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Heil Bush!

(Say Lucian Reichler)

Lucien Reichler says (9/27) that he was born a Jew. Nothing in his article threatening Jews who do not agree with him and current U.S. policy indicates that he is in any other sense a Jew, a question ^{also} raised by, among other things, the phone-book listing at his address and with the same phone number of "Muriel N., Rev."

What he writes is as fundamentally anti-American as anything I can remember. The thrust is that if anyone, particularly Jews, ^{do} do not agree with any U.S. policy at any time that "raises questions about loyalty."

He says ~~that is~~ that if American Jews believe in policies "at variance with those of the United States... you are laying yourselves open ^{not only to time-honored (sic)} to anti-Semitic hostility and slander, but to reasonable, even justified suspicion of divided loyalty and potential disloyalty ~~to~~ to" this country! Even belong on "the attorney General's list as ^{the} registered agent of a foreign government." More, ought not hold "positions of trust" in the government "because of reasonable doubt about where their loyalties lie."

This is straightforward McCarthyism in this country as it was the Sieg Heil ^{1/}belief under Hitler.

The Sieg Heil! comparison is not inappropriate because there were Jews who became Hitler functionaries. They were then referred to as the Judenrate and in practise they were the Judas goats of the Holocaust.

In seeking to accredit himself Reichler says he is "a survivor of the Holocaust" ¹¹ who "came to America over 50 years ago." Both statements cannot be true because the Holocaust, as distinguished from Hitler's earlier anti-Jewish practises, ~~the Holocaust~~ had not then begun.

There is nothing more basic in true American belief than the right, no, really the obligation, of Americans to oppose policies with which they do not agree.

To the Reichler-minded those Americans, of whom I was one, who opposed ^{our} government's policy of not meeting its obligations to the democratically elected ~~the~~ very first democratically elected government of Spain, were subversive. The fact is that the Franco regime was fascist, part of the Hitler-Mussolini ~~axis~~, ^{It was able to become} and established the murderous anti-

democratic dictatorship ^{it was} only because of axis military participation and support. This was immediately hurtful to the U.S. and the rest of the free world because it was the proving ground for Hitler's newest military equipment and policies, such as dive-bombing, ^{which} ~~and that~~ extended to innocent civilians.

To the Hechler-minded it was subversive to oppose U.S. policy that had the effect of helping both Hitler and Mussolini when under international law we had the obligation not to support ^{them who} ~~them when they~~ invaded and conquered other countries - and the consequences to the United States and other countries was absolutely disaster. It made Hitler more powerful and better able to kill Americans and others.

To the Hechler-minded it was subversive to oppose U.S. policies that made Japan and particularly its military more powerful and better able to kill so many thousands of American as, for example, in providing Japan with steel, the very steel that ~~was~~ was used at Pearl Harbor and throughout the war, especially in the Japanese navy, ~~which~~ already exceeded the limits imposed upon ~~and~~ by treaties to which it was signatory.

There have been innumerable additional wrong and self-hurting U.S. policies, including of more recent date. Traditional and correct American belief is not to rubber-stamp whatever policy, often whim, of ^{It} ~~any~~ government requires that those not agreeing with such ^{or} ~~no~~ policies oppose them.

Any other concept is anti-American and it is the real subversion in a society like ours. Any other concept is the ^{way;} ~~oil~~ Sieg Heil! however, it may be phrased.

In my younger writing days as an investigative reporter I exposed a series of Nazi cartels and their interference ~~in~~ with defense preparation, later the war. Such extraordinarily important investments as synthetic rubber and ^{synthetic} gasoline were denied us by our cartel arrangements with the Nazis. To the Hechler-minded this made me a subversive. But those cartels existed only because of a very wrong U.S. policy.

Yet both inherent and explicit is Heichler's diatribe ^{of} against Jews who do not agree with the current Bush Middle-East policy - ~~with which he actually expresses this Sieg Heil!~~ belief is that opposing this Bush policy makes me and most other American Jews subversive, unworthy of trust and proper ^{by} ~~official~~ candidates for official subversive listings!

Heichler himself is fortunate to have escaped the U.S. policy of denying Jewish ^{most} refugees from Hitler entry into the United States, a policy of almost all the world. The most dramatic illustration of this is ^{our} refusal to permit the ^{Steamship} S. ship St. Louis to dock and unload a crowded shipload of ^{European} Jews who were thus forced back to be incinerated by ^{Hitler et al.} Thousands of Jewish children who had been gathered on the ^{Mediterranean} coast of Vichy France would have survived ~~if~~ were it not for the fact that not a single country in the entire world would accept them.

There are innumerable similar instances. To the Heichler-minded this was as it should be, national policies being always perfect, another ^{part} thrust of his article, and those who disagreed were ^{"disloyal"} subversive and unworthy of trust.

Some of the most prestigious and influential of American Jews, including even a Supreme Court Justice, support ^{ed} the U.S. policy of denying ^{entry to} Jews who escaped Hitler entry.

Heichler reflects the opposite of ~~an understanding of~~ what authentic American belief is in insisting, as he does, that the policy of any administration is automatically the correct policy although the education that qualified him for his "profession as a member of the American diplomatic service" should have given him some inkling of the terrible ^{from} catastrophes of some of those policies. ~~Not excluding their contribution to World War II.~~

There is a long-forgotten book of my youth that the Heichlers, of whom there is no shortage, keeps me from forgetting after more years than he has been here. Robert Nathan wrote "Road of Ages." It is the story of the ~~heira~~ ^{heira} of the Jews of the world to a remote area of Siberia, the only place they were to be permitted to live. Its doctrine is that a Jew is primarily something else - a banker, a union organizer, an industrialist or a follower of one of the arts.

His fits Heichler perfectly. He is primarily not a Jew or for that matter even a ^{believer} believer in the beliefs of our founding fathers. He is ^{was} primarily an unquestioning supporter of whatever U.S. policy he is paid to support. Like condemning those European Jews less lucky than he to Hitler's incineration.

Nowhere in his article is there any effort to explain to his readers the background of the current Middle East tragedies or of ^{them,} what is right and ^{just} wrong, he ^{just} assumes that Bush = 1

is perfect and correct ^{He does not address} ~~or of who has legitimate claims to the disputed territories or~~
^{how} how, if at all possible, these claims can be fairly resolved when two peoples each have
^{the disputed land} legitimate claims to ~~it~~ (wrong policies within his lifetime and mine are the direct cause)
^{A attorney} or what ^{he does not address} for a man with a "profession" of diplomacy ^{how this compares with the solutions}
^{what is truly and} or absence of solutions of the past ~~and the recent past~~ or how it is entirely inconsistent
 with them.

In short, his article is official propaganda to which ^{he adds} a McCarthyite threat ~~is added~~.
 What is really "knee-jerk" in his ^{distrable} is not "accusations of anti-Semitism,"
^{critical} justified as he makes such a charge ^{what is "knee-jerk"} against himself. It is his blind, unthinking, un-
^{critical} ~~critical~~ support of U.S. policies, ^{They} that always change and are always supported through
 all their changes by the Heichlers, without regard to what the world has learned from
 terrible aspects of world history.

Throughout he expresses his own prejudices and biases, as in the absolutely indecent
 allegation that Israel is "a fascist police state" because of its treatment of "its own
 'colored' (Oriental) ^{U.S.} Asian and African Jews."

He can say this with what is so well known about the hazard, the ^{great} ~~costs~~ and continuing
 cost to Israel of saving all those black Ethiopian Jews, of keeping them when they cannot and
 do not contribute to Israeli society, of educating them so that they can - of adding all
 these enormous costs to the monumental national debt - ^{This to Heichler is "fascist"}
^{provides his own self-justification}

When Heichler can unashamedly say this he ~~has~~ characterized himself as no one can do
 as definitively.

He is a Sieg Heil! hack, ^{supporting} ~~or~~ current U.S. policy, without thinking ^{independently} about it, without
 concern for truth, morality or decency.

And ~~he~~ ^{u.c. at it} does unbag ~~what~~ ^{as} much as says that Bush's new policy, the policy ^{Heichler}
 supports, is to abandon Israel after all its loyalty to the United States at such great
 cost to it, most recently in ^{not retaliating for} ~~taking without retaliation~~ all those Iraqi Scuds that did
^{living with that level} so much damage to it because ^{Heichler himself} that served U.S. interests and policies, ^{to form alliances}
^{Islamic} with the ~~Islamic~~ world, which he describes as "unstable" and "volatile," ^{almost all of it's army}
 is ~~so~~ ^{Why this new policy?} ~~typical~~. Why this new policy? ^{supports terrorism and}

Why? Because our "strategic interests" require it. ~~No~~ he does not say. "e cannot be-
 cause it is not true.

And why is this so important now? Because in his rewriting of well-known history "For 40 years Israel has been an albatross around the neck of U.S. policy, making it difficult

or impossible to pursue a truly advantageous foreign policy in the Middle East. *We do not explain this and for those who understand these things, no explanation is needed.*

As a boy Reichler escaped Hitler, but his mind never did. In this article he is an unashamed exponent of ~~complete~~ ^{for} authoritarianism, of blind, unthinking support of any and every policy of any ~~and~~ every administration, no matter how faulted, and to that he adds the clearly-stated threat of McCarthyite retaliation, alleging that all who do not agree with any and every policy are disloyal and are properly subject to retaliation.

He could not have been ^{be more} as completely and as unalterably the enemy of authentic, traditional American values... *that requires a full airing of* American belief and that glorious tradition of espousing all beliefs in freedom, ^{unlike} the ~~hallmark of freedom and of American spirit~~ *contribution to world concepts of freedom.*

perfect and outside public criticism.
only authoritarians believe as he does.

Real Americanism

Lucian Helchler

9/27/91

American Jewish community and the

To preempt knee-jerk accusations of anti-semitism, I will begin by stating my credentials: My origins are entirely Jewish on both sides of my family. Born in Austria, I came to America over 50 years ago as a refugee from Nazi persecution and as a survivor of the Holocaust.

All these years I have felt accepted and safe in my adopted country and in my profession as a member of the American diplomatic service. Now, however, growing alarm compels me to speak a word of serious warning to those American Jews who continue blindly to support and defend present Israeli government policies.

The president has wisely requested Congress to delay for four months consideration of a \$10 billion loan to Israel, so as to keep pressure on the Shamir regime to honor its grudging commitment to a Middle East peace conference. But in defiance of United Nations resolutions and of the United States (its only friend and vital support), Israel continues to trumpet its intentions to continue — nay, to double — its illegal settlements in the occupied territories, and Shamir threatens once again to boycott the Mideast peace process unless America forks over the \$10 billion which, he asserts, we "owe" Israel as a "moral duty." Already a member of Shamir's Cabinet has had the gall to call President Bush an anti-Semite.

Already the American-Israel Committee and other Jewish pressure groups are gearing up for an unprecedented lobbying campaign on Capitol Hill to sabotage administration policy and ram through quick approval of the \$10 billion dollar loan.

I ask American Jews to open their eyes to

the folly and risks inherent in serving "de facto" as agents of a foreign power — a power whose policies are increasingly at variance with those of the United States. You must understand that you are laying yourselves open not only to time-honored anti-Semitic hostility and slander, but to reasonable, even justified suspicion of divided loyalty and potential disloyalty to your own country, the United States! If the American-Israel Committee is not yet on the Attorney General's list as the registered agent of a foreign government, its name belongs on that list just as much as did the communist front organizations during the Cold War.

There was a time, before Menachem Begin and the Likud Bloc came to power, when American and Israeli interests seemed to coincide to such an extent that questions about loyalty belonged to the realm of hypothetical speculation; it seemed to many of us then that whatever was good for Israel was good for the United States and vice versa. Our geopolitical, economic and security interests vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and the unstable, volatile Islamic world appeared to require propping up and defending a militarily strong Israel even at considerable financial and political cost to us.

Those days are long gone. A significant demographic shift in the make-up of the Israeli population has enabled the Likud-led coalition to remain in power and, as Stephen Brook observed in his excellent book, "Winner Takes All," to turn Israel into a Levantine state descending gradually to the same moral plane as other Levantine states, such as Iraq or Syria: brutal, deceitful, mendacious, arrogantly contemptuous of

human rights and the legitimate concerns of the international community.

Confident that every American administration and congress are helpless hostage of the spectre of the "Jewish vote," the Begin and Shamir regimes have defied and betrayed the United States through broken agreements, violated understandings, promises and commitments made to us and the international community. While continuing shamelessly to exploit feelings of guilt about the Holocaust of half a century ago, this regime has adopted the attitudes and methods of a fascist police state against its indigenous Palestinian population and its own "colored" (Oriental, i.e. Asian and African) Jews. If Amnesty International can ever be diverted from its obsession with the Turkish police, it might do well to consider the incarceration, torture and beatings of Palestinian Arabs by the Shin Bet and the Israeli army, or the vicious destruction of Arab homes in retaliation for petty and often unproven offenses.

Why am I, a Jew by birth, increasingly disenchanted with Israel and concerned about continued American Jewish lobbying in its support?

- Israel has waged a war of naked aggression against Lebanon, while at the same time lying to us about its true objectives.

- The brutal methods employed to deal with the "intifada" are as reprehensible as any used by a totalitarian police state.

- This "staunch and faithful ally" has stooped to spying on us (Cf. Jonathan Pollard).

- In kidnapping Arab hostages, Israel has descended to the level of such other practi-

state of Israel

tioners of state terrorism as Syria or Libya.

● There is good reason to suspect that in the realm of nuclear weaponry, Israel has behaved no less deceitfully than Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

● In contemptuous disregard of American concerns and pleas, Israel has steadily continued to construct permanent settlements on land seized in war and never recognized internationally as Israeli territory.

At the same time Israel has continued to demand as its "right" the largest sum of foreign aid the U.S. awards to any country, a whopping \$3 billion dollars a year, and this at a time when America is plagued by huge foreign and domestic debts and deficits.

Although in theory we have more leverage to bring to bear on Israel than on any other country in the world, because we control the purse strings which keep it alive, the United States has gone along patiently, quietly, with a minimum of fuss. Public expressions of criticism or anger directed at Israel are not considered "politically correct." We have imposed sanctions on states like South Africa for behavior not much worse than the conduct of the Shamir regime, but Israel remains sacrosanct; condemnation of its policies is taboo. Regrettably many devout Jews as well as Christian fundamentalists confuse this secular Zionist state with the fulfillment of eschatological promises of the New Jerusalem and therefore refuse to regard or treat Israel as just another state.

How much longer are the American people going to stand for all this? For over 40 years Israel has been an albatross around the neck of U.S. foreign policy, making it difficult or impossible to pursue a truly advantageous foreign policy in the Middle East. Now the

end of the Cold War and at least temporary elimination of the Soviet Union as a significant potential threat has greatly lessened Israel's strategic importance for us, a change which Shamir and Co. would do well to reflect on. Anger at Israeli arrogance, intransigence and misconduct is growing apace.

I fear that it is only a matter of time before this American anger is directed increasingly at those members of the American Jewish community who continue to defend and support Israel jingoistically, as in "my country right or wrong." But which is their country? America, or Israel? That is the question which will be asked more and more loudly and insistently. As a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer, it pains me to think that one day American Jews may no longer be welcome to hold positions of trust in the American foreign affairs, security and intelligence establishments because of reasonable doubt as to where their loyalties lie.

American Jews are more obsessed with the Holocaust than anyone in the world except for Israel; yet they appear naively unconcerned about the possible consequences of their own words and actions — feeding the seeds of suspicion and animosity, fanning the flames of future hatred and violence, in their stubborn insistence on placing the perceived interests of Israel ahead of those of their own nation.

I beg you, come to your senses before it is too late.

Lucian Heichler lives in Frederick.