

(CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED, Con.)

United States when the Articles of Confederation were superseded by the Constitution. Fortunately for all of us, the Founding Fathers saw how unmanageable the system was and created something workable instead. The unmanageable system was incorporated in the United Nations at the 1945 founding conference, unfortunately making the same mistake a second time.

A great part of what makes the U.S. Constitutional system workable is the method of enforcement of laws passed by Congress. Within the areas of power constitutionally granted to the federal government, the government does not deal collectively with the whole member state. Instead, it reaches into the state independently, and then deals with individuals breaking federal laws. Then the individuals are brought into court.

It is tremendously important for people, especially pacifists, to understand this system of separate jurisdictions operating independently because it makes civilian enforcement possible. The individual citizen, as the smallest unit in government, is the easiest to deal with peaceably. There is loose talk about world "policing" when military action against a whole nation is meant. In such a case, policing is a serious misnomer. In true policing, first importance is that laws, preferably made by a popularly representative body, precede police action. Of second importance in true policing, police act primarily on individuals. James Madison put it well in a 1787 letter to Thomas Jefferson:

"A voluntary observance of the federal law by all members could never be hoped for. A compulsive one could evidently never be reduced to practice, and if it could, involves equal calamities to the innocent and the guilty, the necessity of a military force both obnoxious and dangerous, and in general a scene resembling more a civil war than the administration of a regular Government."

"Hence was embraced the alternative of a Government, which instead of operating on the States, should operate without their intervention on the individuals composing them."

The federal system has proven eminently successful in keeping peace between its members. With the pressing rivalries among nations today, and their burgeoning armaments they are incapable of keeping peace or of taking good care of their citizens. National sovereignty has become an intolerable menace, rather than a protection. To solve the problems confronting us over the globe, we need to give our authority to a new agent at the world level; a world federation. In such an organization, through some form of elections, we would extend our popular control. Laws made would carry the weight of consent of the governed, making civilian enforcement feasible.

~~~~~

The United States Pacifist Party welcomes financial contributions large and small.

06684

United States Pacifist Party  
5729 S. Dorchester  
Chicago, IL 60637

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHICAGO, ILL  
PERMIT NO. 3197

George Beach  
P.O. Box 116  
West Medford, MA 02156