



“Not Afraid” August 9, 1905

Secretary of War William Howard Taft told President Theodore Roosevelt that his highest ambition was to serve as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, but Roosevelt hoped Taft would run in the 1908 election as his successor. With Roosevelt's encouragement, Taft began to consider the option. In this cartoon Taft blocks the buzz of a potential Supreme Court nomination to better hear the enticing buzz of the Presidential bee. Berryman speculates that Taft may be succumbing to Roosevelt's wishes and is “not afraid” of running for President.

U.S. Senate Collection
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*Running for Office:
Candidates, Campaigns and the
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**William Howard Taft
(recent reprint)**

By the Army Signal Corps,
ca. 1921-29
*Records of the Office of the Chief
Signal Officer
National Archives*

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The White House,

June 30, 1921

To the

Senate of the United States.

I nominate

William Howard Taft, of Connecticut,

to be Chief Justice of the United States, vice Edward Douglas White,

deceased.

Warren G. Harding

CONFIRMED JUN 30 1921

President Warren G. Harding's nomination of William Howard Taft as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, June 30, 1921

At the urging of President Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft ran for President in 1908 thus deferring his lifelong dream to be Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Taft was elected, served one term as President, and lost his bid for reelection. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding nominated Taft to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a position he held until 1930. Taft remains the only former President to serve as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

*Records of the U.S. Senate
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