

ROBERT M. HUTCHINS

Chairman

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions / The Fund for the Republic, Inc.

Dear Friend:

It would be intolerably presumptuous of me to imply that this country could have averted some of its current frustrations if more people had listened to what was being said at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. But an examination of the dialogues held at the Center in the past dozen years does indicate that the Center has served as an early warning system for dilemmas that plague you and me and all of America today.

Let me give you a few examples.

- ... In 1962, long before ecology became a popular cause in our country, Aldous Huxley and others participating in Center discussions warned that we were paying a tragic price for our technological progress by blindly letting it upset the balance of nature.
- ... Almost 10 years ago, the Center held discussions based on the proposition that politics should be primarily concerned with the quality of American life -- an idea that now finds its way into the rhetoric of many political leaders, including President Nixon.
- ... At a time when America's over-reliance on massive weapons systems went widely unchallenged, participants in Center dialogues warned of the fearful consequences that would result from this.
- ... When every new technological advance was generally being hailed uncritically, Center dialogues pointed out the dangerous social implications of modern technology.
- ... The Center was one of the early critics of America's growing involvement in a small Asiatic country called Vietnam. This was one of the most controversial of the Center's warnings and a distinctly unpopular view at the time.

"Who are you?" and "What exactly do you do?" These are the questions people not familiar with the Center most frequently ask me. I tell them that we are lawyers and we are scientists. We are politicians and philosophers. We are social scientists, religious leaders, writers, teachers, businessmen, labor leaders, poets, preachers, conservatives, humanists, radicals.

We are Arnold Toynbee, Reinhold Neibuhr, Justice William O. Douglas, Pierre Mendes-France, Lord Ritchie-Calder, Senators J. William Fulbright and Wayne Morse, Ivan Illich, Walter Lippmann, Erich Fromm, J. Kenneth Galbraith, Paul G. Hoffman, Chief Justice Burger, James Farmer, Clark Kerr, U Thant, Norman Cousins, George Romney, Mayor John Lindsay, Marya Mannes, Stringfellow Barr. These are just a few of the world-renowned men and women who have taken part in the important Center activities, along with Center Fellows Harry S. Ashmore, Elisabeth Mann Borgese, John Cogley, Rexford Guy Tugwell, Harvey Wheeler and John Wilkinson.

What we do is talk. Yes, talk. With changes taking place so rapidly around us these days, I think you will agree that it is crucial to give issues their proper perspective -- and that it is a matter of life and death that these issues be intelligently debated before they get out of hand. Which is precisely why we talk. We argue. And counter-argue. We consider all sides and examine every worthwhile view. But the Center cannot be dismissed as a debating society. From this talk come ideas. And from these ideas sometimes comes action. We stand on the proposition that constructive action requires prior consideration of what needs to be done and why -- with due regard to the possible consequences.

- * Michael Harrington, as a special consultant to the Center, undertook the research and observation that resulted in "The Other America," the book which attracted the attention of the late President Kennedy and led to the war on poverty.
- * The Center took the lead in focusing attention on the impact of automation. Its publication "Cybernation: The Silent Conquest" stirred such discussion that the President appointed a special commission to examine the problem, now recognized as among the paramount challenges confronting our society.

- * In 1965, the Center sponsored a convocation based on Pope John's encyclical "Pacem in Terris" which brought together leaders from 21 nations and indirectly led to the important address given by Pope Paul at the United Nations.
- * A second "Pacem in Terris" convocation in Geneva united nearly 400 leaders from 70 nations and resulted, among other things, in the first East Germany-West Germany discussions since World War II.
- * A Center study of religious institutions resulted in conferences and publications that have been hailed by the religious press as having a profound and lasting effect on the ecumenical movement.

In the past few years, we at the Center have turned our attention to such issues as the biological revolution, the need for a new science policy, the revitalization of education, the peaceful development of the deep seas, and the revision of the United States Constitution. Any and all of these issues could explode into a crisis next year. Or in 1976. Or 1984. Now is the time to explore and understand them, before it is too late. That is the crucial job we attempt at the Center.

The backbone of the Center's support is its members -- people like yourself, over 100,000 of them! They have joined the Center to help continue and expand its vital work, and to keep abreast of its activities through highly acclaimed Center publications. Because the list upon which we found your name indicates you probably share the interest of these people in understanding the basic issues our society now faces, we believe you are someone who will want to join them as a Center member.

As a member, you automatically receive The Center Magazine, published bi-monthly, and The Center Report on alternate months. Though its contributors are scholars and experts, you will not find The Center Magazine an academic journal edited for a limited, erudite readership. What you will find are crisp, cogent articles. And since the articles spring from Center dialogues, you encounter in them arguments on basic issues presented in highly readable form so you may examine them and come to your own decisions.

In The Center Report, you get enlightening, behind-the-scenes features about the personalities, the projects and the events that make up the Center for the Study of Democratic

Institutions. In its pages you find commentaries, speeches, previews, reviews, even a Center crostic to challenge your wits.

As a member, you also receive announcements about the books and audio tape recordings produced by the Center, and you are entitled to a substantial discount on these. Book titles include "Pacem in Maribus," the important book that grew out of the Center's recent Malta convocation on the peaceful development of the deep seas ... "Vietnam -- Matters for the Agenda," a citizen's handbook for understanding the Vietnam peacetalks ... "Students and Society" ... "The Constitution Revisited" and many others.

On the audio tape recordings you will find historic Center dialogues captured for posterity. Morris Ernst on censorship, Cesar Chavez on creative non-violence, Harry Ashmore on his conversations with Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi, Paul Ehrlich on population control, and hundreds of others.

As a new member, you also receive "The Establishment and All That," an exceptional anthology of articles selected from The Center Magazine. Available at bookstores for \$2.95, it is sent to you free when you become a Center Member.

I am sure you can understand that because of its very nature, the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions must remain independent. We have never received any continuing support from government, industry or even the conventional foundations. We rely upon our members, men and women who, like yourself, are concerned about the mounting, pressing problems in our society. We look to those who still value ideas as a foundation for progress, who believe it is still possible to make sense out of life.

Noted city planner William R. Ewald recently spoke of the Center's membership as "the critical nucleus of a new class emerging in America, a class whose wealth consists of knowledge." When you become a Center Member, you become a part of that nucleus, joining forces with housewives in small towns -- and Congressmen who use Center publications as material for their speeches -- and VISTA volunteers in Appalachia who read Center publications to keep their minds active -- teachers and professors who want their courses and students to go deeper than the textbooks -- librarians -- civic leaders -- businessmen -- doctors --- lawyers -- and yes, even Indian chiefs.

Most importantly, of course, when you join you are lending your personal support to the fine work of the Center.

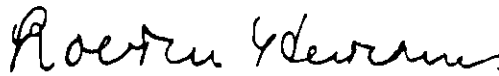
I am enclosing along with this letter a Membership Form. This entitles you to enter a Center Association Membership at

\$10 instead of the regular fee of \$15. The fee has been reduced to introduce new members like yourself to the Center. You will, of course, receive full membership benefits, including The Center Magazine and The Center Report.

If you are one of the many people concerned and anxious about the world that is being shaped around us today ... if you want to see sane reasoning conquer over thoughtless emotions ... if you want intelligence and foresight to guide our futures ... if you believe true democracy in action with independent, open exchange of ideas can change the world for the better ...

I urge you to join us.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Hutchins
Chairman

RMH/js
Encs.