

the first to spot the Brain Trust for what it was. Roosevelt had been in office less than four months when Fish blew the whistle on their radicalism. "Congress must be deaf, dumb, and blind," the New York congressman told the House, "when it enacts the complicated bills that are coming through the White House from the hands of the 'brain trust' composed mostly of Columbia University theoretical and socialistic professors." Almost simultaneously Schall complained of trying to overcome the Depression "with a cure concocted in the minds of certain professors who have been reading the propaganda of Hitler, Mussolini, and Lenin." By the end of the first year in office, Hanford MacNider was telling the Republican Party birthday celebration at Jackson, Michigan, that "On the Socialist platform their [Brain Trust's] performance for one year is practically one hundred per cent."⁴¹

The source of this incessant flow of socialistic and communistic legislation was the "little red house down in Georgetown," the residence of Brain Trusters Benjamin Cohen, Thomas "Tommy-the-Cork" Corcoran and James M. Landis. "I referred to a little red house down in Georgetown," said Republican Congressman Frederick A. Britten of Illinois, early in 1934 (as though he were revealing some closely guarded secret). "It is the little red house down in Georgetown where are held the meetings which promote the communistic legislation we all talk about in the cloakrooms. It is in the little red house in Georgetown where every night of the week from ten to eighteen young men of communistic minds meet, so-called young students. They call them Frankfurter's hot-dogs."⁴²

Until the United States became engulfed in World War II, until long after the Brain Trust ceased to function as a unit (if it ever did), long after it should have been apparent to everyone that the Brain Trust was at worst unwise or petulantly misguided, the charges of wilful disloyalty continued. In 1935, for example, Hamilton Fish told a nationwide radio audience over CBS that "the recognition of Soviet Russia should be withdrawn, as it was a gigantic hoax perpetrated upon the American people by the President and the 'brain trust.'"⁴³

The redoubtable Dewey Short, floundering in such a plethora of words on the floor of the House that spring that syntax failed him completely, shouted: "Are you going to base your future and that of your children upon experience or are you going to follow every unknown, unsolved, unworkable, unconstitutional, dangerous, willful, autocratic, egotistical, tax-eating bureaucrats?" Would the country prefer to follow George Washington and Thomas Jefferson or Raymond Moley and Rexford Guy Tugwell, Short wanted to know. (It was some comfort to historical purists that Short paired Thomas Jefferson with George Washington rather than Alexander Hamilton.) But Short was not finished. "And I should like to know," he inquired, "if we still believe in the genius, courage, and patriotism of Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln or