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## Report From Britain, 12 December 1949

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REPORT FROM BRITAIN

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December 12, 1949

Until I saw most of the windows of the Southampton-London boat train plastered with the word FULBRIGHT, I was not conscious of the size of the movement with which I had become connected. Most of our contingent took up the pronunciation of the dockworker who was curious about the meaning of "Foolbright," but, regardless of how you say it, my guess is that one of these days the word will find its way into the dictionary.

For the Fulbright program is undoubtedly the most comprehensive experiment of its kind yet undertaken. It is one of the few good things that have come out of the war and should be a great force for making American democracy more completely understood by people we like to call our friends.

With his background as Rhodes scholar and as president of the University of Arkansas, it was only natural for Senator J. W. Fulbright to introduce Public Law 584 which received the President's signature on August 1, 1946. This Fulbright Act, an amendment to the Surplus Property Act of 1944, set in motion the machinery which has already enabled nearly two thousand students, teachers, and scholars to study and work in lands other than their own. Its basic purpose is an "increase of mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries."

Administrative responsibility rests with the U. S. Department of State, whose Division of Exchange of Persons initiates with other countries executive agreements under which United States educational commissions are set up abroad. To the present time agreements have been consummated with China, Burma, Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Norway, and negotiations are well under way with Austria, Australia, Egypt, India, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Financing of the program comes solely from the sale of surplus property abroad which we refused to bring home after the war and which our allies were eager to buy as they were lacking in dollars. For instance, Britain's settlement of lend-lease brought the United States sterling

credits of some \$650,000,000. To have withdrawn these would have partially frustrated our whole nation of economic aid to non-Communist countries. In December, 1945, Britain agreed to set aside \$50,000,000 (in sterling) for educational purposes. Under the Fulbright program, up to one million of these dollars may be used annually for the next twenty years. A similar agreement has been made with each of the other nations mentioned.

President Truman has appointed an eminent Board of Foreign Scholarships which approves policies and types of programs and selects both Americans and foreigners for Fulbright awards. Graduate student applicants are certified to the Board by the Institute of International Education (2 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.). Secondary teachers who want to swap jobs for a year with foreign pedagogues must first be O.K.'d by the United States Office of Education (Federal Security Agency, Washington 25, D. C.), while those interested in university instruction of advanced research must be recommended to the Board by the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils (2102 Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington 25, D. C.).

The American student lucky enough to snag a Fulbright appointment receives tuition, maintenance, and travel allowances. The teacher or research worker does still better with a stipend in addition to travel and maintenance. The foreigner who comes to the United States under the program gets only travel allowances, inasmuch as no dollars are available. Under this condition we hope to have both a professor and a graduate student from Britain at the University of Mississippi in 1950-51.

So far 562 students, 124 teachers, 68 professors, and 115 research scholars have gone abroad with Fulbright appointments. From foreign lands to America have come 382 students, 111 teachers, 38 professors, and 111 research scholars.

The United States Educational Commission in the United Kingdom, which looks after the Silver family with such painstaking care, was set up by an executive agreement of September, 1948, signed by Ambassador Lewis Douglas and Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin. Under its administration there are over 250 Americans working in Britain and a slightly smaller number of Britons in the United States. Another year will see an increase on both sides.

My three months' experience in Scotland has convinced me that we would do well to examine

carefully the assumption that even our close friends are informed regarding us and our way of life. I know, too, that the average well informed American is likely to live in blissful ignorance of the real problems and feelings of millions of people abroad. War itself brought a considerable advance in mutual respect and understanding. The Fulbright program may well be another important milestone on the road to international comprehension and good will without which there is small chance of permanent world peace.

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