

OBITUARIES

Statesman and Banker

John J. McCloy, 93, Dies

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John J. McCloy, 93, a statesman, lawyer and banker who was as respected by the world's leaders as he was little-known to the public, and who often was called the chairman of the American establishment, died yesterday at his home in Stamford, Conn. The cause of death was not reported.

He entered public service as an assistant to the then-secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, and spent most of World War II as an assistant secretary of war. Later public posts included president of the World Bank and U.S. high commissioner in Germany.

Mr. McCloy's importance and influence never were defined by the posts he held. As an assistant secretary of war, he had greater influence on the course of world events than most Cabinet members. As high commissioner, he became the voice of the western allies in Europe and gained a reputation as "America's greatest proconsul," in the words of Lyndon Johnson, while governing much of conquered Germany.

As head of the World Bank, he was the master builder of a shattered Europe not yet helped by the Marshall Plan. Mr. McCloy later steered the bank toward development of the Third World, ensuring the bank's success by his business-like management.

Although a brilliant, if unsung, success in public office, his reputation as a distinguished public servant and foreign policy expert increased after his return to private life in the early 1950s.

During the next three decades, he wore a variety of hats. He was first and foremost a senior partner in one of Wall Street's most prestigious law firms—Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy—a firm that counted the Rockefeller family, all of oil's "Seven Sisters" and some of

the nation's largest blue-chip concerns among its clients.

Mr. McCloy also spent eight years as head of what became the Chase Manhattan Bank, and was on the board of directors of Gulf Oil, Westinghouse, AT&T, Allied Chemical, United Fruit and E.R. Squibb & Sons.

He also was head of the Ford Foundation and the Council on Foreign Relations, the prestigious organization that exerts enormous influence on U.S. foreign policy.

If he never returned to a full-time government post, it was not because he was not asked. President Eisenhower at one time wanted him as secretary of state, President Kennedy offered him Treasury. In 1964, Johnson wanted to send him to South Vietnam as ambassador. He turned them all down.

Assignments he took on involved posts dealing with NATO—jobs he never refused because of his hopes for European unity and its alliance with this country. He was a member of Eisenhower's group of inner, unofficial advisers, and worked for both the Republican president and his Democratic successor on disarmament questions. He helped guide negotiations with the Soviets that led to the 1963 nuclear test ban treaty and also helped steer legislation through Congress that resulted in the establishment of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

He was a principal adviser and negotiator for Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis, and served on the Warren Commission on the Kennedy assassination. Finally, he was a member of President Reagan's 1980 presidential transition team.

As early as 1960, he warned the U.S. government about the dangers of the newly established Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, seeking and getting antitrust waivers from the Justice Department that enabled the oil companies to negotiate as a team with the new production cartel.

Mr. McCloy was not an easy man for many to understand. He attained the height of power and influence, but was not born to it. He was widely sought as an adviser and colleague, not for the brilliance of his ideas, but for his unquestioned ability at bureaucratic negotiation

with Frankfurter and several members of the Roosevelt Cabinet. Silent throughout dinner, Frankfurter finally turned to him and asked him what this country's role in the world should be. Mr. McCloy replied an "arsenal of democracy."

Mr. McCloy said, "Frankfurter, agile as a cat when it came to phrase-making, immediately said, 'Don't ever use that expression again.' Whereupon he got hold of Bob Sherwood, whom he knew was working on a speech for the president, and a few days later out came President Roosevelt's 'Arsenal of Democracy' speech."

Mr. McCloy said that though others claimed credit for the phrase, Monnet was the one who first said it.

John Jay McCloy was born in Philadelphia on March 31, 1895. His circumstances were modest. His father, who worked in insurance, died when Mr. McCloy was 6 years old. His mother was a hairdresser, and worked long hours to put her son through school. Mr. McCloy was a 1916 cum laude graduate of Amherst College, where he waited tables and tutored for extra money.

During World War I, he was an Army artillery captain in France, where he met and became friends with the future generals George C. Marshall and George S. Patton Jr. After the war, he turned down a

permanent Army commission to return to Harvard Law School. After graduating in 1921, he joined the New York law firm of Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft. He later joined Cravath, de Gersdorff, Swaine & Wood. In 1930, he traveled to France to take over the firm's Paris office, and to meet destiny in the person of Stimson.

One of his most difficult times concerned the Vietnam War. In recent years, Mr. McCloy said he always agreed with Eisenhower's view that the United States should never become involved in a war in Asia. Yet once in, Mr. McCloy said, the United States had to honor its obligations. He did not turn against the war publicly until he saw that it was damaging U.S. relations in Europe, which he saw as central to this nation's well-being. Throughout, he advised presidents according to his beliefs rather than telling them what they wished to hear. Though honest, he was not as popular as he might have been.

However, he said, "I served in World War I with officers who had fought the Indians on the plains, one of whom was something of a real mentor of mine. He often imparted good pragmatic advice to me. On one occasion, I recall he said, 'Mac, always tell the truth—after a lifetime of experimentation, I find I can remember it longer.'"

His wife, the former Ellen Zinsser, died in 1986. Survivors include a son, John Jay II of Greenwich, Conn.; a daughter, Ellen Zinsser McCloy of New York City, and two grandchildren.