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JOHN HONNOLD—A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

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It is not easy to write a suitable tribute to a man whose accomplishments are as rich and varied as those of John Honnold. I first became acquainted with him in 1945 when we were rebuilding the Law Faculty by adding nine new members after the inroads of World War II. One result of the War's end was the prevalence in Washington of able young lawyers who could be induced to enter law teaching. Earl Harrison, then Dean of the Law School, and I, as a member of the Faculty Appointments Committee, went to Washington with a gilt-edged "shopping list" containing such names as Louis Schwartz, George Haskins, Clark Byse, and John Honnold. When one is selecting untried individuals for permanent additions to a law faculty, the search is for persons who give promise of becoming stimulating teachers and outstanding legal scholars in their chosen fields. Our 1945 selections exceeded our fondest hopes, and this is particularly true in the case of John Honnold.

After graduating cum laude in 1939 from the Harvard Law School, where he was an Editor of the Harvard Law Review, he went into practice in New York City. The outbreak of World War II

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brought him to Washington where he soon became Chief of the Court Review Branch in the Chief Counsel's Office of the Office of Price Administration (O.P.A.). The Dean and I had an appointment to see John on that fateful 1945 trip to Washington, but we missed him because he had been called out of town to argue an O.P.A. case. Our relationship with him was cemented during his later visit to Philadelphia when the faculty unanimously voted to make him an Assistant Professor of Law. It soon became clear that John's activity and influence would not be limited to legal education at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1958 he took a leave of absence to become a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the University of Paris Faculty of Law.

He always has been interested in the law in action as well as the law in the books and has been glad to do his part in improving the legal system as an instrument of social change. During the summer of 1965, when the civil rights struggle was erupting in the South, he acted as Chief Counsel in the Mississippi Office of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law. Later he became a Director of the American Friends Service Committee and a member of its Executive Committee.

As a teacher, he has made his subject come alive and sought new ways to accomplish this purpose. He did more than his share of the work on the first three editions of a constitutional law casebook published by Foundation Press.¹ His casebook on Sales and Sales Financing² has broken new ground and influenced teaching of the subject in many other schools.

He has also done significant work in the field of legal reform. In the early 1950's he played a role in the final stages of preparing the Sales Article of the Uniform Commercial Code (U.C.C.) and undertook to defend the finished product against those who were disturbed because this new Code was different from the old sales law they had learned in law school. Through his work in sales and sales financing, including his work on the U.C.C., John became aware of the great need for the unification of the law governing international transactions in the field. Characteristically, he proceeded to do something about it by working through the United Nations. He represented the United States at the International Conference on the Unification of Commercial Law held at The Hague in 1964. When the United Nations estab-

¹ P. BRUTON, E. BARRETT, JR. & J. HONNOLD, *CONSTITUTIONAL LAW; CASES AND MATERIALS* (1st ed. 1959, 2d ed. 1963, 3rd ed. 1968).

² J. HONNOLD, *CASES AND MATERIALS ON THE LAW OF SALES AND SALES FINANCING* (1st ed. 1954, 2d ed. 1962, 3rd ed. 1968, 4th ed. 1976, 5th ed. 1984 (at press)).

lished a Commission on International Trade Law in 1969, the Secretary General asked him to be chief of the legal staff assigned to the Commission. This would necessitate resigning from the Law School for at least several years. He struggled with his decision for some time. Finally, he phoned me in Massachusetts where I was vacationing and told me: "I have made my decision; I have jumped out of the window." I replied that he had done no such thing but simply had sailed out into the wide blue yonder of international affairs, and we trusted he would sail back one day. And so he did in 1974. Since then he has been away once only to accept a visiting appointment (1982-83) to the prestigious Arthur Goodhart Professorship in the Science of Law at Cambridge University in England.

John has never permitted hard work to dull his sense of humor. Some years ago, when he was teaching a section of Constitutional Law, his grades were delayed by an illness. One day, poetic stanzas began appearing on the Law School's bulletin board in an order mocking common law pleading. Obviously, the proceeding, set forth below, was initiated by some students who probably knew that John had grown up on a farm:

Declaration:

There once was a farmer named John
Whose students looked pale, tired and wan.
When asked why they whined,
They said, "It's not kind
To hold back our grades in Law Con."

Answer:

Farmer John leaned on his rake:
"My friends, it's all for your sake,
While flat on my back
I started the stack
But I'm scared of the marks that I make."

Reply:

"To the farmer who rakes on his back,
Undaunted we take a new tack:
Please stop all the raking
And poetry-making
Give us our Con Law Grades back!"

Rejoinder:

Farmer John stopped feeding his swine.
"It's a shame that you wheedle and whine.

I'd love to get thru
Those covers of blue
But the answers won't scan and don't rhyme."

John claims that he is retiring, but, in fact, he is not; he is simply ceasing to teach his classes at the Law School. As long as there are worthy causes needing his able counsel, he will carry on many of his former activities. We hope, however, that he will continue to make the Law School his headquarters.

Acceptance of the United Nations Convention throughout the commercial world will take time, but a propitious start has been made. Next fall he will go to Australia at the invitation of the Australian Ministry of Justice to help with Australia's consideration of the Convention, and there will be similar stops on this round-the-world trip. We hope that his trip will be as successful as the one the Dean and I made in 1945.