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Mr. William Kristol
Chairman
The Standard
1150 17th Street, N.W., 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Bill:

Some time ago I decided not to renew my subscription to National Review, primarily because its increasingly offensive positions on such topics as immigration seem to me unworthy of support. Unfortunately, my subscription has not yet run out, so I received the July 10 issue, containing Father Neuhaus' piece on anti-Semitism. Neuhaus apparently equates people who see a rising tide of anti-Semitism in this country with liberals, who are really complaining about a rising tide of conservatism. And he quotes you to the effect that "alarm about anti-Semitism 'often does verge into paranoia among Jews' ". I would be eager to see your entire statement on the subject, since I am always suspicious of Father Neuhaus' excerpting, particularly in the case of an article which contains cunningly placed little adjectives and descriptions.

For example, Neuhaus refers to the fact that Jews are a minority (true) and that this state, "joined to their social influence", creates a problem for them. Not very much difference between the overt anti-Semites who contend that Jews dominate this or that aspect of life, and Neuhaus' description of our "social influence". He goes on to discuss Bill Cash's piece in the London Spectator, which he describes as a "little" article -- it was in fact, a full-length article -- on the "self-described" dominance of Jews in Hollywood. I was interested to learn that Neuhaus agrees with Cash that those prominent Jews, Rupert Murdoch and Sony Corporation, dominate Hollywood.

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Add all of this to the National Review's applause for the immigration statues of the 1920's, designed to keep eastern European Jews out, and you have a not-very-subtle form of anti-Semitism, dressed up as an attack on liberalism.

Since I don't think anyone can accuse me of being a liberal -- I grieve at times, at Newt Gingrich's equivocations -- Neuhaus' view that Jews who see anti-Semitism all around them are really liberals, complaining about their electoral defeats, clearly doesn't apply to me. But does "paranoia"?

It seems to me that there is a difference between the view that the anti-Semitism of the Christian Right is worth living with in order to get electoral support for conservative causes, and the very different assertion that there is no anti-Semitism contained in such screeds as Pat Robertson's attack on "European financiers".

In any event, would you be good enough to send me a copy of the remarks from which Neuhaus was quoting, if you do have a text?

Since I dislike talking (or writing) about people behind their backs, I'm sending a copy of this letter to John O'Sullivan, who I will continue to find a charming dinner companion, so long as he is in no position to implement the policy positions being taken by his magazine!

Sincerely,



IMS:bh

cc: John O'Sullivan

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