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CICERO ORATIONS

PRO SESTIO IN VATINIUM



Translated by

R. GARDNER

PRO SESTIO





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### PREFACE

Many years ago I accepted an invitation from the Editors of the Loeb Classical Library to revise and complete the five speeches of Cicero now comprised in two volumes, a work which had been left unfinished by their contributor, the late J. H. Freese, M.A., formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Assistant Master at Repton School and at St. Paul's School. His earlier contribution to the Loeb Library was a volume published in 1930 which contained Cicero's speeches *Pro P. Quinctio, Pro Sex. Roscio Amerino, Pro Q. Roscio Comoedo*, and *De lege agraria*, i-iii.

I regret that the completion of this task has been gravely interrupted and delayed by the claims of administrative work and other duties. It is, however, possible that some advantage may have been gained by this delay. Within the last generation scholars have assiduously investigated the wealth of literary evidence that has made political and prosopographical studies of the late Roman Republic so profitable a field of inquiry. Their labours have thrown new light upon some aspects of the setting and the subjectmatter of Cicero's speeches. To these recent re-

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searches and, no less, to those of earlier date, I have been under a constant obligation. The Bibliography which will be found on pp. 353-360 is, naturally, far from exhaustive; it is no more than a list of such books and articles as have been found useful in the preparation of these volumes, and may indicate the amount of work which has been done in this field. My chief debt is to those annotated editions without whose aid I could have done nothing. Over seventy years have passed since two of them were published: J. S. Reid's edition of the Pro Balbo appeared in 1878, H. A. Holden's edition of the Pro Sestio in 1883. Two are more recent. In 1924 H. E. Butler and M. Cary published their edition of the De provinciis consularibus, and L. G. Pocock's edition of the In Vatinium is dated to 1926. The most recent commentary on the Pro Caelio is Professor R. G. Austin's revision (1952) of his earlier work (1933). For the guidance and help which I have received from this indispensable work I am obviously indebted and I am deeply grateful.

I have departed but rarely from the text used by the original translator, the Teubner edition (1904) by C. F. W. Müller, and then only to adopt suggestions by editors of the annotated editions. Müller's text has now been superseded by the Teubner edition of 1919 by A. Klotz and F. Schöll.

In any assessment of the qualities of the Ciceronian corpus these five speeches, taken as a whole, must be judged worthy of a high place. They not only vividly illustrate some of those literary qualities which viii

#### PREFACE

link Cicero with Virgil as the most influential of the Romans, but they also illuminate many aspects of Cicero's amazing versatility as an orator. The Pro Sestio and the In Vatinium, with the Pro Caelio presenting some tantalizing glimpses of late Republican society, are a contemporary source of great value for the history of the short but crowded interlude between the bloodless revolution of 59 B.C. and the Conference of Luca. The De provinciis consularibus and the Pro Balbo, expressions of Cicero's loss of political independence, show how effectively the opposition to the coalition of Pompey, Caesar and Crassus had been paralysed, and almost point the way to the great laws of 55 B.C.. the lex Pompeia Licinia and the lex Trebonia, which set up armed principes in control of the State.

The matter supplementary to the text and translation has been provided, possibly at the cost of treading paths already well worn, in an attempt to expound the historical setting of these speeches, to discuss some topics arising from their subject-matter, and to comment on those abundant references to earlier periods of Roman History which enhance the value of Cicero's work.

R. GARDNER

Emmanuel College Cambridge 6 January 1958

## TABLE OF EVENTS IN ROMAN POLITICS FROM 60 B.C. TO 56 B.C.

<sup>a</sup> Where chronology is precise, we are indebted, first and foremost, to Cicero's *Letters*, and, to a lesser degree, to the speeches delivered by him in 57 and 56 B.c. In general, the sequence of events in the years from 60 to 56 B.c. can be determined with fair accuracy, except where the sources are either silent or conflicting or variously interpreted. For a most helpful table of dates see R. G. Nisbet's edition of Cicero, *De domo sua*, pp. xxxv-xxxvii.

## Consuls: Q. Caecilius Metellus Celer and L. Afranius

Early months. Political deadlock arising from the Senate's refusal to ratify Pompey's settlement of the Near East and to allot lands to his veterans, and from Cato's opposition to a proposal to revise a tax-contract for the province of Asia.

P. Clodius, desirous of becoming tribune, plans to have himself declared a plebeian, a move successfully opposed by the consul Q. Metellus.

June.

Caesar returns from his propraetorship in Further Spain. He abandons his claim to a triumph and appears as a candidate for the consulship. The Senate assign the province of *silvae callesque* (forests and stock-routes) for the prospective consuls of 59.

July.

Caesar enters into negotiations with Pompey leading to the coalition known as "The First Triumvirate." Caesar and M. Calpurnius Bibulus elected consuls for 59.

December.

Cicero, approached by Caesar's agent L. Cornelius Balbus, refuses to support Caesar's agrarian bill and so to enter into political partnership with him. Crassus enlisted by Caesar as a third partner in the Triumvirate.

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59 в.с.

## Consuls: C. Iulius Caesar and M. Calpurnius Bibulus

Caesar's first agrarian bill is passed by uncon-From stitutional and violent methods, the Senate having to the end of refused to discuss it. Caesar reveals his coalition with April. Pompey and Crassus, disregards tribunes' vetoes and drives from the Forum his colleague Bibulus and other opponents. Bibulus, having withdrawn to his house, gives notice that he is "watching the heavens" and publishes edicts against Caesar.

Cicero criticizes the illegalities of Caesar and his partners in his unsuccessful defence of C. Antonius (consul 63 and proconsul of Macedonia 62-60) when prosecuted by M. Caelius Rufus, probably for maiestas. On the same day P. Clodius is transferred to plebeian status by the comitia curiata, under the presidency of Caesar as consul and Pontifex Maximus, and with the approval of Pompey as an augur.

Death of Q. Metellus Celer, proconsul-designate of Transalpine Gaul, and husband of Clodia, sister of

P. Clodius.

Confirmation, probably by a lex Vatinia, of Pompey's settlement of the Near East.

Revision, probably by a lex Vatinia, of the tax-

contract for the province of Asia.

Recognition, by a decree of the Senate and a law, of Ptolemy Auletes as King of Egypt.

Promulgation of the lex Iulia de agro Campano.

Marriage of Pompey and Julia, daughter of Caesar. Before 10 May. Passing of the lex Iulia de agro Campano. May.

A lex Vatinia gives Caesar the provinces of Cis-May (or alpine Gaul and Illyricum.

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June (or July). A decree of the Senate gives Caesar the province of Transalpine Gaul.

June and July.

Unpopularity of the Triumvirate: demonstrations at public festivals, e.g. at the Ludi Apollinares (6-13 July); the affaire Vettius.

July. L. Antistius, P. Clodius, Sex. Aelius Ligus, L. Ninnius Quadratus, among others, elected tribunes for 58.

Clodius begins openly to threaten Cicero.

Pompey publicly protests against the edicts of Bibulus.

18 October. L. Calpurnius Piso and A. Gabinius elected consuls for 58. Among the praetors elected are L. Domitius Ahenobarbus, L. Flavius, C. Memmius.

November. Acquittal of L. Flaccus (praetor 63 and propraetor of Asia 62) on a charge of *repetundae*, defended by Hortensius and Cicero.

10 December. P. Clodius enters tribunate.

#### 58 в.с.

## Consuls: L. Calpurnius Piso and A. Gabinius

Early in the Attacks on Caesar by L. Domitius Ahenobarbus and C. Memmius, praetors, and by L. Antistius, tribune.

3 January. P. Clodius promulgates and soon passes laws de censoria notione, de legibus Aelia et Fufia, frumentaria, de collegiis.

February. P. Clodius promulgates laws de capite civis Romani, de provinciis, de Cypro.

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Cicero leaves Rome. Laws de capite civis and de About 20 March. provinciis passed.

Cicero's house on the Palatine destroyed.

Law de Cypro passed. Caesar leaves for Gaul. March.

Clodius promulgates law de exsilio Ciceronis.

About 25 March. Clodius promulgates law de Catone. April.

Clodius promulgates law de exsilio Ciceronis in re- 3 April. vised form.

Laws de exsilio Ciceronis and de Catone passed. Cato leaves for Cyprus.

24 April. Soon after-

Outbreak of feud between Pompey and Clodius, April or who contrives the release, from custody as a hostage, of an Armenian prince, Tigranes the younger.

Pompey begins to urge the recall of Cicero. May. Clodius at feud with the consul Gabinius.

Proposal for Cicero's recall made in the Senate by 1 June. L. Ninnius Quadratus vetoed by Sex. Aelius Ligus.

The College of Augurs having declared illegal ? July (or Clodius' election as tribune, Clodius attacks Caesar's later in the year). acta as consul.

P. Lentulus Spinther and Q. Metellus Nepos? late July. elected consuls for 57.

Attempt by Clodius to intimidate, or to assassinate, 11 August. Pompey, who withdraws from public life till the end of Clodius' tribunate.

Sex. Aelius Ligus vetoes a bill for Cicero's recall 29 October. promulgated by eight tribunes.

The consuls leave for their provinces: Piso for Before the end of the Macedonia, Gabinius for Syria. year.

ΧV

Before 10 December.

P. Sestius, tribune-elect, visits Caesar in Cisalpine Gaul to intercede for Cicero.

57 B.C.

Consuls: P. Lentulus Spinther and Q. Metellus Nepos. Praetorship of Appius Claudius Pulcher, brother of P. Clodius. Among the tribunes are P. Sestius, T. Annius Milo, Sex. Atilius Serranus, Numerius Quintius Rufus, Q. Fabricius, T. Fadius.

Sex. Atilius Serranus obstructs a proposal for 1 January. Cicero's recall made in the Senate by the consul P. Lentulus.

Q. Fabricius prevented from submitting a bill for 23 January. Cicero's recall, a meeting of the Assembly being broken up by Clodius' operae and by gladiators supplied by his brother, Appius Claudius, praetor urbanus.

P. Sestius attacked in the Temple of Castor and Later. wounded by Clodius' operae.

Clodius begins a candidature for the aedileship. Early in the year. Failure of a first attempt by T. Annius Milo to February. prosecute Clodius de vi.

Milo and Sestius, with operae and gladiators, engage From February in faction fights against Clodius. to July.

> The Senate pass a series of decrees in favour of Cicero.

The Senate pass by 416 votes to 1 a proposal of P. Lentulus Spinther for the recall of Cicero.

The comitia centuriata sanction Cicero's recall.

Cicero delivers speech Post reditum in senatu.

Cicero returns to Rome.

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Between 1 June and

end July.

End July.

4 August.

4 Septem-

ber.

5 September.

Cicero delivers speech Post reditum ad Quirîtes.

legates.

5 September (or later).

The Senate, on the proposal of Cicero, sponsor 6 or 7 a consular law appointing Pompey corn-controller for five years with proconsular imperium and fifteen

Cicero delivers speech De domo sua ad pontifices. 29 Septem-Clodius' consecration of the site of Cicero's house ber. on the Palatine declared invalid.

The Senate order compensation to Cicero for the 2 October. destruction of his town and country houses.

Cicero, by removing from the Capitol the tablets? October. recording the acta of Clodius' tribunate, displeases Cato.

Cicero proposes *supplicatio* of fifteen days for? October. Caesar's Gallic victories of 58 and 57.

Clodius attacks the houses of M. and Q. Cicero.

Clodius attacks Cicero's escort in via sacra.

11 Novem-12 Novem-

3 Novem-

Clodius driven from an assault on Milo's house.

The Senate debate Clodius' recent acts of violence. 14 Novem-Milo begins a second attempt to prosecute Clodius de vi and, to prevent his election as an aedile, gives notice of an intention "to watch the skies."

Milo obstructs election of aediles by obnuntiatio. C. Cato and P. Rutilius Lupus enter tribunate.

20 November. 10 December.

P. Rutilius Lupus raises in the Senate the question midof the ager Campanus.

December.

Ptolemy Auletes, expelled from Alexandria (end? Summer. 58?), arrives in Rome to intrigue for his restoration by Pompey.

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Later.

Arrival in Rome of a large deputation from Alexandria, led by Dio, to protest against the restoration of Ptolemy Auletes.

Before end of the year.

The Senate decree that P. Lentulus Spinther, proconsul-elect of Cilicia, shall restore Ptolemy.

56 в.с.

Consuls: Cn. Cornelius Lentulus Marcellinus and L. Marcius Philippus

Before 13 January. The statue of Juppiter on the Alban Mount struck by lightning. The keepers of the Sibylline Books, consulted as to expiation, announce an oracle forbidding the restoration of an Egyptian king "with a multitude." The Senate reconsider their decree commissioning P. Lentulus Spinther to restore Ptolemy and decide that Roman intervention in Egypt shall not be military.

13 and 15 January. Indecisive debates in the Senate on the proposed restoration of Ptolemy.

20 January. Clodin

Clodius elected aedile.

Early in the year.

L. Domitius Ahenobarbus, a candidate for the consulship of 55, announces that if elected he will as consul take steps to deprive Caesar of his provinces.

2 February.

Clodius begins prosecution of Milo de vi, before the Assembly.

6 February.

Adjournment of Milo's trial. Pompey speaks in support of him amid uproar from Clodius' operae. Clodius attacks Pompey as corn-controller and presses Crassus' claims to restore Ptolemy.

8 February.

Pompey, attacked in the Senate by a tribune C. Cato, accuses Crassus of plotting his murder.

Trial of P. Sestius, defended by Cicero and others, 10 February when prosecuted by Cn. Nerius de ambitu and by March. P. Tullius Albinovanus de vi.

Cicero successfully defends L. Calpurnius Bestia 11 Februwhen prosecuted de ambitu by M. Caelius Rufus.

Unanimous acquittal of Sestius.

11 March.

Acquittal of Sextus Clodius, prosecuted by Milo at End of Pompey's instance.

Cicero successfully defends P. Asicius, accused of Before murdering Dio, leader of the deputation of Alexan- beginning drians sent to protest against the restoration of Ptolemy Auletes.

Cicero successfully defends M. Caelius Rufus when 4 April. prosecuted (3-4 April) by L. Sempronius Atratinus.

The Senate vote a grant of 40,000,000 sesterces to 5 April. Pompey as corn-controller, and approve Cicero's proposal for a debate *de agro Campano* at a full meeting on 15 May.

Crassus at once leaves Rome and meets Caesar at

Ravenna.

Cicero leaves Rome for a tour of his country houses, 8 April. intending to return on 6 May.

Pompey leaves Rome for a port of embarkation 11 April. (Pisae or Labro) for corn-control business in Sardinia and Africa.

Pompey reaches Pisae where he is joined by Caesar ? 16 April. and Crassus.

Conference of Pompey, Caesar, and Crassus at Luca, ? 17 April. after which Caesar returns to Gaul and Pompey sails to Sardinia where he plans, through Q. Cicero and

L. Vibullius Rufus, to dissuade Cicero from making his motion de agro Campano before his own return.

Meetings of the Senate. No debate de agro Cam-

6 May. Date of Cicero's proposed return to Rome from a tour of his country houses.

Soon Cicero, informed of Pompey's representations, afterwards. sends him the letter described as παλινφδία in Epp. ad Att. iv. 5. 1.

pano. The Senate refuse a supplicatio for Gabinius' victories in Syria.

May for Cicaro delivers in the Senate his speech De harve-

? May (or September). Cicero delivers in the Senate his speech De haru-spicum responsis.

Late May On Cicero's proposal, the Senate pass decrees authorizing pay for Caesar's four new legions and assigning him decem legati.

Late June or early sularibus.

Cicero's speech in the Senate De provinciis conguly.

Sularibus.

July. Cn. Lentulus Marcellinus, consul, refuses to accept the candidatures of Pompey and Crassus for the consulship of 55.

July to December. C. Cato, tribune, in the employment of Pompey and Crassus, maintains his veto on the election of curule magistrates.

Cicero successfully defends L. Cornelius Balbus when prosecuted by an unknown Gaditane in respect of the citizenship conferred on him by Pompey under the lex Gellia Cornelia (72 B.c.).

Autumn. M. Cato returns from Cyprus.

15 and 16

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