

# The WCYR Advocate

## Williamson County Young Republicans

May, 2005

Joshua Edlin, editor

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### Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2005  
General Meeting: 6:30 PM  
Location: To Be Determined  
Speaker: To Be Announced

### Announcements

- Tonya Amundsen is organizing a YR outing to see "Peter Pan" at TPAC on June 18. Contact [tonyaamundsen@comcast.net](mailto:tonyaamundsen@comcast.net) for more information
- The National Young Republican Federation (NYRF) will be holding its convention in Las Vegas, July 6-10. More information is available at <http://www.yrnc2005.com>.

## Senior Party and YRs Focus on Membership

In the 2004 elections, Williamson County increased registered voters by 20%, turned out 80% of all registered voters, and carried the county for Bush with more than 70% of the vote. With such a strong Republican showing in the county, both the Williamson County GOP and the Young Republicans have begun to focus on increasing their respective memberships.

YR Treasurer James Amundsen jumped at the opportunity to utilize the Treasurer's role to drive new memberships.

"As treasurer, I collect dues from all new members. I know who all the members and prospects are, so it's the perfect position to keep an eye on membership efforts," James said.

Together with Dustin Dunbar, James has formed a Membership Committee, which will work with other executive officers and committees to create a program of frequent social events and increased advertising to attract new members.

As for the senior party, the new county chairman Doug Grindstaff is focusing his efforts on expanding the party membership. Building on 2004's successful grassroots effort, the party is creating a word-of-mouth membership campaign. Mr. Grindstaff has set an ambitious goal of doubling the party membership by 2006. With his track record in the 2004 election, nobody doubts his ability to achieve it.

To help in these efforts, all Young Republicans are urged to join the senior party. And don't forget to bring your friends. ♦

## Elihu Root

by Josh Edlin

*This is the third in a series profiling past Republican leaders. The individuals chosen for the profiles never achieved the Presidency, and their fame sometimes fades with time. This series is an effort to highlight the contributions and legacies of these important historical figures.*

Elihu Root was serving as the chairman of his Republican county committee when President William McKinley chose him for Secretary of War in 1899. To fill the position, McKinley wanted a lawyer who could effectively administer the new U.S. possessions of Cuba, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico, gained at the end of the Spanish-American War. Elihu Root fit the bill.

For Cuba, he wrote the Platt Amendment, a plan for American withdrawal from Cuba and a blueprint for Cuba's government. As a result of the plan, the U.S. and Cuba entered into the U.S.-Cuban Treaty of 1903, establishing the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay. Cuba ultimately incorporated the Platt Amendment's provisions into its constitution. For the Philippines, Root implemented a system by which the United States would govern the Philippines, with the ultimate goal of self-determination for the islands. For Puerto Rico, Root eliminated tariffs on Puerto Rican goods entering the U.S.

These accomplishments were what Root was appointed to achieve, but he didn't limit himself to just these. In addition, he instituted a series of reforms in the military. He strengthened the military's size, reformed its promotion structure, and improved the reserves and the National Guard. Root founded the War College and opened several schools for special service branches. A General Staff was established, and Root instituted joint planning between the Army and Navy.

When McKinley was assassinated, Root continued to serve as Secretary of War under Theodore Roosevelt. In February, 1904, Root resigned to return to his private law practice, and was succeeded by future President William Howard Taft.

## Upcoming Events

June 14	June YR Meeting
June 18	YR Social: “Peter Pan” at TPAC
June 25	WCRCW Red, White and Blue Party
July 6	National Young Republican Federation convention

## Service Opportunities

There are no current requests for volunteers, but the YRs are involved in a number of on-going projects. If you would like to assist in any capacity or have ideas about how you could contribute, please contact David Sink or Joshua Edlin.

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Root's return to private life was to be short. On July 1, 1905, Secretary of State John Hay died. Roosevelt deliberated between Taft and Root and finally decided to appoint Root to the Secretary of State position. Root served in that position until the end of Roosevelt's administration.

As Secretary of State, Root made a number of significant contributions. He brought the consular service under the control of the Civil Service, eliminating its previous spoils system. Root helped mediate the Russo-Japanese War and signed the Root-Takahira Agreement with Japan, which limited the immigration of unskilled Japanese laborers into America. Together with Lord Bryce, he resolved several issues with Canada and established the Permanent American-Canadian Joint High Commission for dealing with future issues.

One of Root's most significant contributions was in relations with Latin America and South America. Root became the first Secretary of State to travel outside of the United States on official business when he attended the Third International Conference of American States and visited Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Panama, and Colombia. In 1907, Root hosted the Central American Peace Conference, which resulted in the creation of the Central American Court of Justice. Root also helped define the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, establishing America as the police force for the Western Hemisphere.

Above all else, Root dedicated himself to the cause of international arbitration. Root supported the founding of a World Court at the Hague Conference in 1907. In his term as Secretary of State, he entered into 40 reciprocal arbitration treaties.

After Roosevelt left the White House, Root became a senator. His most notable contributions during his one Senate term included his opposition to President Woodrow Wilson and his role at the 1912 Republican Convention. In 1915, Root declined to run for the Senate again and formally declined any attempt for the Republican nomination in 1916.

In 1912, Root was appointed chairman of the Republican Convention. Taft had served one term and was seeking the nomination to run for a second term. Meanwhile, Roosevelt, disappointed in Taft and thirsting for the Presidential office he had left four years earlier, was challenging Taft for the nomination. Although Root was a long-time friend and supporter of Roosevelt, he was determined to see Taft win the nomination to preserve the conservative nature of the Republican Party.

On the second day of the convention, the credentials committee met to discuss 72 contested delegates, who were nominally Taft's. Governor Herbert Hadley of Missouri pushed for the seats to be awarded to Roosevelt's delegates, but Root refused, citing a rule from the House of Representatives. The seats were awarded to the Taft supporters, thus securing the nomination for Taft.

Also in 1912, Root was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on international arbitration and his service as president of the Carnegie Peace Foundation. Root is the only Secretary of War to ever receive the prize.

After leaving the Senate, Root became a senior statesman for the Republican Party. He opposed Wilson's neutrality policy, but later supported him after the U.S. entered World War I. In 1917, Wilson appointed Root as ambassador extraordinary to head a diplomatic mission to Russia. Root supported the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations, striking a middle ground between Wilson's views and the Republican “irreconcilables.” In 1921, Root served as an American delegate to the Washington Naval Conference and helped draft the Five Power Treaty, which limited naval armaments.

In his final years, Root continued to work towards a world court, serving on a committee to create the Permanent Court of International Justice. The Senate, however, had reservations about U.S. participation in the court. In 1926, the Senate demanded changes to the Protocol for participation. In 1929, on his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, Root left for Geneva where he convinced the delegates from 55 nations to accept the changes. Appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Root urged ratification, but the Senate declined to ratify the Protocol.

On February 7, 1937, Elihu Root passed away, just shy of his ninety-second birthday.♦