That is fundamental because, if congress an
swers yes, the principle of an impartial and in
dependent judiciary will be lost in this cou
try. In all probability it will be abandoned for all
time. In the past other administrations and oth
er parties in power have been dissatisfied with
Supreme court decisions, but have abided by
them rather than invite the consequences of a
manipulated court. Mr. Roosevelt takes the
opposite view. He places his immediate objec
tives above everything.

Once a President has packed the court to ob
tain approval of a particular course of action
which he favors it is as certain as anything
will be that his successors will find the same
or other ways of accomplishing the same end.
The court will be manipulated again and again.
The will of the people expressed in their con
stitution will no longer be the supreme law of
the land. Confidence in the integrity of the law
will be undermined and none of the rights of the
citizens will be secure.

The change which Mr. Roosevelt has proposed
is revolutionary. The word is used advisedly.
The essential difference between free govern
ment in America and dictatorial government in
Europe is the independence of our three branches
of government. Mussolini dominates not only the
executive branch of government but the law-
making and judicial branches as well. Other-
wise he would be no dictator. Precisely the
same description applies to Hitler and Stalin.
They are dictators because they write the laws.
they put them into effect, and there is no inde
pendent judiciary to which the citizens can
appeal against the autocrat.

Mr. Roosevelt is the chief executive by election,
and he holds congress in the hollow of his
hand. How lightly he regards its theoretical in
dependence in framing the nation's laws is indi
cated by the fact that he gave them a draft of
his judiciary bill with orders to pass it. If the
bill is passed by a supine congress, as he expects,
he will have control over the courts, too. From
that moment the will of the President will be
the constitution of the United States. And his
successors will take the same view of the matter.
Power once seized is seldom relinquished.

Tomorrow Mr. Roosevelt's successor may be
the creature of a Ku Klux Klan party, with all
the fanatical belief in racial and religious intol
erance which goes with it. Racial and reli
gious minorities in this country may well tre
mble at the prospect which Mr. Roosevelt has
presented.

SIDETRACKING THE DIPLOMATS.

American and Japanese cotton manufacturers
have agreed upon a two year restriction of piece
goods exports from Japan to the United States.
The quota for 1937 is to be 155 million yards and