

1 phrases that are not legally enforceable, outside of a
2 preamble to the Constitution, and that rather leads me
3 into your question, how long should a constitution last.
4 Being one who teaches Federal constitutional law basically,
5 my basic reaction to that is as long as it possibly can
6 keep going without falling of its own weight, and I feel
7 if you encumber a constitution with phrases of nice
8 beliefs or thoughts, that it runs the risk of falling
9 of its own weight.

10 The genius of the American Federal Constitution
11 is the fact that it is considered supreme law, the highest
12 law of the land and enforceable as such. It distinguishes
13 it. I am sure that is not the reason alone of the fall of
14 the four -- or is it three? How many French republics
15 have they had?

16 MR. SYKES: We're up to five.

17 PROFESSOR ROSEN: The second -- perhaps not
18 the second, but the third and fourth, but their consti-
19 tutions, as I understand it, were constitutions of nice
20 phrases, of general statements that were not enforceable
21 by the judiciary.