



JAMES AGATE
Even he would need time

would be able to think on the *Spur of the moment* of the best 120 words. Second thoughts are best. Why, Sir, should listeners be fobbed off with first thoughts?

MY PROPOSAL: That whoever is to answer first shall have had notice of the question, after which the others may if they desire, volunteer such impromptu opinions as seem to them to have value. Surely listeners know by this time that the fun of tripping-up a Brains Trustee just doesn't happen. That we can always cloak our ignorance by turning on the taps of mellifluous bosh, personal reminiscence, or more or less apposite anecdote.

THE object of this letter, Sir, is to ask why the public should not be allowed to take the Brains Trust seriously. And whether, with this in view, Trustees should not be given the time necessary for the preparation in tabloid form of opinions worth listening to?

Yours faithfully,

JAMES AGATE.

REPLY BY PRODUCER

The following reply to James Agate's proposal was given in the next issue of the "Radio Times" by Peter Bax, producer of the Brains Trust:

IN your last issue James Agate made the proposal that "whoever is to answer first shall have had notice of the question, after which the others may, if they desire, volunteer such impromptu opinions as seem to them to have value." It is an interesting proposal, but I would point out to Mr. Agate that, in *The Open Question* something like this has already been tried. It was found that, with pre-knowledge, the members tended to go far too much into detail and the result was, to say the least of it, boring. There are, after all, many opportunities for eminent persons to put forward their considered views over the air.

Of course, as Dr. Joad said in a recent Trust session, "It really depends on what you think the Brains Trust is for." If you are looking for straight answers to questions of fact, the Brains Trust is not for you. These are supplied in many broadcast talks by experts during the week, and also in *Your Questions Answered*. If, on the other hand, you like stimulating conversation between interesting people, then I hope you (and Mr. Agate) will continue to tune in at 8.15 on Tuesday evenings."



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