

TAFT TELEGRAPHS

HIS PSI U BROTHERS

Ex-Senator Spooner, One of Them, at the Dinner Makes an Attack on Roosevelt

WHO THINKS HE IS GREAT

But Isn't So Great as He Thinks—

Presidential Boom for Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler.

A telegram from "Brother" William Howard Taft, a mild Presidential boom for "Brother" Nicholas Murray Butler, and an attack on Col. Roosevelt's platform of the recall of judicial decisions by "Brother" John C. Spooner were a few of the features of an unusually lively convention dinner—the seventy-ninth—of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity at the Hotel Astor last night.

Julian T. Davies, who presided, began the speech-making by explaining that at the fraternity's convention at the West 115th Street chapter house this week President Herbert L. Bridgman had sent from the convention a message of greetings and good wishes to President Taft at the White House. Mr. Davies then read this telegram, which was received yesterday by Mr. Bridgman in reply:

The White House,

Washington, D. C., June 7.

My cordial thanks to my brothers in Psi Upsilon. May the reunion be truly successful.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.

Mr. Davies then introduced President Nicholas Butler of Columbia, who explained that the only purpose of the Greek Letter fraternities in this country at present seemed to be as "conservatories of the Greek alphabet." President Butler suggested that Psi U devote itself to the establishment of a nation-wide society, the purpose of which shall be to make every one "mind his own business in silence." President Butler said that one beneficent result from the formation of such a society would be that a number of a certain class of magazines would go out of business.

Former United States Senator Spooner, who followed, said he had always looked forward to Dr. Butler's one day being President of the United States. This caused all the diners to cheer lustily.

"But he never will be President if he says disagreeable things about the magazines or newspapers," Mr. Spooner added.

Then Mr. Spooner started an attack on Col. Roosevelt, which took everybody a little by surprise.

"A man can't be Abraham Lincoln just by saying that he is or thinking that he is," said Mr. Spooner. "No man in this time can cheat the people into believing that he is a Lincoln. There is nothing personal in this or the other remarks which I am going to make. [Laughter.] But we mustn't forget that the founders of this Government meant it to be a representative Government, and not a pure democracy. And there is a great statesman just now—or, rather, a statesman who thinks he is great, but who is not so great as he thinks—who thinks that it is a pure democracy—that it should be governed by the people themselves and that he is himself the people. 'I am the State!' he says. But, in spite of what this statesman says, we must remember that a pure democracy has never been a success, except for a short time and in a small territory. Can any one imagine a State like New York being governed directly by the people themselves?"

"Even a lot of people who were cast up on a desert island would not try to govern themselves directly. An administrative committee would be appointed by them within two weeks. Even the handful of people who came over in the Mayflower drew up a charter with which to govern themselves. People can only govern themselves through representatives, and they adopt constitutions to defend themselves from themselves in times of passion. These times of passion are very dangerous. In such times even the representatives of the people are tempted to yield to the popular passion and to violate their oaths.

"When I was in the United States Senate, for example, I stood firm against recognizing the Republic of Cuba. It was only a paper Government at that time, with its seat of Government in New York City. I received more insulting telegrams at that time demanding that I change my vote than in all the rest of my Senatorial experience put together. If I had yielded to this popular clamor I would have violated my oath of office by voting against my sincere convictions. Now see how this principle is going to work out if we have the recall of Judges and of judicial opinions. Such a policy will make cowards of the Judges. It will make them give their decisions entirely according to the passion of the crowd. It is a good thing for this country that we have at this time as President a man who has himself been a Judge and who will stand by the principles of the Constitution."

The diners cheered President Taft heartily at the close of Mr. Spooner's speech. There were other speeches by Justice Isaac Franklin Russell of the Supreme Court and H. L. Bridgman. Among the diners were L. H. Beers, Edward F. Coward, Robert Grier Cooke, William C. Demorest, H. L. Davison, Dr. F. L. Elliott, F. L. Giddings, Lucius H. Hotchkiss, Dean Frederick Keppel of Columbia, J. B. Pine, Tax Commissioner Lawson Purdy, H. L. Parsons, and State Senator Saxe.