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An Unbroken Chain

We now have an unbroken chain connecting the president with the decision of the supreme court in the Standard Oil and Tobacco cases.

FIRST LINK: The anti-trust law passed in 1890, declaring EVERY combination in restraint of trade unlawful.

SECOND LINK: The decision of the supreme court thirteen years ago (in which Justice Harlan joined) refusing to amend the law by limiting it to UNREASONABLE restraint.

THIRD LINK: The dissenting opinion in that case, written by Justice White, favoring the construction asked by the trusts.

FOURTH LINK: Thirteen years of unsuccessful effort on the part of the trusts to secure legislation amending the law so as to permit REASONABLE restraint of trade.

FIFTH LINK: Speech by Secretary Taft announcing his candidacy, in which he suggested that the anti-trust law should be amended by the insertion of the word UNREASONABLE, as desired by the trusts.

SIXTH LINK: The republican platform of 1908, favoring an amendment of the anti-trust law, but not specifying the character of the amendment.

SEVENTH LINK: The selection of Governor Hughes to interpret the platform—information furnished by Mr. Perkins—until recently a partner of J. Pierpont Morgan.

EIGHTH LINK: Speech delivered by Governor Hughes at Youngstown, O., interpreting the platform to mean that the word unreasonable would be inserted, as the trusts desired.

NINTH LINK: All the trusts supported Mr. Taft for the presidency—every one of them.

TENTH LINK: President Taft appoints Governor Hughes to the supreme bench (on recommendations that he has not yet made public.)

ELEVENTH LINK: President Taft elevates Justice White (who wrote the dissenting opinion) to the position of chief justice over Justice Harlan, who displeased the trusts.

TWELFTH LINK: President Taft appoints other justices.

THIRTEENTH LINK: The supreme court, at the request of the trusts, renders a decision amending the anti-trust law so as to limit it to UNREASONABLE restraint, leaving the courts to decide in each case what is to be regarded as unreasonable. All of President Taft's appointees join in the opinion.

FOURTEENTH LINK: Mr. Perkins says that the supreme court's decision carried out the promise of the republican platform.

FIFTEENTH LINK: Mr. Taft says that the anti-trust law, as interpreted by the supreme court, should not now be amended.

Here is the chain and every link is strong. Can you break it Mr. President? Why do you not make public the recommendations upon which you appointed the justices who have carried out the promise made to the trusts in the republican platform—the promise foreshadowed by your speech and interpreted by Governor Hughes? Have you appointed a supreme justice without the indorsement of the trust magnates?

Give the country a little light. Make public the recommendations—written and verbal—on which you made your appointments to the supreme bench—the people have a right to know.

"VENERATION" GONE MAD

The Wall Street Journal has "veneration for the court" gone mad. James C. McReynolds, special assistant United States attorney general in the Tobacco trust case, recently made the following statement in the public press commenting upon the Tobacco trust plan of reorganization: "It's an old story to me. And, speaking of course only for myself, I regard it as a plain subterfuge which deserves an expeditious commitment to the scrap heap."

Referring to Mr. McReynolds, the Wall Street Journal says: "In England Mr. McReynolds would be disbarred for making such a statement, besides getting a substantial sentence in jail. The tobacco plan is before the court, and Mr. McReynolds has no right to assume that it is not submitted in good faith until the court says so."

The Journal explains that it expects this of Mr. McReynolds because he is "an officer of the court." Well even "an officer of the court" ought not to wait until the horse is stolen before he locks the stable. Maybe the court can not see the subterfuge in the Tobacco trust reorganization. Maybe this broad hint from an humble "officer of the court" may serve to open the eyes of the august tribunal.

At all events Mr. McReynolds told the plain homely truth about the Tobacco trust reorganization and the same may be said of the Standard Oil trust reorganization. All the jails in America would not suffice to hold the people who believe that this trust reorganization is exactly what Mr. James C. McReynolds called it!

JOINED TO HIS IDOLS

The following remark made by a man who attended one of Mr. Bryan's political meetings in Nebraska illustrates the prejudice which must be overcome by those who discuss public questions. Two men had come to the meeting and one said to the other: "I never saw Mr. Bryan or heard him, so I just allowed I'll come in today, but no matter what he says or how long he talks he won't change me."

Campaigning would be useless if every one determined his party affiliations at maturity and then closed his mind to argument.

HIS HEART IS WRONG

So Mr. Underwood has attacked the initiative and referendum, has he? Well, that is only another evidence—scarcely needed, however—that his heart is wrong. The men who are praising him give us another line on him. They would not love him so if his heart was on the side of the people.

BUT HE IS AFRAID OF THE LIGHT

Under the headline, "Taft's Supreme Court Record," the New York World prints the following editorial:

"President Taft has already named four of the full bench of nine members of the United States supreme court—Lurton of Tennessee, Hughes of New York, Lamar of Georgia and Van Devanter of Wyoming—and he has made former Associate Justice White chief justice. The appointment of a successor to Justice John M. Harlan will therefore have given to President Taft the appointment of a majority of the court.

"This is a record which has only twice before been equalled since the time of Washington. President Jackson had the appointment of six justices, beginning with McLean of Ohio in 1829, including Chief Justice Taney of Maryland and ending with Catron of Tennessee early in 1837.

"President Lincoln also had the naming of a majority of the court, including a chief justice, Chase of Ohio. But Jackson profited from the changes of full eight years, while Lincoln's record was aided by the overturnings of civil war.

"Jefferson in his eight years had the naming of only three justices; and Jefferson, Madison and Monroe in twenty-four years were unable to name justices numerous and strong enough to overcome the mighty influence in the court of the last federalist appointment, Chief Justice John Marshall. Grant in eight years named only four members of the court, including Chief Justice Waite. President Cleveland in his eight years also named four, including Chief Justice Fuller.

"It is fortunate for the country that this later record, since it had to be made, has fallen to a president like William H. Taft. His clear appreciation of the power and dignity of this great tribunal and his understanding of the legal profession assure the best appointments within the capacity of his judgment. No sectional, no religious, no partisan considerations will weigh with him for a

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