

Fred Park 6/17/86
Letters to the editor

Takes Meachum to task

Your half-man Arab propaganda office in residence, Roy Meachum, while this time claiming not to be anti-Semitic, is more viciously anti-Semitic than in the long series of his outrageous stuff you published.

One of the traditional devices of anti-Semites is the pretense that all Jews are alike and agree and that if one Jew is alleged to be bad, all are.

This is the essence of Meachum's evil misrepresentation in his today's "Venomous Vidal and the Israeli Lobby," in which the reader is able to identify only Norman Podhoretz, his unnamed wife, Midge Decter, and Ben Wattenberg as this alleged Israeli lobby.

Jews and others currently oppose the sale of, among other things, more than 1,500 hand-held missiles capable of and designed to shoot down airplanes. Meachum doesn't mention this, or the destination, Saudi Arabia, or its anti-democratic and anti-Semitic record, or its support for 40 years of an assortment of violence-prone Arab dictators and terrorists. Of course there is lobbying for Israel, which happens to be the staunchest ally of the United States in that part of the troubled world, and in a representative society there is nothing wrong with lobbying per se. It is a Constitutional right. But there is much wrong with Meachum's gross misrepresentations. The overwhelming opposition to the sale of this equipment for murder to the Saudis was not by Jews alone and not by any lobby alone. It stems from fear of what might happen with all that equipment once it got into Saudi hands.

So sick is Meachum's ego, so unlimited his sense of unique knowledge and self-importance that he is compelled even to try to put down "The Nation." He describes it to the majority of your readers who never see it as "a magazine that exists in relative obscurity to serve one segment of the country's self-anointed intellectuals." To anyone familiar with the laudable record of The Nation for the past century, it is obvious that it has consistently published the finest writings of the finest American thinkers and writers.

How does omniscient Meachum know that we Jews, all of whom that I know love and revere Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, were "responsible for his decision not to run again?" Because Meachum "never asked him" and because Mac and former Sen. Charles Percy "were close; they belong to the moderate Republican wing." But if Meachum, who pretends omniscience while he flaunts ignorance, could not ask Mac, could he not remember, keeping up with things as he claims to, that it is the other-than-moderate Republican wing that purged Percy and others?

He ends his filth that is traditional

anti-Semitism with what in it also is traditional: "I am concerned for the people whom I love," the people allegedly victimized by his Israeli lobby/Zionists/smear artists/steamroller operators. And he follows this with a threat: "American Jews will suffer when the inevitable reaction sets in." This, too, historically, is traditional anti-Semitism, the pretense of anti-Semites that they allegedly would protect Jews from themselves.

Beginning with Vidal and Podhoretz and ending with Mathias, it is all an evil pretense by a propagandist, a vehicle for another of his anti-Semitic outbursts, a prostitution of journalism.

I am again disappointed that Meachum's anti-Semitism is not edited, if read critically, as editing requires.

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