The American Freedom Association

BULLETIN

PUBLISHED AS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN FREEDOM ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. VIII, No. 1 | 141 EAST CORRIHER AVENUE, SALISBURY, N. C. | JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1959

Eyes Of West Centered On Duke University Rule Of Law Center As Larson Begins Task

SEEKS RULE BY LAW RATHER THAN FORCE

Even behind the iron curtain, law is law.

Arthur Larson, the new head of the World Rule of Law center at Duke University, explains that a long-term thaw has been going on in the field of Soviet law:

"At first, of course, the Communist teaching was that law is merely the tool of the entrenched capitalist masters for keeping the workers enslaved.

"But today, all the Soviet legal experts I've run across speak of 'Socialist legality.' I suppose that under pressure, all their law would crumble before state policy—but when you analyze their 'Socialist legality,' you get something pretty close to the law of the Western World."

That's one reason Larson believes his study project will find common ground for agreement even between East and West, with a hope for use of laws rather than force.

BY BURKE DAVIS
Daily News Staff Writer

DURHAM, Dec. 27—A tiny office atop the Duke Law School building may well house the most important workman in North Carolina today.

He is Arthur Larson, former chief speech writer to President Eisenhower as special consultant, once head of the U.S. Information Agency and Undersecretary of Labor. He is now trying to stave off planetary catastrophe with a program known as World Rule of Law.

Larson still commutes from a White House desk, and in his new job tears up and down the eastern seaboard, seeking support for his center. Duke University paid the first costs, but foundations will probably carry on the expansion.

Pioneering For Peace

In brief, Larson directs a pioneering study for peace, with international law supplanting force in disputes. He says:

"Strangely enough, the more we investigate, the more we find untouched territory. You'd think work must have been done in all fields of such vital questions of international law —but time and again we find we are the first."

Nations have tried almost everything but the application of law to end strife, and if the enthusiasm of the White House, the Department of State, British leadership, and American lawyers-at-large is an indication, Larson may be on the right trail at last.

Charles Rhyne's Dream

The Rule of Law Center is the fruit of the dream of Charles Rhyne, a Duke graduate who is ex-president of the American Bar Association. His crusade for the project ended in Larson's coming here. Larson's job, as he says, is to "bring the thing down out of the blue and find some workable form."

As an example of just what is being done, Larson describes a new project, now being developed by an expert of the Duke law faculty.

"We found one of the most flagrant violations of international laws is the use of radio to foment rebellion and to incite to murder—such as has been done by Radio Cairo in recent months. The principles of law become vague in this field; violence by shooting across a border is clear-out but the use of radio is not.

Study Middle East Broadcasts

"First, we try to assemble the data. My connection with the USIA was handy here. I got from the intelligence boys reports of the monitored broadcasts from the Middle East, and we will spread them on the table to see what we have. Then, we hope to have something constructive to offer in the way of application of international law to curb such use of radio.

Bar Is Enthusiastic

"We'd hope to offer this to the United Nations and to work through it. If nothing else, perhaps we could do something merely by publicizing the affair, and point up the thing to world opinion."

A. F. A. Annual Chartered Bus Trip to N. Y. C., the United Nations and Washington, D. C.

APRIL 26-29, 1959 (Sunday thru Wednesday)

Winners of H. S. World Peace Study and Speaking Program and their teachers are eligible to participate Make reservations with the American Freedom Association by April 1, 1959 (deadline)

Cost: $94.50 (including student AND teacher) ALL EXPENSES

For further information:

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