

whether we want to overthrow their philosophy to follow the strange and insidious doctrines of Mordecai Ezekiel, Felix Frankfurter, and his 'hot-dog' boys?"⁴⁴

In 1936, Congressman Clare Fenerty, Republican of Pennsylvania, took exception to the processes of the government being "perverted to strange and alarming uses" by men "whose ideas are born in the secretariats of foreign lands"; men "who lay the flattering unction to their souls that they have a monopoly on the brains of America"; men "with the radical theories which they have garnered from the slopes of the Ural Mountains of Russia." And, said Fenerty, if you dare to oppose them you are greeted with such lurid language and name-calling "that one suspects the 'brain trust' of spending its office hours in a searching perusal of the old dime novels and penny dreadfuls."⁴⁵

But perhaps the most picturesque description of the Brain Trust was that of Republican Representative Charles Eaton of New Jersey who, in 1938, described how they "came flying into Washington from the four corners of the country, like crows to a dead horse, strange amorphous creatures, each of them seized and possessed of a complete and entirely different solution for every economic problem in the world." And, said Eaton, completing his interesting simile, "these mysterious New Deal creatures have been roosting near the administration ever since and infecting it with their views, most of them impractical, un-American, and alien."⁴⁶

With Germany poised for the invasion of Poland and the country shuddering at the prospects of global war, Republicans were still shaking their heads and wringing their hands over the Brain Trust. Congressman Schafer was still digressing from discussion of the Reorganization plan to talk in mixed metaphors of Brain Trustees, those "crack-pots" and "nitwits," "these soviet-minded 'brain trust' professors" who have used "the taxpayers' pocketbooks as guinea pigs in the laboratory of New Deal state socialism imported direct from Moscow." The cannons were already belching fire and destruction when Congressman Jacob Thorkelson of Montana took one last backward look at the Brain Trust which had contributed so much to "the greater glory of socialism and destruction of constitutional government." "It is hard to believe," muttered Thorkelson, almost wistfully, "that so many hypocrites can lead a party for six years without being discovered."⁴⁷

VII

The worst of the hypocrites of which Thorkelson spoke was easily Rexford Guy Tugwell, economist, Columbia University professor, and a visitor to the Soviet Union for two years to observe the operation of