

## **In Memoriam, Ed Rawson**

Born to a family that goes back to the Mayflower, Edward Rawson made his entry into the world in the fateful year of 1914 -- together with the first of the series of global wars and conflicts that were to rock the world for the better part of the next century, until 1989. He bore a propitious ancestry for this difficult era: an earlier Edward Rawson, 1615-1693, had been Colonial Secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The political experience of his youth was a tormenting one -- world war, failed peace, trade wars, currency wars, great depression, rising totalitarianisms of Left and Right, a helpless slide toward a new world war... The experience of the generation was summed up for him, and for many others, in a book, *Union Now*, by the New York Times correspondent at the League of Nations. It proposed a federation of the world's leading democracies as a solution both to these urgent specific problems and to the general problem of how to form a nucleus for a governed world, one that would naturally tend to evolve into a full-fledged, yet free and democratic, world government. He read the book when it came out in 1939, and immediately joined the movement it inspired -- the Inter-Democracy Federalist Unionists (a name simplified in 1940 to Federal Union, in 1984 changed to Association to Unite the Democracies, AUD).

It was the beginning of the main public commitment of his life.

In 1947 he made the hard trek, through rough weather and roads to the Asheville, NC conference where UWF, the United World Federalists, was founded (a name later simplified to WFA, World Federalist Association, changed in 2003 to CGS, Citizens for Global Solutions). So did other Federal Union members of the same generation, among them Neal Potter.

Ed and Neal were to be lifelong friends, for decades working as a pair, despite coming from opposite parties, Neal an active Democrat, Ed a solid Republican. Ed sometimes complained that Neal was too much a partisan Democrat, and probably had a point there, but neither of them was doctrinaire ideologically, so they could get on well apart from party matters. They were both concerned with economics and finance -- it was Neal's professional academic background -- and it helped them stay together. An economically well-educated Democrat, Neal like Ed supported international trade and markets as an integral part of his world federalist commitment; the commitment to world peace and prosperity, and to bringing together people across borders in free intercourse on all levels, free exchange of goods not just sex. But yes, on the level of sex, too. And birth control. Ed was a supporter of SIECUS. And of birth control for cows in India, as we shall see.

Neal and Ed were the two cornerstones of the arch of world federalism in the nation's capital. Neal passed away at age 93 in 2008. Now Ed. Others giants from the arch have also passed. Cleo Michelsen. John Holden. Bob Heppe. We are left with a remnant, we like to think a saving remnant, in this area.

World federalism was central to Ed's identity. So central that he put it into the one name he truly chose for himself -- his email address: WorldFedEd (he later changed it to WorldGovernance, avoiding any conflict with WFA's name change). He was a supporter from the moment of the initial meeting that founded Federal Union in New York in 1939. He served as Treasurer-Administrative Director of the World Federalist Association from 1976 to 1997. He remained active in both organizations to the end on December 30, 2013, 74 years later.

Ed also had a government career, which he chronicled as follows: He joined the State Department as Director for the Yugoslavia Relief Program in 1949 and subsequently served as Economic Attaché in the Embassy in Belgrade. During the mid-1950s, he was Program Operations Officer for Korea and Philippines with the International Cooperation Administration (ICA), the predecessor to the US Agency for International Development (USAID). In 1958, he returned to Washington as Special Assistant to the Deputy of Administration of the ICA, and in accordance with a presidential request, served as the liaison officer between the US government and Project Hope. Following a tour with ICA's office for International Relations, he was administrative coordinator for AID's program outsourced to other government agencies until his retirement in 1976.

Ed also had a tenure as President of the Capital Investment Association, a club that mischievously bore the acronym of the Federal security agency a mile from his home. And was President of the Rawson Family Enterprises.

-----

A few personal reminiscences now. I first met Ed and Neal when I joined WFA in the early 1980s, while I was becoming chief of staff of AUD. They renewed their membership in AUD at the time, and subsequently went onto its Board. I in turn became active in their and Cleo's WFA chapter in the DC area, and in the mid-Atlantic regional structure they set up within WFA.

Ed lived 15 minutes down the road from me -- and 2 minutes down the road from the CIA. Many a visitor made the wrong turn off 123, and had to spend time getting cleared to leave by Security. Did it once myself. There had been a terrorist attack by a Mr. Mir Qazi at that entrance in 1993, killing 2 CIA employees and injuring 3.

I visited with him often in recent years. We talked about the global situation, and world federation, and union of democracies, and CGS/GS, and AUD/SC, and his "CIA" club in McLean (he got me to join it). And his cats -- he kept inviting me to take one of them, it was old, and doing the things old cats are sometimes known to do around the house. Neal had been a cat lover too. What was that proverb? - about how good world federalists are cat people :)

I emailed Ed a couple weeks ago (my computer tells me it was 12.11.13) for us to set up another get together -- his hearing no longer was good enough for making appointments by phone, but he could still manage some coherent communication in

person. The answer came back that he was recovering from pneumonia, I should give him a couple weeks. Previous times, at ages over 90, he had made it through major and minor health setbacks and recovered rather well. This time, at 99, he no longer could make it through.

The last time I talked with him, it was to inform him that the Indian government has finally begun adopting his plan for using birth control on some of the country's sacred animals. It was not yet Ed's full plan -- for birth control of cows -- but it was a start: birth control for sacred monkeys. He had told me, a couple years ago, about the plan he had drawn up decades ago on the subject. Here is how that came about.

When Ed had worked at UNRRA (the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) and ICA/USAID, he started out with postwar recovery in Yugoslavia -- it made him painfully familiar with the places when that country broke apart half a century later -- but later went on to deal with development issues farther afield, including India.

Ed was in recent years encouraging me to write some articles about greenhouse emissions and the problem of getting global taxes to slow carbon emissions. It was a time of the first public discussions on the problem of cows belching and farting methane. Some people (including a prominent Indian heading the IPCC) were saying that the solution was to follow the Indian example and stop eating any beef at all. I wrote an article on the problem of India having an estimated 28% of all the world's cows on its small territory, thanks to the human interpositions against nature taking its course. The Hindu sacralization of the life of cows was what led Indians to stop natural environmental methods of species population balancing and limitation from working right. The global cow population could be greatly and quickly reduced, with no economic loss, actually considerable gain for India, if Hindu dogmas could be put aside; while reductions in beef consumption in the rest of the world would necessarily be a slower evolutionary matter.

It was when Ed read this, that he informed me of the plan he had written up for India to get control of its cow population, by using birth control formulas on its cows. It would hugely benefit India's national interest. Some Indians liked his plan for this reason. Since the Hindu religion would not permit the normal method of letting nature take its course, much less the natural human economic course of killing off the excess cows and consuming the ones that are not too sickly, at least it might allow a completely humane method of reducing their reproduction. Unfortunately, he told me, the Hindu believers wouldn't allow his birth control plan to be adopted, either.

But things have begun changing in the years since he told me about that. It gave me some joy to be able to report to him, in his last weeks of life, that his plan was finally being adopted in India. Not yet for cows, to be sure, but for control of the monkey population, which has been similarly out of hand for the same religious reasons. Cows may come next. We can hope.

----

Ed's final initiative, to which he devoted considerable effort in his last several years, he dubbed the "Peace and Prosperity" plan. It was for a UN civil intervention and civil administration force, to come in and run countries that have become unable to maintain the basics of governmental control over violence and corruption. It sounds grandiose, but a very similar plan is to be found within the current book of Joe Schwartzberg, in a form that does not sound impractical after all. Ed thought of it grandiosely, to be sure, as a plan for achieving something close to a governed world. Taken together with the fairly numerous humanitarian (R2P) and security interventions he supported (which thus far have mostly lacked the requisite civil completion) and with his efforts for a closer union of the democracies that are the mainstay of the interventions, it would bring us nearer to a governed world than one might have thought at first blush. He hoped to set up a think tank to promote it. I tried to get him and Joe in touch on it, but it was too late.

Ed leaves a positive legacy strewn around the world, from India to the Balkans to here at home. He leaves to us, us rather too few people, the joys and burdens of being the heirs of his aspirations. He counted on us to sustain and carry forward his most cherished dream: a world that is governed, and that is free and democratic, and peaceful and prosperous. He was always straightforward, always trying out things without using the elaboration and argumentation as something to hide behind, committing for making a try not for making a dogma, ready to change plans when the results came in, a realist yet an optimist, always cheerful, always encouraging people to try. It was part of his investment style, too, realistically evaluating stocks, and then enjoying to take his risks, scaled to be sure within a portfolio that could afford them, when he saw a decent chance of good profits. I feel he would want us to be saying, with good cheer even on this occasion, that we are ready to continue, and will keep trying for as long as it takes.

Ira Straus, January 2, 2014