

October 5, 1962

Mr. Shlomo Katz  
Editor  
Midstream  
515 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Katz:

I am a somewhat active participant in the present right-wing movement in our country today, as well as being a Jew and a Zionist.

Would you be interested in an article on the Jews in the American right-wing movement, their positions in it as well as their points of view? There has been so much misrepresentation in the press, particularly the Jewish press, that I feel a good article on the subject could do much to help clear up the confusion.

I think an article of this kind would also be considered somewhat "controversial" and could stir up a good deal of reader interest.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel L. Blumenfeld

111 East 26th Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

# *midstream*

A Quarterly Jewish Review

515 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. • Phone PLaza 2-0600

October 9, 1962

Mr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld  
111 East 26th Street  
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

From your letter of October 5, it is not quite clear to us what type of an article you have in mind. Thus, you say that you would write "on the Jews in the American right-wing movement, their positions in it as well as their points of view." At first glance we would of course assume that the points of view of Jews in the right-wing movement are the same as those of non-Jews. Or is there a special Jewish viewpoint?

All we can say, therefore, is that should you submit the article to us which you have in mind, it will receive our careful consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Shlomo Katz  
Editor

SK:sm

October 10, 1962

Mr. Shlomo Katz  
Editor  
Midstream  
515 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Katz:

Many thanks for your letter of October 9th in answer to my query.

You are quite right in assuming that the views of Jews in the right-wing movement are the same as those of non-Jews. However, since the vast majority of American Jews are "liberals" it would appear that perhaps there is some basic incompatibility between being Jewish and belonging to the right wing, which, as yet, has not attracted any large Jewish following.

Therefore, the question posed is this: are the Jews in the right wing any less Jewish than their coreligionists on the left? If they are not, then why aren't there more Jews in the right wing? If they are, then what aspect of their Jewishness is lacking?

There is no special Jewish viewpoint to speak of, but the Jew in the right wing finds himself not only in the minority in the political movement he has espoused, but also in the minority in his own religious group. All of this, I would go into in some detail.

As much as I would love to do an article of this kind on speculation, it would be difficult for me to do so without some greater assurance that it would be accepted. I would be glad to submit to you samples of other articles I have written.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel L. Blumenfeld

111 East 26th Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

# midstream

A Quarterly Jewish Review

515 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. • Phone PLaza 2-0600

October 11, 1962

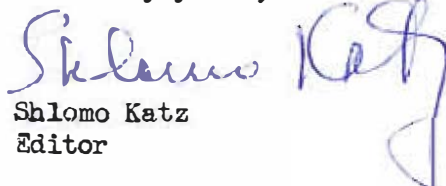
Mr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld  
111 East 26th Street  
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

In reference to your letter of October 10, I am sorry that we cannot offer any greater assurance that your proposed article will be accepted. Your idea as you define it is very vague. We do not even know just what you mean by right wing, or for that matter, where you place the border on the left. Also, your implied suggestion that there is some relationship between Jewishness and politics leaves us wondering. One could readily assume that Jews in "right wing" organizations are no less Jewish than others on the other side of the political football field, and yet interpret the political tendencies among Jews in purely economic or political or historical grounds. Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, for instance, to the best of my knowledge has been a Republican all or most of his life. Other reform rabbis have been consistently Democrats. Yet it would never occur to us to try and categorize the degree of "Jewishness" of any of them on the basis of their political preferences. It is for these reasons that we cannot make any advance commitment to an article discussing a subject which is so inadequately defined in your letter.

Let me repeat once again that any article you may submit to us will be given careful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
Shlomo Katz  
Editor

SK:sm



October 19, 1962

Mr. Shlomo Katz  
Editor  
Midstream  
515 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Katz:

Thank you for your answer of October 11th. By "right wing" I mean from Goldwater rightward, including such organizations and focal points as the Conservative Party (in New York State), National Review, Human Events, the John Birch Society--in short, what is loosely designated as the "radical right." There are Jews in this area of political life, but very few indeed. Is this because there is something basically incompatible between the political philosophies espoused by the radical right and Jewishness, or is it because of some other reason? This is the question I would like to explore. Another question: could a Zionist be comfortable in the milieu of the radical right?

The reasons why I consider this an important subject is because, as you know, the proportion of Jews in the radical left has always been larger than their general proportion in the population as a whole. If, as is often claimed, Jews basically share the same political views of their fellow non-Jewish Americans, then why aren't they more evenly distributed in all areas of American political life?

If you consider this area of inquiry important or interesting enough for your readers, I shall be glad to give them the benefit of my experiences and knowledge. Inasmuch as my income depends on my writing, I would be reluctant to spend time on an article which would wind up in my file cabinet. I can assure you the finished product will be quite publishable. You may not agree with its conclusions, but then I am sure you do not agree with everything you publish. Anyway, in the interests of intellectual freedom, and intellectual nonconformity, you might give it a try.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel L. Blumenfeld

111 East 26th Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

# **midstream**

**A Quarterly Jewish Review**

115 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. • Phone Plaza 2-0600

October 31, 1962

Mr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld  
111 East 26th Street  
New York 10, New York

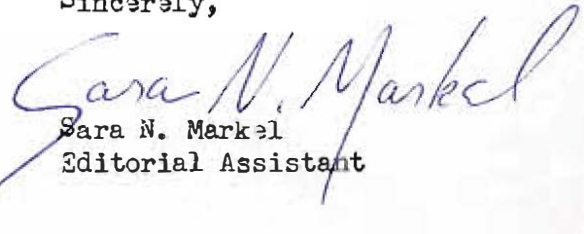
Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

Mr. Katz has asked me to reply to your letter of October 19.

The subject you suggest would certainly be of interest to us and we quite understand your reluctance to write it on speculation. However, you must also understand our position, namely, that we must base our judgement of suitable material for publication in Midstream on the basis of a completed manuscript, rather than a brief and rather vague outline. It isn't necessarily a matter of agreeing with your conclusions, but of the comprehensiveness of the development of the subject and its presentation.

So, again, should you decide to go ahead with this article, we would very much like to have the opportunity of seeing it.

Sincerely,

  
Sara N. Markel  
Editorial Assistant