

**Editorial**

**I'm On Everyone's "Pitch" List!**

Have you noticed the deluge of "junk" mail you are receiving? I have... notices from "would-be" babysitters (I now have an empty nest) ...free gifts, if I will inspect various resort communities/condos with my spouse in certain areas in the mountains and along the shore... locations, many of which I not only have never been to, but never have heard of. Letters come from stock brokers, insurance companies, banks, Visa cards, oil companies, etc. Catalogs galore... fruit baskets costing as much as a whole week's groceries, toys, jewelry, plants, farm machinery, the list goes on and on, from towns that aren't even on the map. Then there are the notices that tell me that I received a brochure or sample or notice in my mail. Now really! I not only get these addressed to me, my husband, my children (they do not live at home), occupant, but also my neighbors, some as far away as a mile.

And oh, those requests for contributions! More and more organizations each year... most of whom must just emerge during the holiday season and then disappear during the rest of the year.

If this isn't enough, how about the phone calls that begin... "Hello! Are you the lady of the house? How are you today?" And then in a monotone, they read on indefinitely, until I finally ask them what they are selling and then hang up. One morning, I received seven of these calls ranging from "Congratulations, you have just won a prize which you can pick up if you answer the following question. What state produced the most presidents... Va., Ohio or N.Y.?" Naturally I answered Va. and then told the girl I was not interested in what she had to offer.

Then there was the handicapped person who called again, and again, and again (five times this past month) to sell light bulbs. I have compassion for these people who unfortunately make their living this way, and bulbs do burn out rather rapidly today, but to call five times!! How about the pitch that you're calling for a Senior Citizen group (which I had never heard of) and want to sell 50-gallon plastic trash bags to me. I don't even have a trash can that size! Or the gal, who must have a wad of bubble gum in her mouth, trying to convince me that I need siding... I have an all brick home. Or how about *The Charlotte Observer* representative who wants to sell me a subscription to their paper? I've only been receiving the paper for over 23 years, 22 years at the same location!

The last call came when I finally had one foot out the door to do my own shopping. It was from the Vietnam Veterans (a woman with a decided foreign accent) selling skating tickets.

During the dinner hour it started all over again... the surveys began. "Would you mind answering a few questions for me?" The questions became more and more involved as he continued. Knowing that they get paid for these surveys, I tried to oblige, only to find that I hadn't even finished my soup when my husband was asking for his dessert. So be it for surveys from here on in.

To top all of this, invariably I receive phone calls for Eastern Airlines, Coplon's and Piedmont Employment, as well as for private parties whose numbers are so different from mine that the callers must be dialing with their toes. And oh, those children who love to play "telephone" and refuse to hang up!

There are times I wish that I could take the phone off the hook (but then, maybe, someone important might just try to reach me). How often I've been tempted to get an unlisted phone number, but that would really drive my husband's business associates and the "CJN" readership crazy... how would they be able to contact us?

Maybe now that '85 is almost over, the selling craze will stop, the philanthropies will wait again until next fall, and the developments will have sold all their units. Then and only then will I look forward to the click of my mail box and the ring of the telephone.

HAPPY 1986 TO YOU ALL!

— R.M.

**On The Issues ----- By Ira Gissen, Va/NC Director ADL**

**Anti-Semitism on the Farm**

The Populist Party is the major right wing extremist organization in the nation attempting to exploit the farm crisis by recruiting distressed farmers.

It is closely linked to the anti-Jewish Liberty Lobby propaganda organization based in Washington and headed by Willis A. Carto, who is a member of the Party's Executive Committee. Liberty Lobby is the most professional and successful anti-Jewish propaganda organization in the United States. Populist Party activists have been involved in the neo-Nazi movement, the Ku Klux Klan, armed paramilitary organizations and other hate groups.

The Party's campaign to make inroads among American farmers is based on simplistic and extremist solutions to the farm crisis. Portraying itself as a reincarnation of the 19th century Populist Movement, it seeks to cloak itself in seeming respectability; it put forward a Presidential candidate in the 1984 election, former track star Bob Richards, an Olympic Gold Medalist, who received 66,000 votes in 14 states. Richards has since left the Party.

Its efforts to attract American farmers went into high gear in March of this year after a strategy session held in Chicago. Specific outreach to

farmers was a central aspect of the Party's 1984 national convention. Liberty Lobby's publication, *The Spotlight*, which promotes the Populist Party, also targets farmers with articles on the farm situation and their plight in almost every issue. Conspiracy theories are often advanced in these articles to explain the difficulties faced by farmers.

Although the Party achieved official ballot status last year in Midwestern farm states, there is little evidence that the Party's outreach to farmers has met with any significant success. To the credit of leaders of farm organizations, to date no Populist Party representative has been permitted to address farmers from the platform of any major farm meeting or rally. Nevertheless, the Populist Party message is spread every week in the pages of *The Spotlight*, which has a circulation of more than 150,000.

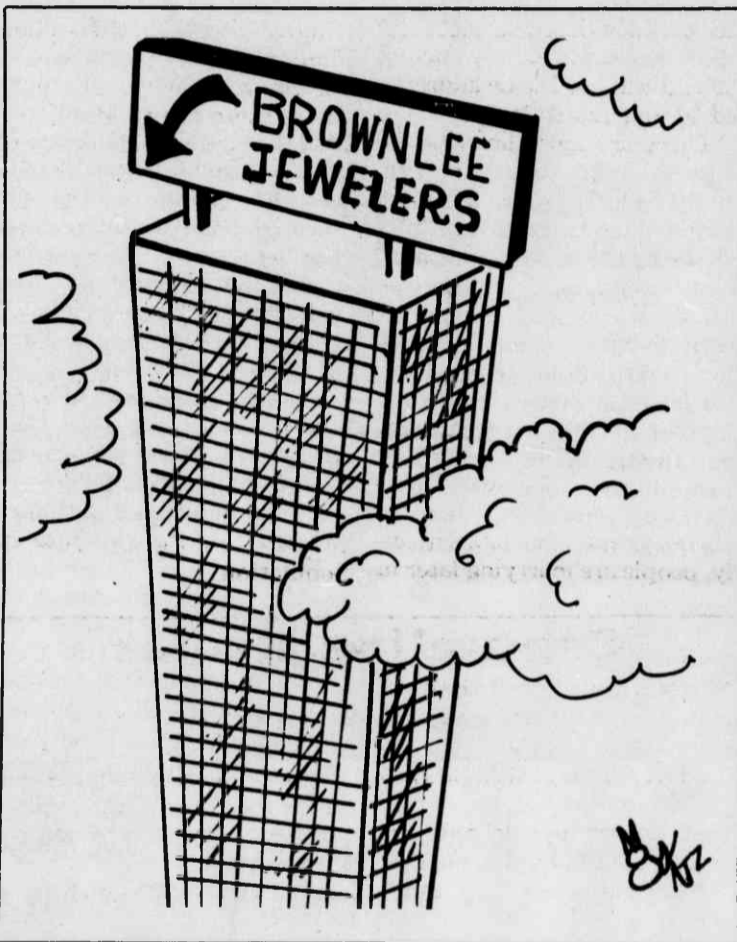
The Party is a vehicle launched to promote the agenda of Liberty Lobby. It represents the latest effort by the Lobby's leader, Willis Carto, to generate an aura of legitimacy for this 30-year-old program of bigotry. Carto has called the defeat of Adolf Hitler "the defeat of America" and blamed it on "international Jews." The strategy is, in effect, to use the Populist Party as a "Trojan Horse" to break through the boundaries separating mainstream American politics from extremism. The Populist Party, previously housed in Liberty Lobby's headquarters building in Washington, DC, is now located in San Diego, CA. In addition to close involvement with Liberty Lobby, some important activists in the Populist Party have links to other extremist organizations. They include:

- Jerry Pope, chairman of the Kentucky Populist Party, a veteran figure in the National States Rights Party, the virulently anti-Semitic and racist political vehicle of Georgia hatemonger J.B. Stoner.

- Van Loman, chairman of the Ohio Populist Party and its candidate for the Cincinnati City Council, previously Grand Dragon of the Ohio Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

- Keith Shive, acting chairman of the Populist Party of Kansas, a militant anti-Semite and the self-proclaimed leader of the "Farmers Liberation

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**Letters to the Editor**

**New England Couple Support Shalom Park**

Phyllis and Howard Kaplan of Swanscott, Mass., recently sent a \$500 contribution to the Foundation. Their total contributions now are over \$1,000. Mr. Kaplan, owner of Pocket Point, a line of garment bags, travel kits and tote bags, has been giving 10% of each purchase made by "Yours Truly Needlepoint" to the Foundation.

Very active in Jewish activities in the Boston area, Howard is president of Temple Israel, Swanscott; both are very involved with the Jewish Rehabilitation Home of the North Shore, of which Howard is president.

When they were in Charlotte for the recent Southern Women's Show, my wife Lynn, with the help of some of her "Yours Truly" customers, manned their booth. For this help, "Yours Truly" was given a generous gift of Pocket Point merchandise. After they arrived home they mailed the \$500 check and the following

note to Lynn:

"It was nice to see a part of Charlotte we haven't seen before and getting to see Shalom Park was a treat. After seeing your new Center and the dedication of you and your friends, please accept this personal check from Phyllis and me to the Foundation which you so ably support."

— Sam Lerner

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