

Excerpts from Jerome Frank's "Red, White, and Blue Herring," 1941.

[p. 10] The erroneous belief that American Jews think and act and vote as a bloc, and are primarily interested in matters Jewish in America and throughout the world, gains plausibility because the majority of American Jews have adopted a "hush policy." They have been, understandably, sensitive to criticism and have feared that any discussion of "the Jewish question" would activate anti-Jewish feeling. As a consequence, they have mistakenly allowed the more intense Jewish nationalists among the Zionists and certain "professional Jews" to do most of the talking in public about American Jewish attitudes. That "hush policy" assumes that Jewish silence will prevent the American public from thinking about the Jews. It recalls Mark Twain's story of the little boy who was told to stand in a corner and not to think of a white elephant.

[p. 86] As I said, there are many shadings of attitudes even among the majority of American Jews. But the fundamental position of Jewish Americans can be simplified by considering what would be their answers to these questions: Would you fight and die, if such sacrifices were necessary, to perpetuate the Jews as a separate people? The majority would say "No." Would you fight and die to save American democracy? Almost all of them, without any mental reservations, would say, "Emphatically yes." Equivalent responses to equivalent questions would be received from most Polish or Italian Americans.