

# New Deal Political Cartoons



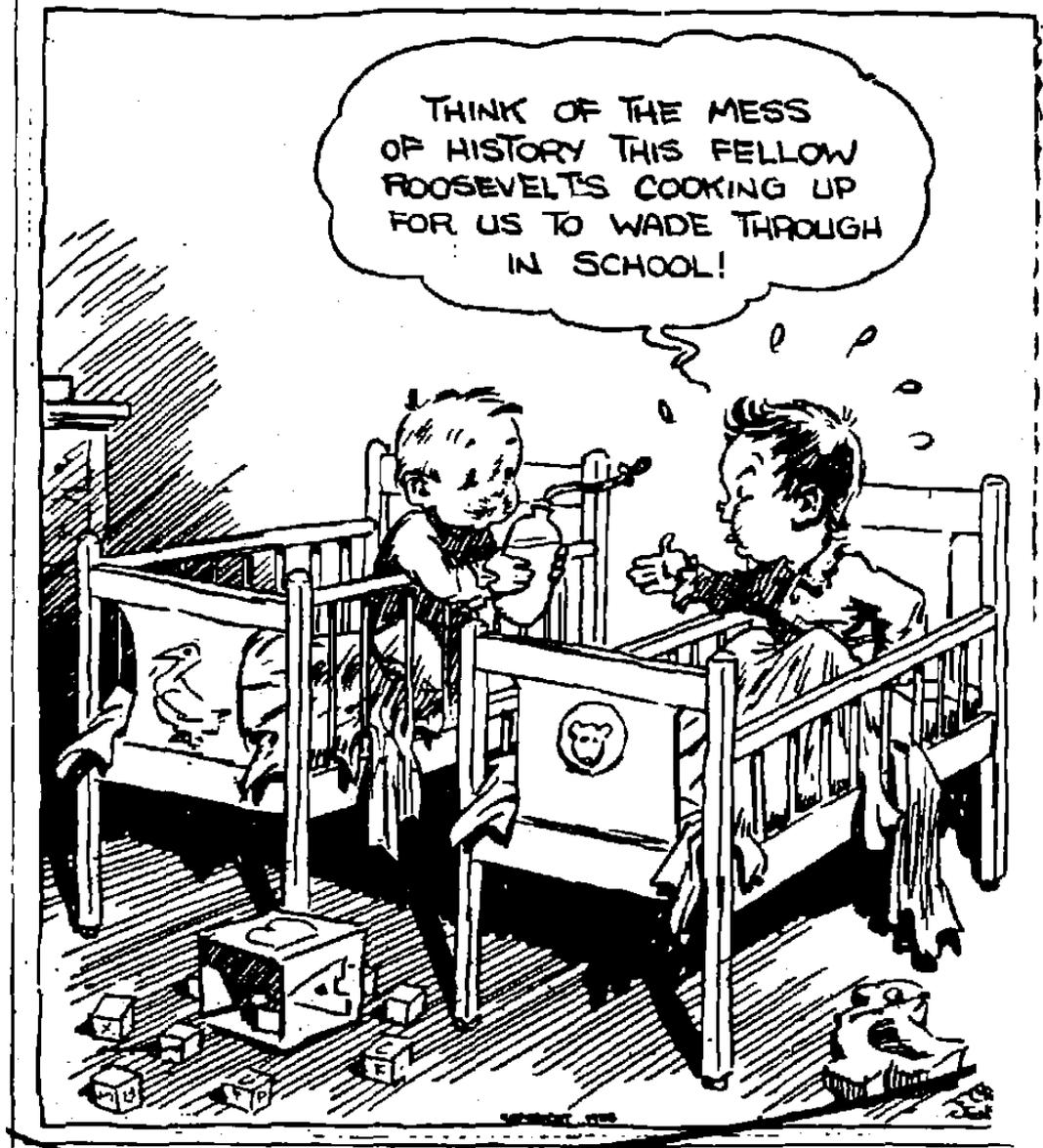
"I HOPE YOU CAN PUT THE REAL ROOSEVELT SOCK  
INTO IT, FRANKLIN."

By MORRIS

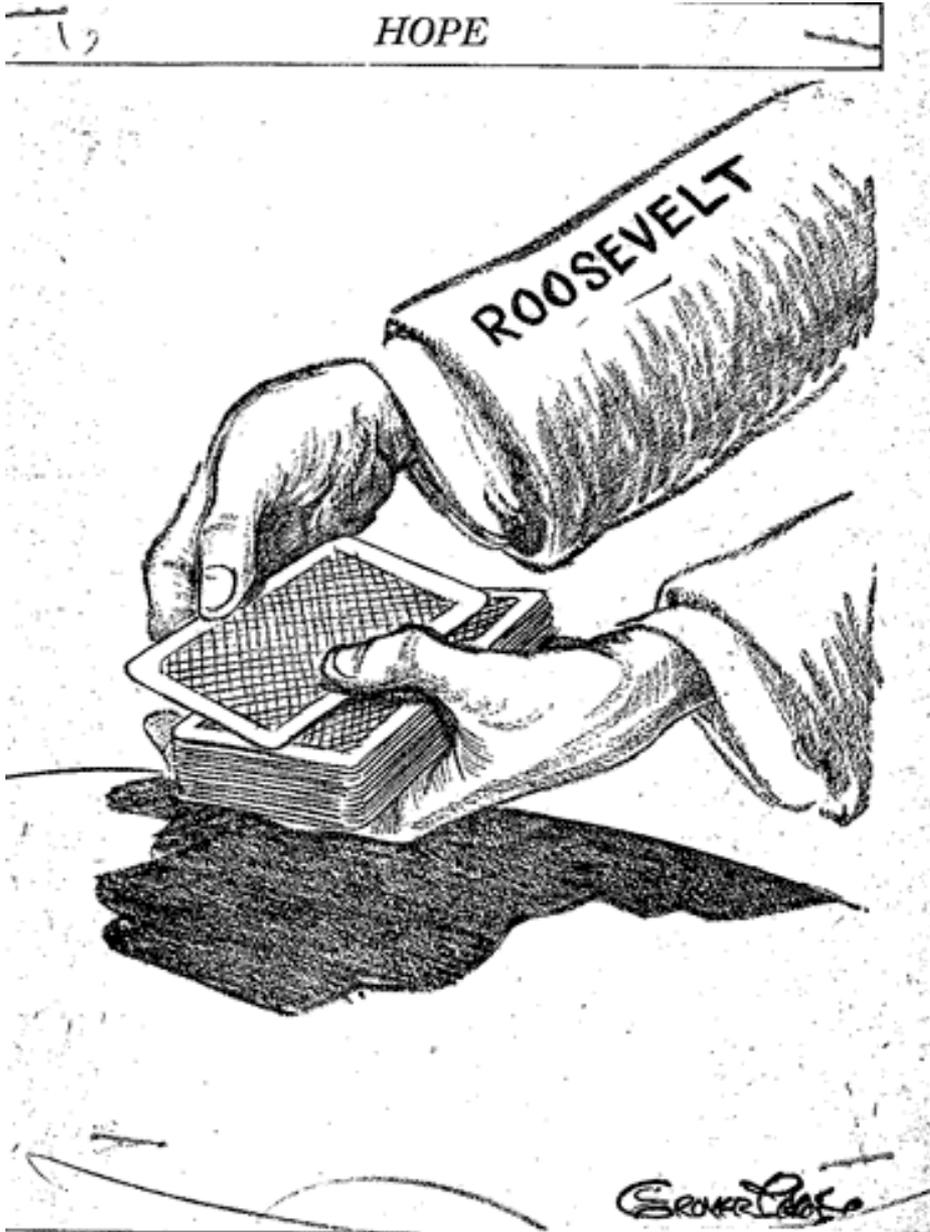


Morris: "I Hope You Can Put  
the Real Roosevelt Sock Into  
It, Franklin."

Created before March 1933.



Cecil Jensen: "NRA and the Future Generation"  
Created before March 1933.



### March 1933: "Hope"

*Photo courtesy of the Basil O'Connor Collection .*

There was no guarantee that New Deal programs would solve the country's economic problems, but many took a chance on FDR and hoped that programs like the CCC, WPA and NRA would help.

It IS a New Deal



## Talburt, March 11, 1933: "It IS a New Deal"

The public's response to Roosevelt's programs were viewed in high favor. It seemed like he was handling things very quickly and efficiently. It was with the ending of prohibition and the handling of the bank emergencies, that gave the American people faith in him. It also helped him that many people viewed him as a trusted figure. People needed faith with dealing with the Depression, and the economic turmoil that the United States was in.

Roosevelt was able to enter almost every American who owned a radios home, in a way that no other president before him could. I believe the artist, after hearing him like so many other, believed that with the changes that have been made so far and so quickly, Roosevelt New Deals were worth believing in. This image was drawn days after the Bank Holiday was proposed by Roosevelt when he first came into office.

A Clear Track!

...By Hungerford

Hungerford, March 14, 1933:  
"A Clear Track!"



## How the South Interprets the New Deal



## L. Rogers, January 27, 1934: "How the South Interprets the New Deal"

This political cartoon was published in a black Chicago newspaper, the *Chicago Defender*, on January 27, 1934, during the first term of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. L. Rogers, created this cartoon. He expresses his belief that white racists used programs under the New Deal, like the NRA, to further discriminate against low wage black labor. Throughout the 1930s, discrimination and racist beliefs about blacks continued to thrive and practices such as lynching and wage discrimination were prevalent. Blacks even referred to the NRA as "Negroes Ruined Again". Rogers created this cartoon because he wanted to spread the word to fellow blacks, who were readers of the *Chicago Defender*, that the New Deal programs under Roosevelt were actually aimed at only helping white folk. Rogers believes that Roosevelt failed to recognize that blacks were just as affected by the Great Depression as whites and that racism in the US resulted in black laborers suffering even more than white laborers.



**Conrad A. Albrizio,  
"The New Deal"  
ca. 1934**

## IN HIS MIND'S EYE



## November 21, 1934: "In His Mind's Eye"

In November 1934, President Roosevelt toured the Tennessee Valley Authority. He visited the new publicly-owned electric cooperative in Corinth, Mississippi and, at a November 23 press conference at Warm Springs, delivered some well-publicized remarks devoted to TVA and the question of electric power.

Although FDR did not call for government ownership of the utilities, he thought TVA would be an effective "yardstick" to measure the rates private utility companies charged to their customers, and believed that TVA experiment could be repeated throughout the nation. The possibility of cheap, locally-controlled electric power excited many consumers, who were angry over the financial practices of utility company executives like Samuel Insull.

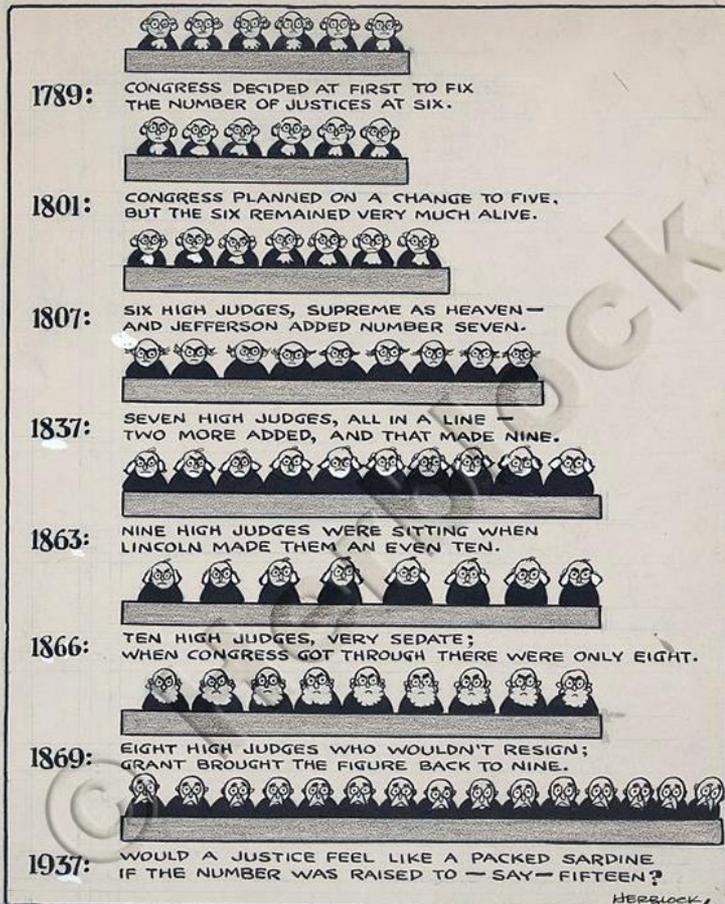


**February 18, 1936:**

**“Franklin’s Successful Experiment”**

In January 1936, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the New Deal's Agricultural Adjustment Act and the National Recovery Act were unconstitutional. A month later, the Court considered the constitutionality of the Tennessee Valley Authority and—to the surprise of many—declared TVA constitutional.

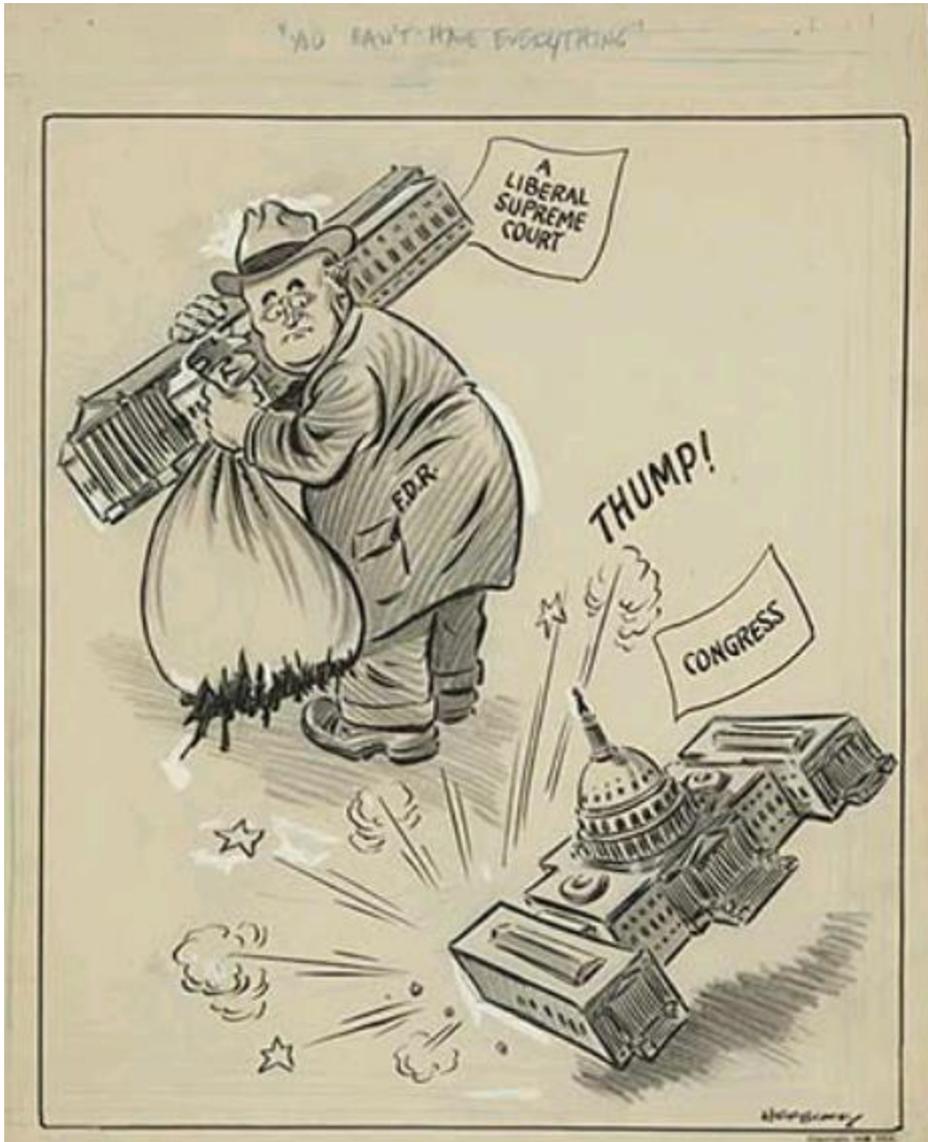
HISTORICAL FIGURES



## Herbert Block, February 19, 1937: "Historical Figures"

Editorial cartoon shows a historical chart of Supreme Court justices from 1780-1937: "1789: Congress decided at first to fix the number of justices at six" ; "1801: Congress planned on a change to five, but the six remained very much alive" ; "1807: Six high judges, supreme as heaven -- and Jefferson added number seven" ; "1837: Seven high judges, all in a line -- two more added, and that made nine" ; "1863: Nine high judges were sitting when Lincoln made them an even ten" ; "1866: Ten high judges, very sedate; when Congress got through there were only eight" ; "1869: Eight high judges who wouldn't resign: Grant brought the figure back to nine" ; "1937: Would a justice feel like a packed sardine if the number was raised to -- say -- fifteen?"

WED. MUST



## Herbert Block, January 26, 1938: “You Can’t Have Everything”

Newspaper Enterprise Association

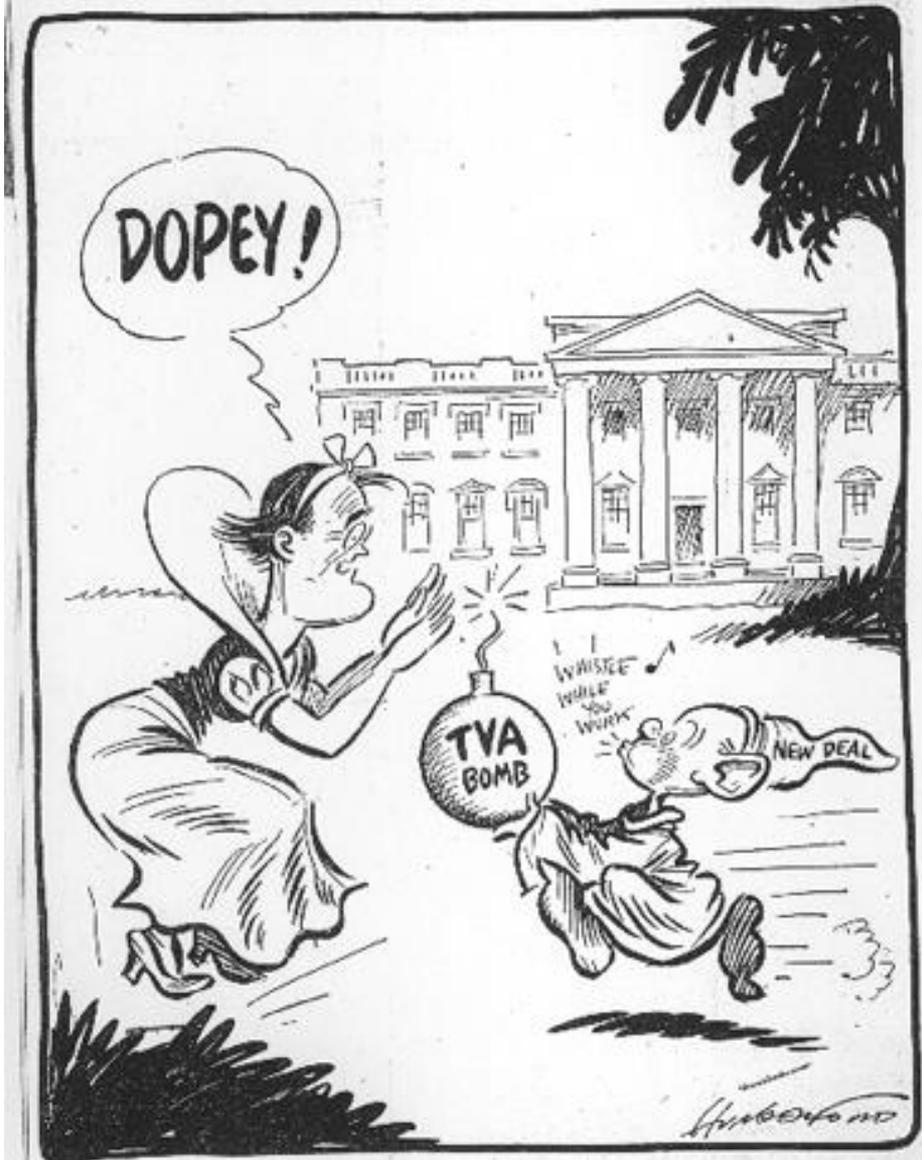
In February 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed legislation that would increase the number of judges on the Supreme Court, which had struck down many of his New Deal programs. Roosevelt saw the Court’s “nine old men” (six of the nine judges were seventy or older) as resisting the will of the president and Congress. The bill would allow the president to add a judge for each incumbent federal court judge who was seventy or older, which would give Roosevelt up to six nominations for the Supreme Court. Although Congress utterly rejected his “court-packing” plan, within a year the Court began looking at his legislation more favorably, and Roosevelt was able to appoint a new judge. However, some feared that FDR was becoming too powerful. Days before Herblock made this cartoon, Senator Edward Burke (D-Neb.) spoke of a demagogic president claiming to be on “the side of the underprivileged” and pledging to lead them to “the promised land.”

"JONAH," 1938!



March 9, 1938: "Jonah,' 1938!"

At the Snow White House—By Hungerford



**Hungerford, March 22, 1938: "At the Snow White House"**

In March 1938, the disagreements existing between Arthur Morgan and the other two members of the board, Harcourt Morgan and David Lilienthal, became public when Arthur Morgan accused the others of unethical behavior. Roosevelt dismissed Morgan, angered by his public accusations, which supplied ammunition to the opponents of the New Deal. A Joint Committee of Congress investigated Morgan's charges and, although they questioned some of the agency's practices, cleared TVA of any wrong doing.



## Herbert Block, August 3, 1939- "The Man Who Was Hollering 'Take Him Out'"

Newspaper Enterprise Association

From the start, businessmen did not like Franklin Roosevelt or his New Deal, attacking the president as a dictator and his policies as socialist. During FDR's first term, however, such attacks were meaningless, given the president's overwhelming popularity; he won reelection in 1936 with forty-six of the then forty-eight states. However, as his second term began and the country's economic fortunes faltered, Roosevelt's political fortunes waned with them. In this cartoon, Herblock is reacting to the defeat of a Roosevelt spending and loan measure designed to spark economic activity and recovery, a measure opposed by business. Herblock, a devoted supporter of Roosevelt and the New Deal, is calling for business to come up with its own solution after torpedoing Roosevelt's.