

appointed by the Republican National Chairman, he worked for reform of the convention delegate selection process. His interest in the future of political parties and the integrity of the electoral process led him to be a litigant in the Supreme Court case which tested the constitutionality of the post-Watergate campaign finance legislation. As befitted a man whose District included Ripon, the GOP birthplace, he was a fierce partisan, in the best sense of that term. In the last months of his life, as his national reputation grew because of his successful efforts to reform the capital gains tax, he devoted great amounts of time to speaking at Republican fund raisers across the country. He hoped that these exhausting efforts would help elect fellow partisans and enable him to have an impact on the selection of the next Republican presidential nominee.

Though an unabashed partisan, he gained the respect of both his political allies and opponents. His legislative accomplishments reflected not only an ability to fight for the things important to his party, but also an ability to rise above partisanship and self interest. David Obey, his Democratic congressional colleague and friend since their days together as University of Wisconsin undergraduates summed up the Steiger style of politics when he said

He was just personally kind and thoughtful. In the 20 years since we started debating on the steps of the Wisconsin Student Union, I never saw him do a destructive thing. I never saw him take a cheap shot. [He was] the Republican who was the most effective bridge between the parties in Congress.

Because many of us as teachers constantly confront cynicism among our students about politics and politicians, Bill Steiger had a special significance. He was a politician of exceptional talent, drive and integrity to whom none of the cynical observations applied. We could point to him as an example of political leadership as it ought to be. David Broder was therefore right when he observed that we would do honor to the memory of Bill Steiger if we would make it a point to speak and write of other members of his profession, who like Bill, exemplify politics at its finest.

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### Abraham Yeselson

Abraham Yeselson was one of the most dedicated political scientists of this or any generation. His premature death on May 3, 1978 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, deprived the Political Science Department of University College, Rutgers University, of its chairman and the country of an authority on the United Nations.

Once a world federalist, Professor Yeselson grew disillusioned with the United Nations. In the past decade he contended that the UN was a weapon of world politics, tending more to worsen than to resolve international disputes.

After graduating from Rutgers with a masters degree, Yeselson took his doctorate at Brown University, where he studied under UN specialists of the caliber of Professor Leland Goodrich. He taught briefly at Swarthmore and Brown and then in 1951 began his career at Rutgers University. He extended the periphery of his teaching to the Universities of Helsinki and Toulouse as Visiting Professor, and from the mid-60s onward to nationwide American television. In 1964 he presented on NBC-TV a series of talks on "Communism" and, one success upon another, in 1965, 1970, and 1972 54 lectures for CBS-TV on "The Politics of Peace," "The Eisenhower Years," and "East Against West." During his span of more than 25 years at Rutgers he won distinction as scholar and lecturer, and as advocate of the cause of adult education.

In 1974 with Professor Anthony Gaglione he published his last full-scale work, *A Dangerous Place: The United Nations as a Weapon in World Politics*. He was the UN now as little more than a foreign policy instrument, as a vehicle to advance short-run national interests dangerous to world peace. In this book, in many articles and public appearances, and in testimony before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he urged the United States to disengage itself from the political organs of the UN.

Professor Yeselson's commitment to the UN varied with its contribution, as he saw it, to world peace; his commitment to teaching was invariable. As his mentor, the late Dr. Edward McNall Burns, had done before him, he delivered his lectures without notes, and they were entrancing. In and out of the classroom his affection for those who wished to learn was deep and personal. There were no students so ignorant or so gauche whom he would not undertake to bring into the world of men and ideas. Up the four steep flights of stairs at New Jersey Hall they would find him, with his slouch and beret, glad to see them. Of the known prejudices of mankind he had none. Abe Yeselson was a cosmopolitan.

He had no doctrines with which to arm disciples. He possessed no disciples. His students and friends possessed *him*. A more peaceable man cannot be imagined. Yet a fighter, always to be respected.

His illness was brief. He watched his pleasures—travel, tennis, painting, poker, whatever—go by, one by one. To hell with it. Until his last breath the mention of a friend's name would make him laugh. His friends were those he laughed with, and the mere sound of their name sprang a reflex. Going to Rutgers every day is not much fun anymore.

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