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COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL  
Room 301, Uris  
10:30 – 11:50 AM  
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CONCEPT OF THE CORPORATION

1. Only 15 years ago, corporations were thought of as mere business enterprises. To some extent this is still true. Theorists think otherwise.
2. There are between 1,200,000 and 1,300,000 enterprises in the United States. The small ones are still individual enterprises with corporate votes. But at a certain level and size, they become social institutions. Probably 1500 of the 2000 corporations listed on the Stock Exchange are in that class.
3. The large corporations--particularly the 500 largest--are in effect statist institutions. They are the service of supply of the country. This means that they are intimately involved with the political and economic policies of the United States; they must meet these needs.
4. A corporation is thus a political institution. It must make money--the law of its being. It must also join in maintaining certain standards.
  - (a) environmental
  - (b) social--minimum wages, etc., employment of Negroes
  - (c) requirement that it produce what the country knows it needs.