

The Irreconcilables. By RALPH STONE. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1970. Pp. 182. Appendix, bibliographical essay, index.)

Ralph Stone is associate professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He received honorable mention in the Frederick Jackson Turner Award competition of 1969 for *The Irreconcilables*. The book essentially attempts to narrow the gap between the way the "Irreconcilables" saw themselves and the way others looked upon them, then and since, in their fight against the League of Nations.

Who were the Irreconcilables? They were sixteen Senators, fourteen of whom were Republicans and two who were Democrats. William E. Borah of Idaho was the spiritual leader of the group — a man so stubborn his contemporaries expressed amazement when he went horseback riding and faced the same direction as the horse. Frank B. Brandegee of Connecticut planned many of the strategic parliamentary moves for the group — in 1924 he committed suicide. Albert B. Fall of New Mexico was the rugged individualist of the frontier way of life. He was a member of the "smelling committee" to check President Wilson's health. Bert M. Fernald of Maine looked after business interests. He felt the International Labor Organization created by the League Treaty would be harmful to free enterprise. Joseph I. France of Maryland was a voice crying in the wilderness for recognition of Russia. He predicted the harsh reparations imposed on Germany would set her young men's faces resolutely toward revenge, thus enabling the building of a future war machine. He saw the problems of population growth and undeveloped countries. He felt the Treaty and the League of Nations as constructed perpetuated the "status quo." Asle J. Gronna of North Dakota wanted to free his state from eastern financial control. Hiram W. Johnson of California died in 1945 opposing the United Nations. Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania walked the fine line of nationalism without being isolationistic. He was instrumental in raising the necessary moneys for the Irreconcilables' fight — from Henry Clay Frick and Andrew Mellon. Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin had voted against entering World War I and was therefore tainted as being something less than patriotic. Joseph Medill McCormick of Illinois was married to the daughter of Mark Hanna. He arranged speaking engagements for the group and helped raise money. George H. Moses of New Hampshire was an able parliamentarian and liaison man between Henry Cabot Lodge and the various factions in Congress. George W. Norris of Nebraska was one of the quiet steady workers

so essential to the success of any organization. Miles Poindexter of Washington would be called a right-wing radical today for his praise of the military. James A. Reed of Missouri was a Democrat who had disagreed with Wilson on international policy after having supported his domestic policy. Lawrence Y. Sherman of Illinois was rapidly becoming deaf as the Treaty fight approached. He had spent his senatorial life "incontinently whaling the life out of everything" and saw no reason to change. Charles S. Thomas of Colorado was a Democrat who refused to be publicly identified with the Irreconcilables. He doubted if anybody had nonpolitical motives for anything.

Contrary to public opinion, Henry Cabot Lodge was not an Irreconcilable. Rather he was concerned with keeping the Republican Party intact for a political victory in 1920. *The Irreconcilables* documents his political and parliamentary success working with the tools and men at hand. Probably no more brilliant political battle has been waged between the executive and legislative branches of the United States government for control of the minds and votes of the people. The book also ably demonstrates how no political victory is permanent. Today in Vietnam, Korea, and West Germany, United States foreign policy is demonstrating just how correct these men were in their projected estimates of what a League of Nations would do for the American government and people. Dr. Stone does not pass a moral judgment on these men. He states the facts as he discovered them through diligent research. The reader is left to draw his own conclusions.

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Fight for the Delaware, 1777. By SAMUEL STELLE SMITH. (Monmouth Beach, N. J.: Philip Freneau Press, 1970. Pp. 52.)

This latest book in the bicentennial series on the American Revolution published by the Philip Freneau Press concerns the important but little known campaign by the British to seize control of the Delaware River in 1777. After defeating the main American army at Brandywine and Germantown the British discovered that the American forts, ships and obstacles on the Delaware River prevented them from supplying their army at Philadelphia. The American defense rested on two poorly designed forts, a few batteries, ships and