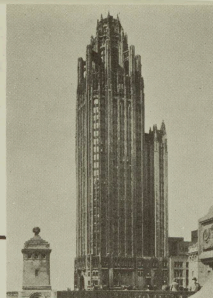


Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

May 27, 1958

Mr. Edward H. Levi,
The Law School,
University of Chicago,
Chicago 37, Ill.

Dear Mr. Levi:

United States citizens of 1958 will hope and trust that their successors of half a century later will know and enjoy the things they valued most in their own time: the independence of their country, the freedom of its people under law, a life of reasonable abundance and happiness under a free market system, and absence of restraint upon expression.

We of our day, however, must acknowledge that we live under disconcerting conditions in a disturbing world. For a quarter of a century there has been a perceptible and continuous increase in governmental power, to the detriment of the rights of states and citizens alike. Federal influence, if not direct intervention, has played a growing part in directing the economy, restricting the rights and opportunities of the individual citizen, and introducing an arbitrary tone into the relatively loose social contract under which citizens of all groups and classes previously had managed to get along with one another without too much friction.

Under the external threat of the Communist armed party in Russia and elsewhere, the United States had forsaken its former character as the great neutral of the world and had committed itself without limit, by the year 1958, to the protection of more than two score countries, to the support of their shaky economies and doubtful military establishments, and to the containment of further soviet expansion.

The burdens thus imposed upon the nation, when added to those inevitable in a dispensatory state, committed to support and sustain the weak, the incapable, and the luckless, or the economic or minority groups whose vote was thought to be for sale, had already grown in our time to staggering

Mr. Edward H. Levi:

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proportions. At least one-third of the earnings of the able was consumed in federal, state, and local taxes. Despite these enormous exactions, no government was able to live within its income. The public debt was constantly rising, and the artificial production of credit resulting from unremitting borrowing produced a continuous depreciation in the value of the currency. As of this date, this inflationary process had reduced the purchasing power of the dollar to 48.2 cents in terms of the pre-World War II cost of living index.

In addition to the hazards of existing in a world constantly threatened by one of the most ruthless Leviathans in the long history of military empires, Americans also lived in a time of dynamic scientific evolution. The secrets of the ranging vistas of space were being sought by instrument-bearing satellites propelled into orbit in the intermediate gravitational fields. The immense strides achieved in less than 20 years in mastering atomic fission and fusion had equipped the principal contending nations and ideologies with the means of rendering civilization extinct. The world of 1958 maintained its precarious existence only because it was acknowledged that any attempt at the extinction of inimical philosophies was bound to result in mutual extermination.

Perhaps by the year 2008 these problems will have been resolved, for better or for worse, to the lasting advantage or ultimate catastrophe governing the existence of this Republic. Only one thing is sure: the fallibility of human intelligence and the imperfectibility of man are certain to pose new and no less troublesome problems taxing the powers of survival not only of Americans but of the human race.

Yours sincerely,

ofm

DON MAXWELL

Don Maxwell
Editor and
Managing Editor