

Earl Raab  
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### HOW WILL JEWS VOTE?

In last week's San Francisco Examiner, preist-sociologist Andrew Greeley complained that Jimmy Carter was paying attention to Jews and other groups, but was ignoring the Catholics.

In the same week, the Gallup Poll reported that 56 per cent of the Jews polled indicate that they would vote for Carter, and 44 per cent for Ford.

However exaggerated both items may be, they signal the full emergence of the "ethnic season" in the reporting of the presidential campaign. Who are "the Jews" going to vote for -- and why? A minimum of three million titillating and often misleading words will be written on that subject in the coming months.

Statistically Jews tended to vote Republican before 1932. But three quarters of American Jews or more voted Democratic in presidential elections from 1932 to 1972. In 1972, about two thirds of American Jews voted Democratic. That was a drop from previous years, but still a pretty heavy Democratic majority. Indeed the Jews were the only identifiable white group which registered a statistical majority for McGovern.

Of more interest is the freakishness of the Jewish vote, on one count. In every other group, the vote is tied to economic status. Thus, in one study of a group of precincts, 60 per cent of the lower-income non-Jews voted Democratic; as against 64 per cent of lower-income Jews. But only 30 percent of the high-income non-Jews voted Democratic as against 72 per cent of the high-income Jews. That pattern has been constant; the Jews are the only group which does not vote its pocketbook.

So, there are other values involved. Franklin D. Roosevelt who brought the Jewish majority into the Democratic fold, undoubtedly symbolized the fight against fascism at home and abroad; as well as the fight against the depression. In short, he represented the fight for the realization of the American dream of freedom and prosperity. The "freedom" part of that dream was always particularly important for the Jew.

The majority of Jews have been Democratic since FDR. But that is not a genetic trait. Just as the statistical pattern changed once before, it could change again. One expects that it would change if there developed a more prevalent feeling that the Republican Party could better serve the elements of the American dream.

In any case, the current pattern will not change because Jews become "more affluent and less liberal". That was the comment frequently heard to explain the relative drop-off of the Democratic vote by Jews in 1972. But analysis showed that it was the lower-income Jews who more often defected from the Democratic pattern, not than the high-income Jews.

Nor is Israel the exclusive key to the pattern of Jewish voting, as most commentaries will make it seem. The contemporary pattern of Jewish voting was established before the State of Israel was an issue in American politics. Of course, Israel is an important issue for American Jews, as it is to the majority of all Americans. But that is not a simple issue in itself. Even those Americans who feel that America's policy towards Israel is critically important, have a number of factors to consider: for example, America's general defense posture, or America's economic stability, which will determine America's ability to help Israel as much as anything else.

All in all, the majority of Jewish voters are not about to be hooked just by some rousing speech on Israel.

Medieval anti-semitism is still seeping out of some dark corners of our society. In a recent edition of the Sun-Reporter, a local weekly published by Dr. Carleton Goodlett, an editorial reads, in part: "Of course, labor, liberal and conservative Democrats and wealthy Jews will probably fight the proportional representation formula..."

"Wealthy Jews?" Not wealthy Catholics, Episcopalians or Baptists? Not wealthy Democrats? Are all Jews, or only Jews wealthy?

Or is the main reference not to wealthy people, but to Jewish people? Just Jews? Not Americans of Irish, Italian or Polish descent, wealthy or poor? Are there no ethnic or religious groups within the categories of "labor, liberal and conservative Democrats?"

The singling out of the Jews as the only ethnic or religious group mentioned has no basis in fact or logic, and can only serve one ugly purpose. All people who have any interest in human rights, dignity or peace will have only contempt for this reactionary dip back into the steaming sewers of prejudice, bigotry and racism.