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
  - Pinchot goes to media & ruins Taft’s conservation rep.
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?