

Take the invention of the telephone. One hundred years ago this year at the exposition here in Philadelphia people were simply marvelling at the fact that Bell was able to stand before a little contraption and speak and make himself heard in a room a few doors away, from where he was. It was the beginning of the telephone. But that telephone that he made was very very difficult to understand and to develop it into a system such as we have today has been a tremendous thing in which Graham Bell had very little to do. He only stayed with the company 5 yrs. after he had invented the telephone. He did a marvellous thing in inventing it. Just at the same time he did it Elisha Gray of Chicago invented the telephone. Bell had one system, Gray had another. Bell happened to reach the patent office in Washington 4 hours before Gray got there. So Bell got the first patent.

In his patent he describes the way he was going to run this telephone and then as an afterthought he wrote on the side, It might also be done in a different way, and he described an entirely different process. The other process which he described was the one which Gray had invented. And it took many hundreds of court cases to decide that this thing written on the side gave Bell the priority over Gray in this matter.

Gray's system was used was used four years and was found quite unworkable. It was alright if you didn't talk more than a quarter of a mile away! But for any further distance it just didn't work! They changed to the other system which ~~XXXX~~ fortunately he had written as a possibility on the side of his paper but Elisha Gray had invented.

Most of our inventions have been made by 2 or 3 people at more or less the same time. You might say it's in the air and different people are working on it. The wonderful thing is not the invention. The wonderful thing is what is done with this invention. When the telephone was introduced in Wisconsin, somebody said, Bygimmini the thing can talk Swedish! Well, the author of the book I was reading said, It did talk Swedish after a fashion. But it did not talk it much better than it talked English.

It took an organization to work up a method of improving it. There were over 100 improvements, maybe 1000 improvements made through the years. It was made available, and all this was done not because a government said, This is something we want done but because different individuals found a profit in competing in organizations (?) and because ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ was made available for them(?)

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Properly speaking the system which we call the capitalist system is a system where 1000 people can each put a little bit of money into something and then some manager runs it, and if they succeed these people make a good return from their money, and if they fail these people lose a little bit they have put into it. They don't go bankrupt because it is divided among different ~~xxx~~ corporations. The individuals don't go bankrupt, but the companies compete and those that fail go bankrupt.

If you have a company without regulation, without competition, you will get the same problems we have in the Congress. You will get graft, laziness, and you will get nepotism. The leaders of the company will appoint their brothers, their cousins, their relatives!