

time evolution seems like a central feature of physics. Smolin, in contrast, has suggested that the laws of physics themselves are evolving with time. We wouldn't notice this from moment to moment, but over cosmological time scales, the parameters we think of as fixed may eventually take on very different values. There is, perhaps, a judicious middle position between insisting on the centrality of time and denying its existence. Something can be real—actually existing, not merely illusory—and yet not be fundamental. Scientists used to think that heat, for example, was a fluidlike substance, called “caloric,” that flowed from hot objects to colder ones. These days we know better: Heat is simply the random motions of the atoms and molecules out of which objects are made. Heat is still real, but it's been explained at a deeper level. It emerges out of a more comprehensive understanding. Perhaps time is like that. Today, when the ultimate laws of physics are in our grasp, we may discover that Churchhill's speeches, letters and published works contain an estimated 15 million words—“more than Shakespeare and Dickens compare and London Mayor (and Churchill biographer) Boris Johnson tells *Smithsonian*.”

The downside to Churchill's profligacy is it's easy to put words in his mouth. Like Oscar Wilde and Mark Twain, Churchill attracts false attributions like a magnet. “People tend to make them up,” says Richard Langworth, the editor of four books of authenticated Churchill quotations, who

estimates that at least 80 famous sayings attributed to the British Bulldog weren't necessarily uttered by him. That infamous Lady Astor exchange, for instance, probably took place between her and Churchill's friend F.E. Smith, a statesman, and even then Smith was perhaps quoting an old joke. Churchill's “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it means to sit down and listen”—recently quoted by Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III—has no known connection to Churchill at all. But connoisseurs of Churchillian ripostes can rest easy that his legendary rejoinder to a female politician who called him drunk is a confirmed matter of historical record—even if he did adapt it from a line in the W.C. Fields movie *It's a Gift*.



# Quotations For Sale

Saying exactly what Churchill said isn't easy—or cheap

“Tomorrow, I shall be sober,” Churchill replied, “and you will still be disgustingly ugly.” (In the film, the victim was merely “crazy.”)

Quoting Churchill accurately is not only tricky—it can be costly. Because of a decades-old copyright arrangement with his literary agency, Churchill's estate charges a fee to quote from almost everything he published, including speeches. The fees go to a trust controlled by institutions and heirs. The licensing requirement doesn't cover Churchill's off-the-cuff remarks or, says his estate's agent Gordon Wise, brief quotations in journalism or criticism permitted as fair use.

For his 2012 book *Churchill Style*, Barry Singer, who owns a Churchill-themed bookstore in Manhattan, says he paid 40 cents a word to quote from his subject. “I literally cut quotes to come in under a certain budget,” Singer says.

Patent writers can take heart: British copyrights expire 70 years after the author's death. —MAX KUTNER

## COMMEMORATION

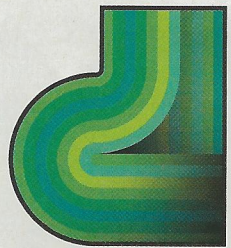


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