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A CALL TO CELEBRATION

I and many others, known and unknown to me, call you:

- to celebrate our joint power to provide all human beings with the food, clothing and shelter they need to delight in living.
- to discover, together with us, what we must do to use mankind's unlimited power to create the humanity, the dignity and the joyfulness of each one of us.
- to be responsibly aware of your personal ability to express your true feelings and to gather us together in their expression.

We can only live these changes: we cannot think our way to humanity. Every one of us, and every group with which we live and work, must become the model of the era which we desire to create. The many models which will develop should give each one of us an environment in which we can celebrate our potential: and discover the way into a more humane world.

We are challenged to break the obsolete social and economic systems which divide our world between the overprivileged and the underprivileged. All of us, whether governmental leader or protestor, businessman or worker, professor or student share a common guilt. We have failed to discover how the necessary changes in our ideals and our social structures can be made. Each of us, therefore, through our ineffectiveness and our lack of responsible awareness, causes the suffering around the world.

All of us are crippled--some physically, some mentally, some emotionally. We must, therefore strive cooperatively to create the new world. There is no time left for destruction, for hatred, for anger. We must build, in hope and joy and celebration. Let us cease to fight the structures of the industrial age. Let us rather seek the new era of abundance with self chosen work and freedom to follow the drum of one's own heart. Let us recognize that a striving for self-realization, for poetry and play, is basic to man once his needs for food, clothing, and shelter have been met--that we will choose those areas of activity which will contribute to our own development and will be meaningful to our society.

The destructiveness of industrial-age values

But we must also recognize that our thrust toward self-realization is profoundly hampered by outmoded, industrial-age structures. We are presently constrained and driven by the impact of man's ever-growing powers. Our existing systems force us to

develop and accept any weaponry system which may be technologically possible; our present systems force us to develop and accept any improvement in machinery, equipment, materials and supplies which will increase production and lower costs; our present systems force us to develop and accept advertising and consumer seduction.

In order to convince the citizen that he controls his destiny, that morality informs decisions, and that technology is the servant rather than the driving force, it is necessary today to distort information. The ideal of informing the public has given way to trying to convince the public that forced actions are actually desirable actions.

Miscalculations in these increasingly complex rationalizations and consequent scandal, account for the increasing preoccupation with the honesty of both private and public decision makers. It is therefore, tempting to attack those holding roles as national leader, administrator, manager, executive, labor leader, professor, student, parent. But such attacks on individuals often disguise the real nature of the crisis we confront: the demonic nature of present systems which force man to consent to his own deepening self destruction.

The way ahead

We can escape from these dehumanizing systems. The way ahead will be found by those who are unwilling to be constrained by the apparently all-determining forces and structures of the industrial age. Our freedom and power are determined by our willingness to accept responsibility for the future.

Indeed the future has already broken into the present. We each live in many times. The present of one is the past of another, and the future of yet another. We are called to live knowing and showing that the future exists, and that each one of us can call it in, when we are willing, to redress the balance of the past.

In the future we must end the use of coercive power and authority: the ability to demand action on the basis of one's hierarchical position. If any one phrase can sum up the nature of the new era, it is the end of privilege and license. Authority should emerge through a particular ability to advance a specific shared purpose.

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We must abandon our attempt to solve our problems through shifting power balances or attempting to create more efficient bureaucratic machines.

can make our life today the shape of tomorrow's future.

We call you to join man's race to maturity: to work with us in inventing the future. We believe that a human adventure is just beginning: that mankind has so far been restricted in developing its innovative and creative powers because it was overwhelmed by toil. Now we are free to be as human as we wish.

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This document was created by people of several countries and will be available in many languages: their names are not important for they have tried to express the spirit of an age. You may circulate any part of it in any form. It is meant to grow: you are challenged to improve words, paragraphs, change its form, translate it into music, poetry, pictures, tape.....

So that others may share your vision send copies to

A Call to Celebration
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The celebration of man's humanity through joining together in the healing expression of one's relationships with others and one's growing acceptance of one's own nature and needs will clearly create major confrontations with existing values and systems. The expanding dignity of each man and each human relationship must necessarily challenge existing systems.

The call is to live the future: let us join together joyfully to celebrate our awareness that we

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The dehumanization of industrial-age values

But we must also recognize that our trust in self-realization is profoundly hampered by our modern, industrial-age structures. We are presently constrained and driven by the impact of man's ever-growing powers. Our existing systems force us to