

Nine Men Against America

What the U.S. Supreme Court Is Doing to Your Liberties

You are an American. You love your country. You think it is the greatest and finest nation on earth. You feel, of course, there is plenty wrong with it, but that, after all is said, somehow we will always come out on top. You seldom think consciously about it, but you feel you have the protection of such a charter of freedom as man has never before known. It guarantees to you a system of government and a mode of economic life which, whatever their faults, have brought you the highest degree of freedom and abundance among all the world's inhabitants.

Then, one day, quite by accident, you are shocked out of your complacency. You pay a visit to your son's schoolroom. His teacher is expounding to the class—including your son—some theories that sound strangely alien to you. They are alien to sound American thinking, but this teacher doesn't label them as such. He seems to be telling your son and his fellow students that these theories are the right ones—the best ones. Sorely troubled, you go to the principal. You say: "Who is this man? He sounds like a Communist to me—or at least a fellow traveler."

The principal answers: "He is." You look astonished: "Then what he is doing here—in a local public school that I help support with my taxes?" "We fired him," the principal says. "We have a law in this state that a teacher in one of our schools who is called before an investigating committee and hides behind the Fifth Amendment to conceal his Communist connections is subject to immediate dismissal."

"Then how did he get back in here?" you want to know.

"The Supreme Court of the United States made us reinstate him in his job—with back pay too!"

OR YOU OVERHEAR one day a conversation among three or four men. It might go something like this:

First Man: "We couldn't trust too many. We'd have to use them carefully."

Second Man: "We don't need many—just our hard core who have been thoroughly trained. We place them in strategic spots."

Third Man: "They're all well indoctrinated with revolutionary techniques. We've done a pretty good job on the softening-up process—and now we can even talk openly about overthrowing the Government, if that should be necessary."

Second Man: "And our group can handle both—the propaganda, and the action when the time comes."

First Man: "What are the strategic spots?"

Third Man: "We won't discuss that too exactly. But generally let's say New York, Chicago, L.A., and of course Washington, D. C., and maybe a few others."

You wait to hear no more. You rush to the nearest office of the FBI. You tell the agent in charge what you have heard. You describe the men as well as you can. The agent looks at you sadly. He says: "Yes, we know the men. We've been watching them for a long time."

"Then why don't you arrest them?" you demand.

"A WHILE BACK we could," he replies. "Congress gave us a law under which native enemies of America who advocated the overthrow of the Government could be indicted and prosecuted. But now—now it's different. The Supreme Court says that when these saboteurs talk about overthrowing the Government, they can't be touched. We have to wait until they spell out specifically how they're going to do it and actually try it. And then..."

"And then," you finish, "it might be too late."

OR PERHAPS YOU NEED an attorney to handle a small matter for you. You pick one at random from the accredited list in your state and go to see him. You aren't talking to him long before you realize that if you give this man your case, you will have a Communist representing you.

You leave his office in a rage and go to your State Bar Association. You demand to know how this young man, only just out of law school, can be an accredited attorney

in your state—particularly in the face of all we now know about the Communist conspiracy. The Bar Association official patiently explains to you that the Bar Examining Board in your state has had a rule for some time that any would-be lawyer who is a known Communist, or who refuses to say whether he has Communist connections, is not admitted to the bar and permitted to practice before your courts. BUT—he says, that was the rule. Now the Supreme Court of the United States has stepped in and told us—a sovereign American state—that we cannot set the standards for who shall and shall not practice law before our own courts. In other words, the Court says we can't keep a man from taking the bar examination in this state because he is a Communist.

By this time your mind is in a whirl. What's going on, you ask yourself. What's happening to us—to me, to my country? Surely something is wrong somewhere. You've never had too much use for politicians generally—you consider them a more or less necessary evil. But one thing you know—when all else fails, there has always been one last resort for the protection of Americans. It is in the Congress of the United States—your elected representatives—and particularly in the Congressional power of investigation: the power of exposure of wrongdoing and subversion and other evils.

SO YOU GO to see your Congressman. You start to tell him of your experiences. Then you notice an odd expression on his face. You stop. Despairingly you ask: "You don't mean—you can't mean—" "The Supreme Court?" he answers. "Yes, we on the Congressional investigating committees have gotten it too. You know, throughout our history, Congress has always had the right questionnaires. If they wanted to, they could protect themselves with the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination. But when any subversive or grafter refused to answer other questions, we could cite him for contempt. And our courts have generally backed us up. We were the last resort for Americans to get the information they must have to protect their lives, their liberty and their property."

"But now," he sighed, "—now the Supreme Court says that before we can make a witness answer questions, we have to spell out for him not only the exact purpose of our committee but also the exact pertinence of the question to that purpose. Just imagine! We investigate in order to get for ourselves and our constituents—the information we need to write necessary legislation. But now, according to the Supreme Court, we have to know exactly what we're going to do and how we're going to do it—and explain it all explicitly to the witness—before we get out of him the information we need in order to decide what we're going to do and how to do it! You can see that the Supreme Court has just about put an end to our investigative powers. Certainly it has crippled them almost fatally."

ALL THIS AND VERY much more—actual assaults on the liberties of Americans and on their means of protecting themselves against tyranny from within and without—has been brought about by a Supreme Court composed of nine men—nine men against 170 million Americans. Who are these men? What makes them tick? How did it come about that so few—these particular few—were in the right spot at the right time to do so much harm? What is it they have done? And how have they done it? How does it affect you, your children, your business, your job and your freedom? You must know the answers to these questions, because the future of your country—the country you love—is at stake.

(Editor's Note: The above article is reprinted from Human Events, a weekly confidential news service edited by Frank C. Hanighen, in Washington, D. C. Mr. Hanighen has given The Eccentric permission to reproduce it. Rosalie M. Gordon, author of the article, is editor of the All-American Book Digest. She has served for many years as research associate to John T. Flynn, in which position she has written widely in the fields of politics and economics.)

NATURE NOW by Lydia King Freese
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

An Occasional Winter Visitor

You may be one of the fortunate few who will see the snowy owl this winter. It is a large (24-27 inch) bird which takes its name from its coloring. Seeing this bird is an exciting experience whether or not one is an ornithologist.

Sighting the snowy owl becomes even more interesting when one realizes that he visits us only occasionally. During those on-sight wings, he traverses the arctic and subarctic tundra which is his home.

THE NEST is built on the ground and lined with moss and feathers. Because the climate is cold, incubation must begin as soon as eggs are laid. Because eggs are never laid at the same time, one bird may be ready to leave the nest before the last is hatched.

Why do they visit us and occasionally, why do they come only in certain winters? The chief reason is a search for food. One of the choices available on the snowy diet is the lemming.

So in order to understand this owl's habits we must first understand the habits of the lemming. Here is another example of the interrelatedness of species which we find so frequently in nature.

THE LEMMING, a small rodent, has inspired fantastic stories out of the north. In 1956, an account was written of lemmings raining out of the sky. The Eskimo legend of lemmings coming down with the heavy snowfall.

Because these little animals live under the snow they are not often seen by the people. Occasionally, about every four years, there is a mysterious migration. This is probably due to a food shortage following a rapid increase in the lemming population. One might expect only the surplus number to leave, but nearly all the population responds to the strange urge.

WATCH FOR THIS interesting bird. The male is nearly all white, the female has markings of grayish brown but still appears mostly white. The head is round with no ears. Flight is somewhat jerky.

As with all owls the snowy is a beneficial bird because his diet is made up chiefly of harmful rodents.

THIS IS ONE OWL that feeds during the day. Sometimes he is seen on a bare branch of a tree, but usually he perches on a stump, a hayrack or other object where he can see across open areas.

His preferred feeding place is swamps and open meadows. In recent years some have been sighted near Metropolitan beach, southeast of Mt. Clemons.

Unfortunately, taxidermists are busy mounting these beautiful birds which have been shot. Conservationists estimate that in some years more than 5,000 snowy owls are killed.

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO January 10, 1908
"Now when you come right down to it, the Eccentric is a fact that the troubles of the poor man and the rich man are about evenly divided? The rich man has a square meal and a hearty appetite; the poor man has a square appetite and a hearty meal. The rich man hasn't money enough to buy the appetite and the poor man lacks the funds to buy the meal. And it then simmers itself down to work, which after all is the only thing which will grant the desire of each. It is the law of nature and we cannot disobey it and be happy."

—accidentally shot his mother in the thigh Jan. 1 shortly after midnight. He had loaded his revolver with buckshot and while aiming the Old Year out and the New Year in, when in some manner the weapon was discharged with above results. The bullet passed through the fleshy part of the old lady's thigh, making an ugly wound but did not touch the bone and if nothing develops from the wound she will soon get around again."

30 YEARS AGO January 12, 1928
"Another important Birmingham downtown real estate deal was announced today when Colgrove, Buck & Tidwell completed a 60-year lease for S. O. Wylie Bell on his property at 119-121 North Woodward avenue to S. S. Kresge company of Detroit."

"Prospects for a new post office in Birmingham last night with an announcement by James W. Cole, postmaster, that he had a total business during 1927 in excess of the amount required to gain the first-class rating."

15 YEARS AGO January 11, 1913
"Garbage service in Birmingham has been cut to one collection a week in order to conserve gasoline and a four-hour delay in several places has been announced. Because the laborers are hired on a weekly basis, there is little saving to the contractor and thus no reduction in fees is possible, Egbert said."

"A southsider complains that his crooked-corn cafeteria is only intermittently patronized and wonders if some competitor is offering a more attractive menu. A blue-jay and several cardinals are among his colorful customers."

Residents at Winthrop and Kinberley wonder who are the boys who are always twisting the street sign."

"Old timers hereabouts will remember the storm of Saturday, Jan. 3, 1913, just 25 years ago. Awful Blizzard strikes Birmingham. Temperature drops to 15 Below, with the Wind Blowing a Gale."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Some people start the new year with resolution-making.

Others with predictions.

But me—I'm starting the new year with a smile. I'd like to offer you the same opportunity by chucking over one or more of these humorous stories:

His team was behind one run in the 9th, and bases were loaded. He was his team's leading hitter.

The crowd was most anxious as he selected three bats, swung them around his head, then tossed two of them in the bat boy's direction.

He picked up the rosin bag, dropped it, adjusted his cap, tapped the dirt from his spikes, and wiped his brow with the back of his hand.

He raised the bat to his shoulder, wiggled it, banged it on the plate, pulled at the visor on his cap again. He adjusted his beltline, dug in his spikes, cocked the bat over his shoulder, loaded over the plate and looked at the pitcher.

The pitcher then proceeded to pick the runner off 3rd base.

looked over the rim of the volcano, turned to another tourist and said: "Boy, it sure is deep and hot! Sort of reminds you of hell, doesn't it?"

One of the native guides heard this remark, whispered to a friend: "These Americans! They've been everywhere!"

Once upon a time there was a Texas sheep rancher. He lived along a main highway. One day in the back yard he prepared a vat of blue dye in which he was going to dunk the livingroom drapes. His wife wanted the new color.

A lamb came by and fell into the dye, was fished out and chased away. Next day a motorist came by, wanted to know where he could buy the blue lamb. The Texan's high price was met, and an idea was born. He started dyeing his lambs in assorted colors—and the money rolled in.

In fact, things are going so well that he's the biggest lamb dyer in Texas.

If everyone paid his taxes with a smile, the nation would be a much happier one. But the internal revenue keeps insisting on cash.

LESSONS WILL include raises from 1 to 1.10m. Evening classes and defensive holding, slam bid, beam Thursday, Jan. 22, from 8 to 10 p.m.

The advanced players group will be taught duplicate bridge and the game's intricacies, and play of the hand. Players may score 100 points. Beginners will come individually or in a group, learn the simplified 1000-point system as well as the later, more advanced play of the hand.

Mr. Marie Rosshart, who received the Michigan blue ribbon award as the state's outstanding bridge player, will conduct the classes.

BIRMINGHAM YMCA

Further details on these items may be obtained by contacting the "Y".

The Birmingham YMCA will sponsor an afternoon and evening bridge class at the YMCA building, 500 E. Lincoln. The afternoon

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