

QUAKERS IN GOVERNMENT

Bradford Lyttle, the USPP's Presidential candidate, is a member of The Society of Friends (Quakers). While there have been two Quaker Presidents, Herbert Hoover and Richard M. Nixon, pacifist Quakers who have held public office are less well known. Outstanding examples are the Quakers who governed the Colony of Pennsylvania for nearly 80 years in the 17th and 18th centuries, and John Bright, a Quaker member of the British Parliament in the mid-19th century. The Pennsylvania Quakers decided to withdraw from government rather than capitulate completely to the demands from the British Crown that they raise money to support an armed colonial militia. John Bright distinguished himself in opposing the "Corn Laws", that raised the price of flour to artificially high levels, and thus imposed a serious financial burden on England's poor, and in speaking-out against the Crimean War. In a famous letter to the London Times, he wrote:

"This is war - every crime which human nature can commit or imagine, every horror it can perpetuate or suffer; and this it is which our Christian Government recklessly plunges into, and which so many of our countrymen at this moment think it patriotic to applaud! You must excuse me if I cannot go with you. I will have no part in this terrible crime. My hands shall be unstained with the blood which is being shed. The necessity of maintaining themselves in office may influence an administration; delusions may mislead a people; Vattel [a code of international law] may afford you a law and a defence; but no respect for men who form a Government, no regard I have for "going with the stream," and no fear of being deemed wanting in patriotism, shall influence me in favour of a policy which, in my conscience, I believe to be as criminal before God as it is destructive to the true interest of my country."

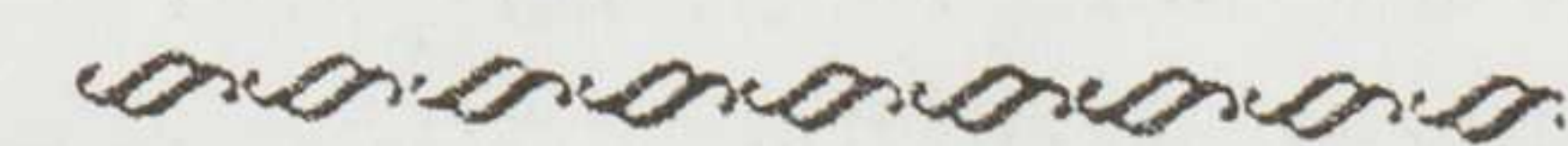
The story of the Quaker government of Pennsylvania is told in Isaac Sharpless's A Quaker Experiment in Government. A 46 page excerpt from this book is available, postpaid, from the USPP office for \$4.00. A summary of John Bright's life and work may be found in the chapter "John Bright", in The Later Periods of Quakerism, Vol. II, by Rufus M. Jones. A copy of this chapter may be obtained from the USPP office for \$1.00.

NEW BUMPER STICKER

"DEFENSE BY NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE. Vote U.S. Pacifist Party", is the message on a new USPP bumper sticker. Like the first sticker, the letters are white, against a green background. The sticker is 15" by 3.75". \$1.00 plus postage from the USPP. Each sticker weighs about one-half ounce.

DISTRIBUTE THE FLAW

Several supporters of the USPP have made financial donations for the purpose of sending The Flaw in Deterrence to Senators, Congresspeople, and other "opinion makers." Since a major obstacle to the creation of realistic peace programs is the idea that deterrence can be made "stable", and The Flaw disproves this notion, value can be seen in such an activity. In addition, the enclosed correspondence with the Oval Office suggests that a copy of The Flaw sent to the President was looked at by Ronald Reagan, and had some effect on him. Customarily, a covering letter is included with The Flaw, or mailed in a separate envelope. People wishing to have The Flaw mailed to someone may do this by sending the person's name and address, and a sum to cover costs, to the USPP office. The text of a covering letter may be included also. The cost of mailing one copy of The Flaw first class is \$3.00. If The Flaw is sent book rate, and the covering letter separately, the cost is \$2.00.



The United States Pacifist Party Report is a publication of the United States Pacifist Party, the address of whose national headquarters may be found on page 1. The Party's policy will be to publish the Report frequently at least until the November, 1984 elections. In addition to the Report, the Party publishes a variety of other analyses, platform statements, speech copies, literature lists, organizational memos, and other documents designed to interpret and promote the Party. If you aren't already receiving mailings, and would like to, notify the Party's headquarters.

The USPP welcomes contributions large and small to help promote its program.