

- Are you really free if it's given to you?
- Your opposition is going to result in trying to topple that system of democracy
- That's what we get in the 19-teens
- African-Americans are looking to work within that system
- They're seeking freedom because they've been enslaved and had those restrictions placed on their lives
 - But what they're really seeking is citizenship
- Moving on to Arc of Justice and Willis Ward
- If you're either looking within a system to reform it or to topple it
 - This one person being framed as a revolutionary voice
 - What's radicalism if radicalism at some point has to work within the system?
 - There are certain ways in which we radicalize things that are more real-world and more practical than we'd like to admit
 - People compromise in some ways – that's the way in which our system of government is constructed
 - Those individuals who are seeking to partner
 - Look at John Smith in Detroit or Frank Murphy
 - Once these cases start to unfold
 - Are they completely enamored with Frank Murphy? They're not
 - You're going to either try to work with those individuals and mitigate the [forces] of capitalism and repression
 - Or try to topple them
- At other times they are trying to work with the lesser of two evils, put themselves in a position in which they keep their most important interests viable.
 - There are ways in which we forget that politics can be pragmatic
 - The last thing I'll say and then we can return to class is
 - There was a criticism of Kamela Harris on the question of Israel.
 - Every candidate is going to be pro-Israel
 - I was watching on the plane, Bernie Sanders townhall on CNN
 - It's always going to be a very fine balance a fine line drawn
 - Israel is our ally, we have to support a two-state solution
 - You can get a sense of where a person stands if you read through the two lines

- Kamela Harris criticism
 - Drew a parallel to African-Americans civil rights movement
 - Indicated that that moment was not just about crossing a bridge but about bridge building
 - You had Jewish rabbis, African-Americans
- People will do whatever is necessary in order to keep their broader interests viable
- Not to say that we can't scrutinize, not to say that we can't criticize
- To the degree that I know anything about Chicago, some of my colleagues are upset because [their friends] are
 - In bed with Democrats who they do not oppose
 - Some entity is going to represent their ideas even though they do not agree with them.
- We don't have perfect candidates and in an establishment system they are not all trying to dismantle what exists inside of America
- Most individuals are looking to refine or polish democracy
- I'll stop there, let's get into Arc of Justice
 - The end of Arc of Justice
 - There are three aspects that I want to focus on
 - One is Clarence Darrow
 - Who has his own definitions of freedom, just talking about freedom
 - The second thing is Ossian Sweet as a symbol of New Negro militancy
 - The final thing that I would like to discuss is the end of the story.
 - I know when you got to page 344 and 345 you had to be jarred
 - Reid I read your email... staring out the window and all
 - What does the Sweet case mean for the long freedom struggle? What does it mean for the Sweet family? It was not a sweet ending.
 - In the end – not so sweet.
- What kind of person is Clarence Darrow?
- Gladys Sweet – my hero in the story
 - Most defiant person, so I want to discuss her as well
- Clarence Darrow – most famed attorney in the country
 - A champion for a while of labor until labor turns against him

- Because at some point you may be the ideal but you're gonna disappoint
- Negotiates a life sentence against him, labor turns against him
- Defends, participates in the Scopes monkey trial
- When the ideas you're presenting, no matter how brilliantly you're presenting them, are still considered avant-garde
 - The need for equality is avant-garde, against the system
- Has the most interesting ways of viewing that word freedom and manipulate it to support his claims
- What are your takes on Clarence Darrow? What are you thinking?
- Darrow says society is organized injustice. What does that mean? Let's see here...
 - So there's this part in the very beginning of Chapter 8 when Arthur White, Spingone, Arthur Garfield Haze, James Johnson have gone to Liz Darrow's services
 - In the second paragraph, Darrow is now years removed from this case and he's reflecting back on that moment in which [he took up the case]
 - And he said "I knew that I would go when I was making the excuses" in other words he knew that he was going to take this case
- Did Frank Murphy do anything to win Ossian Sweet's support?
- Boyle sets it up as if Clarence Darrow comes in and makes the fundamental difference in the acquittal of the Ossian Sweet family.
- How do we read the fact that John Fletcher comes off?
 - How do we read the fact that three African-Americans were taken off the case and replaced by white men? (Clarence, Haze, and Darrow)
 - I mean, Darrow is performative, Darrow is very sophisticated in sketching out arguments.
 - I read this case thinking about the O.J. Simpson trial.
- The entire O.J. Simpson team knew that they were always
- Each day I need to end my presentation of facts, my cross-examination with the things that are going to play in the news cycle.
- Arthur Garfield is prominent in his own right from Sacco and Venzetti which would probably be to me arguably his most famous case
- But he's there to assist Darrow through every single case that Darrow is getting credit for within the last decade – Scopes monkey trial, Haze is right there

- I think Clarence is right – Darrow is opportunistic but I also think Darrow is opportunistic because he sees what this case is going to mean to history
- Sweet family's defense, but he has a larger interest in dealing with white supremacy and race in its most generic context. Were you surprised that Ossian Sweet committed suicide?
 - Page 344 and 345 are very short in dealing with the suicide. I mean, we move from acquittal to oh he finally moves back into the bungalow, he's having problems paying the property taxes, his life is just eroding before him, as [Boyle] says the Arc of Justice is not bending quickly enough, he commits suicide
 - This man has the weight of 30+ years on his shoulders, I move into this house believing that I'm gonna be a part of the Talented Ten
 - [dealing] with white mob violence
 - My wife gets tuberculosis
 - My first child dies, my second child dies
 - What have I gained for myself?
- There's that little page on the part of 345 where he says that Ossian Sweet in his sensitive way
 - Uh, the public ruled that ... he made an ill-advised bid for presidency of the NAACP against the man who rushed to his defense [ten] years later.
 - A lot of assumptions made about the way this story is supposed to unfold
 - In a sense I read it as a tragedy
 - I would say Gladys is the biggest hero in this story because she is the most defiant
 - She is the most willing to challenge the status quo
 - I think he would have, Ossian Sweet would have said thank you if the charges were dropped
 - Ossian was as opportunistic [as Clarence Darrow]
- Let's go to page 290.
 - Ossian has to totally revise this editorial narrative
 - He goes from a person who is shaking in his boots to a [part of the] New Negro narrative
 - What was going through your mind
 - When I opened the door and saw the mob, I realized that I saw the same mob that had hounded my race for centuries.
 - In my mind I was pretty confident about what I was up against. I was filled with a peculiar fear.
 - This is bullshit

- It's like we're allowing Ossian to get away with revising the narrative
 - As I said to some of you in office hours, does the Ossian Sweet open the door for African-Americans to enter white communities?
 - No it did not.
 - And you have Ossian Sweet portraying him as sort of, I'm standing up on behalf of the race
 - Sort of like, we had no other place to move in the city
 - No negro no, that's not the case
- It's a crafted story, it's a page-turner. It's gripping at times but it leaves you befuddled like what the hell. And then you get to the very end of the story and it's kind of like in short order they're acquitted, he buys a store, he commits suicide.
- Is Ossian Sweet a hero?
 - If the white mob rushed in and Ossian Sweet was holding his gun, I still don't know whether he would have fired his weapon. I don't see that as disparaging.
 - ...
 - When Willis Ward, I'm going to go with a question posed by his former roommate Art Randall. Is Willis Ward a hero or a coward? And just your general thoughts on how he moves from experiencing racial discrimination to carrying it out.
 - Raising in the sun – a lot of things in there are important
 - My greater sense is that there are other issues to tackle.
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