

A Word with You

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When you stop to think of it, these are really amazing times, surely unparalleled.

Each age seems to have some inkling as to where it stands. During the early American Republic, it was felt that an era of great progress was a-coming. At the end of the nineteenth century a feeling of fulfillment prevailed. During the Great Depression people soberly knew what that awful phenomenon was.

But today, who can define or divine where we are and in what direction we're going? Confusion prevails. Is our economic position stable or unstable? Nobody knows. Are we headed for war or peace? Both and neither are imminent. Is a Golden Age or a Dark Age ahead?

What are the signs of the times? A world, for the first time in history, in which every part is in touch with every other part. A related feature is an enormous technological progress, never before equalled. But along with this we have a political, economic and social seething and bubbling also unparalleled in history. The most conspicuous expression of this is, of course, the world struggle over communism.

What Label for This Age?

Communism has spread over much of the globe and seems still to be on the initiative. Is this or will this be the Age of Communism? Hard to swallow. It hasn't prevailed yet, but it certainly is the touchiest issue of today.

And what else have we got in the world? Welfare states and socialist states in varying degrees of confused compromise with age-old monopolies and privileges. The Republican victory in this country and the Conservative victories in other English-speaking countries have not, as it turns out, substantially changed the picture.

There is one promise in the confusion. We are confronted with problems that we have let slip by and that we now simply *must* face and solve. Everything points in that direction and there's no escape, and no 100 per cent answer from the past. Invocations to 33 A.D., 1215 and 1776 may give us a breath of inspiration, but they leave us still with our problems to face and solve. Our troubles will not stop until somehow, some way, every human being on the face of this globe is granted full and equal freedom and equal opportunities to the bounty of nature and civilization.