

Cal Tinney

F. D. R. is in what you might call a pickle. After all this time of wanting to enlarge the Supreme Court, he finally gets a chance to enlarge it at least one and then the fellow that Congressmen and Senators back for the job is Joe Robinson.

Now there is nothing wrong with Joe except he don't belong on the Supreme Court. He's as fine a man as Arkansas ever produced, Bob Burns not excepted, but Joe is about as fit to be a Supreme Court Justice as I am to be a professor of English.

Course, Joe is one of those "deserving Democrats." Friends of his feel it is about time Arkansas Joe got a piece of patronage. But since when did a Supreme Court appointment fall under the heading of a Political Plum?

In the end, though, I don't think Joe will get the appointment and I'll tell you why. Every Republican in the Senate and House is for him and a Democrat can't get an office with that kind of a handicap.

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"NEWSPAPER White House officials were always puzzled much news of them leaked out. I didn't know it now that a Broadway press agent got into three of as a musician, sitting in with the band and playing a fiddle. That couldn't happen now because I have to sit graphs and personal histories of every man who plays for checking by the FBI. As a matter of fact, it was a B. press agent who picked President Roosevelt's favorite song, though I doubt if he realizes it even now. The press agent needed something to hang a publicity release on and he announced that F. D. R.'s favorite ballad was 'Home on the Range.' The press services broke the story and when the night of the party arrived the President actually believed that he had picked the song. I usually take 20 men to play at the White House parties, though I had a 75-piece orchestra for the Roosevelt-DuPont wedding in 1937, for which Mrs. Davis composed a song for the newlyweds called 'You Are the Reason for My Love Song.' The New Year Eve parties aren't paid for by the Government; like the more private affairs, they come out of the President's private funds.

"I WROTE 'Moonlight on the Santa Clara' in honor of Alan Hoover, for whom his parents gave a White House party on New Year Eve in 1931, a fox-trot, with words reminiscent of the Santa Clara Valley in California, where the Hoovers' home is located. I also wrote 'The Harvard Glide' for a party given by Franklin D. Roosevelt jr. and John Roosevelt, when they were going to school. During the visit of the King and Queen of England in 1939, I played for them at the World Fair, 'by Presidential appointment,' and Queen Elizabeth's favorite number was 'Beautiful Lady.' Mine was the only band to be given this honor. Mrs. Roosevelt always asks for 'The Blue Danube.' When the Capital was celebrating Wilson's return from the Paris Peace Conference in July, 1919, I grabbed every available theater orchestra in Washington and organized some 50 recruits. But the train was late, the musicians fidgety to get back to their theaters. By the time we arrived at the White House we had only four of them left . . . a white-haired, bandy-legged piccolo player, a snare drummer and saxophonist, with Nat Brusiloff, the violinist, to keep them going. Practically a living tableaux of the Spirit of '76!"