This article explores the invention of the category of the long term in futurological experimentation at the American RAND Corporation during the Cold War, and the subsequent transfer of futurology from RAND to the Commission for the Year 2000, chaired by the liberal sociologist Daniel Bell. It argues that futurological experimentation developed from initial attempts to find a scientific theory of prediction, to a focus on the use of predictive methods as ways of formalizing expert opinion and shaping forms of social choice. The Commission for the Year 2000 was a key site for a reflection on the future carried out between systems reflections and liberal fears of the possible coming effects of the growing ambitions of the Great Society programs. This reflection, the article proposes, was central to the shaping of a particular version of 1960s liberalism between progressivism and neoconservatism.