

specialized activity is a new danger; every new access of power threatens destruction to what we have more than it promises increase. That is why mechanization is compelling, and will compel, profound changes in the whole structure of our society.

I have said that, by the scale of human history, mechanization is a thing of yesterday. This is true. But it is no less important to remember that, by the scale of an individual's life, it already has a considerable record, sufficient to enable us to judge of its tendencies and estimate its future results. A century and a half covers six generations or the span of two full lives. And throughout this period mechanization has been working its effects upon human society. Modern mechanization, such as we have known it in the last two decades or so, presents indeed certain special characteristics of its own. It may be proceeding at a more rapid rate—I will discuss this in a moment—and its progress is cumulative. But after all, the twentieth century is more like the nineteenth in its economic processes than the nineteenth was to any previous period of man's history. Steam and the cable were more revolutionary in their effects than any subsequent inventions. The dividing line in human history is the Industrial Revolution and not the accelerated