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53

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Taft, Robert A., memorial, 1959-1962.

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The Robert A. Taft Memorial Foundation, Inc.

528 UNION TRUST BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

District 7-2877

April 6, 1959

Dr. and Mrs. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
19810 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Silver:

Although you have received a formal invitation with two admission cards to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Taft Memorial, we enclose herewith two additional admission cards which you will note have the designation "Government" printed on them. These cards will entitle you to sit in a reserved section.

Looking forward to seeing you on
April 14, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

I. Jack Martin
I. Jack Martin (9)
Secretary

IJM/crm

April 10, 1959

Judge I. Jack Martin
Secretary
The Robert A. Taft
Memorial Foundation, Inc.
528 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D.C.

My dear Jack:

I received the two admission cards and the invitation to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Taft Memorial on April 14th. I would have regarded myself privileged if I were able to attend the ceremonies. Unfortunately, I have a long-standing commitment for that day which I have been unable to break.

I have seen pictures of the Memorial; it is very impressive. I am happy that the large gifts of heart and mind of our dear friend are being honored in this permanent memorial in the Capitol of our country.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:bfm



The Trustees
of the
Robert A. Taft Memorial Foundation
request the honor of your presence
at the
Dedication
of the
Robert A. Taft Memorial
on the Capitol Grounds
Constitution and Louisiana Avenues, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
Tuesday, April fourteenth
Nineteen hundred and fifty-nine
at 10 o'clock a.m.

THE ROBERT A. TAFT INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

122 EAST 42 STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MRS. PRESTON DAVIE
CHAIRMAN

October 16, 1961.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As you probably know, The Robert A. Taft Memorial Foundation was founded on July 13, 1954, as a non-profit organization to perpetuate Senator Taft's memory and the high standards and ideals of public service he exemplified.

The Foundation had a two-part program -- one, the creation of a physical memorial in Washington and two, an Institute of Government. The first part of the program has been completed -- the bell tower on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The second, The Robert A. Taft Institute of Government, is about to be launched and we have received our charter from the Board of Regents of the State of New York and are in process of forming our Advisory Council. We want very much to have you serve on this Council.

I have not asked you before because, as I have only met you once, I was waiting for Dave Ingalls to get back from abroad, but he has only just returned and I have told him that I am writing directly to you so he has said that he will be glad to discuss it with you should you wish to talk to him about it.

In any case, I am enclosing herewith the booklet which outlines our program, a list of our Educational Committee and of our Advisory Council to date.

As we plan to make the announcement about the formation of the Institute on October 24th, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible and am therefore enclosing, for your convenience, a self-addressed envelope and a card to be signed by you which, as you know, is merely a formality to permit us to use your name.

If you agree to serve on our Council, I hope that you will be able to attend the ^{October 24th} dinner which we are giving for the Educational Committee, Board of Trustees and Advisory Council in the Carpenter Salon of the Waldorf and at 6:30, before the dinner, we are having a small reception at which General Eisenhower will be present. Dress will be informal.

Hoping to hear from you soon and with warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Mary Davie

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
19810 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

Mrs. Preston Davie
Chairman

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201 (4-60)

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International
Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

✓
SERVE ON COUNCIL HAVE JUST GOTTEN YOUR ADDRESS FROM
DAVE INGALLS WHO IS ON COUNCIL AS ARE ALSO CARDINAL
SPELLMAN BISHOP DONEGAN JOHN HOLLISTER SENATOR BYRD
LEWIS L STRAUSS BOB TAFT JR AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED
CITIZENS AND EDUCATORS LETTER FOLLOWS BUT HOPE YOU WILL
WIRE US SAYING YOU WILL SERVE AT ROBERT A TAFT
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT 122 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK
CITY SO THAT WE MAY HAVE YOUR NAME FOR ANNOUNCEMENT
DAVE INGALLS GLAD TO DISCUSS IT WITH YOU IF YOU WISH
REGARDS=

MAY DAVIE ✓ MRS PRESTON DAVIE CHAIRMAN ROBERT A TAFT
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, THE TEMPLE=
DLR EAST 105 & ANSEL RD=

1961 OCT 16 PM 4 53

DEAR RABBI SILVER AS YOU KNOW THE ROBERT A TAFT
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION HAD A TWO PART PROGRAM ONE THE
CREATION OF BELL TOWER IN WASHINGTON WHICH IS COMPLETED
TWO ROBERT A TAFT INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT WE HAVE
RECEIVED OUR CHARTER FROM BOARD OF REGENT OF STATE OF
NEW YORK AND ARE FORMING ADVISORY COUNCIL LAUNCHING THE
INSTITUTE OCTOBER 24TH WE WANT VERY MUCH TO HAVE YOU

WESTERN UNION CONFIRMATION COPY

AZ 51 OCT 17 114P EST

19 PD

SW 17755

MRS PRESTON DAVIE

CHAIRMAN ROBERT A TAFT INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

122 EAST 42 ST NYK

I SHALL BE VERY PLEASED TO SERVE ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
OF THE ROBERT A TAFT INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER.

Paid

*1.69
1.74
1.86*

1961 NOV 3 PM 12 47

THE ROBERT A. TAFT INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

122 EAST 42 STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MRS. PRESTON DAVIE
CHAIRMAN

October 19, 1961

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We are so delighted that you will serve on the Advisory Council of The Robert A. Taft Institute of Government.

Is there any chance that you will be able to be with us for the small reception and dinner on the 24th? I do hope so. It is to be held in the Louis XVI Suite instead of the Carpenter Salon at the Waldorf. The reception is at 6:30 and dinner will follow. Dress informal.

In any case, I hope when you next come to New York that you will let me know so that I may have the pleasure of meeting you and discussing the program of the Institute.

You were such a wonderful friend to Bob Taft. Actually, I feel as though I already knew you very well.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Preston Davie

Mrs. Preston Davie

P.S. Should you be coming to New York, my home address is 71 East 71st Street and the telephone is RHineland 4-2225.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
19810 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

M. L.

THE ROBERT A. TAFT INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

122 EAST 42 STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

MRS. PRESTON DAVIE
CHAIRMAN

HENRY TOY, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 31, 1962.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
19810 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

This is just a brief note to let you know that we are planning to have a meeting of the Advisory Council in New York City during the same day that the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held which, this year, is tentatively set for Wednesday, October 24th.

Before deciding definitely, however, we would like to hear from you and the other Advisors as to whether October 24th will be as convenient for you as perhaps the 23rd.

We would appreciate your letting us know as soon as possible so that we may send out notices promptly.

Sincerely,

Henry Toy, Jr.
Henry Toy, Jr.

PS - I'll be looking forward to this opportunity to meet you.

[Condensed]

THE ROBERT A. TAFT

Institute of Government

THE ROBERT A. TAFT

Institute of Government

Contents

I. The Heritage	1
II. The Organization	2
III. The Need	3
IV. Objectives	5
V. The Program of the Institute	7
1. Courses of Study on the Foundations of American Government	7
2. Citizenship Education	8
3. Annual Conferences	9
4. Research on Contemporary Problems of American Government	10
5. Liaison and Educational Relations	10
6. Public Understanding Through Mass Media	11
7. The Robert A. Taft Senior Fellows	12
8. The Robert A. Taft Graduate Fellowships	13
9. Library	14

THE ROBERT A. TAFT

Institute of Government

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I. *The Heritage*

Few statesmen in recent years have had the profound influence on American politics that Senator Robert A. Taft exerted.

He came from a family steeped in the tradition of public service for many generations and he dedicated his own lifetime to his fellow men and his government.

Robert Taft personified the American concept of human liberty and enriched and ennobled all that he touched.

Friend and foe alike acclaimed his rugged integrity, courage and high-minded idealism. He won the respect of his colleagues of both parties in Congress and attracted a wide following of loyal supporters.

In our American democracy, the health of the political system and indeed our very national survival depend on close and protracted attention by every citizen to the day-by-day operations of the party systems from the grass roots up.

Senator Taft's compelling influence on public policy was deeply rooted in a devotion to democratic and constitutional principles, as well as in a knowledge of the processes of government.

To this he added a flexibility of mind without which he could not have won the honored place in our nation's history that men of all parties have assigned to him.

Thus, he set an example for all American citizens who, though differing in their views, have an obligation to serve the country politically in their own way.

II. *The Organization*

The Robert A. Taft Memorial Foundation was organized by a group of citizens to perpetuate the ideals of the late Senator. The Foundation announced it would pursue a two-course program:

1. Erection of a suitable physical memorial in Washington, D. C.
2. Establishment of a Robert A. Taft Institute of Government.

The first part of this program was completed on April 14, 1959, when President Eisenhower dedicated the Taft Memorial on Capitol Hill in Washington. Funds were contributed by citizens from every state in the union.

With this objective achieved, the Foundation's Board of Trustees turned its attention to the second part of the program, the Taft Institute of Government.

The purpose of this Institute is that to which Robert A. Taft devoted so much of his time and talents, namely, the understanding of the meaning of a free society, and the forms and principles of government which can best preserve and forward that society. The committee appointed to investigate the desirability and feasibility of such an Institute studied various aspects of the problem most diligently and sought the advice of prominent educators and other qualified individuals from many parts of the country. Their advice and suggestions have been followed in large measure.

The Institute is national in scope, non-profit, educational and non-partisan. It operates under a charter from the Board of Regents of the State of New York.

Its purpose is not that of propaganda. It is incorporated and will make annual public reports concerning its activities and plans. It is directed by a Board of Trustees, an Education Committee and an Advisory Council. It represents a cross section of our Society including educators, political, business, civic and religious leaders. Funds of the Institute will be spent chiefly on brain power, rather than on "bricks and mortar." The need for such an Institute, a statement of its goals, and a detailed plan of action are set forth in the following pages.

"I know of no safe repository for the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to increase their discretion by education."

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

III. *The Need*

The need for political education has never been greater than it is today.

The major issue of our age is the conflict in principles and ideals, and consequently in forms of government, between the democratic and totalitarian views of man and his society.

In spite of many useful efforts and organizations already working in this field, it is the belief of those interested in founding the Taft Institute of Government that there is an urgent need for more realistic political education of the American people, both of the adult population and the upcoming younger generation who are the masters and creators of their country's future.

1. *Our citizenry is not informed* concerning the meaning and the implications of the issues which they must themselves decide. There is a lack of understanding of the principles that keep men free. Also, there are many who are generally well informed but fail to recognize the urgent need for translating their private convictions into public action through established democratic processes.

2. Another need for an effective Institute is to combat the *widespread prevalence of political apathy*.

The American party system is an integral part of our government, and it is primarily through the political party system that citizens must work if they are to exert their legitimate influence upon the public policies of their government. This influence begins at the precinct and local community levels; yet it is just here that the vast majority of citizens fail to master the political techniques required for the preservation of a free society. There is need for systematic effort to bring to the electorate as a whole a full realization of the great dangers of political apathy and of the great potentialities they have in their own hands to avert the threats to our form of government. This can only be done if the electorate has a better under-

standing of how our government works and the importance of each citizen's participation in government.

3. Intelligent and objective research should be conducted on a comprehensive and sustained basis into the *nature of government* and the *role of the individual* in the perpetual struggle of freedom against oppressive authority. Such research is indispensable to, and a specific value of, a democratic society as opposed to closed and totalitarian societies.

4. Finally, to maintain the virility of our democracy, we need to have penetrating studies of the historical roots, the present status and the future prospects of both political ideologies. The conservative position, in particular, needs to be formulated by its proponents in a way that commands the respect of the community of scholars and the general electorate of this country.

In future crises we shall need such a worthy statement of conservative principles, as well as an adequate statement of competing ideas, in order to hammer out in political debate these enduring bases of public policy which destiny will demand of us if we are to survive as a democratic nation.

IV.

Objectives

The major objectives of the Institute of Government are:

- 1. To stimulate among Americans an understanding of the processes and problems of government in a free society.*
- 2. To inspire their more active interest and participation in government.*
- 3. To advance the science of government to enable us to meet more effectively the problems confronting the United States and Western Civilization.*

The principal means to achieve these goals will be by education and research. Education is intended to embrace independent adult education as well as cooperation with established educational institutions to promote the study of political science.

Actual training in the fundamentals of government will be undertaken in pilot projects. Research and education in American constitutional principles, with special reference to the party system at national, state and local levels, will be supported and stimulated. Graduate fellowships will be provided, and eminent thinkers will be brought together to increase knowledge and understanding of the party system.

The Institute will aim to become one of the most constructive forces in the political life of the country by its steady accumulation of knowledge about our governmental process, by its gradual accretion of citizen groups skilled in the art of self-government under the difficult conditions of an industrialized society undergoing rapid change, and by its contributions to the deeper philosophical insights of a mature self-governing people.

Taft on Democracy:

"If we wish to make democracy permanent in this country, let us abide by the fundamental principles laid down in the Constitution. Let us see that the State is the servant of its people and that the people are not the servants of the State."

Taft on Freedom:

"Liberty has been the key to our progress in the past, and is the key to our progress in the future. If we can preserve liberty in all its essentials, there is no limit to the future of the American people."

V.

The Program of the Institute

The program is flexible and dynamic. All parts of it are designed to move the work of the Institute as a whole towards its primary goals. The goals, the purposes and the program are further designed to attract the interest, the respect, and the joint participation of the academic community, the business community and distinguished citizens in public affairs, so that the Institute's work will at all times reflect representative and objective views.

The program is strictly non-partisan.

The Institute may from time to time vary the emphasis that is given to the separate elements of this program. An attempt has been made here to describe these elements. It will be necessary, of course, for the Institute to allocate the available resources as circumstances may require.

The two major elements of the program are:

- a. *Education*—the teaching and dissemination of knowledge about our constitutional form of government and its application to our times.
- b. *Research*—into areas of public policy of concern to the Institute.

Both these aspects of the Institute's work will be carried out either directly through operations supervised by the Institute itself or through an agent, or indirectly by means of contracts and grants to other institutions. The following description of each point in the program is intended to give a picture of the program in action.

1. Course of Study on the Foundations of American Government

As one of its contributions toward the expansion of a politically informed and politically skilled citizenry, the Taft Institute with the aid of qualified specialists

will develop courses of study on the foundations of government in the United States. These programs will be detailed and so designed as to be used not only in formal courses in political science in colleges and universities throughout the country, but also in adult study groups and by mass media such as television.

The courses of study would be designed primarily as teaching tools for basic courses on American government. They should present the major principles, ideas and institutions that shape the environment within which self-government is practiced. The ideas would be those philosophical conceptions which have helped to determine our governmental system, as well as other ideas that compete for public acceptance. The courses would cover the following subjects: American constitutionalism; the processes of government in the United States; and the free society versus communism and other totalitarian ideologies.

The courses should thus be expected to include, beyond the usual reading lists, newly-developed case materials and field projects that lead the student to a deeper understanding of the governmental realities of his time. This part of the work should be carried on in close relation with those who conduct Point Two of the Institute's program (citizenship education) and in consultation with the political scientists and distinguished citizens assembled under Points Three and Four below.

2. Citizenship Education

It seems fitting that high priority be given, in the work of the Taft Institute, to the development of citizenship-in-action.

Men of every party and political complexion recognize the necessity in a democracy of stimulating vigorous participation by all citizens in the political life of their communities.

The nature and scope of the Institute's work in this field must be left for more precise definition from year to year; but it is important at the start to indicate some potentialities of this part of the Institute's program. These should be envisaged as beyond the usual study-group-and-discussion method of arousing citizen interest in public affairs, valuable as this method is. Even with limited funds the Institute can establish pilot projects in selected localities in which small groups of citizens can examine the merits and demerits of various proposals for governmental action and learn how to translate their sense of right into specific measures of public policy.

There should be practical instruction in self-government at the grassroots level, involving active participation in governmental mechanisms by people who now think they have no time for these vital activities. Thus key groups of specialists in the art of self-government will be created as training units. One function of the Institute will be to find competent people who can plan and carry out such citizenship training effectively, especially on a non-partisan basis and within the proper scope of a tax-exempt foundation.

There are many programs already in operation in the field of citizenship training, but coverage for the country as a whole is geographically spotty—especially so on the college campus. The Institute will pioneer in new areas. It will seek to enlist the full support of local leaders in getting citizens to undertake *specific* responsibilities in their respective party organizations and in non-partisan groups, and to *do* something that will give them the feel of personal participation in the governmental process. This may entail special training at selected centers for key local leaders who will then, with the Institute's support, go back to their communities to activate the program.

3. Annual Conference

The Taft Institute of Government will sponsor annual informal conferences of leading political scientists and distinguished citizens in public and business affairs. These conferences will be scheduled for a four-day period each year at some congenial place where a small, invited group of chairmen or representatives of the departments of political science in the leading universities and colleges and invited leaders in public life and the business community can devote their time uninterrupted to assess the effectiveness and the realism of political science teaching in the United States.

In this connection the conference will keep the Institute advised as to the current state of teaching in the field of American government and its effectiveness in stimulating students to assume actively their responsibilities as citizens. The conference would recommend areas in which the Institute might concentrate its research efforts to improve the teaching of American government, making it more realistic and encouraging more active participation of young people in public affairs. The conference would provide a continuous two-way medium of communication between the Institute and teachers of political science and thought leaders of the nation.

In later years, the program might be broadened to include specialists in other social sciences. The Institute could shape this further program after consultation with other foundations, institutions, and professional organizations.

4. Research on Contemporary Problems of American Government

A large part of the work sponsored or directed by the Institute will be research and the development of knowledge about contemporary problems of American government that will be used as a basis for improving the practice of self-government by informed citizens. The citizenship education program (Point Two) is essentially the application of present knowledge and skills to groups and areas where such knowledge and skills are not made use of by citizens. To enhance this program with continuous research contributions, the Institute will call upon leading political scientists and other specialists to recommend research projects. The annual meeting of leading political scientists and distinguished citizens in business and public life will, for example, be one source of these recommendations. Another source will be the specialists at work on the courses of study on American government.

This research will be carried on by competent specialists, both within the Institute and on the outside, under specific grants and contractual arrangements with distinguished universities as determined by the Institute. While the precise fields in which this research will be carried on cannot be predicted with accuracy, it seems probable that they might include certain problems of special interest to Robert A. Taft during his long career as a public servant: fiscal matters, state and local government, problems of federal-state relations, labor relations, the nature of political stability, to name a few.

5. Liaison and Educational Relations

The Taft Institute will work so far as possible through established educational, scientific and professional institutions, reserving for its own operations only those activities which cannot well be developed by others or contracted out. This means that it will be necessary to maintain close and intimate working relations with a wide variety of external groups, such as universities, research organizations, civic groups, business and trade associations, professional societies, foundations in related fields, business corporations, adult education organizations, public agencies, and the general public.

These groups move unilaterally as a rule, with no coordination of their efforts and no exchange of views. All of them, however, are seminal and can eventually affect large numbers of people. The Institute could, through appropriate means, aid in crystallizing these efforts without encroaching upon the autonomy of the several groups. Through its citizenship education program, the Institute could elicit the combined efforts of all these groups, garner their common experience and wisdom, and in some respects make use of their respective organizations for carrying out its own projects.

The Institute should have the authority to present honorary awards from time to time, and to bestow the Taft Medal on the basis of qualifications that draw public attention to the goals of the Institute and to the political ideals of Robert A. Taft.

6. Public Understanding Through Mass Media

The capacity of American citizens for effective self-government depends heavily upon the stream of information which is brought to their attention through the mass media—especially press, radio, and television. The Taft Institute will devote some of its efforts and means toward assisting those who write, edit, analyze and disseminate information for public understanding.

In order to broaden and deepen reporters' understanding of American politics and to report and interpret political events and trends for more effective citizen action, the Institute will set aside a fund for financial assistance to journalists for study and travel, free from the pressure of meeting deadlines for copy, in order to provide them with more substantial backgrounds for their reportorial work, as recommended by an advisory committee set up by the Institute. This committee will also make recommendations concerning the preferred character of the projects to be undertaken by the grantees, such as residence in a university or a research institution, travel and interviews with selected groups of people, observation of political events at home and abroad, and so on. Awards would be made on the basis of competitive applications, the final selections to be made by carefully selected committees comprising, among others, publicists of distinction and deans of schools of journalism.

7. The Robert A. Taft Senior Fellows

In order to help American citizens to evaluate the political experience of the United States and to develop the ideas and skills necessary to meet the needs of our times, the Institute will tap the resources of insight and wisdom among eminent political thinkers at home and abroad. To facilitate this process it will bring together some of the world's most seminal thinkers as Taft Senior Fellows for a year in residence at a distinguished university. At the start there will be two Fellows, one from the United States and one from abroad. Later the number might be increased.

The Taft Senior Fellows will be outstanding observers and interpreters of the intellectual forces that impinge upon our system of government, including local self-government and the party system. The nominees might include not only leading scholars in academic posts but also distinguished editors, statesmen, and others who combine the qualities of scholarly insight with broad political experience. In the selection of Senior Fellows, the Institute will make an effort from time to time to find men and women who can contribute substantially to the formulation of a sound political philosophy. The stipend should be large enough to attract the ablest men and women; it could be paid through the university, which would be expected to provide adequate working space for the Fellows. The Taft Institute would provide conference room facilities at its headquarters for these Senior Fellows, and would expect them to devote some of their time to the educational activities of the Institute, particularly to the program for Citizenship Education.

The Taft Senior Fellows will be encouraged to pursue their professional activities while in residence at the university. Many of them will be scholars who wish to write; however, the purpose of the Senior Fellows program will not be to subsidize the writing of books. Persons are to be selected who may prefer other kinds of activities, such as lecturing, broadcasting and televising, active field work, teaching and so on. If they write books these would not be subsidized by the Institute, though they could be published under its auspices. The publications of the Fellows' work should be undertaken by commercial publishing houses in competition with the works of other writers, and thus win a place in the competition of ideas. If the Institute can get one man to write one great book in a generation, this in itself will be a substantial contribution to the culture of free man.

The Taft Senior Fellows from previous years should be brought together annually for formal and informal meetings at the Institute, both for the purpose of aiding the Institute in planning its educational programs and for recommending nominees for future selection. This group could well become a powerful force for the dissemination of creative political thought, not by reason of any direct propaganda efforts on their part, but rather through their informal and formal teaching contracts as Fellows. Not every Fellow will be a great man; but with good planning, the list will include some of the leading contemporary philosophers. Over a period of years the Society of Taft Fellows will include a most substantial group of influential men and women.

8. The Robert A. Taft Graduate Fellowships

The work of developing and disseminating knowledge about the governmental process and participation of more and more citizens in that process will be advanced in part by the careful selection of a series of promising young scholars and teachers whose career interests lie in this direction, and by their support through three years of continuous graduate education.

The Institute favors a single substantial fellowship of this kind over scatteration of its funds through many small grants; experience has shown that this is the only way to get mileage out of fellowship and scholarship projects. The Taft Fellow will be among the best awards a university has to offer, perhaps the most outstanding one in the country. Thus, it will attract the most promising candidates and focus attention upon the unique purpose of the award. The award will be made at the discretion of the Board of the Institute to candidates with special qualifications, the most important being their intention and their probable ability to make a significant contribution to the public life of their country by active participation in public affairs. Their qualifications are not to be measured by scholastic and psychometric tests primarily, nor in any sense on the basis of race, color or creed.

It is important that there be distinctive qualifications for this award in terms of the purposes of the Institute in activating citizen participation in government. Most graduate fellowships are not now so uniquely defined. A distinguishing feature of the fellowship will be that in most instances the Institute will publish the doctoral dissertations of the Fellows, especially when the subject-matter of the

dissertation relates to the goals of the Institute. Another feature will be that graduate students will be given opportunities to participate in the over-all educational program of the Institute.

The continuity of the grant through three successive years is also important as a matter of educational and public policy, as well as public relations policy for the Institute. It will be renewable for a maximum period of three years provided that the recipient maintains his status as a graduate student in good standing.

9. Library

A small but unique collection of books, documents and manuscripts will be acquired to serve the basic needs of the Institution. Subject to the wishes of the Robert A. Taft Estate and the Library of Congress, the Institute will publish the collected papers and writings of Robert A. Taft. Also subject to the wishes of the Estate, the Institute will select a distinguished author to prepare a meaningful and inspiring biography of Taft.

**President Kennedy and Three Former Presidents
Endorse Taft Institute**

"I am glad to send a word of greeting to the friends of Robert A. Taft who are gathered today in New York to lay new plans for perpetuating his memory. I wish you all success as you establish a new institute to inspire more of our citizens to public service and to high standards of civic achievement. You have set yourselves a worthy goal which I am sure would have the warm approval of the man whom you are honoring. With all best wishes."

—JOHN F. KENNEDY

Oct. 24, 1961

"If the Institute can help to promote a wider understanding of the meaning of a free society, and a deeper commitment to the forms and principles of government which can best preserve and forward that society, it will be doing a great service for our country—and for the free world. I can think of nothing that would have more pleased Senator Taft."

—DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

"I have always admired and respected Robert A. Taft . . . his was the voice that gave expression to the best tradition of the two party system. The nation always knew where he stood on the important issues and his integrity should serve as an example for all those in the service of our republic. I am glad that the Robert A. Taft Institute is being created in his honor. The work of this Institute should be helpful in informing our citizens about the scope and nature of our government."

—HARRY S. TRUMAN

"It is important that Senator Taft's devotion to our American heritage, his analysis of our national problems, and, above all, his integrity and courage should be preserved in the minds of his countrymen. At a time when the fundamental precepts of our form of government are menaced by the spread of foreign dogmas, your work is of significant importance."

—HERBERT HOOVER

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Telegram - October 17, 1961 - 1:15 P.M.

TO: Mrs. Preston Davie

Chairman, Robert A. Taft Institute of Government
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

I shall be very pleased to serve on the Advisory Council of the
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Abba Hillel Silver