

THE MYTH THAT THREATENS THE WORLD

At a 1947 convention in Asheville, North Carolina the World Federalists, USA merged with four similar organizations to form the United World Federalists. Membership was open to any American "except persons Communist or Fascist oriented". It had more than 50,000 members during the late 1940s and early 1950s, including Albert Einstein, Kurt Vonnegut, Sen. Alan Cranston, Mortimer Adler, E.B. White, Oscar Hammerstein, Cord Meyer, Rex Stout, Clifton Fadiman, and the organization's longtime President, Norman Cousins.

Oscar Hammerstein, an American writer, producer, and well known director of musicals for almost forty years, along with Clifton Fadiman and Rex Stout co-wrote the play, "The Myth that Threatens the World", which toured stages across the country in the early 1950's, bringing to light how the myth of national sovereignty was leading the world toward disaster. The United World Federalists organization sponsored and promoted the production.

INERTIA: A lyric typed on lined paper, and some handwritten notes, were found among unpublished material in the Hammerstein Collection in the Music Division of the Library of Congress. The subject suggests a connection to Hammerstein's work in the 1940s and 1950s with the United World Federalists.

Inertia

How I love that place!
We loll all day in languid grace,
And facts are what we never face
In Inertia, my old home.
Inertia—
If the signs all say
Tomorrow's war is on the way,
We make believe it's yesterday
In Inertia, my old home.
Inertians are a race you cannot reach.
We live behind a wall of patient smiles,
And all the folk with new ideas to teach
We look upon as harmless juveniles.
Inertians knew the steamboat
Was merely Fulton's folly;
Inertians knew the earth could not be round.
Inertians knew that Hitler
Was quaint and rather jolly
And all his threats were nothing more than sound.
Supported by this record of what we've said
before,
We confidently tell you now

17 WRITERS FRAME A WORLD LAW PLAN

They Seek America's Support in Turning United Nations Into United Government

Making public an "American Declaration of Dependence," seventeen American writers, including five Pulitzer Prize winners, announced yesterday formation of the Writers' Board for World Government with headquarters at 7 East Twelfth Street.

Their "declaration," framed as an appeal for the cooperation of more than 4,000 American writers, binds them to work for American support in transforming the United Nations into a limited world government.

The founding writers are:

Norman Cousins, editor of *The Saturday Review of Literature*; Rusel Crouse, co-author of "Life with Father" and winner of a Pulitzer prize for "State of the Union"; Clifton Fadiman, master of ceremonies of "Information Please"; John Farrar, member of the publishing concern of Farrar, Straus & Co.

Also Alan Green, novelist; Oscar Hammerstein 2d, Pulitzer prize-winner for "Oklahoma" and recipient of the New York Drama Critics' Award for "South Pacific"; John Hersey, winner of a Pulitzer award for "A Bell for Adano" and author of "Hiroshima"; Laura Z. Hobson, author of "Gentlemen's Agreement."

Also John Hohenberg, chief United Nations correspondent for *The New York Post-Home News*; Annalee Jacoby, co-author of "Thunder Out of China"; Christopher La Farge, poet and playwright; Margaret Leech, winner of Pulitzer Prize in history for "Reveille In Washington."

Cord Meyer Jr. On List

Also Jerry Mason, editorial director, *Popular Publications*; Cord Meyer Jr., president of *United World Federalists, Inc.*; Merle Miller, author of "That Winter"; Robert E. Sherwood, winner of Pulitzer prizes for "Idiot's Delight," "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," "There Shall Be No Night" and "Roosevelt and Hopkins," and Rex Stout, creator of *Nero Wolfe* and chairman of the *Writers War Board, 1941-45*.

"We were a small island of liberty in a despotic world 173 years ago when our Declaration of Independence was issued," Mr. Stout said. "But this July 4th, after nearly ninescore years of great change, including two world wars in our own lifetime, we have become the leaders in a fight for a free and peaceful world.

"Necessarily, this means our own freedom at home has become dependent on the progress of liberty everywhere."

Among those who have pledged aid to the board are Kay Boyle, David Bradley, Taylor Caldwell, Henry Seidel Canby, Babette Deutsch, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Stanley Frank, Waldo Frank, Margaret Case Harriman, Marquis James, Emil Lengyel, Ann Petry, Muriel Rukeyser, Samuel Shellabarger, Mark Van Doren and James P. Warburg.

Declaration Summarized

The board, an independent organization, summarized its "declaration" as follows:

"So long as international problems, including the problems of peace or war, are handled by the representatives of sovereign nations, with no legal restraint by an authority transcending the sovereignty of any one nation, war is inevitable.

"Our only alternative to world war is world law. We can get world law only by establishing a world government.

"It must have the power to enforce a prohibition of the use or threat of force in settlement of international disputes, to limit national armed forces to the levels required for the preservation of domestic order, to deal with individuals as well as governments, to maintain a police force adequate for the support of its authority, to raise its own revenue, and to give its courts compulsory jurisdiction.

"The world federation should include all nations and peoples. All would be invited to join. Should a minority refuse, the world government would be established by the ready majority and the invitation to all others would stand until universal membership is achieved. Secession would not be permitted.

"Since the United States is the richest and strongest nation, the first necessity is to convince the American people of the soundness of the above premises and the validity of the above conclusion."

WORLD 'DANGER' TO BE DRAMATIZED

Myth That 'Threatens' Will Include Unusual Cast

An unusual cast of stars—including Robert E. Sherwood, Russel Crouse, **Rex Stout** and Raymond Swing—will appear in the play, "The Myth That Threatens The World," at the Lyric Theater on February 18.

The play is a dramatic argument which outlines the program of the United World Federalists, and will be sponsored here by the Maryland branch of that group.

Other Actors Listed

Robert S. Nyburg, executive director of the Maryland Federalists, announced that Ralph Bellamy, Alan Cranston, Myron McCormick, Duncan M. Spencer, Representative Christian A. Herter and Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor, USA (retired), also will appear.

Members of the casts of "South Pacific" and "The Happy Time" will have supporting roles in the play.

The seats on the main floor of the Lyric will be replaced by tables and about 1,000 persons have been invited to a 6.30 P.M. dinner before the dramatic-argument is presented.

No Charge In Balconies

At 8 P.M., the balconies will be opened to the general public, without charge.

"The Myth That Threatens The World" was arranged and directed by Oscar Hammerstein 2d, in collaboration with Mr. Crouse, Mr. Sherwood, Mr. Stout, Clifton Fadiman, John Hersey, Laura Z. Hobson, Margaret Leech Pulitzer and Carl van Doren.

It was first presented in New York city to a group of newspaper men and persons active in the radio field.

Repeated In New York

Because of its success it was presented again in New York to a larger audience and then to groups in San Francisco, Philadelphia and Chicago.

The individual sponsors for the performance are Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Lee Clark, Judge Eli Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Hall Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Healy, Mr. and Mrs. Guy T. O. Hollyday, Doctor and Mrs. Otto F. Kraushaar, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Menzies, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Marburg, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Meyerhoff, Doctor and Mrs. Walter D. Wise and Bishop and Mrs. Noble C. Powell.

FEDERALISTS TO STAGE SHOW IN BALTIMORE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 11—Special invitations to the presentation here next Sunday night of "The Myth That Threatens the World," fundraising and public opinion project of the United World Federalists, have been extended to members of Congress, high ranking officials of the Army, Navy and State Department and members of the state and city governments.

Several acceptances have already been received, said Robert S. Nyburg, executive director of the sponsors, the Maryland branch of the federalists.

Directing the production is Oscar Hammerstein 2d with Rex Stout as master of ceremonies. Many distinguished figures of the theatre, including Robert Sherwood, Russel Crouse, Ralph Bellamy, Alan Cranston and Myron McCormick, will take part. Other participants are Representative Christian A. Herter, Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor and members of the casts of "South Pacific" and "The Happy Time."

The presentation is an episode program with a thread of continuity directed toward demonstrating the "myth" that world peace can be preserved without some surrender of national sovereignty.

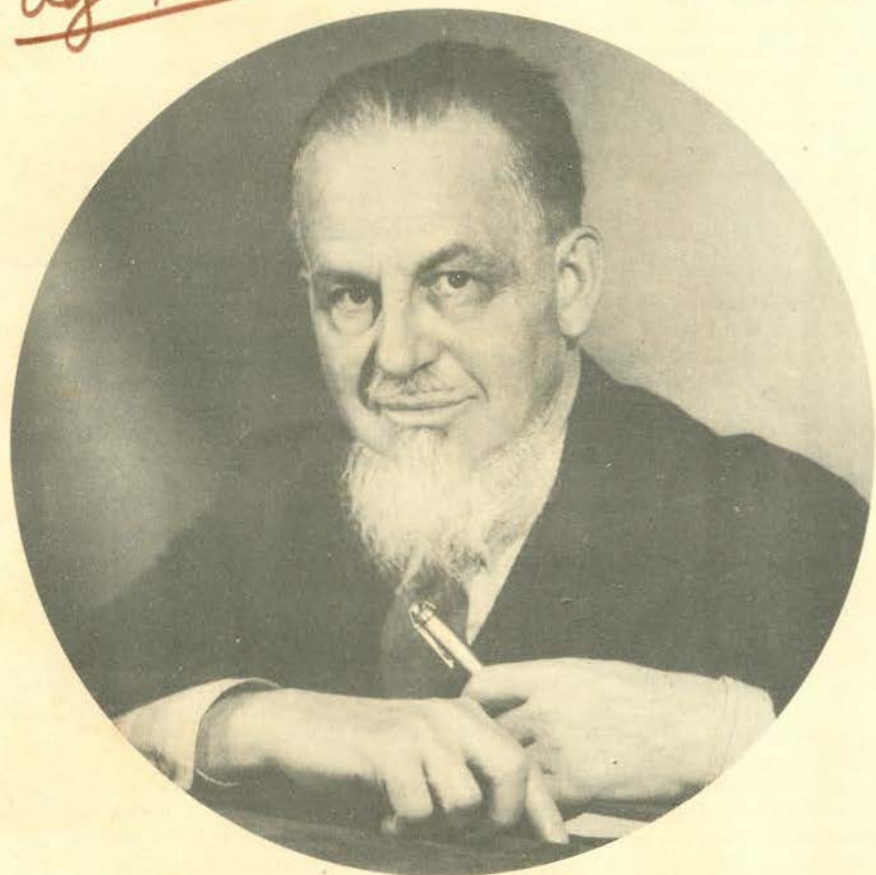
WORLD GOVERNMENT

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REX STOUT

Exploding the myth that threatens the world

FEDERALIST PLAY ENDS IN ARGUMENT

Cousins, State Legion Chief Clash On Stage

By R. H. GARDNER

[*Sun Staff Correspondent*]

Hagerstown, March 1—The spirit of peace, clearly evident during "The Myth That Threatens the World," a United World Federalist play presented here tonight, disappeared entirely at the end when the State adjutant of the American Legion mounted the stage.

A mixture of cheers and jeers greeted this entrance of Daniel H. Burkhardt into the enemy arena—not all of the jeers coming from the Federalist camp.

The Legion adjutant attacked the United Nations and the program of the United World Federalists. He also defended a pamphlet passed out by the American Legion in which the reputations of some of the participants in tonight's play were attacked.

A Legionnaire whom Mr. Burkhardt identified as Samuel Cohen approached him later and with shaking finger declared:

"I Have Contempt For You"

"Danny, you've done more to harm the American Legion in this town tonight than has ever been done by anybody."

A few minutes later, while the 500 or more people who witnessed the performance filed slowly from the Hagerstown High School audi-

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PLAY SETS OFF ROW ON STAGE

Cousins And Burkhardt Clash At Federalist Drama

By R. H. GARDNER

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torium, novelist Rex Stout told Mr. Burkhardt:

"What you are doing is contemptible and I have contempt for you."

The argument resulted from a pamphlet passed out by Legionnaires before the performance.

The pamphlet, quoting from the files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, listed organizations with which each of the principals in the play supposedly had connections.

Item On Cousins

For example, one of the items pertaining to Norman Cousins, president of U.W.F. and a participant in tonight's play, reads as follows:

"In answer to this totalitarian philosophy of dragooning culture, Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, declared amid a great deal of hissing and booing, that: 'Democracy must mean intellectual freedom, that it must protect the individual against the right of the state to draw political and cultural blueprints for its painters and writers and composers or to castigate them, or to enter into those matters of the mind in which the individual is sovereign.'"

The performance consisted of a series of speeches and skits.

Mr. Cousins, during one of his speeches observed that he had just the other day received a call from Hagerstown saying that it was doubtful the play could go on because "people were passing papers around pointing out my name was listed with the House Un-American Activities Committee."

"If the people who distributed his paper tonight had investigated they would have found out that I was booed when I spoke before the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace."

Listed As Subversive

He said he spoke before the organization in 1949 and was in fact escorted out by police. The conference is listed as a subversive organization and matter in the pamphlet distributed tonight was part of the Un-American Activities Committee's report on the organization.

It was this statement of Mr. Cousins which brought Mr. Burkhardt to the stage. He pointed out that the pamphlet had stated the true facts of the matter.

Adjacent to the stage were two flags—one an American flag and the other the flag of the United Nations. Pointing to the United Nations flag, Mr. Burkhardt stated:

"Many of our members and sons of our members have been killed fighting for this flag in Korea. This organization has been cited by Mrs. Roosevelt as the incubator for world government. If this is the

incubator for world government, and, if we're paying this cost for the incubation, what would we pay for world government?"

At this point, Mr. Burkhardt started to leave the stage when shouts of "Hold" stopped him.

Mr. Cousins stepped up and asked him to wait and "straighten out a few things."

Then followed a discussion between the two men in which Mr. Burkhardt in effect admitted that he did not regard Mr. Cousins and his associates as being actively connected with un-American organizations.

To this, Mr. Cousins replied that if it is known a person has no con-

nection with un-American activities, pamphlets implying that he does should not be distributed by the American Legion or any other group.

In reply to another question by Mr. Cousins, Mr. Burkhardt said that he himself did not think that Mr. Cousins and his friends were "commies."

"If I had thought so," said Mr. Burkhardt, "I would have tried to keep you from showing this play in the high school."

Mr. Burkhardt later said he did not know why the Legion was distributing the pamphlet when it did not regard the people whose names were listed as questionable.