRouche condemns as 'a treasonous conspiracy against the U.S.' contends in a 25-page report that LaRouche's group is an anti-Semitic political cult. LaRouche denied that his organization was a cult and blamed such changes on 'the drug-running networks of organized crime'.

NCLC has earned the gratitude of powerful gangster-connected Teamster officials thanks to effective attacks on the TDU and PROD (two reform movements in the Teamster Union) in several election battles for control of key locals. The Los Angeles Times article says, "LaRouche said his group had helped fight PROD because it was an intelligence operation 'aimed at union-busting'". These officials are placing no obstacle in the path of a recently formed 'Teamster Committee To Elect LaRouche'.

LaRouche has created a new tactical basis for "reasonable fascism" which allows white neo-Nazis to ally with anti-Semitic Blacks. NCLC members do not wear uniforms or swastika armbands American neo-Nazism has been taken beyond the simple agitational level by merging the traditional demogogry of the ultra-right with the highly sophisticated "united front" tactics used by American communists since the 1930s. By proposing joint action around specific issues with groups not yet pro-Nazi, access is gained to constituencies and the focus of the joint activity is gradually shifted in the direction of confrontation with Jewish groups.

Discredited racist theories of traditional Nazism have been revised by LaRouche and presented in behavioural terms as a theory of a culturally-based "criminal mind" (the Jewish mind). LaRouche spurns the traditional neo-Nazi practice of mindless, undifferentiated anti-Semitic propaganda carefully tailoring his anti-Semitism to fit each audience. Blacks are told the Jews control the drug traffic; Law enforcement officers are told Jews are radicals and terrorists; Industrialists are told Jewish bankers are looting the economy. LaRouche does, however, attempt to make a distinction between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.

NCLC anti-Semitism is presented in the form of anti-Zionism and they point to Jewish members in their ranks as proof and they are not anti-Semitic. These Jews in NCLC joined during the group's leftist period and, after having been brainwashed to believe that by continuing to work for NCLC they would be spared from the coming holocaust, remained after the group moved to the right.

Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche was born into a New Hampshire Quaker family in 1922. A veteran of World War II, he joined the Trotskyite Socialist Workers' Party in 1947 and remained a member through the mid-60's while working as a computer systems designer. In 1967, using the name Lynn Marcus, he formed the Labour Committee of SDS with a handful of radical students. Its name was changed to The National Caucus of Labour Committees in 1971. Frustrated by their inability to seize "hegemony" over the American Left, NCLC developed cultist trappings and in 1973 launched a series of more than 60 violent attacks on members of rival groups. This was followed by a period of psychological terror within NCLC with LaRouche charging that members of the group had been brainwashed by the CIA to assassinate him. The cadre were forced to undergo security checks and hypnotic "deprogramming".

This year-long reign of lunacy isolated NCLC from the Left. LaRouche soon cleaned-up his act by halting the violence and de-programming but was only able to recoup his political losses by moving to the opposite end of the political spectrum. In 1976 NCLC announced that it was abandoning Marxism and henceforth would be a patriotic organization in the tradition of Alexander Hamilton and Benjamin Franklin. (This shift has precedents in the history of Fascism. Both Mussolini and Mosely — the English Fascist — began their political careers as Marxists). The move to the right was consolidated by an alliance with the anti-Semitic ultrarightist Liberty Lobby. In 1977 LaRouche officially adopted the Liberty Lobby's anti-Semitism declaring war on the Jewish lobby, the international Jewish bankers, Jews in the U.S. government, and the Anti-Defamation League.

In the December 8, 1978 issue of NEW SOLIDARITY LaRouche dismisses Hitler's murder of 6 million Jews as "a commonplace delusion of the American Zionist or Zionist fellow traveller", NCLC also resurrected the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and charges of "blood libel" but substituting ritual murder with ritual dope-pushing to Gentiles.

NCLC has a corporate-style headquarters in Manhattan staffed by over 30 persons. It has an intelligence and political operations in 26 foreign cities; newspapers in several languages; an international telex system with six circuits (including an audio voice date model between New York and LaRouche's European headquarters in Wiesbaden, West Germany); and year-round consulting and training services from an industrial espionage firm based in Powder Springs, Georgia.

NCLC and USLP are funded by LaRouche's multimillion dollar computer software corporation — Computron Technologies Corpo-
ration — which is estimated to take in revenues of 3½-5 million dollars per year. A 1979 Computron sales brochure lists among its clients AT&T, Mobil Oil, Colgate-Palmolive and Bristol-Meyers.

Computron was founded by NCLC in the mid-70s and between 1975-77 was listed in the Manhattan phone directory at the same address as NCLC. In 1977 Computron moved to different premises and began to conceal its connection with NCLC.

In 1974, according to FBI documents, NCLC operated a training camp near Argyle, New York where cadres and members from West Germany were reportedly trained in explosives and demolitions, small arms, and small-unit tactics.

During the past year trainees selected by NCLC’s security divisions have been sent to a school in Georgia called “the farm” (after the CIA training facility in Virginia with the same name) owned by Mitchell Warbell III, a well known supporter of the Liberty Lobby.

Warbell is celebrated in counterinsurgency circles as the “Wizard of Whispering Death”. In the 1960’s he developed the Ingram M-10 submachine pistol and invented the world’s first submachine gun silencer.

At “the farm” NCLC trainees are given instruction in martial arts, pistol shooting, the use of shotguns, rifle countersniper activity, countersurveillance, and the control of 3-car caravans.

The parallels between the NCLC and the National Socialist Party (NAZI) in Germany in the 20’s and 30’s is striking. The NCLC blames the present economic crisis on the Jews; has co-opted a progressive-sounding name while maintaining a strong line on American nationalism; perpetrates violent attacks on leftist groups and labour organizations; is connected to corporate slush-funds and intelligence agencies (in several issues of NEW SOLIDARITY LaRouche has strongly supported the CIA); has an articulate frontman; and provides a practical service to corporate executives through its corporate intelligence operation. More important, however, than these specific parallels is that a situation now exists in American society which contains the forces allowing for such an organization and party to come into existence and fulfill a political role. The question is will NCLC remain a marginal factor or will conditions allow it to play a more prominent role?

This article is based on an investigative series on LaRouche written by Dennis King for the local New York City newspaper Our Town.

IN PURSUIT OF A HOLOCAUST CONSCIOUSNESS JEWS IN WEST GERMANY

Jack Zipes

Ever since the TV film Holocaust was produced in the spring of 1978, great concern in the extermination of the Jews has been expressed again. I stress the word again because public furor and shame about the holocaust are stimulated and occur only periodically. General commotion about the holocaust is most often prompted by opportunism. Not long after 1945 the holocaust became a marketable item, and investors in “holocaust productions” learned that they could draw upon a certain indignant and horrified response for monetary profit or political gain. Just as soon as the allies used the holocaust to divert attention from their previous indifference to the fate of European Jews, it became transformed into a spectacle which had little to do with recapturing the essence of planned extermination to prevent further genocide but more to do with distraction and exploitation.

Even Jews have not been able to resist the temptation to exploit the meaning of the holocaust. When Eichmann was captured and tried in 1961, the purpose of the mass-mediated event was not to punish the Nazi but to unite Israelis and Jews in the diaspora behind the state of Israel. The memory of the holocaust became a political means to legitimize Zionist policies. Though there was still something noble here in the exploitation of the holocaust as a marketable item, the holocaust was nevertheless both reified and exploited. In 1978 there was nothing noble about the use of the holocaust to increase the TV ratings of a mass media corporation. This is not to imply that such