

It Seems to Me

by
HEYWOOD BROUN

"I'M a capitalist," said the young man who was paying for the drinks. "And I'm a conservative," he added as he shoved the waiter a 15 cent tip. "And what is more," he continued with growing asperity, "I am one of those terrible Wall Street brokers that you are so fond of holding up to scorn in your column. But I am not going to say the same old things I've heard you pick on, even though I intend to tell you why I am not for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Of course he is not a Communist or a Socialist or a Democrat. He fixed the most appropriate label yet devised for him when he called himself a football quarter back. Well, here's another season rolling around and let's see just what kind of game the quarter back of the White House is giving us.

"I used to be a football player myself. When Mr. Roosevelt first began talking of gridiron strategy he used it as an excuse for not laying down a shoddy specific program in advance. His explanation was that like some Eckendorf of old he intended to call the plays according to the down, the location of the ball, and the particular system of defense adopted by his adversaries. So far, so good. But, you know, holder, I have a grave suspicion that the White House quarter back is beginning to call plays his team never heard of before. The signals get jumbled because their maneuvers have not been rehearsed and the various men in the lineup may have no idea what their particular assignment may be.

Heywood Broun

Tell Us the Plays

"I'M not complaining about intricate plays, trick plays, and long ground gainers designed to shake a man loose. I merely say, as an old football player, that it's extremely difficult to make up a play on the spur of the moment right in the middle of the game. I think it was Pop Warner who used to say that there was nothing mysterious about the thing called 'the Warner System.'

"After all he had been using it for years. His teams had been scouted over and over again but he still stuck to the same combinations. As I remember he once said, 'Anybody can have my plays in advance. I don't mind describing them minutely. The only thing that I won't do, of course, is to tell the other fellow in what rotation they are going to be run.' That brings us back to Franklin D. Roosevelt. As a capitalist, a conservative and a Wall Street broker, I think he would be doing the country a great service if he would say in advance, 'Here are the plays I am going to use for the next year,' or even for the next six months.

"And I don't see why some of you radicals, if you are a radical, couldn't get together with us in this same demand. You have some of us boys listed all wrong. We are not complaining particularly that Mr. Roosevelt is going to the left. I don't mean that we'd all throw our hats in the air and say 'Hooyah' if he started off hell bent for election in that direction, but honestly our chief criticism is that the President won't give out in advance any particular hint as to whether he intends to travel north or south, east or west or stay precisely put.

They Wouldn't Know

"THERE'S where you radical fellows come in. You have just as much right to a natural curiosity in this matter as we have. For instance, there was a speech in Green Bay, Wis., and that was all for the Progressives of the west, the La Follette fringe and the rest of the low-boiling-point politicians. A little while after that came a fireside chat for the industrial east, an economic truce and a chance for the business man to go out and make a nickel without being stopped by the cops.

"You say business men, particularly Wall Street brokers, have no knowledge of economics anyway, but we are not bereft of memory. We have a little elephant blood. And so all through a fireside chat we still kept hearing the echoes of Green Bay and its olive wreath for all the La Follettes.

"So I say again, let the President put on record the system he intends to follow. It can be all straight line bucks or shoe string forward passes, or even a mixture of both. But we don't want to see him suddenly go to Carlisle Indian on us and stick the ball up under Tugwell's shirt where none of us can see it."

"That sounds very pretty," said the young man across the table who had taken no part in the conversation up to this point. "It sounds very pretty, but only a few months ago a man in California undertook to do precisely what you are asking. Upton Sinclair drew up a plan, a schedule of plays and said, 'This is what I'm going to do when I am elected Governor.' You Wall Street boys didn't say, 'That's fine and dandy. Now at least we know the worst.'

"On the contrary you all rushed to the locker room, picked up your clothes, and said, 'We just won't play ball with that fellow. We're all going home.'"

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Today's Science

BY DAVID DIETZ

THE one hundredth anniversary of the burning of the British houses of parliament will be observed by mathematicians on Oct. 16. Why mathematicians should be interested in this event is one of the most interesting stories in the history of science. For here was the burning of a public building brought about not by war, revolution, or riot, but by the progress of science.

For many centuries, in England and elsewhere, the common practice of keeping numerical records had been by means of notches on tally sticks. This continued to be the method at the British treasury long after most places had given it up. Finally it was dropped and in 1834 parliament voted to destroy the tally sticks.

Accordingly, on Oct. 16, 1834, the task of burning these sticks was begun in a stove in the basement of the house of lords. The stove became overheated and by evening the famous building was "a white hot furnace."

Soldiers and firemen fought the flames without success. Only ancient Westminster Hall survived.

Rebuilding the houses of parliament cost Great Britain 2,500,000 pounds. So perhaps that is a bill which ought to be charged against the development of arithmetic and methods of bookkeeping.

THE burning of the British parliament serves to remind us of the fact that modern arithmetic has not always been with us. Of course, tally sticks were hopelessly out of date in 1834, and it is a sad commentary on the way things are done in politics that these sticks were still in use in 1826. Remember that Sir Isaac Newton and Gottfried von Leibnitz had invented the calculus in the years prior to 1690.

Charles Dickens, the famous author, satirized parliament in his address on "Administrative Reform." "Official routine," he said, "inclined to those notched sticks as if they were pillars of the Constitution."

A few centuries earlier, however, arithmetic still was in a bad way. Professor Tobias Dantzig tells the story of the German merchant of the fifteenth century who asked a professor where to send his son for an education in mathematics. The professor replied that if the son wished to learn only adding and subtracting, a German university would do, but if he wished him to learn multiplying and dividing, he had better go to Italy where more advanced instruction was available.

Multiplication was carried on in those days by a lengthy and involved process. A problem which can be solved in five minutes today took three hours then.

IT is interesting to note, however, that in the 100 years from 1834 to 1934 the trend has been from counting devices to mental arithmetic and back again to counting devices.

The adding machine, the slide rule, the various calculating machines, and the automatic book-keeping machines of one sort and another, have supplanted much of the arithmetical work that had to be done formerly in the world of business, industry and science.

Even calculus has succumbed to the machine as there is a machine which will solve problems in calculus which are too difficult and involved to be attacked by mental methods.

GODFATHER OF THE NEW DEAL

Star Pupils of Brandeis and Frankfurter Aid Roosevelt

This is the second of two stories that tell of the powerful influence of Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis on the New Deal, through the impact of his philosophy and the presence of many of his "disciples" in high places in the recovery agencies, and the part played by Professor Felix Frankfurter, chief apostle of Justice Brandeis, in the government program.

BY RODNEY DUTCHER
NEA Washington Correspondent
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WAshington, Oct. 13.—The influence of Justice Louis D. Brandeis in the New Deal, aside from the indirect effect of his precepts during a lifetime of vigorous liberalism, is felt here in two ways:

1. The impact of the Brandeis philosophy upon his various friends and acquaintances who occupy high administrative posts and are privileged to discuss national affairs with him.

2. The presence of scores of young Harvard law school graduates in the New Deal agencies. Many of these are protégés or former pupils of Professor Felix Frankfurter, chief exponent and close personal friend of the justice. The rest breathe the spirit of Justice Brandeis and Holmes from other instructors of the school.

Annually, for many years, Professor Frankfurter has been sending two of his favorite graduates to serve as secretaries to Justice Brandeis and Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, now retired.

Nearly a dozen of these young men are among the Frankfurter products who have helped draft New Deal laws and regulations, interpreted them, and fought for them in subsequent legal battles.

Infusion of these young lawyers into the government is hardly less significant than the arrival of shoals of professors here. The flow of young legal brains, which once headed into New York, has at least temporarily been diverted to Washington.

Among them the government has picked up some of the highest grade brains it ever had and the "kids" are proving as good as the best and better than most of the high-priced, experienced lawyers who came here to try to chisel easy deals for the big corporations.

PERHAPS the most important tenet of the Brandeis-Frankfurter religion goes something like this:

"You can't find brains or character enough to handle huge centralized projects on a national scale. Big business and finance should be broken into smaller, more efficient units, by taxation.

"Racketeering by bankers and speculators with other people's money must end. Competition must be free and fair."

Some Brandeis admirers disagree and wish Justice Brandeis would get away from the ideas he had twenty years ago. But by no means all.

That Brandeis-Frankfurter philosophy was uppermost in the minds of the three young protégés who drafted the securities and stock market acts and then fought behind the scenes like tigers for their passage.

The three were: James M. Landis, 35, securities exchange commissioner, former Brandeis secretary and Harvard law professor, a thin, blond, hawk-nosed man who

collaborated with Professor Frankfurter in writing "The Business of the Supreme Court."

Tom Corcoran, 34, former Holmes secretary, Wall Street lawyer and assistant to Dean Acheson, ex-undersecretary of the treasury, who is now sometimes called "brains of the RFC."

Ben Cohen, 40, framer of social legislation, right-hand man to Justice Brandeis in Palestine reconstruction, widely experienced and now assistant general counsel of PWA.

Some of them live together in groups, as in the more or less famous "little red house in Georgetown" where Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Cohen keep bachelor quarters with a half dozen younger Harvard law school men now serving RFC, PWA or TVA.

Some of them occasionally visit Justice Brandeis. They discuss with him problems of every description, but never that matter often foremost in their minds—the point as to what the supreme court may do when it passes on questions of constitutionality arising from the New Deal.

The End.

DAILY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—President Roosevelt has under serious consideration a nation-wide program for railroad grade-crossings as a 1934 substitute for last winter's CWA. Cost of the vast project is tentatively estimated at \$1,000,000,000. Seventy-five per cent of the money, it is figured, would go direct to the pocket of labor.

Besides the controlling factor of appreciably reducing unemployment rolls, the grade-crossing program appeals to the President for several other reasons:

First, he feels that the widespread installation of such safe-guards have long been urgently needed in American railroad transportation.

Second, such a plan would eliminate the criticism raised against the CWA that no constructive work was accomplished.

Under the plan, as being considered by the President, the railroads would bear half the cost, with the government lending the money.

In other words, the government would put up the estimated \$1,000,000,000 necessary to finance the great project. But the railroads, over a term of years, would repay \$500,000,000.

CHAMPAGNE SIPPERS TO HAVE THEIR DAY

Bubbly Wine to Hold Limelight at Mid-Ocean Dinner.

By United Press

PARIS, Oct. 13.—Timid souls who like to sip champagne throughout a meal instead of switching from red to white, according to the dictates of the food, but feel that they are guilty of an outrage against epicurean traditions, can now take heart.

Some of the finest epicures of France will partake of a feast in mid-Atlantic next November, at which nothing but champagne will be served.

The affair is being sponsored by a French publication which gives monthly dinner to glorify the best culinary standards of French and other countries.

Arrangements have been made to hold the champagne banquet on the Ile de France, while the liner is midway across the ocean en route to New York.

About 400 covers will be laid and the banquet will be open to novices as well as professional champagne sippers.

"People who drink moonshine," the lad promptly rattled off, "die a damn sight quicker than those who don't."

A teacher called on one of her pupils for a sentence containing the word "diadem."

"People who drink moonshine," the lad promptly rattled off, "die a damn sight quicker than those who don't."

DMINISTRATION leaders have been privately advised that the American Legion will do the following at its Miami convention:

1. Elect as national commander, Frank N. Belgrano Jr., San Francisco banker and Republican.

2. Side-step a declaration in favor of immediate payment of the bonus.

While the inside word is one of assurance to the administration regarding the final outcome on the bonus issue, it is admitted that there will be sharp fighting over the question on the convention floor.

The bonusers will go into the battle with a pledged strength of 38 1/2 per cent of the convention vote. Fifteen state delegations have been directed to cast their ballot for some form of bonus payment action.

These "departments" are Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Despite this imposing bloc of bonus voters, however, the masterminds of the vet organization who behind the scenes really run its affairs—are convinced they can stop a formal endorsement.

They believe the majority of the rank and file can be persuaded that it is against their interest to take such a stand at this time, that it would antagonize public sentiment, endanger the benefits for disabled veterans regained during the last session of Congress.

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Professor Felix Frankfurter

Other Frankfurter men who have taken a "post-graduate" under Justice Brandeis as his secretary include Mr. Acheson, let out by President Roosevelt in a dispute over policy; Harry F. Shulman, 31, counsel for the new railroad pension board; William Sutherland, until recently counsel for TVA, and Paul Freund of

RFC, and Paul Freund of

NEA.

To Justice Holmes, Professor

Frankfurter gave such men

as Mr. Cochrane, Alar Hiss, a founder of the International

Juridical Bulletin and temporarily

detached from his post as assistant

to General Counsel Jerome

Frank for AAA to serve with the

Senate munitions committee; Don

ald Hiss of PWA—the Hiss boys

are around 30 years old and come

from a blue-blooded Baltimore

family; Lloyd Landau, housing

counsel for PWA.

Most of these fellows have practiced

corporate law and most of

them have made a lot of money

at it.

Mr. Frank of AAA, though not

a Harvard man, was recommended

by Professor Frankfurter.

Solicitor Nathan Margold of the

interior department; Director David E. Lillenthal of TVA; Solicitor Charles E. Wyman Jr. of the

department of labor; Adolph A.

Berle, one of the original "brain

trust."