



Citizens for
Global Solutions

formerly World Federalist Assn.

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Philadelphia Chapter

1018 W. Cliveden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119

jamestranney@post.harvard.edu 215 849-9165

World Peace Through Law

The Peace Proposal of Five American

Presidents - by *James Ranney*

"Peace is not everything; but without peace, everything is nothing."

- Former German Chancellor Willie Brandt

We must end war: How to avoid a nuclear war is the most important issue facing humanity. As H.G. Wells put it in 1935: "If we don't end war, war will end us." Or, as President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev said in their joint statement at the November 1985 Geneva Summit: "a nuclear war cannot be won, and must never be fought." If that proposition is true, then it follows that we need to develop alternatives to war. And therein lies the simple crux of our proposal: international dispute resolution mechanisms—primarily international arbitration, preceded by international mediation and backed up by international adjudication.

History of the idea: This is not a new idea, nor is it a radical idea. Its origins go back to British legal philosopher Jeremy Bentham, who in his 1789 *Plan for an Universal and Perpetual Peace* proposed "a Common Court of Judicature for the decision of differences between the several nations." Other prominent proponents include: President Theodore Roosevelt, who in his 1910 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech proposed international arbitration, a world court, and "some kind of international police power" to enforce the decrees of the court; President William Howard Taft, who espoused an "arbitral court" and an international police force to compel resort to arbitration and adjudication; and President Dwight Eisenhower, who urged creation of an "International Court of Justice" with compulsory jurisdiction and some kind of "international police power universally recognized and strong enough to earn universal respect."

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- in Memoriam - John Ewbank -

Our longtime Philadelphia chapter member and dear friend John R. Ewbank died March 19, at age 95. He rarely missed one of our meetings, most recently joining us at Jim Ranney's last November. A pillar of the World Federalist movement since the mid 1940s, John was unusual being a decentralist. His early experiences with academic bureaucracy convinced him that organizations function best when they are small enough so everyone has a reasonable chance to become acquainted with one another. This reasoning led him to a Libertarian political persuasion, once running for Attorney General of Pennsylvania on that party's ticket. His ideas for a "Supra-National World Federation," advanced in his writings and talks, contemplated global government limited to functions that could not effectively be performed by a lower level of government. By this principle, known as "subsidiarity," appropriate activities at the global level would be to maintain world peace, regulate world trade, enforce



Our "decentralist federalist"

environmental protection for the oceans and atmosphere, as well as other activities of global consequence that individual nations typically have handled in self-serving ways.

Although he was a pacifist and conscientious objector during WWII, he did not seek to abolish the military but instead advocated educating military officers to instill a sense of responsibility for the community of life. While he was concerned about the population explosion --from 2 billion to 7 billion globally during his lifetime-- he opposed coercive population control because he felt that education, individual responsibility, and equal rights for women would be just as effective. He was a lawyer himself, but maintained that tribunals which rule in constitutional disputes, such as our supreme court, are dangerous because of the tyranny they might impose. He had a masters degree in chemistry and practiced patent law, but felt that the modern technology we are evolving empowers tyrants who trumpet propaganda about increasing individual freedom while making use of electronic surveillance, "security" technology, and increasingly centralized control of mass media to gnaw away at our individual liberties.

John and his wife Marjorie invariably attended our meetings together. Having met in Indiana where they both grew up, they were married in Connecticut in 1940 where John had landed his first job as a patent attorney. John's best man was a Quaker, who influenced the newlyweds to seek out other Quakers. They organized a worship group whose first meeting was held on December 7, 1941. During the war they lived in New York City and were active in the pacifist and anti-war movements. The "Peace Now" society opened its first office in their apartment -- an organization later deemed "subversive" during the McCarthy hearings, causing John and Marjorie considerable stress and inconvenience. After the war they returned to Indiana where John did graduate studies in Chemistry. Then they moved here to Philadelphia where he served a total of 29 years in the patent departments of Atlantic Richfield (pg. 2→)

**What Kind of Country Do I Want to Live In?**

by Pam Packard

As a phone-bank volunteer in the presidential election campaign, I often find myself trying to convince people to examine issues factually instead of emotionally, in a sound-bite's worth of time. I fall back on the expedient of beginning with the end: where do I want to be when the dust clears?... what kind of country do I want to live in after November 7?

I want to live in a country that does its best

- to promote all aspects of sustainability; all forms of fairness
- to avoid extreme imbalances of wealth and poverty
- to support a humane, flexible immigration policy that responds to individual circumstances
- to protect the environment and defend all other species against heedless, destructive exploitation
- to solicit policy ideas from the nearly voiceless as well as the assertive
- to promote a health care culture that focuses on prevention, and shifts to cure only when that fails
- to support the physical and mental well-being of its youth through public education
- to promote a level electoral playing field, with openness and transparency in public offices

I want to live in a country that takes these positions because it is the right thing to do, and then makes them work

The country I DON'T want to live in:

- Has a legal system lubricated by money, giving justice to those who can afford it and rationing its availability & effectiveness to the rest of us.
- Protects the interests of the few via subsidies and loopholes, often unknown even to those who voted them into law.
- Taxes absurdly wealthy plutocrats at lower rates than their employees.
- Chips away at institutions, financial regulation, speedy trials, unions...etc., that protect ordinary citizens
- Tolerates a top-job revolving door between government agencies and the industries they regulate (in my dream about the Treasury Department, the door would revolve operators like Rubin, Summers and Paulson to neighborhoods ruined by sub-prime loans and oblige them to live there!)
- Makes it OK and necessary for Presidential and Congressional campaigns to be financed mainly by the .000063 percent, while richly compensating those self-serving donors with tax breaks and subsidies.
- Lets irresponsible politicians and the media that caters to them enchant the chronically under-informed with circuses and lies, filling the airways with dreck and distractions in place of public debate.
- Tolerates/promotes State legislation pre-empting women's most deeply-felt and personal decisions about their own bodies, even defining a zygote as "a person".

— **Now for some specific reflections on...**

Health care:

I've lived in Europe, seen socialized medicine first-hand

Philadelphia and have become convinced that the best policy would be "Medicare for All". Let's face it, health care is always going to be expensive no matter how we do it, and Medicare is tailor-made to minimize costs and frustration with its vastly simpler administrative structure. My position: **MEDICARE FOR ALL. One buyer from BIG Pharma.**

Stimulus Vs Austerity:

The USA opted for stimulus following the crash of '08 – against the best efforts of the greedy to prevent it – and we are having a modest recovery. Europe chose austerity, and country after country there is going on the ropes.

My position: STIMULUS a la FDR & the NEW DEAL. Instead of privatizing our roads, water lines, bridges and sewers so they can be milked and looted, let's put our unemployed to work rebuilding and modernizing them.

Education:

The countries that invest heavily in education are beating us in every field: science, math, longevity, infant mortality, wellness, children's health, income, social mobility, and opportunity. Even though we are already well behind nations like South Korea or Hong Kong (that we used to think of as being far lower on the development scale), perversely many of our state and local governments are deeply cutting education.

My position: Instead of outsourcing manufacturing, let's outsource some education: A FULLBRIGHT PROGRAM for talented high-school kids AND another for their teachers.

- John Ewbank Memorial -

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...Air Products, and Houdry, continuing thereafter as a sole practitioner up to 2007.

He served on the national boards of the World Federalist Association, American Movement for World Government, and was President of Home Rule Globally -- a foundation that promotes subsidiarity at all levels of government. Throughout his adult life he traveled to meetings around the world to advance global understanding and peace. For example, he went to Costa Rica in support of Radio Peace International; was a signer of the Earth Constitution at its Constituent Assembly; participated in sessions of the Provisional World Parliament, including one in Bangkok; helped to establish the Institute for World Problems; and spoke at the 2009 International Conference of Chief Justices of the World in Lucknow, India. He was a member of Abington Friends Meeting, served as its clerk, and was active in Quaker affairs for 70 years. John is survived by Marjorie and their son J. Robert Ewbank Jr., of Honolulu, HI. I believe all of us in the chapter will miss John's presence, determination and unique style.

Memorial contributions should be sent to HOME RULE GLOBALLY, Pennswood Village, apt J112, 1382 Newtown-Langhorne Rd., Newtown PA 18966-4545. □