

Roman Brackman

Lieberman to the Rescue

Re: Hillary Seeking Lieberman's Help (NYT, August 9, 2000, p. B-1)

As a Jew who survived Stalin's GULAG I have mixed feelings about the motives behind Lieberman's nomination. Al Gore's desire to distance himself from Clinton's scandals by pointing to Lieberman's moral credentials is understandable. However, the First Lady's role in Lieberman's nomination and her intention to use him to boost her standing among Jewish voters in New York fills me with apprehensions. Of course, this would be not the first time in history for Jews in general, and for American Jews in particular, to make wrong choices and then to regret them. 87 per cent of Jewish vote went for Carter in 1976. On November 6, 1977 *The New York Times* editorial The Jews And Jimmy Carter stated, "One of the unsayable things in our political life these days is that most leaders of the American Jewish community are acting as if President Carter is risking Israel's survival..." Another "unsayable" thing, according to the editorial, was "the confrontation now brewing between Carter and the Jews that seems to us to transcend any single issue relating to the Middle East negotiations. What is unspoken is the further fear of a revival of anti-Semitism and of the charge of 'dual loyalty'"

This is not the place to review the true record of Carter's policy towards Israel and to dispel the myth of "Carter' Camp David Triumph". What troubles me now is the tremendous pressure on Lieberman to assume the role of an "impartial, evenhanded" Jew who supports American policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict no matter how dangerous it might be for Israel. He already took a more pro-Arab position than President Clintons and the First Lady, both of whom had recently declared support for the long delayed congressional resolution on moving American Embassy to Jerusalem. The First Lady would say anything to attract Jewish voters. She even discovered some remote Jewish step grandfather in her family closet. What would Lieberman say to the Jewish voters who might remember that it was the First Lady who endorsed a non-existent "Palestinian State" long before her husband put it on the table at Camp David? Or how will Lieberman justify the kiss the First Lady admiringly planted on the cheek of Yasir Arafat wife? At that time this "Palesitnian First Lady" accused Israel of poisoning Arab children. It does not matter whether Hillary years ago called a campaign worker "f...n Jew bastard" Presidents Harry Truman and Richard Nixon are on record of ranting against "left-wing Jews," but they are also on record of being great friends of Israel. Hillary strongly denied ever having used anti-Jewish remarks despite the testimony of three witnesses, but then she also no less strongly insisted that her husband shenanigans were the inventions by the "right- wing conspiracy."

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