

Furtwängler's Nemesis Supported Bertrand Russell

Ira Hirschmann was the decisive vote on Bertrand Russell's appointment as special guest lecturer at the New York City College System at Hunter College.

"Immediately after Russell had announced his acceptance of the school's invitation, the Board was besieged by protests. . . . As the latest appointee to the board, my turn came last. Keeping count of the yeas and nays, I knew the vote was going to be close, but I had not expected to find myself in the unenviable position of facing a tie. Mine was to be the deciding vote.

. . . Before my turn to vote came up, I had written out a statement on the reason for my decision. . . . This is a reasonably close recollection:

The issue here is not Bertrand Russell, but academic freedom. Too little respect for this hallmark of our democratic process, so hard won, has been manifested in recent times in our country. It is being flouted in Germany. My convictions on this subject are strong and unequivocal. I vote 'Yes.'"¹

While Ira Hirschmann, the spokesman for the policy of the British Empire, tried to thrust the evil of Bertrand Russell on the future minds of our nation, at the same time that he was running every possible operation he could to destroy and silence the genius of Wilhelm Furtwängler.

Fortunately, in spite of Ira Hirschmann's vote, the people of New York City spoke out, and the appointment of Bertrand Russell was revoked.

1. Ira Hirschmann, *Caution to the Wind*, pp. 120-122.