


The Irony of Virtue

Ethics and
American Power

Ernest W. Lefever

Foreword by
William F. Buckley Jr.

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Yale Divinity
School

York, PA.

Elizabethtown College - Lancaster PA.

40 years in WASH.

Ethics and Public Policy Center

Sept, 1945 - arrived in London
YUCA

strong pacifist views (early)
C.O.

wife Margaret (1951)

David
Bryce

1955 - came to WASH.

457. Ernest Lefever

The Irony of Virtue: Ethics and American

Power

Taped: 2/18/98

Aired: 3/22/98

Tape #: 82,318

WED 2/18/19.01.

New book - Ethics and Empire: America's Imperial Dilemma

Reinhold Niebuhr / his older brother Richard - (biblical realism)

1960 - First visit to Soviet Union

Trotskyite A.J. Muste

hitchhiked - 30,000 miles to spread word

after war went to England for 3 years

1960 - attended trial of Francis Gary Powers

early 1950's - had reservations about Union - became neo-con

Assistant Sec. of State for Human Rights 1981

Ethics and Public Policy Center - 1976 (retired 1989)

3 Stages ① pietist pacifism

② liberal political pacifist stances

③ humane realist understanding of political accountability

Are we living in the last days of Rome?

I am not cynical about the US - 1946

George Orwell p118

The Irony of Virtue

extravagant expectations of Wilsonians

(18)

BOOKNOTES
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