

and vehicles seem to be within the capability of remote sensing techniques. These earth satellites may also locate underground streams of water to offset the growing consumption of surface water. These underground streams hold many times more water than all known surface rivers. They can also predict the melting of snow for better management of lake and reservoir levels, and observe the presence of plankton which feed the fish in our oceans. The world's fishing fleets could then be directed to the best spots for catches that would help feed hungry mouths throughout the world.

“Wildfires have periodically burned large areas of forests, although public recognition of their terrific toll may not be widespread. For instance, everyone has heard of the Great Chicago Fire that began its historic rampage on October 8, 1871... These same weather conditions existed throughout Wisconsin and Michigan. Fires were started on the same day of the Chicago fire in Peshtigo, Wisconsin and in Michigan. These fires burned largely on forest lands, and covered 4,380,000 acres, with a loss of 1,500 lives. Yet most people have never heard of Peshtigo.

“A spacecraft fire detection system, combined with adequate fire fighting forces, could reduce burned over acreage and save countless lives.

“More than 900 potentially destructive earthquakes occur throughout the world each year. In addition to remote sensing devices, long-range telemetry by use of orbiting satellites would make a significant contribution to programs aimed at earthquake prediction. Such predictions could save hundreds of thousands of lives and billions of dollars...

“The clock of history is running at a rapid pace. Our generation may be the last one that has a choice for meeting this problem. We can foresee the need, and we have the tools and technology for the solution. An international airlines system has been established, in spite of the difficulties of national boundaries and customs. And there is much more at stake in this resources/pollution problem. Everyone in the world has something to

gain, and no one can lose. I believe that we can apply the solution that we have in hand.

“The scientific utility of earth observation satellites, and their potential usefulness for public policy makers and planners, is obvious. We should not overlook, however, their value to businessmen. The information furnished will help farsighted businessmen with marketing of goods and services and with investment decisions...

“In the not too distant future, we may see huge earth orbiting space platforms which will combine the areas of communication, meteorology, and observation of earth's resources. These spacecraft will incorporate instrumentation capable of scanning the full spectrum of radio waves through infrared, the visible ultraviolet, and x-ray portions. They will reveal the full potential of the earth in terms of its agricultural, geological, hydrological and oceanographic resources, and provide the means of communication to disseminate this information to ground stations all over the world. The services of these satellites will bind the nations of the world close together in a united approach on a common problem, the solution of which is essential to the survival of mankind.”

Edward H. Levi: The Demands of Citizenship

Edward H. Levi was president of The University of Chicago when he addressed The Economic Club of Chicago on February 25, 1970.



“As Adam Smith said, ‘There’s a lot of ruin in a nation’. Assuming this means a nation can take it, this resilience may explain our tolerance for the balance within our societies between stability and commotion. We are in a world of considerable lawlessness and chal-

lenge to conventional rules. The examples cascade about us...

“This month, according to *Le Monde*, ‘the uneasy calm in several of Paris University’s facilities ended...when students clashed over political issues or staged violent protests against the academic establishment’... The newspaper observes: ‘In short, it has now become a common practice: If you are unhappy about something, just pour out into the street or make a beeline for the home of those you do not like and—sock it to them.’

“It is, of course, fashionable, and *Le Monde* follows this fashion, to describe this misbehavior as less important than the social ills which it indicates or sometimes masks. So *Le Monde* writes, ‘The malaise obviously goes much deeper with its source in the times themselves, the pace of life, and the way society is fashioned...’

“Saul Bellow’s *Mr. Sammler* speaks to this point. ‘You could see the suicidal impulses of civilization pushing strongly. You wondered whether this Western culture could survive universal dissemination... For what it amounted to was limitless demand—insatiability, refusal of the doomed creature (death being sure and final) to go away from the earth unsatisfied. A full bill of demand and complaint was thereby presented by each individual...Enlightenment? Marvelous! But out of hand, wasn’t it?’

“Human demands can be insatiable. Resources are limited. While we dislike to acknowledge it, disaster has its own powerful attraction... But these are conditions, with benefits and difficulties, upon which a modern society is built and with which it must deal. There are social and personal injustices. Attempts to correct them are essential and inevitable. If matters are now out of hand, can anything useful be said concerning how we are going wrong?

“Of fundamental importance is the view of the world we have created and believe in. We have built an image of an all-powerful species which can

solve almost any problem—if it wishes to do so... The dismal conclusion that there are some social problems, economic justice for one, described by Frank Knight as ‘the most pressing moral and jural problem of free societies’, as to which, in Knight’s language, there is ‘the impossibility of a real solution’, is rejected as incompatible with our pride, our power, our duty.

“Now we know this view is oversimplified. But we think there is a great deal to it. Realistically, we conclude, the world is run by a network of shared influence—the interlocking and countervailing arrangements of diverse power structures... We regard power as more widely dispersed and in the hands of many more institutions and groups. The ability to organize groups means that power is there for the taking. And enlightenment has come. Influence is the measure of a man and the test of an institution. Influence is to be used for the benefit of mankind. Failure to use the power one has is an inexcusable disavowal of responsibility...

“This description of the world has many things going for it. All human relationships can be described in terms of power structures—if one wants to do that. Each individual must come to terms with the demands of his own interest and his comprehension of the public good. Corporations are in the mainstream of American life. The case for private corporate power directed toward public purposes can be persuasively put...

“David Rockefeller has eloquently explained the necessity for corporate social involvement. He has written: ‘It is my firm conviction that in the years ahead business corporations will find it increasingly necessary to fulfill a social as well as an economic function. If private enterprise is to retain any real degree of autonomy...it will have to accept heavy social responsibilities...’

“This broad message is a powerful one... The firm must continue to be profit-oriented, and elsewhere Mr. Rockefeller makes clear that he is concerned, among other things, with the employment of technology in ameliorating social problems which tech-

nology itself has helped to create. Failure of private enterprise to contribute significantly to the alleviation of the ill effects on conditions of living which it has, in part, caused 'could lead the state...to move in a way that could seriously hamper the free and effective functioning of the enterprise system.'

"The statement might be read as saying it is the part of wisdom for an enterprise to assume the costs inherent in its profit-making activities and to be aware of, predict, and respond to social legislation and general desires which in the future may impose new costs or provide new opportunities. But the impact of the statement is something more. It furthers the idea that in our society enterprises are not limited by their purposes, that they have the right and duty to use their power for the social good as they see it. This is the prevailing view, if not always the prevailing practice. It gains in importance because, even though this is often contrary to what is intended, it is part of the conception of how a manipulated society works. The conception has consequences, which are all the more disturbing because the protection of the private sector's creative role, and the maintenance and encouragement of a strong public area of activity, which is not governmental, are essential to our society.

"The central fact of the manipulated society is that it emphasizes power and its mobilization and tends to minimize differentiation of function... While it accepts the idea of power structures, it assumes considerable dispersion and separatism. Many who believe in the idea of the manipulated society would favor greater dispersion of power and the creation of more centers of influence. The problem is how to get influence and how to compel its use for good purposes...

"Citizenship does not come easy... It flourishes only when certain beliefs and attitudes are prevalent, beliefs and attitudes about the integrity of the individual and his private sphere of action, with the responsibility and freedom of choice which this implies, and about the supremacy of public rules built and changed through a process of civility,

persuasion, and understanding. The complications of modern life do make citizenship more difficult...

"The society is suffering from long-term divisiveness and restraints; executive agencies find it necessary to fashion rules enforcing catch-up quotas uneasily based on a constitutional prohibition against discrimination. In an age where all areas of life are regarded as fit subjects for politicization, the political order has suffered in the rules for its own legitimacy. The two great crises of recent years—the effects of segregation enforced by law and the impact of an undeclared war—make this impairment inevitable...

"Efforts to achieve greater social and economic justice must go on. They should be welcomed and encouraged. They will be conducted in many ways, as they always have been. They constitute a challenge, and frequently a good challenge, to the existing order. These challenges will arise in many ways, as they ought to in a free society...and they will evoke many responses. But one would hope the response would include a reassertion of those values which, in the long run, make the role of citizen effective...

"We have created a false picture of an all-powerful mankind. Now man, with all his limited splendor, must return and work with the political order. The journey will not be easy. The continuity of civilization suggests the effort is worth the while."