

I believe they will seem to our children as insignificant in their final consequences as do the Cherokee cases today, a hundred years after the event.

*Collective Machinery Is Indispensable*

The truth is we cannot afford to let the League of Nations fail. We would be putting the hands of the clock back to 1914 when there was no cooperative machinery of any kind and no established technique by which war could honorably be averted. We would be retracing our steps to that Armistice Day of thirteen years ago when the world stood for a moment in silence and contemplated the havoc it had wrought. If the idea behind this League of Nations fails, and if the collective machinery which in the last thirteen years we have so painfully developed collapses, then we shall indeed dig for our civilization a pit so deep that no future archeologist—no Howard Crosby Butler excavating from the surface—will ever recognize it.

You who do not like this new international machinery—the World Court, the Optional Clause, the League of Nations, the General Act for Pacific Settlement, the International Labor Office, the Bank for International Settlements—have you anything else to suggest? Have you an alternative to propose? Have you a substitute to offer? For let me remind you, you who are objectors this evening, that the moral responsibility is on you to give us something that is better. You cannot be excused with a mere statement of disbelief. Nobody claims that these new institutions are perfect. Nobody claims that they cannot be improved. The only claim that can legitimately be made for them is that they represent steps toward a new collective principle. They are attempts to express in institutional form the interwoven and interrelated conditions under which nations are living at the present time.

The Senior Senator from New Jersey was recently quoted as saying that these new devices—the World Court, the League of Nations, the International Labor Office—are revolutionary ideas. We cannot speak for the rest of the State, but here in Princeton we are not afraid of revolutionary ideas. This institution was born of revolutionary ideas. It bears on its walls scars gained in defense of revolutionary ideas. It has sent into the world prophets of