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**THE CENTER:** University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106  
**Mailing Address:** Box 4068, Santa Barbara, California 93103  
Telephone: (805) 961-2611

# THE CENTER MAGAZINE

A Publication of The Robert Maynard Hutchins Center  
for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Editor—Donald McDonald

Associate Editor—Patricia Garvin Cathcart

Executive Editor—Michael Crandell

There is momentum now.

One can perceive it not only in the improved physical appearance of the Center but also in its accelerated program activity and in the quality of persons who participate in the dialogues, conferences, and special events.

Joseph Duffey, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities; Norman Cousins, the author and former editor of the *Saturday Review*; Michael Harrington, National Chairperson of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee; and Presidential candidate John B. Anderson, U.S. Congressman from Illinois, were all here in October.

Robert Gerstein, whom some regard as the top historian of civil liberties in the country, led a discussion last month; and Roland Bainton, the famous Yale historian, discussed recent neo-Marxist interpretations of history. Also scheduled were Donald McHenry, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; Michael Novak of the American Enterprise Institute; the author Gore Vidal; and Victor Navasky, editor of *The Nation*.

Dialogue sessions are now held in a large, neatly painted, and newly carpeted conference room. The main approach to the building is via an expansive center walkway, landscaped on both sides with flowers, grass, and trees. The Santa Barbara campus of the University of California, where the Center is now located, rises along the shoreline of the Pacific Ocean. The Hutchins Center building, some two hundred yards from the sea, is surrounded by the light, color, fresh air, and vegetation that characterize this matchless setting.

Hopes for the Center's future are pegged to a revived conception of the Center's purpose. In many respects, the Center will continue to do what it has always done, that is, examine the basic issues in their depth and interrelatedness.

I find myself talking and writing about the Center's purpose almost daily. Recently, I offered the following as a summary of that purpose: "The common denominator in all of the Center's endeavors is the perception that the society which democracy informs has undergone profound change during the past two decades, and is finding its way toward the establishment of a new order that will bring new institutions. The Center functions as the place where such adjustments are monitored, where the needs of the changing society are identified, and where both the consequences of effected change, and renewed efforts to move beyond it, are considered. In brief, the Center aspires to deepen human understanding, and—through public education—to contribute to the cultivation of a useful collective wisdom."

—WALTER H. CAPPS  
Director

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