

Notebook

CFS

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THE COVENANT PROJECT CONTINUES AT THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FEDERALISM

As reported in earlier issues of the Notebook, the Center for the Study of Federalism is involved in a series of research projects and workshops on the "Covenant as a Political Concept and Factor Influencing Political Behavior." The entire series is a multidisciplinary effort to outline the fullest meaning of the covenant idea in political philosophy, to examine the current and historical importance and consequences of the idea, to document the complex ways in which it has been operationalized in several polities, and, most broadly, to further our understanding of how ideas, culture, and institutions shape political behavior.

The covenant concept embodies the idea of human relationships founded upon morally informed partnerships of independent people or peoples who freely join and undertake shared endeavors with a promise of mutual obligation for the common good and mutual respect for the integrity of each other. Politically, it expresses the idea that people build communities and establish civil relationships upon such covenants or compacts, whether religious or secular. The covenant concept is of especial interest to students of federalism. Federalism, from the latin foedus meaning covenant, is rooted in the covenantal tradition stemming from ancient Israel. As such, federal and covenantal ideas have been important in the Jewish political tradition, the church polities of the reformed wing of Protestantism, and the secular polities influenced by that wing, particularly in the cases of Switzerland, the United States, and the Netherlands. From their earliest beginnings, the people and polities comprising the United States bound themselves together through covenants to erect their New World order, deliberately following biblical precedents in the process.

Over the last two years several workshops on the covenant idea have been held in Philadelphia. Most recently papers were given by Daniel J. Elazar on "The Covenant Idea and Politics"; Vincent Ostrow on "Contracts, Choice, and Civil Disobedience"; Douglas Sturm on

"Contracts, Constitutions, and Covenants"; and John Kincaid on "Covenant as a Mode of Political Community." Out of these workshops a number of research ideas have been proposed and undertaken by various affiliated scholars. Included among these topics are: the relationships and distinctions between covenants, compacts, and contracts and their roles in politics and philosophy; the covenantal and natural law traditions; covenantal ideas in the political traditions of the Jews, Swiss, Dutch, Scots, Americans, and Afrikaners as well as the church polities of reformed Protestantism; the federal or covenant theology of the Puritans; the secularization of the covenant idea in the sixteenth century; covenants and civil religion; town covenants in the United States; and the covenant idea in American literature. Additional research on these and related topics is being conducted at cooperating centers in Israel and Switzerland.

The next American workshop on the covenant idea will be held in Philadelphia in February 1979. Scholars interested in attending that workshop or obtaining additional information on this project should contact John Kincaid, the project's coordinator, at the Center for the Study of Federalism.

**SPECIAL OFFER ON
PUBLIUS' FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW**

PUBLIUS' first Annual Review, "The State of American Federalism 1977" (Volume 8, Number 1) has been a great success. Through subscriptions, sales, and special distribution, the issue has circulated to more than double the number of regular PUBLIUS subscribers. Work is already underway to produce a second Review for the Winter of 1978 (late February or early March).

One of the most gratifying reactions to the first Annual Review has been its adoption as a supplementary reading in many graduate and undergraduate courses on federalism, intergovernmental relations, and other related topics. This is exactly what the editors hoped would happen. By combining the best qualities of sound journalism and good scholarship and by bringing together a broad range of current issues which illustrate the continuing pervasiveness of federalism in American politics and the critical problems facing the contemporary federal system, the Annual Review should become an essential companion to the readings normally assigned in the kinds of courses mentioned above.

In an effort to encourage many more such adoptions and to familiarize many more people with the concept of an Annual Review, we are making a very special offer to those instructors

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who order ten or more copies of the issue for the Spring 1979 semester. Instead of the regular single-issue price of \$5.00, orders of 10 or more will cost only \$2.50 per issue. Bookstores should be instructed to send orders to the Publications Department, Center for the Study of Federalism, Gladfelter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122.

CONFERENCE FOR FEDERAL STUDIES
ANNUAL INVENTORY OF MEMBER'S
CURRENT RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

As a service to its members, the Conference for Federal Studies takes an annual inventory of member's current research activities. The results of that inventory are published in the CFS Notebook. Instead of a separate mailing, this year we are using the Notebook to collect the information as well as to disseminate it. The following form is provided for the convenience of members in transmitting data on their current research and professional activities. We hope that all members will take the time to fill out the form and return it to the address listed at the end of the last page. Depending on the speed of the responses, an inventory should be published in the Winter issue of the Notebook.

* * * * *

1. Name _____

2. Institutional Affiliation (university and department, government-
al agency, etc.)

3. Title and Position _____

4. Current Research Activities

Project Number 1

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Project Director _____

(d) Information Contact _____

(e) Research Team Members _____

(f) Funding Source _____

(g) Starting Date/Completion Date _____

(h) Expected Product _____

(i) Availability of Final Report (Address) _____

Project Number 2

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Project Director _____

(d) Information Contact _____

(e) Research Team Members _____

(f) Funding Source _____

(g) Starting Date/Completion Date _____

(h) Expected Product _____

(i) Availability of Final Report (Address) _____

Project Number 3

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Project Director _____

(d) Information Contact _____

(e) Research Team Members _____

(f) Funding Source _____

(g) Starting Date/Completion Date _____

(h) Expected Product _____

(i) Availability of Final Report (Address) _____

5. Recent and Forthcoming Meetings, Conferences and Seminars

Meeting 1

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Sponsoring Institution _____

(d) Dates _____

(e) Place _____

(f) Your Role _____

(g) Other Participants (if relevant) _____

(h) Final Products (papers, conference report, research agenda, etc.) _____

(i) Availability of Final Products (address and costs, if any) _____

Meeting 2

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Sponsoring Institution _____

(d) Dates _____

(e) Place _____

(f) Your Role _____

(g) Other Participants (if relevant) _____

(h) Final Products (papers, conference report, research agenda, etc.) _____

(i) Availability of Final Products (address and costs, if any) _____

Meeting 3

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Sponsoring Institution _____

(d) Dates _____

(e) Place _____

(f) Your Role _____

(g) Other Participants (if relevant) _____

(h) Final Products (papers, conference report, research agenda, etc.) _____

(i) Availability of Final Products (address and costs, if any) _____

6. Recent Publications

Publication 1

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Journal or other publication source _____

(d) Availability of reprints (address and costs, if any) _____

Publication 2

(a) Title _____

(b) Description _____

(c) Journal or other publication source _____

(d) Availability of reprints (address and costs, if any) _____

7. Conference for Federal Studies Activities

A. What services would you like the Conference to provide for its members?

B. What topics would you like to see presented at the Annual Symposium organized by the Conference at the yearly American Political Science Association Meetings?

C. Would you be willing to serve as a reader for PUBLIUS manuscripts?

_____ Yes _____ No

Please indicate your areas of specialization and interest

Please return your completed inventory to CFS Notebook Inventory, Center for the Study of Federalism, Gladfelter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122.

