

ROTARY GOLDEN ROUND TABLE

"Hands Across the Sea"

(Rotary Foundation Fellowships)

NOTE: If Rotary Foundation Fellows have come from or studied in your area, you will no doubt wish to refer to them in your round table discussion. If a Rotary Fellow is available, you may wish to include him as one of the participants in the round table.

ANNCR: The Rotary Club of (Name City) in cooperation with Radio Station _____ brings you a projection of the drama you have just heard--a discussion by local community leaders of the basic idea just dramatized on Rotary Golden Theatre. This (Name City) Rotary Golden Round Table is a local contribution to the world-wide observance of Rotary International's Fiftieth Anniversary. You have just heard a story about Rotary Foundation Fellowships....fellowships that are sponsored by the (Name City) Rotary Club, along with other Rotary Clubs all over the world. Most of us offer a rather vague approval of this project but think of it as no real concern to our community. We can't generate much excitement about a boy from Brussels, Belgium, for example, who is spending a year of study in a Brazilian university. But local Rotarians, who are tremendously enthusiastic about the Rotary Foundation and its Fellowships, insist that we should be interested and that these fellowships are of personal interest to us. Members of our discussion panel are:

Mr. A _____, _____ (Identification) _____;
Mr. B _____, _____ (Identification) _____;
and Mr. C _____, _____ (Identification) _____--
all active members of the (Name City) Rotary Club.

Mr. A, just to get this discussion started, wouldn't it be of far greater interest to us if these Rotary Foundation Fellowships were sending a graduate of a local high school to the state university for a year?

MR. A: Not if we understand the background, the purpose and the actual results of Rotary Foundation Fellowships, Mr. (ANNCR'S NAME). An assassin's bullet fired at Sarevjo was of far more concern to us right here in this city than any shot ever fired by any local hunter--and the impact of Rotary Foundation Fellowships can be as important to us as our

MR. A: (CONT.) concern about war. You see, we Rotarians believe these Fellowships will contribute a great deal to the peace of the world. If anything is important to us, it is permanent world peace.

ANNCR: You won't get any arguments there -- but how can these fellowships contribute anything to world peace?

MR. A: Through better understanding between nations. These young people are, in a sense, ambassadors of good will from their countries to the lands in which they study. Through the friendships they form they help to forge a chain of friendship and understanding, and we all agree that understanding is necessary in the development of a lasting peace. We are backing the Rotary Foundation Fellowships with so much enthusiasm because we feel that it is a tangible and effective project.

ANNCR: Who is eligible to apply for these Fellowships?

MR. A: Young men and women between the ages of 20 and 29 who are college graduates or senior students in a college or university. Applicants are sponsored by Rotary Clubs just like ours. Each Rotary District is eligible for a Fellowship every other year -- and naturally, each District wants its Fellow to be of the highest possible calibre.

ANNCR: Do you look for particular qualities in a Fellowship applicant?

MR. A: Yes we do, _____. He must have a genuine interest in furthering international understanding as well as his personal education. He must be the friendly, capable type of young person who is a leader among his associates. These attributes, together with high scholastic standing and ability to speak the language of the country in which he hopes to study, are vitally important in the selection of a Rotary Fellow.

ANNCR: I can certainly understand that. But these qualities don't always show up on a written application, do they Mr. A?

MR. A: No, they don't. That's why we have a personal interview with our applicants. It gives us a chance to talk with them about the objectives of the program, and about the conditions to which a Rotary Fellow must agree.

ANNCR: What are the conditions, Mr. B?

MR. B: Generally speaking, the Rotary Fellow must agree to carry out the broad purposes of the Foundation program by taking advantage of every possible opportunity to promote international understanding and good will. More specifically, he is expected to maintain contact with the Rotary Club in

MR. B: (CONT.) the city where he is studying and to visit as many other nearby clubs as his schoolwork will permit.

ANNCR: Why is that?

MR. B: Rotary thinks he will learn outside the classroom as well as in it. We want him to learn about the people in the country where he is studying. We want him to get as well acquainted with them as he is with the people in his own home town. We want him to spend time in their homes, and in their businesses and social worlds.

ANNCR: I can see how a student could learn a lot that way.

MR. C: He can not only learn, but he can teach.

ANNCR: What makes you say that?

MR. C: To qualify in the first place, a Rotary Fellow must be a first-rate representative of his country. Obviously, he can't get acquainted with the people of the country where he's studying unless they become equally acquainted with him. The members of the Rotary Club and others with whom he comes in contact in the city where he is studying are going to know a great deal more about their guest's country than they ever did before--and what they know isn't going to be vague theory. They are going to be sure of their information because they get it first-hand.

MR. A: Since a Rotary Fellow is a good will ambassador for his own country, he is going to sell its merits to fellow students, to study groups and to Rotarians. He is going to acquaint his new friends with the virtues of his native land, its customs, its historical background and its traditions. He will naturally want people to understand and like him, and in winning friendship for himself, he is bound to win it for his country.

ANNCR: I can see where he might teach his host country to understand his native land better.

MR. B: And when he returns home, he is in a position to teach the people of his own country about the land where he spent his year of study. Remember, this Rotary Fellow is always a leader, and his friends back home will want to get his verdict. He can tell them that their prejudiced ideas about his host country simply aren't based upon fact. He can clear up all kinds of misunderstanding. He inevitably creates a bridge of understanding between his own country and the one where he chose to study.

ANNCR: But what if he doesn't go back home?

MR. C: Most of the Rotary Fellows who have completed their studies have gone home. The fellowship program has been in operation such a short time--only nine years--that you could hardly expect these young men and women to be outstanding adult leaders as yet. But they are becoming established gratifyingly well. You will find them in government and diplomatic service, education, theology, medicine, engineering and many other fields. Some of them are fast becoming experts in the field of international relations. Most of them will make outstanding contributions to their fields.

ANNCR: It sounds wonderful, but--those students are individuals, scattered all over the world. You expect them to create international understanding, good will and peace. Aren't you going about your objective the hard way?

MR. B: The hard way, maybe--but the sound way. All of us have thought too much of countries and races, when we should be thinking of people--people like ourselves, living in communities more or less like (Name City)--people blessed with the same hopes and ambitions and cursed with the same problems and doubts. If the people of one country like the people of another country, those two countries are going to live in harmony.

ANNCR: But aren't there some pretty deep-seated prejudices to overcome?

MR. A: Certainly--and that is why the Rotary Foundation Fellowship program is aimed at young people. It might be hard to convince an older generation that its ideas have been wrong--but young people's minds are more open.

MR. C: Not only that, (NAME ANNCR), but these young people have more energy and enthusiasm--and they have more time in which to sell the idea of international understanding.

ANNCR: It sounds like a remarkable idea.

MR. B: It's a wonderful idea--and remember, it isn't being tested in one or two countries. Last year, students from 34 countries studied in 19 countries other than their own.

ANNCR: How many Rotary Foundation Fellowships have been awarded?

MR. A: In the nine years the fellowship program has been in operation, more than 700 fellowships have been awarded to students from 57 different countries.

ANNCR: That must have taken a lot of money.

MR. B: Yes, it has, but Rotarians consider it money well spent. The total grants since 1947 are in excess of \$1,750,000. These Fellowships have been made

MR. B: (CONT.) possible by Rotarians and others who have been in the program an opportunity to make an investment in better world understanding.

ANNCR: Do all of the Rotary Foundation funds go for these fellowships?

MR. B: Oh, no. Thousands of food and clothing packages have been sent to former Rotarians, their widows or their children, in war-devastated countries, and assistance to war-affected Rotarians and their families continues. Another project of the Foundation is the awarding of Rotary Foundation Research Fellowships to qualified adults so that they might learn about existing techniques in medical, social, scientific and educational fields which are not generally known in their native lands. Some \$42,000 has been expended on 14 of these research grants.

ANNCR: I had no idea the program was so ambitious. Why is Rotary so concerned with international relations?

MR. A: Remember that Rotary has more than 8,400 clubs in 89 countries throughout the world. In 1929 at Edinburgh, Scotland, at the first Rotary convention held outside the United States, the objective of international good will and peace was adopted. Rotary's interest in international understanding has grown and strengthened with the years.

MR. B: I've always remembered Belgian King Albert's remarks when he opened the 1927 Rotary convention at Ostend.

ANNCR: What did he say?

MR. B: He said, "The great Rotarian ideal, essentially a humanitarian ideal of brotherhood, may have an efficient application in the broad sphere of international relationship. Friendliness in international relations can be fostered by friendliness in international trade."

ANNCR: Tell me--why has Rotary gone into so many countries?

MR. C: Because Rotarians believe in the Ideal of Service. We know that Rotary can unite widely divergent elements for common community good. Rotary has proved that business and professional men living in all parts of the world can build a world fellowship. The Rotary Foundation Fellowships are a projection of that idea.

MR. A: Perhaps it seems unimportant for one Rotary Fellow to build international understanding in one community--a community like (NAME CITY). But remember that he has also built international understanding in another city like (NAME CITY) in another country. Multiply what he has done by

MR. A: (CONT.) the 700 Rotary Fellows--and then project that good will ambassadorship through all their friends and acquaintances. It begins to have genuine significance. Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.

ANNCR: Gentlemen, I had no idea of the importance of Rotary Foundation Fellowships. It may be a hard way to build international good will, but you've convinced me that your program is a mighty excellent way to do the job. That just about winds up this session of Rotary Golden Round Table. Next week, Rotary Golden Theatre will present a drama built around another problem that affects all of us. And then, immediately following, as a local observance of Rotary's Golden Anniversary, Rotary Golden Round Table will present a discussion of that problem as it applies to (NAME CITY). Our panel next week will include (NAMES AND IDENTIFICATIONS OF LOCAL PANEL MEMBERS), all well qualified to discuss the subject to be presented. Be sure to be with us next week for another program presented by the (NAME CITY) Rotary Club and Station _____ as a public service.