

Cartoons with Extra Stories

The big "originals" of the cartoons drawn by Ding were willed by him to the library of the University of Iowa. The "proofs," which are smaller copies, printed on hard paper, and the same size as the cartoons appearing in the newspapers, were willed to the writer and in turn given to Drake University, which has them in its library. Both the originals and the proofs have been carefully indexed, just as books are in the University and Drake Libraries.

In connection with the University Library, an amusing situation led to the drawing of a special cartoon. Ralph Ellsworth, then University librarian, asked Ding to draw cartoons which might be cut into metal and placed in the nine panels above the three entrance doors of the new library. Ding tried several drawings of covered wagons, prairie scenes and such, but none satisfied him. Then, as a joke, he drew the special cartoon. [12] Ellsworth and President Virgil Hancher liked the drawing so well they persuaded Ding to draw eight additional cartoons to precede this in the panel group, showing, in the same style of drawing, how materials are gathered for a library. Ding, laughing about the cartoon, said: "See, the

The Professor Passes It On



[12]

THE OPERATION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN



[13]

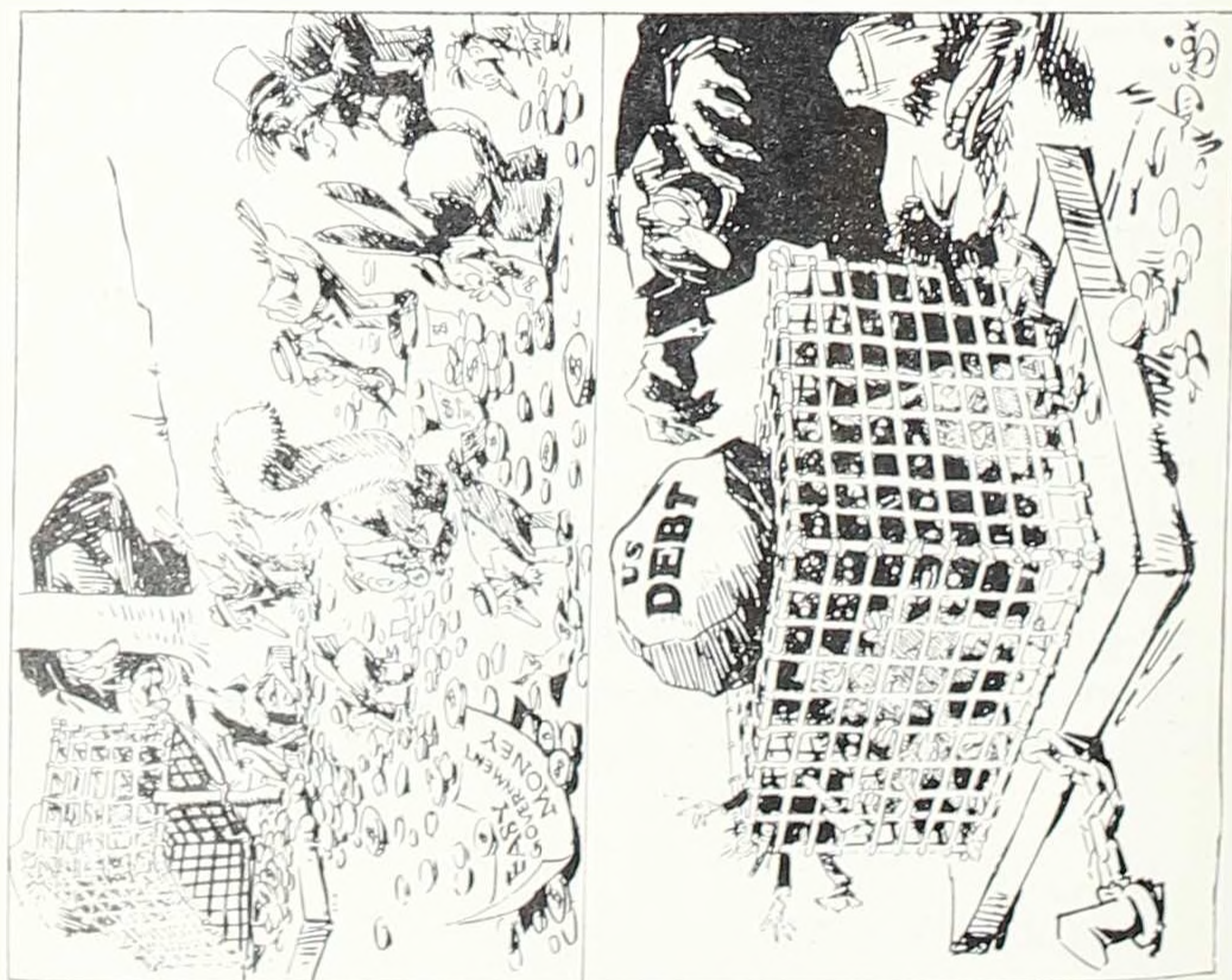
library contents are going right on through the student's head." Because of the exposure to the weather, the cartoons, although on metal, were so worn away they had to be taken inside the library by Leslie Dunlap, librarian, where they are now on exhibit.

The other cartoon first appeared more than fifty years ago. This writer discovered it, and, through "the Third House" (the lobbyists) at the Iowa statehouse, huge prints were made and now displayed in the Senate and House lounges. The presentation was made on the 50th anniversary of the appearance of the cartoon—January 8, 1917. [13]

Two cartoons of unusual interest came off Ding's drawing board in the mid-1930's. The one was an all-time favorite of his. [14] He often said it had "everything," a good, amusing yet serious message, easily understood; "and the execution isn't bad." He requested that this cartoon be included in any appropriate group of his drawings.

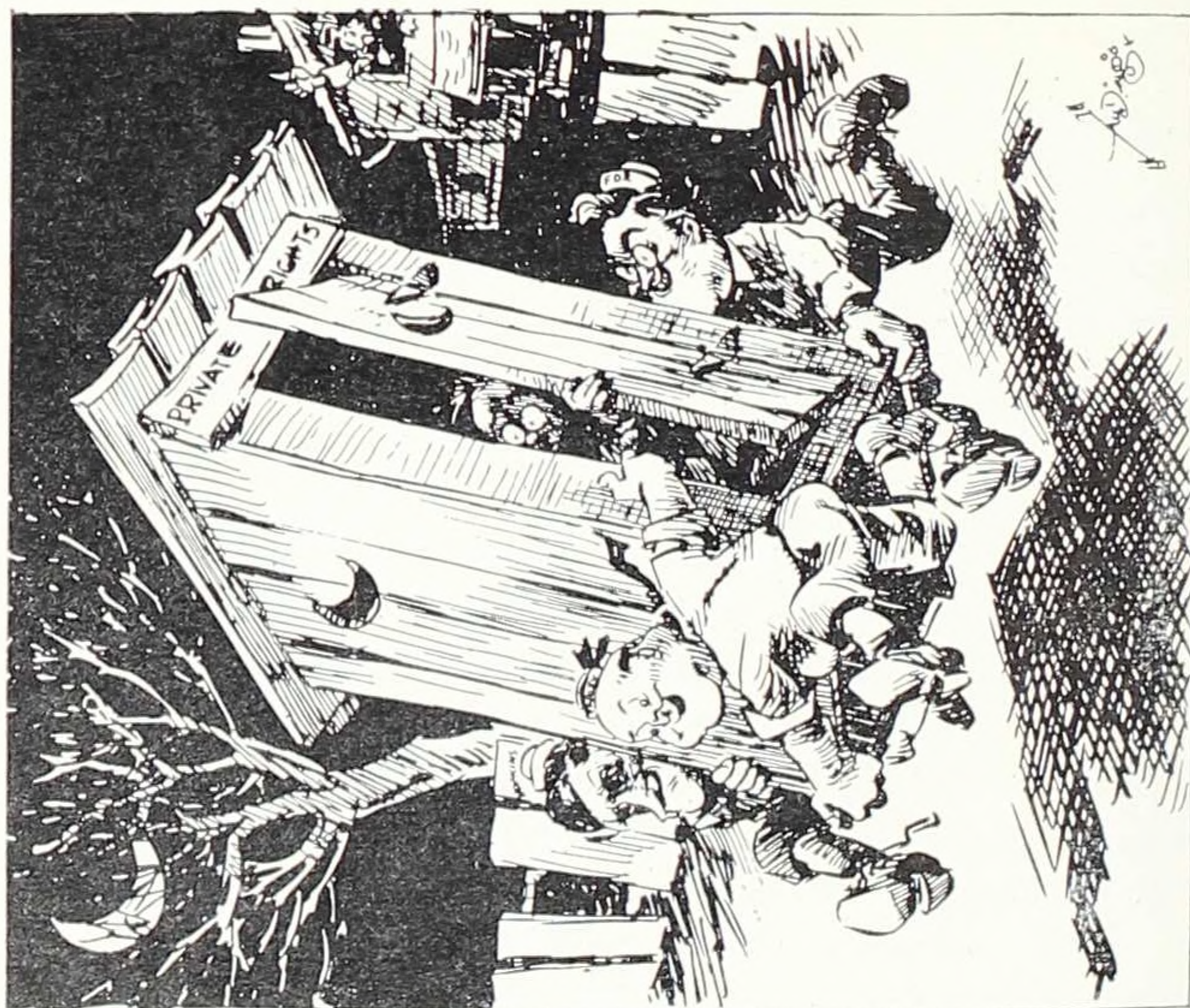
The other cartoon appeared on Halloween, 1936, at a time when there was quite an outcry that the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration was taking away the rights of private citizens. Shown with the president, stealing the privy, are Postmaster General James Farley, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Harry Hopkins, confidant of FDR and later his Secretary of the Interior. [15] The cartoon did not appear in *The Des Moines Register* because the then publisher,

A Cartoon About All Of Us



[14]

Halloween—U.S.A.



[15]

The Doctor Has Patients Aplenty



As Goes Nature, So Goes Man



Where Many Of Our Resources Go



Gardner Cowles, Sr., thought it was in bad taste. But it was sent to other papers by the syndicate and many used it.

Ding often, at the convening of Congress, drew a cartoon likening Congress to a doctor, with the issues and problems in his waiting room. This 1923 cartoon is very similar to eight or nine others drawn during his half century of recording Congresses. [16]

Here are two of the most reproduced of the many cartoons Ding drew about conservation. The one appears as the frontispiece of the history of agriculture containing some 100 Ding Cartoons published by the Pioneer Corn Company of Des Moines. [17]

The other has been published again and again through the years since it first appeared in 1937. [18] It is as pertinent now, of course, as it was then.

This cartoon would not be drawn by Ding if he were at his board today because of the changed attitude on racial rights. [19] But at that time, 1920, it aroused no protest. The cartoon appeared early in 1920 at a time when Herbert Hoover was very popular because of his war-time food work. It was not known for sure that he was a Republican, and many Democratic leaders sought him as the Democratic nominee. However, it developed that he was a Republican, and when Harding was elected president in 1920 he named Hoover Secretary of Commerce. Hoover served in that capacity

A Big Theft Threatened in the U.S.A.



[19]

Weather That Was Weather



[20]

for Harding and Coolidge, and was elected president in 1928.

The other cartoon was one of many that Ding drew, lamenting off-season weather. He wanted winter to be cold and snowy, summer hot and sweaty. If they were otherwise at any time he took up his pen in disgust. This cartoon appeared January 28, 1932. [20]

In the mid-1920's, farm prices were low. Farmers were irate at the Republicans because a Republican, Coolidge, occupied the White House. In an effort to help, and thus appease the farmers, the McNary-Haugen bill was passed by Congress. (The Haugen of the bill was Congressman Gilbert Haugen of Iowa.) This bill would use tax money to control production, and thus keep up prices for the farmers. But Coolidge vetoed the bill, and Ding drew this cartoon. The farmers were mad. And they were madder when the bill was passed a second time, and Coolidge vetoed it. It was passed again in Hoover's administration and he vetoed it. And again the rural ire arose. However, the Republican party was strong enough in the 1920's to elect their nominee for president. But many Republican Congressmen from the farm states were defeated. [21]

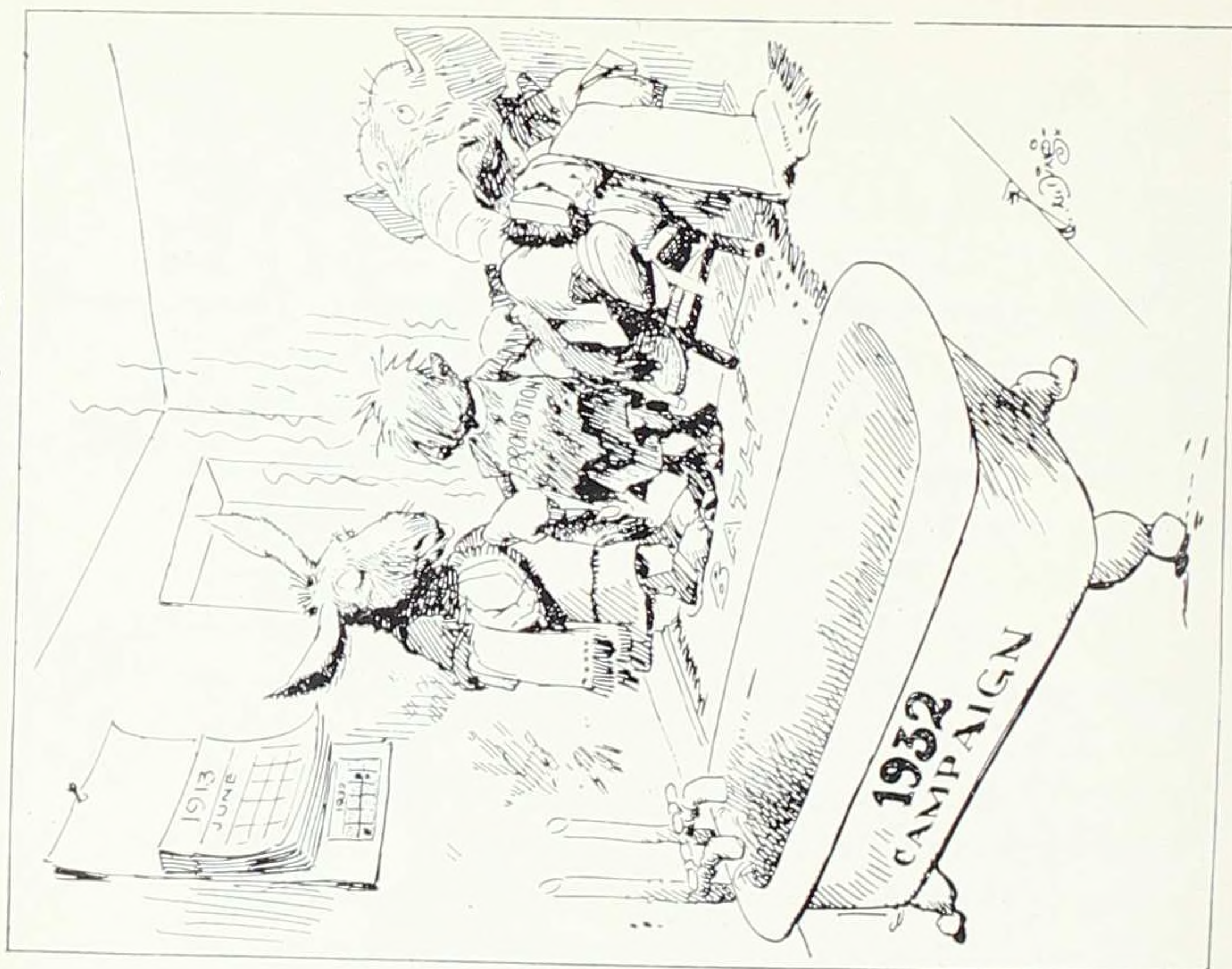
The cartoon at the right tells its own story. It is included here, especially, because of the "error" in the date on the calendar. [22] Ding made that error—one of a few in his 20,000 cartoons—and

Right Through The Nest



[21]

Waiting For Saturday Night



[22]

I TOLD YOU, YOU WERE DRIVING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD! OLD HORSE AND BUGGY STUFF

POLITICAL SALVAGE

FARMER

SEC. WALLACE

U.S. AGRICULTURE

M. D. Angelo

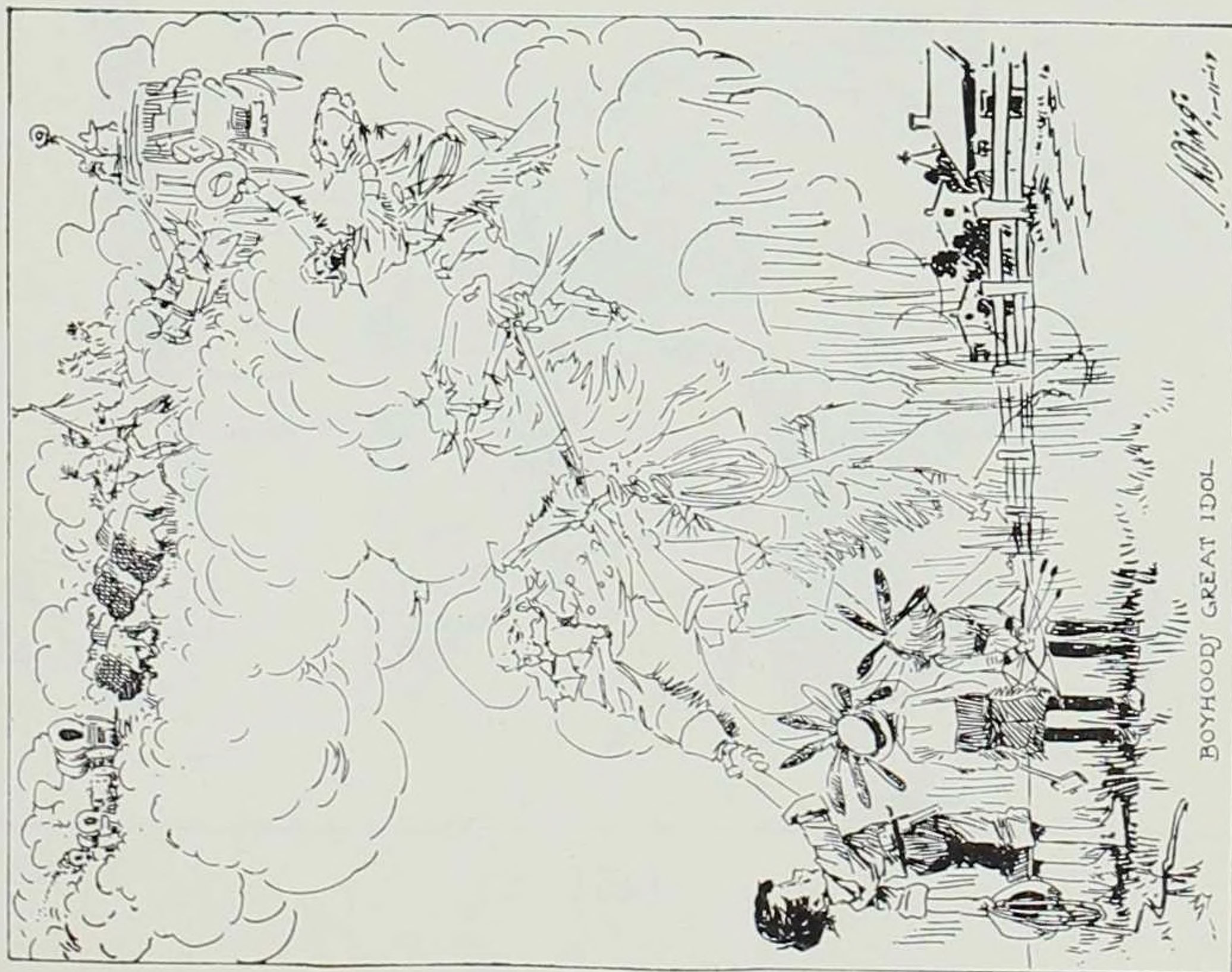
no editor handling the cartoon noted it. Thus, the "error" comes down into history.

Henry Agard Wallace became Secretary of Agriculture under FDR during the farm depression of the 1930's. Wallace developed the policy that the nation was so dependent on the products of the farms that the Federal Government should make payments to the farmers to insure that they kept on producing. His plan was very controversial. A test case of the Wallace plan finally went to the United States Supreme Court, which held it unconstitutional. This caused Ding to draw the cartoon above. [23] The policy was adopted in a different form and, with other changes, has come down to this time. This cartoon for several years was on the wall in the office of Gardner (Mike) Cowles, Jr. It is now in the possession of the family of James Wallace, brother of Henry Agard Wallace.

The cartoon at the left was drawn at the time of the death of Buffalo Bill, in January of 1917, and was the begetter of Ding's most popular cartoon, that drawn two years later on the death of Theodore Roosevelt, also depicted as going into the heavens on his horse. Ding drew the Roosevelt cartoon from what he thought at the time was a spontaneous inspiration. Later he recalled the Buffalo Bill cartoon, and realized that it "must have been in the back of my head." [24]

The cartoon at the right is a favorite of Ding's

Gone to Join The Mysterious Caravan

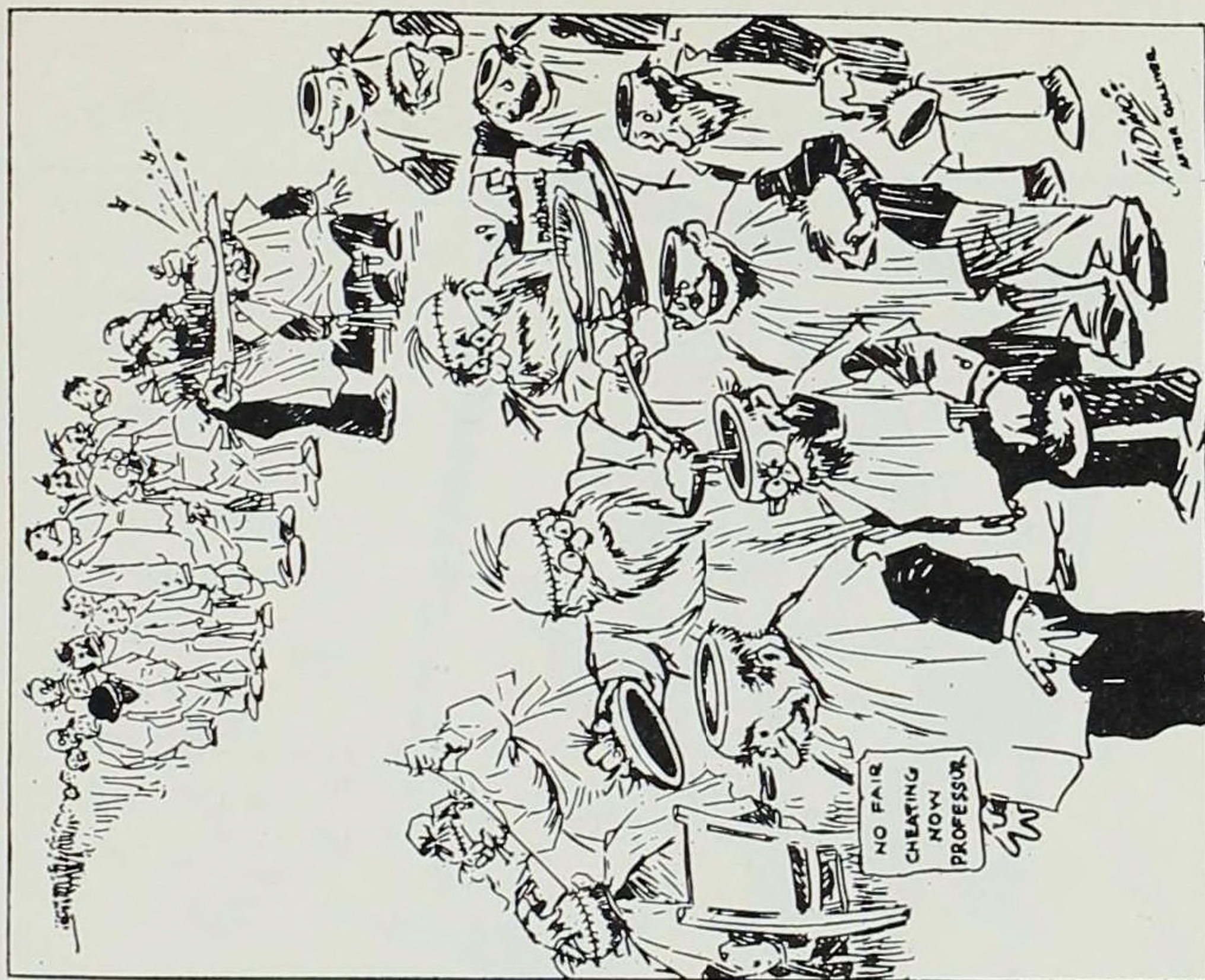


BOYHOOD'S GREAT IDOL

W.D. P. 1-11-17

[24]

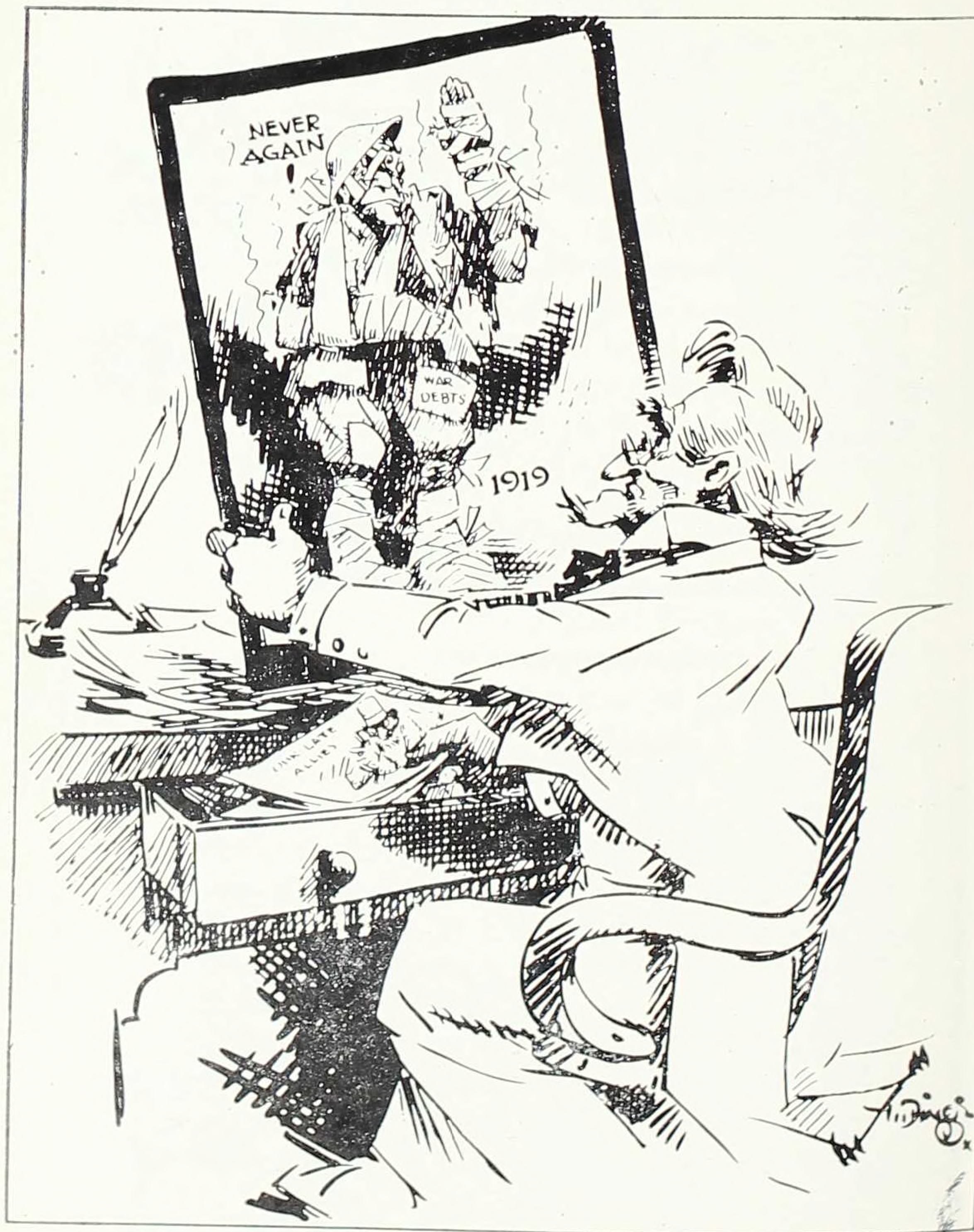
The Ultimate Balancing Process



W.D. P. 1-11-17

[25]

A Look At Some Old Pictures



[26]

family. It was drawn in 1934, following a statement by an official in the Franklin D. Roosevelt New Deal administration, that it planned to even up all persons. [25]

A print of this cartoon hangs in one of the galleries at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. [26] It was sent when the Naval Institute asked that it be given some cartoons indicating that Ding had foreseen the Second World War. The institute was given thirty-some such cartoons, which Ding produced in the 1937-1940 period, and this was the one selected for hanging.

JOHN M. HENRY