The buhl (or boulle) 1

(June 2024)

Will those at the Pinnacle of the Three Branches of Government survive the assaults of Progress better than the charwomen, coachmen, seamsters and other teamsters of lore?

PREMISE

With regard to the Legislative Branch of Government, in the current 117th Congress 32.7% of Representatives and 50% of Senators hold law degrees;

With regard to the Executive Branch, 57% of Presidents held law degrees;

One would surmise, and perhaps wish, that most in the Judicial Branch hold law degrees.

ASSAULTS OF PROGRESS

As discussed in other papers on the same subject ², it is worthwhile noting that among past innovations the washing machine caused the vanishing of the washerwoman, and so did the automobile with the coachman, the electric starter and car heater with the chauffeur, the gas stove and refrigerator with the in-house cook, the sewing machine with the seamstress, the vacuum cleaner with the charwoman, and so forth, *ad proxime infinitum*.

These occupations did not survive innovation, to the chagrin of the millions who lost their means of mere subsistence. There was not much they could do, although they did protest, and sometimes riot.

They were powerless in the face of Progress, and they would find no support in the Branches of Government.

Now, will the powerful agents of the Three Branches of Government be more successful in defending their own turf? One could bet that they will fight tooth and nail to conserve their power and prerogatives and, being at the right end of the levers of power, chances are they will succeed, at least for a while.

¹ "Buhl", or "boulle", is an intricate inlaid furniture decoration; tortoiseshell and yellow and white metal form scrolls in cabinetwork, sometime involving sheets of brass and pewter.

² Doomsday, Natural Intelligence, Threshy, or else Künstliche Intelligenz (click for links)

The augury they seem to dread so much is hereby called **B.A.D.A.S.S.** ³.

Much has been said about the novelty, but to allay one's possible doubts about its benefits and the shortcomings of Natural Intelligence, suffice it to read the abundance of naturally unintelligent and panic-ridden comments about so-called Artificial Intelligence.

More to the point, it has been verified upon testing the latest iteration of the new technology that it exceeded the performance of **90 percent** of human test takers on the Uniform Bar Examination, a standardized test used to certify lawyers for practice in many states. Similar improvements were found in dozens of other standardized tests.

By extension, could it be inferred that the novelty will replace altogether and with great advantage to the public the laureates of the Bar Examination? Let's examine the proposition more closely.

For one thing, while the Fellows of the Brotherhood of the Practitioners of the Law bill their patrons in increments of one tenth of an hour, irrespective of any obligation of result, much like the Fillies of the Sisterhood of the Servants of Aphrodite, the Artificially Intelligent novelty is and probably will remain free of charge, thus sparing the client from being charged for one hour sometimes as much as he earns in a fortnight.

Then, unlike some in the Brotherhood personally known to the author of these lines, the novelty is certain to be neither lazy, indolent, greedy, unprincipled, prejudiced, insensitive, arrogant, unethical, untrustworthy, deceitful, unscrupulous, duplicitous, predatory, cunning, underhanded, grandstanding nor altogether dishonorable.

The novelty will expeditiously analyze litigation premises and thoroughly check evidence in a purely factual and logical fashion. It will instantly parse through jurisprudence and denounce bad law. Its findings shall exclude bad faith and procedural trickeries, while all of the above shall be absolutely free of charge and will discourage unethical litigators. Lack of time and docket overload will cease to be blamed by the Courts for bad justice.

It is more than likely that all those who build their wealth on either the misery or the depravity of their clients will mobilize with great indignation their Armies of Esquires ⁴ to fend off the Intruder, but, whereas Her Unworthiness the Charwoman of lore found no solace under the relentless assaults of Progress, His Worship the Magistrate controls the levers of Government and will erect formidable fortifications of absurdity and intellectual distortion to fiercely salvage his prerogatives.

However, the lessons of History would suggest that at one point he will succumb too, and more economical occupations will need to be found for him.

³ For "Buhlsheet Automated Detector And Speedy Smasher" also known as A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)

⁴ In the Middle Ages an attendant and shield bearer to a knight; a candidate for knighthood; also, a title of respect for a member of the English gentry ranking just below a knight.