

The Last Founder of the AIB Passes Away: A Memorial by Mike Kotabe

As the current President of the AIB, I inform you with a heavy heart of the passing of Jack Behrman on August 19, 2016 at the age of 94. Professor Behrman was one of the original twelve founders of the Academy of International Business in 1958, and the last surviving founder.

Among many books he had published in his life time, the most influential one that carved out his presence in academia and public policy field is Jack Behrman (1970), *National Interests and the Multinational Enterprise*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall. In my mind, it remains an IB classic that has stood the test of time to date. Although many of us are too young to know his work, this book is worth reading as there is so much to learn from his insights into MNE codes of conduct, role of governments and supranational institutions, and economic development.

Jack Behrman was one of those rare IB birds who combined major public and private services although he was also a first-rate international economics scholar. He served as the fourth AIB President in 1967-1968 but was particularly famous for having served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Domestic and International Business under President John F. Kennedy, and he was rumored to have resigned his post in protest to an ill-conceived international-trade restriction initiated by the President.

He took service very seriously since he initiated the Executive Service Corps – which provided volunteers from among retired business executives to advise private entrepreneurs in developing countries, the MBA Enterprise Corps whose MBA graduates from the top 50 graduate business schools advised former state enterprises in Central Europe and other developing parts of the world, and the Fund for Multinational Management Education. With John Fayerweather, Richard Robinson and John Dunning, among others, he belonged to an age of dedicated servants to economy, society and education.

The attached obituary, below, will give you more information about this good man – informed, curious, concerned and not afraid to fight for good causes.