

Brenner's complaint

Sir, — In your November 18 issue, Jenni Frazer wrote: "Brenner's latest thesis as impeccably reported by none other than the News Line, Workers' Revolutionary Party journal, is how Jews control the American political process . . . as in 'Hispanics and blacks give votes, Jews give money'."

There were no such remarks made in my interview in "News Line" on October 31 and Frazer has acknowledged to me that the so-called quote is not from the "News Line" interview. She now says it is from a speech I made in Manchester, but she admitted that she had not read "News Line" nor had she heard my speech in which I was only re-telling what Eldon Clingen, a liberal member of the New York City Council had told me. This was that for a liberal to get elected, he or she must get the Black vote, the Hispanic vote and the Jewish vote because the Irish and Italian votes are locked up on the right wing. But neither the blacks nor the Hispanic contribute to the liberals' coffers because they have no money to give. This leaves the liberals crucially dependent on contributions from the Jewish community who are now, according to Stephen Isaacs' book, "Jews and American Politics," the richest ethnic or religious community in the US.

Frazer's insistence that I said Jews "control" American politics is nonsense. It is obvious that it is now the Republican Party, not the Democrats, who run America and in Manchester I made it clear that the Republican party is not dependent on its Jewish contributors.

My description of how American politics works may appear cynical to Britishers but it is hardly antisemitism.

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[*Jenni Frazer writes:* Brenner's accusation is technically correct insofar as the quote about Jews controlling the political process in the United States was a distillation which I made for space reasons of what Brenner said to "News Line." In "News Line," as he himself acknowledges, he said: "Truman was told by his advisers that he had to have the Jewish vote and campaign contributions from rich Jews. I stress rich Jews, of course."

As for his alleged antisemitism, it is a fact that after hearing Brenner speak, Manchester University Student Union council sent a letter to the NUS president, the NUS national secretary, the Middle East officer of the NUS executive and every union at which Brenner was scheduled to speak. Signed by Daniel Gatty, the external affairs officer of the Manchester Union, the letter expressed concern about Brenner's speaking tour and said, "... Some people at the meeting, including some members of the executive, regarded his talk as having definite antisemitic overtones. It was found to be thoroughly offensive by a number of our members."

The Manchester Students' Union also passed a resolution (on Wednesday, November 23) which read: "This Union regrets the decision by the executive to raise the ban on Lenni Brenner and instructs our delegates to NUS Conference to oppose Lenni Brenner being allowed to speak either at an official meeting or at a fringe meeting of Conference; and further instructs the NUS External Officer to write to National Student and the leaders of all the student political groupings informing them of the above decision."

I deeply regret the factual inaccuracies in my report but see no reason to withdraw the view that Brenner is an intemperate advocate of policies that many consider to be of an antisemitic character. Ed "JC."]