

## **OPPOSITION TO THE NEW DEAL**

### **What is a Demagogue?**

- A leader who gains power by appealing to people's prejudices and fears rather than appealing to reason
- Many demagogues gained huge followings in the 1930's

### **Dr. Francis Townsend**

- Criticized the New Deal for not doing enough for older Americans (wanted pensions for people over 60)
- Everyone of 60 would be forced to retire and be given \$200 per month
- Only condition would be that they spend all of the \$200 each month
- 1935 Townsends plan was defeated in Congress

### **Father Charles Coughlin**

- The "radio priest"
- Believed Roosevelt was not doing enough to curb the power of bankers and financial leaders
- Audience of 30 million listeners
- Called "FDR the great betrayer and liar"

### **Huey P. Long**

- Governor and Senator from Louisiana
- In Louisiana he abolished local governments and put himself in charge of police and fire departments
- Believed Roosevelt's policies were too friendly to banks and businessmen (started the Share Our Wealth Society)
- Proposed all incomes over 5 million \$ be redistributed
- Assassinated in 1935 before running for president

### **Conservative Critics of the New Deal**

#### **•The American Liberty League**

- Believed that the New Deal went too far and was anti-business
- Desired to destroy the New Deal
- "The largest collection of millionaires ever assembled under the same roof"
- Never gained serious support in the 1930's

### **Opposition from the courts**

–Critics of the New Deal feared that it gave the president too much power over other branches of government.

–*NIRA ruled unconstitutional arguing that the federal government cannot control commerce within states only between states*

–*AAA ruled unconstitutional arguing that taxation on agricultural products to provide subsidies was wrong*

### **The Court Packing Plan**

- Gave the president power to appoint many new judges and expand the Supreme Court by up to six judges

- Roosevelt argued that changes were needed to make the courts more efficient.

- Most observers saw plan as effort to “pack” the court with friendly justices.

### **The Result**

- Plan did not pass; however, the Supreme Court made some rulings that favored New Deal legislation.

- Supreme Court upheld a minimum wage law in Washington state.

- Court ruled in favor of a key element of the Wagner Act.

- Court declared Social Security plan to be constitutional.