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THE CENTER MAGAZINE



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THE CENTER MAGAZINE

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

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On October 8th, we will officially open the new Robert Maynard Hutchins Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions with a formal ceremony, reception, and banquet. A number of persons who had close associations with Robert Hutchins and the Center in the past will be present, along with members of the new Board of Directors, National Council, Steering Committee, Advisers, Consultants, Associates, officials from the several campuses of the University of California, and delegates from other intellectual centers, colleges, and universities.

We are very pleased that Joseph D. Duffey, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D. C., has accepted our invitation to be the featured speaker at the banquet in the evening.

The formal opening and dedication signify that the Center is firmly back on its feet again. Anyone who has followed the developments of the past several years is aware that the upheavals were numerous. At times, the grip on any future at all was loose, shaky, and tentative. But that tendency has been dramatically reversed, thanks in major part to the Center's loyal members who were obstinately unwilling to allow the vitality of the institution to wither away.

We want to use the occasion of October 8th to unveil a revised and updated program and work agenda for the Center. We shall also introduce the new cast of regular participants — many of them already familiar to the members and readers of *The Center Magazine*. We hope to be able to announce the resumption of the program of national convocations, with meetings to take place in Los Angeles, Washington, and, we intend, in New York City. And we shall describe more of the intricacies of the merging of the two intellectual traditions — the legacy of fierce independence of the Center of old with selected possibilities from within what we believe to be one of the most distinguished state universities in the country.

This merger has put the Center in reach of objectives far beyond its previous capacities. And it is giving to the university a more pervasive interdisciplinary dimension. Each tradition is having a salutary effect upon the other. We intend the finished product to be as radical and innovative as anything the Center inspired before, and substantial and compelling as befits the commitment of a gifted and challenged academic community.

It is a fine line to walk. No one needs yet another outlet for faculty members to express schoolroom opinions. Nor will the Center retain its strength and vitality if it is absorbed as a mere agent of a university.

On October 8th, we will demonstrate that this union has left the Center with its necessary independence and creative intellectual capacities not only intact but enhanced.

WALTER H. CAPPS
Director

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