



# An Appetite for Destruction

# Factional Conflict & The Wrong Guy

- Old Guard, Midwesterners, Urban Progressives & Western Farmers have trouble agreeing
- **BLUM**: Taft is NOT Teddy Roosevelt (585)
- Judges should legislate, not people (or president)
  - Doesn't believe in veto, so he doesn't use it
- Tried to cater to Old Guard to stop reformers
  - Refused to stop “Uncle Joe” Cannon in House



# Some Errors

- Didn't reduce **Dingley Tariffs** for Western farmers
- **Payne-Aldrich Tariff** – Triumph for protectionists & scolded progressives for voting against it
- **Ballinger-Pinchot Affair** – Interior Sec. Ballinger sold conservation land in Alaska to JP Morgan & David Guggenheim → Pinchot tells Taft → nothing.
  - Pinchot goes to media & ruins Taft's conservation rep.



President Taft protects Secretary Ballinger as Roosevelt lurks behind Chief Forester Pinchot

# Teddy Gets Angry

- **“Rule of Reason”** – SCOTUS rules Standard Oil & American Tobacco are monopolies → adds “only unreasonable restraints of trade were unlawful”
  - Taft content w/ court power; TR thinks federal agency should have final say, asking Congress to redefine Sherman to account for impact on public → SCOTUS amends law
- Taft takes on US Steel → TR gets acquittal w/JPM
- Roosevelt “throws his hat in the ring” for 1912...



# Roosevelt vs. Taft Comparison?

