

THE DEDICATORY EXERCISES OF THE HOOVER LIBRARY

THE celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Stanford University culminated in the dedication of the Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace on June 20, 1941. The dedicatory assembly in which the longer addresses were made was held in the Memorial Hall Auditorium. To the accompaniment of a carillon concert by Kamiel Lefèvre the speakers and audience moved to the library plaza where the formal dedication took place.

Acting for the university were former President Herbert Hoover, a trustee of the university and founder of the library; Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of the university; Mr. Leland Cutler, president of the board of trustees; Dr. Ralph Haswell Lutz, chairman of directors of the library; and Dr. David Elton Trueblood, chaplain of the university.

Invited to assist in the dedicatory services were Dr. Charles Seymour, president of Yale University; Dr. Sidney B. Fay, professor of history at Harvard University; Dr. Edgar Rickard, chairman of the building committee; and Dr. Charles Harvey Brown, librarian of Iowa State College and president of the American Library Association.

In opening the assembly Dr. Wilbur said:

You have been celebrating with us this week the commemoration of Stanford's first fifty years of service to the West and to the Nation. Our program this afternoon is the climax—and a highly suitable climax, I believe—to the series of meetings in which we have considered critically "The University and the Future of America." We shift now from the general considerations of university service to a very specific field of usefulness, that of a library, a unique library.

Dr. Wilbur presented Dr. Brown, who acted as chairman of the meeting. He spoke on the "Significance of the Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace" and presented six standards "by which the future value of a research collection may be predicted."

Dr. Fay discussed "The Growth of War Libraries" and compared the collections of the German Weltkriegsbücherei and the French Bibliothèque et Musée de la Guerre with the Hoover collection "because by comparison with them it will be seen how greatly the Hoover library excels them in breadth of scope and in usefulness to scholars and students." He also stressed the importance to scholars

of the library's connection with the university and its general library and stated that "scholars from other institutions have been especially glad to come as lecturers at the university, because it gave them opportunity at the same time to pursue their researches in the Hoover war library."

Dr. Seymour gave a most interesting lecture on "Modern War and Public Opinion" in which he reviewed several aspects of the Peace of Versailles and concluded that:

Mankind is slow to learn its lesson and unwilling to utilize the experience of the past as a guide to conduct in the future. But we should fail in simple intelligence if we do not appreciate and act upon the fact that international peace has come to depend upon far larger and more numerous elements than in the days when war was little more than a series of land-grabbing forays. The effects of the total war touch every individual, in all aspects of his life, in every country of the world. If such a statement as applied to the last war is exaggerated, it approaches exactitude in the present. The problems raised by total war transcend the control of old-style diplomatic negotiation. Their settlement depends upon the capacity of the peoples to adjust their attitude and their methods to the new conditions that have been produced by international revolution.

In the long run, and whatever the course of the present war, public opinion will determine those methods. It is accordingly of overwhelming importance that public opinion should be educated. There will always be need of skilled negotiators and we cannot dispense with the experience and the art of diplomacy. Political leadership inspired by vision and courage will be necessary to shape the course of international relations, and to make the detailed decisions. But the main issue upon which peace and security will rest will be settled according to the mind of the age. This is the lesson of history, written large and even before the time of the modern democracies.

Hence our interest in the institutions of learning that may help to make that an instructed mind. Hence our gratitude to those who have collected these materials, not merely of diplomatic history but of international relations in the broadest sense, and have made them available to students who by their labors may serve the national welfare.

In a brief address on the library steps Dr. Seymour added:

I need not say how great is the privilege given to us who here join in the dedication of this building which will house the finest of all collections of materials dealing with war, peace, and revolution. I dare to express on behalf of all historical scholars in every country of the world our profound gratitude and our fervent greetings. . . . The significance of the collections here housed cannot be overstated, for they will serve not merely historians but mankind. The chief dangers now threatening civilization proceed, I think, from ignorance, from disease, and from

war. Only through a knowledge that will guide us to the discovery of a political substitute for war can we hope to conquer the other dangers, to control the revolution that inevitably springs from total war, to attain the peace that will enable us to fight disease instead of men and will guarantee the free enlightenment of the mind. We are grateful to President Wilbur for his leadership of this university that supervises this great collection of historical material. We are grateful for the scholarship of Professor Lutz, chairman of the directors of the library, who will show us how to use the materials. Above all, for his early conception of the importance of such a collection to human welfare, and for his unlimited activity in building it up, we are every one of us under inestimable debt to Mr. Hoover.

Mr. Hoover explained that the initial inspiration of the library came to him in 1914 when he read the complaint of Andrew D. White that so little of the contemporaneous literature and documentation of great events was preserved and paid tribute to the "work of thousands of devoted people" through whose efforts the collection had been made possible. He very briefly summarized the character of the collection and concluded:

And there are the records of the world's effort to make peace. Here are the proofs of the highest idealism. And here are the records of selfishness and the lowest trickery. Here can be found the record of the ideas and forces which made for failure of the last peace and the ideas and forces which might have made its success. Out of these files the world can get great warning of what not to do and what to do when it next assembles around the peace table. True, there must be brought to that table a concept of new human relations, a concept that substitutes peace for war. But if the world is to have long peace, that concept must find its origins in human experience and its inspiration in human idealism.

And here are the documents which record the suffering, the self-denial, the devotion, the heroic deeds of men. Surely from these records there can be help to mankind in its confusions and perplexities, and its yearnings for peace.

The purpose of this institution is to promote peace. Its records stand as a challenge to those who promote war. They should attract those who search for peace.

I therefore dedicate this building to these purposes.

Representing the directors and staff of the Hoover library, Dr. Lutz expressed appreciation for the high privilege of membership in the institution and gratitude to its founder, to the president of the university who fostered it, and to the friends who contributed to the building. He paid tribute to the memory of Professors E. D. Adams and Frank A. Golder "to whose scholarly insight and devotion the library owes so much."

To the representatives and members of the Hoover organizations who have honored us with their presence today, I should like to say that they have endowed the library with something besides their archives and this great building. They have handed on to us the enlightened humanitarian spirit which inspired their undertakings, a spirit reflected in their scientific attitude toward the problems they faced and in their impartial service to those in need of it, without regard to race, politics, or creed.

In the name of those who have the duty of development, and of those who have the privilege of using this library, I accept the obligation to cherish this spirit. This obligation we owe to the founder, who exemplified it in his service to his country and humanity. It is a responsibility which we bear to the great community of scholars and which, in these times especially, we owe to free men, whoever they are, wherever they may be.

In accepting the library for the university, Dr. Wilbur referred to it as "a great shaft of light up into the blue for the long look of history. We need that long look."

It was Dr. Rickard who made a direct reference to the Hoover Archives when he said:

The enormous scope and ramifications of Mr. Hoover's war and post-war activities have never been clearly understood. In twenty-six years, over twenty-five important organizations were created—beginning with the repatriation of American citizens from Europe in 1914, down through the Food Administration with its widespread influence, and more recently the Finnish Relief Fund and other ventures in saving human life. Except for the Belgian American Educational Foundation and Belgian Relief work, which came earlier, all of these organizations were formed to prevent the collapse of civilization in Europe from the greatest famine since the Thirty Years' War. They also included the organization of the food resources of the world for the support of the Allies during the war and for the great American intervention and participation in the immediate task of rebuilding the broken pattern of Europe after the Armistice of 1918. In these twenty-six years of activity countless Americans participated—a staff of perhaps fifteen hundred people abroad, in addition to the half million or more at home. It is no wonder that records of the experience of these vast enterprises alone should be preserved.

An enormous amount of source material was provided by these organizations and their members, covering not only their specific operations but also collections of contemporaneous material they could pick up in the various countries in which they were operating. All of this, along with Mr. Hoover's private collection, formed the nucleus of the material which is now in this library.

As this "nucleus" is of major interest to archivists, perhaps a brief summary of its character and extent may not be amiss. Regardless of the time element, I have listed the food and relief groups first; it

should be noted that they must be maintained as administrative archives. The file cases listed are the usual four-drawer standard type and may be either letter or legal size, according to the contents.

The Commission for Relief in Belgium. This commission was created in September, 1914, under the chairmanship of Herbert Hoover and functioned continuously as a neutral organization, and with many of the attributes of a neutral state, until April, 1919. It enjoyed direct diplomatic relations with allied, enemy, and neutral governments through its own representatives, had immunity from submarine attack and naval interference (although occasionally violated), and flew its own flag. It was financed initially by charity and later partially by commercial operations and partly by governmental subsidies arranged directly with the Allied governments, under authority from the fugitive Belgian government. The commission not only cared for the destitute, which at one time rose to over 4,000,000 out of a total population of 9,500,000 in occupied Belgium and France, but also undertook to provide the remainder of the population with its necessary food imports. During this period it delivered almost five million tons of commodities the total value of which amounted to \$861,340,244.21. This archive occupies 43 four-drawer file cases, 30 boxes and about 330 linear feet of shelving. The papers of the American Committee which repatriated American citizens at the beginning of the war are housed with this collection.

The United States Food Administration. Milling Division, Grain Corporation. The personal files of the United States Food Administrator form the nucleus and most important part of these records. To them have been added the personal files of several important members of the administration so that the total numbers 19 file cases and about 80 feet of shelving.

The American Relief Administration. This is the organization set up by President Wilson's executive order of February 24, 1919, to administer general European relief with Herbert Hoover as director general and the Grain Corporation as its fiscal agent. It includes the indexed minutes and documents of the Supreme Economic Council and its subsections. Together with the European Children's Fund which carried on relief measures in some countries as late as 1923, the Russian Unit which fed Russia during the famine years of 1921-1923, and the supporting and supplementary cable file this group includes 83 file cases and 240 boxes.

The European Technical Advisers Missions. After immediate

food relief Mr. Hoover considered economic rehabilitation of paramount importance and to this end, with the approval and collaboration of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, and Poland he established American technical missions in each of these countries to advise on matters of food, trade, and industry. This archives fills four file cases and one large box.

The Finish Relief Fund, Inc. When Russia attacked Finland in late November, 1939, Mr. Hoover appealed to the American nation for aid to be sent to the Finns. Thirteen file cases and one box contain the New York headquarters record of this organization.

The American National Red Cross. Because of its character and the relation between the relief organizations this archive is housed, but not co-ordinated, with the Hoover Archives. It is, of course, a separate unit. The collection comprises the wartime accounting records of the Red Cross Foreign Commission, the records of the first and second War Fund Campaign collections, and foreign files and files relative to foreign operations of the American Red Cross during the World War. These records are supplemented by publications of the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Conferences of the Red Cross, and the International Committee of the Red Cross and materials of the various national sections, *i.e.*, Austrian, Canadian, Russian, etc. The archive is contained in the equivalent of eight four-drawer file cases and 155 boxes.

The Herbert Hoover Papers. These papers relate to Mr. Hoover's activities while he was secretary of commerce and president of the United States. The collection fills 102 file cases.

Lawrence Richey and French Strother. The files of these two men who were Mr. Hoover's secretaries fill ten file cases.

Miscellaneous. Fifty-three file cases represent personal interests.

Of the above collections the first five are open for research within certain limits and the sixth will be when it is properly set up.

SUDA L. BANE

Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace