



PLUNKITT OF TAMMANY HALL

Plunkitt of Tammany Hall

by George Washington Plunkitt
(1842-1924)



PLUNKITT

"I seen my opportunities and I took 'em." George Washington Plunkitt was a long-time State Senator from New York, who was especially powerful in New York City, where he was part of what is known as the Tammany Hall machine.

Plunkitt became wealthy by practicing what he called "honest graft" in politics. He was a cynically honest practitioner of what today is generally known as "machine politics" -- patronage-based and frank in its exercise of power for personal gain. In one of his speeches, quoted in *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*, he describes the difference between dishonest and honest graft: for dishonest graft one worked solely for one's own interests, while for honest graft one pursued the interests of one's party, one's state, and one's personal interests all together. (*Wikipedia*)

Listen to this candid discourse from a 19th century politician, and decide for yourself if things have changed.

Total running time: 3:00:25

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Photo of Plunkitt (center).

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