

Warm-Up: Court Packing Scheme



During the early years of FDR's presidency, many opponents of the New Deal argued that his new programs violated the US Constitution (meaning the government was grabbing too much power). The Supreme Court declared two important programs to be *unconstitutional* – meaning they violate the constitution and are illegal:

- AAA – program that paid farmers not to grow crops
- NRA – program that set prices and wages for businesses

FDR feared that the Supreme Court might continue to strike down his New Deal programs, so in 1937 he proposed adding 6 more judges to the Supreme Court – going from 9 to 15. As president, he would have the power to appoint the new judges – allowing him to pick judges that supported his policies.

1. According to the cartoon, who is the batter? Who is the umpire? What is the batter saying to the umpire?
2. What happens to a law when the Supreme Court declares it unconstitutional?
3. How did FDR respond to his New Deal laws being declared unconstitutional?
4. Should we worry if the president tries to expand his power? Explain.