

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE JOHN M. HARLAN

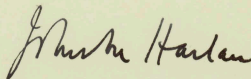
Greetings to the Law School of Chicago University
on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone
of its new buildings:

I am glad to make this response to Dean Levi's request, prefacing it by saying that it is difficult to make a choice from among the many great issues that are pressing these days upon the minds of thoughtful Americans.

I consider one of the most saddening developments which has come upon us in this Country since the end of World War II to be our preoccupation with so-called "internal security" activities. Apart from the excesses and abuses to which such measures have sometimes led in particular instances, these programs as a whole seem to me to have had a widespread corrosive, warping, and limiting effect upon the contemporary outlooks of our society. The philosophy underlying these programs is more alien than American, and if we do not succeed in putting them behind us we shall not fare well either among ourselves or in our relations with other freedom-loving peoples. Of course I do not refer to laws directed against those who actually engage in seditious activities against us.

Yet, as one who has abiding faith in the strength of our institutions and in the spiritual qualities, common sense, and good will of the American people, I venture to predict that those who, fifty years hence, may judge of this period will see in these measures little more than temporary manifestations of the growing pains which have accompanied the Country's adjustments to its new position in the world during these tense and confusing times. The Bar, as always when public fears and emotions are running high, has special responsibilities in maintaining the even tenor of our habits of life, as do the Law Schools which will continue to train future generations of American lawyers. The best I can wish for the Chicago University Law School is that it will discharge its part in these great responsibilities with steadfastness to our heritage.

Washington, D. C.
May 26, 1958



John M. Harlan