

IN MEMORIAM

SIR JOSEPH GOLD

I very much regret not being with you today to pay tribute in person to a great man, a great lawyer and a great scholar.

I first met Joseph Gold in the mid-seventies. He was then General Counsel of the IMF; I was Director-General of the OPEC Fund for International Development. A controversy erupted at the time about the use of the proceeds of gold to be sold by the IMF. Industrial countries were to donate their share of these proceeds to a trust fund established by the IMF to help countries in need. They insisted that OPEC countries did the same. The latter were against the principle of being treated as industrial countries in that context, even though most of them did not mind the donation of the proceeds after they received them. With the help of the Iranian Executive Director in the IMF at the time, Mr. Amouzegar, I proposed that the money be given by the IMF to the OPEN Fund which in turn would donate it on behalf of its members to the IMF trust fund through a series of paper transactions. It took no time for Joseph Gold to recognize the practicality of the solution and to support it. On that occasion, by the way, he was the one to initiate the practice of establishing “international trust funds,” of which there are hundreds at present, and he devised the principles that govern them to this day.

Sir Joseph Gold was no ordinary General Counsel. He was a thinker and a scholar best known for his inspiring writings. Although most of these writings related to the IMF, they provide the basis of addressing institutional issues in other international financial institutions as well. In his leading book on *“Interpretation—the IMF and International Law,”* he implied that I was too liberal in my interpretation of the World Bank’s Articles of Agreement at a time when my colleagues at the Bank were criticizing me of being too rigid. His view was certainly helpful.

I have many good memories of my casual meetings with Sir Joseph over lunch at *“Au bon pain”* near the IMF and Bank buildings where on many occasions we had exchanged views on current legal issues affecting these institutions. No one was as knowledgeable of the subject-matters we discussed and no one was as alert to the underlying issues as he was. It was an inspiration to see a great mind defying time.

As far as I am concerned, Sir Joseph Gold did not pass away. He is very much alive through his numerous publications and his contributions to the development of international financial and institutional law. His books and articles will continue to guide the work of international financial institutions as long as they exist. Rest his soul.

IBRAHIM F.I. SHIHATA
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WILLIAM ELRED JACKSON

William Eldred Jackson was born in Jamestown, New York on July 19, 1919. He was the son of Robert Houghwout Jackson and Irene Gerhardt Jackson. At the time of his death on December 4, 1999, Mr. Jackson was a senior partner in the law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in New York City.

Bill Jackson’s life was a remarkable journey to “the action.” In 1933, Bill moved from his family home in Jamestown to Washington, D.C. to attend St. Albans School as a boarding student. Bill’s family followed him to Washington a year later when President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Bill’s father to serve as general counsel for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, United States Department of Treasury. This position marked the start of Robert Jackson’s remarkable and swift rise in public life, which in seven years included service as solicitor general and attorney general and appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Bill Jackson attended Yale University, graduating in 1941. At Yale, Bill served as vice chairman of The Yale Daily News and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He then attended Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated in 1944. Although Jackson received a draft summons while he was a law student, he was rejected for imperfect eyesight. Following law school, he joined the Naval Reserves and was assigned to the Office of Legal Counsel in the Bureau of Ships, which was located in what Bill later remembered as the “World War I cardboard buildings along Constitution Avenue” in downtown Washington.

In May 1945, President Truman appointed Justice Robert Jackson to serve as United States Chief of Counsel for Prosecution of Axis Criminality. Justice Jackson immediately tapped Ensign William E. Jackson, his son, to be his personal assistant. This prosecution was Bill Jackson’s first case. He was, as he put it later with typical modesty and understatement, someone his father “could rely on to carry out his decisions and policies, a right hand man but not an alter ego.” From the summer 1945 London conference at which the four allied powers negotiated the framework for the International Military Tribunal (IMT) proceedings; through the pretrial evidence gathering, its analysis and numerous witness interrogations; to the trial of the principal Nazi war criminals and organizations and the verdicts in fall 1946, Bill Jackson’s work was central to the accomplishments and the precedent that the world recalls today simply as “Nuremberg.”

Following his return from Nuremberg, Bill Jackson joined Milbank, Tweed, where he practiced law until illness disabled him in the final week of his life last December. Jackson became a partner in the firm in 1954, rose to head its litigation department, and chaired the firm from 1979 to 1984. His clients included domestic and international corporations, the New York Stock Exchange, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and Governor and Vice President Nelson Rockefeller. Jackson negotiated complicated transactions and handled civil litigation in courts at all levels, including two arguments before the Supreme Court. He also served from 1988 through 1994 as vice chair of the International Court of Arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

Throughout his career, Bill Jackson worked to advance the commitment to international law and the subordination of force to reason. He co-edited for publication by the United States government the volumes containing the trial evidence that was presented before the IMT at Nuremberg. Jackson evaluated the first Nuremberg trial and, with elegance and power, advocated a permanent international criminal court in “Putting the Nuremberg Law to Work,” his article in the July 1947 Foreign Affairs. He also wrote reviews and essays and spoke publicly at programs on Nuremberg and international law.

Bill Jackson was a resident of Manhattan and Cold Spring Harbor, New York. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Dabney Roosevelt Jackson, their five daughters, his sons-in-law and five grandchildren.

With the passing of Bill Jackson, the Society has lost a faithful member and a loyal friend. The cause of law among nations has lost a key witness who was one of its clearest voices of experience.

JOHN Q. BARRETT
Associate Professor of Law
St. John’s University School of Law, Jamaica, N.Y.
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