

THE LAFF SOCIETY

For the men and women engaged in Life After the Ford Foundation

WINTER 2001

NO. 26

The LAFFing Parade

Lance E. Lindblom, (Human Rights and International Cooperation) has been named president of the Nathan Cummings Foundation. He is a former president of the J. Roderick MacArthur Foundation and staff member of the Soros Open Society Institute.

Anthony R. Measham was named Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association Alumnus of the Year 2000. After serving in the County Health Department of Raleigh, North Carolina, where he received degrees in public health, he served in several international posts—Bogota, Bangladesh, New Delhi, the University of Nottingham, where he was Professional of International Health, and the World Bank

Sheldon Shaeffer (Asia and Pacific) has returned to New York as head of UNICEF's Southeast Asia education section. UNICEF, 3 UN Plaza, New York 10017.

Jane P. Plakias believes, sadly, that now that John Howard, for whom she worked, has died, she is the oldest living alumnus of the Foundation. She was the first woman professional hired in the New York office when the Foundation began in 1951. "I had no female company for most of the 1950s," she writes. "I left in 1957 to be married overseas. I still work full time (for the London School of Economics) and use much of what I learned at FF." 3601 Tilden St. NW, Washington, DC 20008-3124.

Tony Proscio (National Affairs) is the author of *In Other Words: A Plea for Plain Speaking in Foundations*, a

An Evening of Memory and Cheer

The third LAFF Society Gala attracted 122 alumni and significant others, breaking the record for attendance at the 1996 gathering (115), though falling a bit short of the number who came to the first event, in 1993 (140). As before, the reunion was held in the lovely National Arts Club, on Gramercy Park. The Gilded Age club, a National Historic Landmark, was the site of the filming of *The Age of Innocence*.

The festivities were opened by LAFF president Siobhan Nicolau, who paid tribute to the event's organizers, Patrick Corrigan, Jane McCarthy, and Mary Camper-Titsingh. Introducing the master of ceremonies, Francis X. Sutton, she said, "Some people speak of him as a scholar, some people think of him as a scientist, an important man in international affairs, but I think of him as the greatest piano player the Ford Foundation ever had." The room burst into laughter, one of several during the evening. (Nicolau's other contribution was the purchase of dozens of coffee mugs emblazoned with The LAFF Society logo).

The reunion's merriment was tempered, though, by the recent deaths of two former vice presidents, David E. Bell and Mitchell Sviridoff. Their passing, along that that of twenty other colleagues over the four years since the last gathering,* was observed by Frank Suttton by reading Heraclitus, William Johnson Cory's 19th century version of a 3d century B.C. poem by Callimachus:

(Cont. on p. 5)

sprightly 61-page booklet published by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. Proscio is a former *Miami Herald* associate editor. The publication can be obtained from Deborah McCoy at DMCCoy@emcf.org.

Gustav Ranis recalled recently that his three years of service with the Foundation (1958-1961) first in India (under Frosty Hill) and later in Pakistan (under George Gant and Bill Culbertson) were followed by a career with many other connections with the Foundation. He was recruited back to Yale (where he received in Ph.D.) by **Lloyd Reynolds**, himself a Ford alumnus who had convinced Ford to create the Economic Growth Center.

Ranis directed the center for almost a decade. In 1996 he was appointed director of Yale's Center for International and Area Studies, which had received its initial endowment from the Foundation in the 1950s.

John Sommer (India) was reminded by the article in the last LAFF newsletter about the Foundation's smoking policy of "being struck in 1969 by Dave Finkelstein's courage (gall?) in posting a 'no smoking' notice on his door in Asia and Pacific. This was the first time I'd encountered what I thought at the time was his personal quirk, but that then became a much broader and (to me) welcome campaign."

(cont. on p. 3)

*McGeorge Bundy, Frank Miller, Bernard Gladieux, Harry Wilhelm, Iris Harris, David Jones, Robert Weaver, Fred Friendly, James Tierney, John Howard, Ivo Lederer, Abraham Weisblat, David Heaps, Melvin Fox, Elinor Barber, Whitman Bassow, Robert Lyle Webster, John P. Robin, Ray Vernon, George H. Griffiths.

The LAFF Society

c/o Mary Camper-Titsingh
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How I Got Here

Here beginneth a new feature of The LAFF Society Newsletter—accounts of how each of us happened to work for the Foundation in the first place. Henry Salzman, whose idea this feature is, provides the first installment.

It began in the late 50s when I was teaching English in the NYC high schools, most particularly at Boys High School, then located in Bedford Stuyvesant. The schools were in the midst of the postwar migration of southern black people into the community, and our academic high school was having to confront the challenge of figuring out how to work with young men who were not prepared to deal with our curriculum, especially because of their poor reading skills.

But I found so many of them to be so motivated to learn that I volunteered to let others teach *Macbeth* and *Silas Marner*, while I began the first remedial program in the school's history—perhaps the first in a NYC academic high school. It was a great experience, and as a result I started my own school, an after-school tutoring program, grandiosely titled, "The Bedford Stuyvesant School for Remedial

Reading and Arithmetic". The Concord Baptist Church turned over their spanking new Education wing, and I was in business.

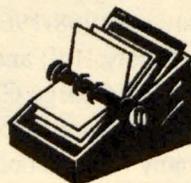
Very quickly, we filled up with students, each paying \$3 per session. However, even that small amount was difficult for many. So I began thinking about **scholarships**. Where could I find some money for my students?

I can remember the moment as if it were yesterday and not 1959. It was a warm spring afternoon, the sunlight streaming into my tiny cubicle of an office in the church, when I opened the phone book and looked up the only foundation I had ever heard of and cold-called Ford.

To my astonishment, there really was a Ford Foundation. They actually answered the phone! They actually connected me to the most appropriate staff person. It was **Bill Pincus** and, most wondrous of all, HE GAVE ME AN APPOINTMENT!

In short order, I met **Paul Ylvisaker, Robert Weaver, Al Eurich** and **Lester Nelson** and got a consultancy, which led to a staff appointment. During the six years I worked with Ylvisaker, he never tired of telling people that I was the only person he knew who ever walked in off the street and got a job at the Ford Foundation.

Help for New Directory



For a new LAFF Society directory, please send any address change for the last two years, along with an e-mail address, to Dorothy Nixon, 201 Adelaid St., Belleville, N.J. 07109 or e-mail nixondo@UMDNJ.edu

The Aga-Khan-FF Nexus

The Conference on Indigenous Philanthropy, organized by the Aga Khan Foundation in Islamabad, Pakistan, last October "proved a veritable Ford Foundation reunion," writes **John Gerhart**, former Ford representative in South Africa, one of those attending, assisted by **Ward Hennevlet** (Indonesia, education).

Robert Edwards, in between stints as president of Carleton and Bowdoin Colleges, was a member of the Aga Khan's headquarters staff in Aiglemont, France, responsible for the many educational, health, and other welfare activities that the Ismaili community and the Aga Khan have developed, as well as overseeing architectural, historical restoration and other interests. Edward later brought these together in the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, which Kessinger now heads. The meeting was organized by **David Bonbright** (former Africa program officer), now program officer at the Aga Khan Foundation, with the backing of **Bob Shaw** (former Indonesia program officer and representative in Pakistan, now general manager of the Aga Khan Foundation, and **Tom Kessinger** (former representative in Indonesia). Among the speakers were Gerhart (now president of the American University in Cairo), **Lincoln Chen** (former representative in India), now vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, and **Mark Sidel** (former program officer in China and India), professor of law at the University of Iowa. The outcome of the conference was a decision to create a Center for Philanthropy in Pakistan.

The conference was only the latest connection between Ford alumni and the philanthropic activities of the Aga Khan, one of the world's richest men and spiritual leader of some 15 million

Moslems. **Guillaume deSpoelberch**, former representative in North Africa, has been a principal advisor to the Aga Khan. **David Bell** and **Francis Sutton** were consultants on establishment of the Aga Khan University in Pakistan. Bell was given an honorary degree by the university last year. **William P. Gormbley**, former director of personnel, had served as a consultant to the Aga Khan's headquarters at Aigle-mont, France, for several years. **Robert Edwards**, former Ford representative in Pakistan and head of Middle East and Africa, served as head of the Aga Khan's education staff at Aiglemont. **Sheila McLean**, (General Counsel) also served as consultants from time to time.

To some beneficiaries of the Aga Khan charities, "he is part pope, part John D. Rockefeller—and a beacon to a better life," the *Wall Street Journal* once noted. The grandson of an important figure in Indian history, he was born in Geneva to an English mother and half-Italian father. Harvard-educated, he speaks Italian, French, and English and urges his followers, some of whom speak Urdu or Swahili, to learn English as a second language. English and science, he once said, are the "global intellectual currencies."

Needed: Copy

It takes a lot of copy to feed three issues of the LAFF newsletter each year. So, if the spirit moves you, send your brainchild to Mary Camper-Titsing, 531 Maine Street, Apt. 1110, New York, NY 10044. We'd welcome just about anything – from a sentence or two about your current activity or interest to essays or memories of up to 750 words. Don't be bashful!



The Laffing Parade

(cont. from p. 1)

Lillian Trager (Assistant Representative, Lagos, 1985-87), is professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. She has been doing research for several years on Nigeria, where she is now on a Fulbright fellowship. She ran into former colleague **Susan Goodwillie Stedman** on a trail in Nova Scotia a year ago.

Theodore Smith, executive director of the Henry P Kendall Foundation in Boston is board chair of the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. Last fall he took a 2,000-mile trip through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. **Reuben Frodin**, age 88, served as a senior consultant.

Robert E. Tolles, (Reports) was the author of a *New York Times* article, "Freight May Go from Trucks to Trains," concerning a rail transfer station in Newton, Connecticut designed to relieve highway congestion. A century ago, Tolles writes, the site was a major rail hub, with more than 150 trains carrying passengers, freight, and livestock daily. It had 22 miles of railroad crisscrossing the town. The revived terminal, he notes, reflects experimentation by agencies in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey to reduce truck congestion.

Kennedy: "Competencies and Democracy"

Introducing Roger Kennedy, the principal speaker at The LAFF Society 2000 Reunion, Frank Sutton said:

"The Ford Foundation is now somewhat eclipsed by all these new pharmaceutical and information technology riches...Remember what a colossus it was in the old days. The Harvard endowment is now \$18.2 billion, more than the Ford Foundation's. When the Foundation started it dwarfed Harvard's endowment. By 1960 it had a budget larger than the UN and its specialized agencies. And it did a lot of important things....The LAFF Society is possible because of the sense of the extraordinary institution that it was and is, even in this era of more difficult competition.

"The Foundation is rather badly served in memory and in history. We're not like a college or university. We have an assemblage of very interesting alumni who don't gather regularly and are not dunned by the present management to maintain their place, and we don't do very well in the historical lot." He contrasted the Rockefeller Archive Center, "with scholars busy doing research for monographs and articles celebrating Rockefeller philanthropy," with the Ford Foundation archives, "down in the depths, where I see few people...a few Japanese, occasional French.... I hope we will do better in the future."

He called Kennedy "a man of dazzling versatility...financial vice president, and then, improbably, metamorphosed into the arts vice presidency, and when he took up life after the Ford Foundation he became the head of the National Museum of American History in the Smithsonian, and after that, most improbably, head of the Park Service. In the midst of all this he has managed to produce an extraordinary bibliography. Recently he performed the remarkable feat of rehabilitating Aaron Burr, both at the expense of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

"In seeking a proper person to think about this institution that is badly served

in history and memory, he's the kind of person who has the credentials to do it.

KENNEDY:

I recall delivering quarterly financial reports to McGeorge Bundy with mingled affection and terror....All of you actually represent the capital that the Ford Foundation made use of. It wasn't the money. It was the assemblage of talent and professional training and the kind of rigorous insistence

"It's a good thing for people to know that they have been lucky in their timing."

on learning to do something very well that was manifested in the Ford Foundation and the people who worked there. They were the most glorious years of learning in my life. Never have I been amid so many decently, kindly, educated and effective people. Professional competence is a declining virtue in American society.

It's a good thing for people to know that they have been lucky in their timing. In the early 1790s, the founders believed they could create a new order, alter things for the better. In recurring periods in our history, [there arose] the possibility of making fundamental change, of a well-intentioned and focused morality, recurred—in the 1940s, in the Progressive Era, just after the second World War, and certainly in the 1960s and 70s. [That reflected a sense] that there is such a thing as government, which could do very good things. [Also] that we as a people can govern ourselves and produce a government of which we can be legitimately proud, to which we can contribute our lives and can make it better. Not traduce it, not betray it, and not to find safe bleachers from which to work over the people who are on the field playing the difficult game.

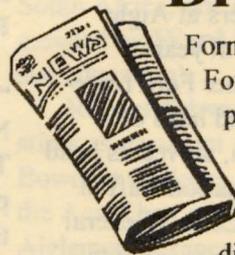
The Ford Foundation's relationship to the democratic process was

exemplified by the people who worked in the government, refreshed both by being in and out of it. . . Periods in our country, such as the first Jim Crow period—the late 1790s, when blacks and women lost the vote in the North—were negative periods in which people were dropped overboard, in the 1850s and the gloomy 1870s, true in the 1920s and 1980s and early 1990s. But the time is upon us again. There is an occasion, as unsordid as the Marshall Plan was, as unsordid as the motivations of the people in this room. There is then a sense that we can govern ourselves intelligently and that our leaders will not say that they don't trust the government but will wish to be of it, to make it work, to make us work when we're in it and when we're out of it. . . It is a wonderful thing to go amid the bureaucracies and watch the green shoots once again appear. This was a season when we were being persuaded by all of the verbalizations, particularly from the left, that what they said of government in the 1960s and 1970s, probably with legitimate cause, and what the right said of democratic government in the 80s and 90s, that we could not trust our process. We are in a time when [these attacks] can be responded to by those of us who believe in the process of learning a trade—government. Learning a trade—all of the components of a community's life, its arts, its economics, its philanthropic activity, its environmental concerns, its life in cohabitation with other species—all these disciplines take work. You have all been masters of a variety of disciplines that took you a long time to be good at. Thank you for learning those competencies.

Thank you for applying them to your world and to this flawed, troubled but in my view recovering country. There has been a prevailing disposition to derogate democracy in its luckiest form—that is, the United

States. I hope that we can remember the glorious years in which the Ford Foundation was democracy's primary private partner. The Foundation had a role and may again [applying] the kind of competencies that ought to be found in the precincts of government itself.

Diversity



Former and present Foundation staff figure prominently in a major *New York Times* story on racial and gender diversity in the

foundation community. Titled, "Changing the White Male World at the Top of the Foundations," by Karen W. Arenson, the article was featured in a special section called *Giving*. Ford alumnus Emmett Carson, president of the Minneapolis Foundation (and a vice president of The LAFF Society) called the lack of racial and ethnic diversity in the top rungs of foundations both an embarrassment in a country that is increasingly diverse and an obstacle to effective philanthropy. "It creates a disconnect between a value we think is important and our ability to live up to the things we say we value. Equally important, it affects where the money goes."

Further, a homogenous board is less likely to engage in "more risky" projects that are outside the board's range of experience. "It doesn't mean you don't have good grant-making...but it means it is harder to create trust relationships with those communities, to understand the fault lines, to listen to their radio programs and keep your fingers on the pulse."

At Carson's own foundation, which is 85 years old and has \$576 million in assets, the board is diverse (half women, seven African-American, two American Indian, and one His-

panic), but he laments that is has not yet replaced the two Hmong members it once had even though Minneapolis has a sizable Hmong community.

Peter Hakim (Latin America), president of Inter-American Dialogue, a think tank that receives about a quarter of its budget from the Ford Foundation observed that when it was founded 18 years ago, only a couple of its members were women. He now tries to make sure that the membership is mixed geographically, racially, politically, and by gender. When he began to diversify he had to look beyond the corporate world, which provided most of the group's male members. Instead he sought candidates in government, academia, the legal profession and elsewhere.

With help from the Ford Foundation, Hakim helped develop a network of women—the Women's Leadership Conference of the Americas, that has become a source of board members for other projects as well. "Not only do you put more people in the pipeline, but they bring others," he said. "The moral is that once you begin to focus on this issue, it becomes something that is important to you."

The Ford Foundation's own long-standing emphasis on diversity within its ranks and in its grant-making is sometimes seen overseas as an American construct, says vice president Alex Wilde, formerly on the staff for Peru, Chile, and Argentina. In the course of his work there, he said, "I would have discussions with all the human rights organizations about how, if they were to take on women's rights issues, it would be helpful to have women who understand those issues on their boards and staffs".

In the majority of cases, he said, grant recipients concluded that diversity should be a genuine concern, and made changes. "Of course, they are free to look elsewhere for grants," he said. "But rarely does it come down to

that. My own experience is that many people feel it is very helpful have these discussions.

"Basically, we're looking for organizations that share our core values."

An Evening of Memory and Cheer

(cont. from p. 1)

*"They told me, Heraclitus, they told me you were dead,
They brought me bitter news to hear
and bitter tears to shed.
I wept as I remember'd how often you
and I
Had tired the sun with talking and
sent him down the sky.*

*And now that thou art lying, my dear
old Carian guest
A handful of grey ashes, long, long
ago at rest,
Still are thy pleasant voices, thy
nightingales, awake;
For Death, he taketh all away, but
them he cannot take."*

Laden Jones, president of the National Arts Club, sounded a premonitory note when he observed that the building had once been the home of Samuel J. Tilden, who ran for President in 1876 and won the majority of the popular vote, only to lose the election to Rutherford B. Hayes, Jones noted that Tilden would have been pleased to have the building used by Ford Foundation alumni "since he was a great believer in the private sector, including philanthropy. Among his own philanthropic acts, he endowed the New York Public Library and was a trustee of Gramercy Park."

As noted in the last issue of the newsletter, the price for the evening—hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and dinner (with an overflowing dessert table) was anti-inflationary—the same \$65 per person as four years ago! Nonetheless,



The LAFF Society realized a narrow profit—\$150—supplemented by the \$128 proceeds of a wine-and-cheese basket auction.

Mitchell Sviridoff— "A Lasting Song"

A national leader in urban social policy and philanthropy, Mitchell (Mike) Sviridoff died in October at the age of 81. From 1967 to 1980, he directed the Foundation's National Affairs program. In addition to helping develop strategies for lifting people out of poverty and reviving decaying neighborhoods, his staff supported such innovative programs as the Vera Institute for Criminal Justice, the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, and the Police Foundation.

The crowning jewel, though, was his development of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), which has raised \$3 billion from corporations, government agencies, and foundations to produce more than 100,000 units of housing and more than 10 million square feet of commercial and industrial space in decaying neighborhoods.

Before joining the Foundation, Sviridoff was president of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and head of one of most successful antipoverty agencies in the country, in New Haven, where he was also president of the Board of Education. Recruited to New York by Mayor John Lindsay, he briefly headed the city's sprawling, byzantine Human Resources Administration.

Speaking of the enterprise of which he was a pioneer, he said last year, "Community development, something that in the 1970s and early 1980s was really just a movement, is something we now quite properly call an indus-

try.”

After leaving the Foundation, he worked full-time for LISC, then taught at the New School for Social Research, where he directed the Kaplan Center for New York City Affairs.

In an essay for The LAFF Society newsletter, he recalled his days as an aircraft worker at Sikorsky Aircraft Company at the end of Great Depression. He had applied with a “fellow...who sported Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi keys from Yale.” Sviridoff had “a tattered old General Course high school diploma.” He was selected for 10 weeks of training but his friend was rejected as being over-educated. “He offered to sell me his Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi keys cheap,” Sviridoff recollected. “I told him I wouldn’t take them for free. They were nearly flung that day into the Housatonic River.”

At a party in 1985 to celebrate his years of public service, Sviridoff read from William Butler Yeats:

*God guard me from those thoughts
Men think in the mind alone.*

*He that sings a lasting song
Thinks in a marrow bone.*

He is survived by his wife, Doris, two daughters, one grandchild, and one great-grandchild.

Recollections of two colleagues follow:

ROBERT GOLDMANN:

Mike liked words. He didn’t write much, he but knew good writing when it came across his desk or in an article or book. With Mike, the love of words showed up in careful, often brilliantly articulate comments that said no more and no less than what was needed to make the point. He liked the titles we gave the evaluations we prepared to document projects he had initiated. Like the Urban Center at Columbia University, about whose work none of us could discern much, except that it got very large grants. When the evaluation was

finished the title became “Money in Search of a Mission.” Or an evaluation of the early phases of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Corporation: “Performance in Black and White.”

Mike was a great teacher. When I had trouble trying to be an institutional politician on the Board of the American Jewish Committee, he gave me sound advice on our walks home from the office—though I was a lousy student. He was also a good Jew—in his way: verbally understated, but manifested in his commitment to values that are rooted in the best of Jewish tradition and some of the bad in Jewish historical experience.

BASIL J. WHITING:

He arguably did more to improve America’s inner cities than any other single figure in the last four decades...without seeking the limelight or personal enrichment. Perhaps hardest to capture was his role as a mentor. Mike always had around him a half dozen or so young people just starting their careers. He was friend, father-figure, mentor, exemplar, and demanding boss all in one; and he salted them into positions of leadership in think tanks and public service at the city, regional, and national level.

Mike was in many ways prodigious. He ate at every good restaurant and saw every good movie (two or three on a weekend). He loved poker and tennis and endless conversation. He seemed to have read everything and known every leader and thinker anywhere near his fields of interest. He moved easily from the streets and union halls to the corridors of power and of academe (despite only a high school education).

He was ever the pragmatist, believing the world worked best when there was good leadership at all levels connected in strong relationships. He had little patience with those whose

love of process, theory, or ideology got in the way of concrete accomplishments.

A Memorial for David E. Bell

by Frank Sutton

It is very hard to accept that a man of such forceful presence and alertness as David Bell, who put indelible marks on anyone who knew and worked with him, should have disappeared into stillness and silence.

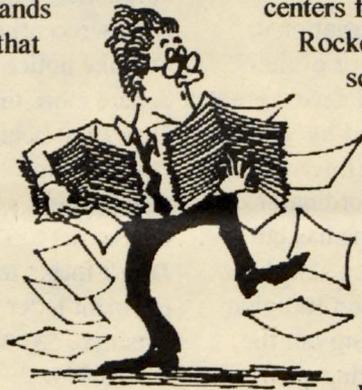
Dave Bell was taller than most of us; he was quicker and sharper in intellect; he was perhaps even more imposing in the strength of his will, and in the examples his integrity, his surprising modesty, and his capacity to get things done spread around him. Such a man is naturally sought to take charge of institutions, committees, and all sorts of affairs, public and private, small and large. The array of distinguished positions Dave held throughout his career is too long for recalling here and it should have a long tail of extensions to positions for which he was wanted but didn’t or couldn’t accept. In his childhood at Stanford University pioneer intelligence testers marked him for tracking as specially gifted; they were not disappointed.

Dave Bell was a leader among a generation of Americans who sought to bring our federal government to a quality that was worthy of a great nation and that had been sadly lacking through most of its history. World War II brought him from graduate studies in economics at Harvard to the Bureau of the Budget, a principal locus of reformers’ efforts to bring coherence and analytic rigor to our national government. He left after a time to enlist in the Marine Corps where, against his vigorous protests, he was kept out of harm’s way as an instructor at Quantico, using his long legs on the

drill field to test the stamina even of a tough veteran of the Berkeley crew, Marshall Robinson. Returning to the Budget Bureau at the end of the war, he was soon drafting Presidential messages. Old Ford Foundation staff rosters tell laconically that Dave held "various staff assignments, 1945-1951, Bureau of the Budget, including "The White House" 1948; from 1951 to 1953 he was in the White House as administrative assistant to President Truman. When John Kennedy was elected president in 1960 he chose Dave Bell as his Director of the Bureau of the Budget; and when he needed someone to replace fumbling leadership at USAID, who could withstand its grueling demands and the slings and arrows that fell from the Hill on anybody heading it, Dave moved there (1962-66). He gave everything he could to this national service; when he left in 1966, he famously said that his stint in Washington had left him "bushed and broke."

Henry Heald wanted Dave Bell to be his successor as president of the Ford Foundation. Heald did not prevail but Dave came in 1966 to serve as Ford's international vice-president in more than a formal sense, since McGeorge Bundy focused his personal leadership on the domestic programs of the foundation. Dave was not new to the Foundation when he came. He had led the Ford-funded Harvard advisory group with Pakistan's Planning Commission from 1954 to 1957. He was happy directing the Foundation's International Division. He had been too Washington-bound when he was the head of USAID and since a large part of Ford's international business was run through its overseas offices, he and his wife, Mary, made regular tours to

them in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The brutal contraction of budgets forced on the Foundation by the stubbornly low stockmarket and the stagflation of the 1970s, made life difficult all across the Foundation in that decade. But Bell and Bundy saw eye to eye on the need to protect the programs in population and agriculture that they thought critically important to the poorer countries. It was in those years that Dave, working with Trustee Robert McNamara (who repeatedly said he wanted Dave to succeed him as president of the World Bank) played a major role in spreading the Green Revolution by expanding the support of international agricultural research centers from their Ford-



Rockefeller beginnings to a scale that only public monies could sustain. There were calls to return to Washington or to head institutions elsewhere that Dave resisted until the end of Bundy's presidency when he concluded reluctantly that it was time to move on. Derek Bok asked him to come back to Harvard to bring order and new life into the important but academically awkward field of population studies. Cambridge was then his base through the Eighties and Nineties for his worldwide activities on the boards of international institutes, as a trustee of the Aga Khan University in Karachi, as consultant and lecturer.

Illness sapped Dave's once-formidable energies in his last year or two. But his lucidity and self-control never faded. It is told that on the morning he died, a nurse was washing his face and hands. "You'd better hurry," he said, "I have to go." "Where are you going?" she gently asked. "I think I'm dying," he said. And a little later, he did.

In Memoriam

David R. Hunter, a program officer at the Foundation from 1959 to 1963, died in November at the age of 84. Hunter and colleagues there crafted inner-city anti-poverty programs that were a prototype for President Lyndon Johnson's war on Poverty. His book *The Slums: Challenge and Response* (Free Press, 1964) made use of some of this work.

He was widely recognized as a godfather of socially conscious philanthropy. After leaving Ford, he became executive director of the Stern Fund, a liberal family foundation whose funds came in part from the Sears Roebuck fortune. Simultaneously he acted as advisor to other progressive foundations and individuals.

A shrewd matchmaker, he brought together philanthropists and foundations with activists for dozens of causes, ranging from women's rights to labor union democracy to non-intervention in Central America to self-help in Appalachia.

His reputation and courtly manner—often among his activist friends he was the only person in the room with a suit and tie—gave him access to the mainstream foundation world. In 1975 he said in a speech to the Council on Foundations that foundations' reason for being should be the work of "extending democracy in the world of economics as well as politics." The speech "made half of them mad as hell," he recalled with some satisfaction.

Hunter formed donor working groups of philanthropists with special interests in certain areas: peace in the Caribbean, reducing the danger of nuclear war, protecting the environment, economic justice. Officials of mainstream foundations who cared about these issues but worried that they were getting involved with radicals and firebrands always found

Hunter's soft-spoken style reassuring. Paradoxically some of the meetings he organized took place in the elite New York Yacht Club.

He also was a mentor for a group of younger philanthropists who founded regionally based progressive foundations in the 1970s, e.g. the Vanguard Foundation in San Francisco and the Haymarket People's Fund in Boston. One of these, the North Star Fund in New York, gave him its first annual Frederick Douglass Award.

In 1996, 200 donors and leaders of public interest organizations participated in a day-long celebration of Hunter's birthday, consisting of panel discussions of the prospects for social change in America.

Before joining the Ford Foundation, Hunter held a variety of government and non-profit posts. A social work graduate of the University of Chicago, he worked with refugees for the United Nations in Europe and for nine years, two of them in Mexico, with UNICEF.

He is survived by his wife, the former Barbara Avallon, two stepsons, and two grandchildren.

Also deceased: Julie Bell Dundore, Harrison Parker, Mary Stoyhal, Joan Hall.

Lost?

Mail to Ralph Harbison, Cynthia Myntti and Benjamin Payton has been returned. Anyone who knows their current addresses, please send them to Dorothy Nixon, 201 Adelaid St., Belleville, N.J. 07109 or nixondo@umdj.edu.

Revolving LAFF Chairs

When David Smock (International, 1964-80) retired as director of the United States Institute of Peace's grant program, he was succeeded by another LAFFer, Judy Barsalou (International 1985-94). Also former coordinator of USIP's Africa activities, he has cut back to a three-day-a-week schedule, directing a new program on Religion and Peacemaking. Rounding out the organization's LAFF contingent is

Steve Riskin (International 1985-94) Widowed two years ago, David recently remarried. With his new wife's teenage daughter, he now has five daughters; the other four include a doctor, lawyer, college professor, and CPA. 21313 Ridgcroft Drive, Brookeville, MD 20803.

Dues Do's and Don'ts

- Do** keep up to date on your dues
- Do** note that in an anti-inflationary mode, The LAFF Society is keeping its dues at \$7.50
- Do** check the mailing label on this newsletter. The year next to your name is how recently you are paid up.
- Do** take notice that some members donate more than their dues to LAFF.
- Don't** fall behind in paying your dues
- Don't** feel guilty if you're in arrears. That's easily remedied with a check.
- Don't** forget to put a stamp on your payment letter, to Mary Camper-Titsingh, 531 Main St., New York, N.Y. 10044.

THE LAFF SOCIETY
c/o Mary Camper-Titsingh
531 Main Street, Apt. #1110
New York, NY 10044

Ford Foundation Archive—LAFF File
c/o Alan Divack
320 East 43rd Street
New York NY 10017

