

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

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE CHARLES E. WHITTAKER

May 12, 1958

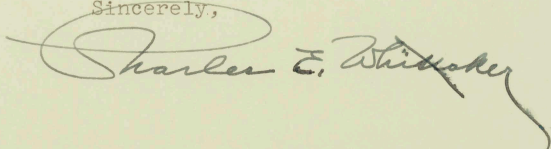
To the Law School of the University of Chicago:

These comments are submitted for placement in the cornerstone of the new law buildings of the University of Chicago at ceremonies to be held on May 28, 1958.

For at least the past two decades we have lived in a changing world, and for the past decade have been passing through a "cold war" waged upon us by a foreign power (Russia) which seeks to impose its ideologies of Communism upon us and the rest of the western world to the extinction of our precious liberty as now enjoyed in America. This cold war is constantly being buttressed by the threat of vicarious invasion through the means of long range missiles carrying atomic explosives adequate to destroy us. The end is not yet clear or foreseeable. But our people, though peace-loving, are standing firm against these threats, believing that any cost is preferable to enslavement by such ideologies and to the surrender of their precious liberty assured to all by our Constitution in this land of the free. They have come to rely upon the lawyers and the courts to find a way of settling international disputes by the reign of law and not of war. The lawyers and the courts of our country have undertaken to formulate and procure the adoption of international rules to accomplish these ends. Despite obstinate obstructions, we hope for eventual success.

In such an atmosphere our lawyers and courts have sought with diligence to revise our domestic rules of procedure and of law to better exemplify to all the world the superiority of a government of laws over a government of men. These changes, because of departures from well-known and long-used procedures, have brought some uncertainty and confusion into our practice, but the general result is heartening. Procedural changes, for the sake of change only, are never justified, and it is a forlorn hope to wish that by changes of procedure the true administration of justice can ever be made automatic. For the law is an exacting science, and its just administration can never be assured by any system of procedures alone. Justice requires long hours of hard, diligent, thoughtful and painstaking labor by experienced, competent and devoted lawyers and courts, and it will never be better than those who do its work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Charles E. Whittaker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C" and a long, trailing flourish at the end.