

PEACE WITH LAW

Every village, every town, city, state and country has laws to preserve peace and order. If this is possible for every village, town, city, etc., then such laws are also a possibility for the world.

In this generation, we have already fought two world wars, concluding each with the establishment of an international organization to keep the peace—a League of Nations and an United Nations. Both are basically similar, functioning on the principle of unabridged national sovereignty. Neither pretended to be a government empowered to make laws or to confer citizenship. Neither attempted to enforce their decisions upon individuals through compulsory jurisdiction. Each similarly lacked the power with which each city, state and country is invested to ensure its preservation. If every generation must fight and resort to war as a means of preserving civilization, soon there will be no civilization left to preserve. War is the oldest accepted form of international conduct. Only world law can prevent the devastating reoccurrence of war; and only world law can make war the crime we pretend it is.

In order to have world law, there must be a world government. Such a government would obviously be limited in its powers and therefore federal in form; this would mean world federation. Under such a federation, a Canadian would have three citizen-ships: of a state, of a nation and of a world. Upon him individually the laws of each of these jurisdictions would be enforced by the courts of the respective governments. In no instance, however, would war be the instrument of enforcement. We would, in this way, eliminate fighting other nations and at the same time obtain justice for the individual. This would also prevent the innocent from suffering for the deeds of the guilty.

The enforcement of these laws would be similar to the work of the police force in a city, town or state. A judicial force instead of a military one, an armed government police force instead of an army, to keep the peace. The functions of this police force would be not to fight nations for warlike glory, but to preserve order and to enforce the decisions of the court.

We know that there can be no peace without justice, no justice without law, no law without government, and no government without subjects upon whom, as individuals, the courts can enforce law. You have to have a government to govern a city, laws to suppress crime, and courts in which to try and punish criminals. Without these a city, or even a world, cannot exist in peace.

The only principle that has ever stabilized community life is that of law, which is equally potent and effective when applied. The protection of the millions of people on this planet depends upon a peace-making body that is bound together by laws; laws for the protection of humanity.

—ERNEST A. SMITH '51.