



mortality rates--all of these make for an increasingly complex society, greater competition for living space and resources and increased contact with new ideas through mass communications. If there is any lesson to be drawn from our Anglo-American legal tradition, it is that the law must change to meet the demands of new conditions. It must reflect the morality and the mores of the society of which it is the foundation stone.

As human development and institutions undergo kaleidoscopic change, so must the basic framework of man's relationship with his fellows and his government. When change is made too easy, the society lacks stability; when insurmountable obstacles block change, civil disorder and revolution become inevitable. The revered Judge Learned Hand best described the capacity of the American system in this respect as follows:

"For, abuse it as you will, at least it [our system] gives a bloodless measure of social forces--bloodless, have you thought of that?--a means of continuity, a principle of stability, a relief from the paralyzing terror of revolution."

The Constitution is at the very root of this system, assuming the color of the times and flexibility needed to bridge the depths of social and economic chaos. Withal, its fundamental purpose of preserving the spirit of liberty is achieved day in and day out through our tradition of interpreting it to meet the challenge of change.

Let us, then, regard this ceremony as a commemoration of the whole Constitution as it has evolved through a hundred and seventy-five years of service to the American ideal. Honor to the framers--yes; but honor also to the judges and lawyers, legislators and teachers, public officials and ordinary citizens who have converted dry parchment into a living organism which sustains national life and human values in 1962 as it did in 1787, or 1864 or 1945.

X X X