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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

The editors each composed an editorial for this issue. We wrote about the Korean airline incident and the deception surrounding it. We wrote about the Grenada invasion and the militarily endorsed restrictions on the press. We wrote about reduction in funding for social welfare programs and concurrent expansion of chemical and nuclear weaponry. In conclusion, we each insisted that an informed citizenry is the only safeguard against governmental abuses. As these concerns are not new, we elected to forego our individual viewpoints. Instead, the timelessness of such interests was eloquently stated by William O. Douglas who wrote:

We were born in revolution. The right to be different, the revulsion against interference with conscience and beliefs, respect for minorities—these were part of our great moral tradition. We exalted the dissenter or innovator and saved a noble place for him. He challenged the status quo and was the agency of change. He is more sorely needed today than ever, because the rate of change is increasing. In simpler days a man’s education might carry him through life. Changes are now so rapid that an engineer may be obsolete after ten years and need a new education. It is true in many fields that the worst enemies of progress are the narrow prejudiced views obtained in an education that is now outmoded. The need for constant re-education is greater than ever. Unless we are geared to perform that service, we cannot keep abreast of problems. The challenges of this age exceed any in our history. Yet it seems that we are more and more frozen in attitudes and positions.

We seem immobilized at a time when our inventive genius should be the most active.

A vast proliferation of ideas and radical changes in attitudes are necessary if we are to meet the mounting crises at home and abroad.

We need in truth a genuine revolt against the regimes that have fed us tranquilizers and made us think that all is well abroad and that domestic needs can wait. Revolt is necessary if we are to avoid becoming a second-rate nation.