

Dedication of the Luncheon in Honor of Mel Bradford and W.H. Hutt
The Philadelphia Society
47th National Meeting
Dallas, Texas, April 2, 2011

William F. Campbell
Secretary, The Philadelphia Society

We are specially honored today to have Grethe Hutt, the wife of Bill Hutt, with us today. Between her busy schedule of attending the symphony and the opera, she was able to squeeze in some time today to come for lunch and a session or two. She is as indefatigable as ever.

Helen and I remember the both of them well from our final year at the University of Virginia, 1966, when Bill was a visiting professor. But, more important than that was the time they came to visit LSU for a lecture. Afterwards, we “went across the river” to a country and western bar. Bill and Grethe were the best western dancers in the place. They enjoyed themselves immensely.

Mel Bradford’s wife, Marie, was not able to attend the luncheon but she wished to extend her best to all the many friends of Mel in the audience. I got completely caught up on the Texas political scene after talking to her on the telephone.

While cleaning out my files the other day, I found a curious connection between Mel Bradford and W.H. Hutt that goes beyond their relationship at the University of Dallas. They were both faculty advisors to an excellent publication, *The Occasional Review*, published by the World Research, Inc. I have three issues from 1974-1976. There were many Phillysoc members on their Advisors’ list and our relatively new member, Richard Viguerie, was a vice President & Trustee of the organization.

Mel and Bill shared much in common. They both hated the overweening Leviathan Federal Government, and its destruction of personal responsibility by the suffocating effects of the modern welfare state. They were both foreigners. Bill Hutt was born in England in 1899, Mel Bradford was born in 1934 in Fort Worth, Texas. Woops, perhaps, I went too far in that direction—I will let the native Texans decide that issue. But, from the point of view of Louisiana, Texas is a foreign country, and I’m sure the feeling’s mutual.

Bill was always the classical liberal economist—he created the term “consumer sovereignty.” The author of 11 books and more than 50 articles, his highest good was individual liberty, cherished as much for itself as the fact that economic liberty lifted up the poor from poverty. Bill’s theoretical work on attacking Keynesian economics is still relevant and much needed today. His work in labor economics was devoted to eliminating the class privileges which a mass democracy—whether in South Africa or the United States could institute against the blacks. Also, much needed today when one

discusses civil rights. He and another great Philadelphia Society economist, Ben Rogge of Wabash College, were saying these things long before Walter Williams took up the torch of *The State Against the Blacks*.

Bill always had a special feeling for the rhetoric and history of economics which Mel, the consummate rhetorician would have cherished. Alas, as an historian of economic thought, this is also much needed today. The attacks on classical liberal and Austrian economics, both from the left and the right, suffer from the elementary confusions on selfishness, self-interest, and utility maximization.

The most important characteristic of both of them was that they loved truth and the honest and fearless debate required by that love. Their observations and questions were always forceful and direct. No pretentious academics, they just wanted to plumb to the bottom of things.

Forrest McDonald and Mel Bradford

On The Philadelphia Society website, I have put MP3 files of the famous debate between Harry Jaffa and Mel Bradford at the 1979 Regional Meeting of the Society in New Orleans. In addition, I put Forrest McDonald's King Hog speech from the same meeting online. I'm sure that if Huey Long had thought of it, he would have entitled his campaign slogan and song, "Every Hog a King." This also gives me a chance to plug our next Regional Meeting, which will be in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 7-8, 2011. The theme is *America the Beautiful*. Cincinnati was known in the 19th century as Porkopolis because it was the center of the hog rendering industry.

I knew that I would be reading Forrest's tribute to Mel at this meeting. Forrest and Ellen could not be with us today because of the physical rigors of travel these days, but their daughter, Marcie, is here to celebrate with us.

As we are honoring Mel for the luncheon, I am sure you will hear the name of Harry Jaffa at the optional Saturday night dinner sponsored by the Claremont Institute. Trying to figure out what would tie together the Claremont Institute, Mel Bradford, Bill Hutt, and Harry Jaffa together, I found this quotation on a pig statue that I have at home from Winston Churchill with which I think all of them would agree. Churchill said, "I like pigs: cats look down on human beings, dogs look up to them, but pigs just treat us as their equals."

In that great Philadelphia Society in the sky, I would love to hear a discussion between Mel Bradford and Bill Hutt on the topic of "equality of opportunity." And, if that were not enough, then the "social and economic consequences of the industrial revolution."

To show Forrest's marvelous sense of humor, there was a little aside that Forrest made after his speech that is relevant to our luncheon today. After attributing the alleged laziness of Southerners to their remarkably productive hog economy, he said, with tongue in cheek, "As an encore I have brought along here a paper on the Natural Law origins of the Declaration of Independence." Mel must have chuckled over that one.