

On this, the dedication of the new law buildings of the great University of Chicago, I am asked to identify the characteristics of our age which future historians should weigh when attempting to understand our period. Ours is said to be an era of social change comparable in significance to any in history. Domestically, this is thought to be reflected in the problem of assimilating the Negro, and, on the world stage, in the struggle to establish an International body of law to govern the conduct of Nations.

Basically, however, I think a great struggle is going on, obscured perhaps by the excitement of convulsive change. It is not at all a new struggle, but merely our chapter in a struggle that never ends.

Reluctant though we as a people have been to see it, ours is not an age of science, as so many think, or of technology or atomic energy, but an age dominated by politics, and all too often selfish power politics. In the face of political pressures, both at home and abroad, the retention and development of our freedom will continue to be, as it is today, the supreme concern of our times. The struggle of centuries in England for freedom culminated in the acceptance of the doctrine of the supremacy of law, and that doctrine has been expanded here not only in our written Con-