



## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents—10 cents a week; elsewhere, 5 cents—10 cents a week.

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Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."—Dante.

### Courts and Politics

Whatever guilt may or may not lodge in the head of the Anti-Saloon League on the charge of using political threats or pressure to influence a decision in his own case in the Supreme Court will be decided by the judges.

But the people are very much interested in the revelations of the two United States Senators and the head of the Republican State committee concerning their own part in that case.

There is the frank sworn statement of Senator James E. Watson that he and his colleague, Arthur Robinson, met at Washington, talked the Shumaker case over and decided that the sentence of the court or a lack of any decision would have an important bearing on their own elections.

The senior Senator says that he shrank from approaching any judge to personally persuade him.

But he declares that he immediately, after this conference with Robinson, sent letters to the friends of Attorney General Arthur L. Gilmore in an endeavor to frighten or persuade the chief legal officer to change his attitude.

In other words Watson admits that he tried to sneak into the back door of the Supreme Court. What he really tried to do was to influence that court for his own political interests.

To the legal mind there may be a vast distinction between directly approaching a judge and indirectly trying to mislead that same judge.

The Watson statement is even more indicative of his attitude to courts when he said that he believed that he did not trust to the slowness of mails, but used a long-distance telephone from Washington to some part of Indiana to get some close friend of Gilmore to journey to Indianapolis and personally appeal to him in the name of the party to change his attitude.

Results show that Gilmore failed to respond to any plea or political persuasion.

In his plea to the Supreme Court, Solon J. Carter made this charge against Shumaker:

Here we have a man, in furtherance of what he calls a righteous cause, attempting to destroy the one thing we have left in Indiana. That is an incorruptible court. One things Indiana has left is the fact that her courts are incorruptible. The duty of the court is to let the public know that no man can bring influence to bear on this court.

What then is to be said of Watson? What was he trying to do when he sent his political friends to argue with the attorney general that political expedience demanded that he stop a case in court which he had brought in the name of the people?

What becomes of the theory of an incorruptible and fearless court if its chief law adviser is to be made the subject of pressure?

To the lay mind this might seem to be an even greater assault upon the integrity of courts than a direct approach to one of the judges.

The statement of Senator Arthur R. Robinson concerning the same episode casts little credit on his actions or his own conception of the high dignity of courts when a political master was involved.

He says that he quickly telephoned to Watson when Shumaker seemed disturbed about his own fate. There is missing from the record any statement that he considered any discussion of a pending case by candidates or the possibility of using political methods to secure action at all improper.

Out of the hearing has come a very plain portrait of two United States Senators. They are shown by their own statements as placing their own election above any regard for justice. They paint themselves as willing to influence, in indirect manners, the decisions of courts by attempting to discourage or persuade the attorney general.

The courts will deal with Shumaker. The people will have a chance to deal with the Senators.

### A Foreign Policy—Or War

The United States must soon evolve "a constructive foreign policy" or eventually the world will drift into another great war, so former Ambassador Henry Morgenthau told a week-end audience in Philadelphia.

Now is this were a new idea it would not be so startling. If it were the exclusive property of the distinguished diplomat, there would be nothing in it to keep us awake nights. Individuals, but the creepy thing about what the ex-ambassador said is that thinking people the world over are inclined to agree with him.

Our present foreign policy is extremely nebulous, and what there is of it is based upon thoroughly mistaken notions.

We have a Monroe Doctrine, but our policy is such that the Latin Americans whom, with ourselves, it would protect, are fast being weaned from us.

We have an open door policy in the Far East, but, by a quixotic gesture on our part, we scrapped the navy which alone could uphold that policy were any first class western Pacific power to dispute it.

We have a colonial, or overseas territorial, policy yet we lack the sea power necessary to enforce it. The Philippine Islands could be taken from us today and we would be powerless to prevent it.

Our sea-borne trade is worth approximately ten million dollars a year to us, yet we lack a merchant marine to carry more than a third of it, or a navy powerful enough to protect it in the far places should

## M. E. TRACY

### SAYS:

"A Companionate Marriage Means Nothing; They Might Just as Well Try to Find Out Whether They Can Swim by Sitting on the Beach in Bathing Suits."

A companionate marriage, such as that sanctioned by Mr. and Mrs. Haldeman-Julius in the case of their 18-year-old daughter and her 20-year-old husband proves nothing.

It is merely courtship with a marriage certificate at the beginning, instead of at the end.

A wedding ceremony brings no knowledge to young people if they go on living as before.

They might just as well try to find out whether they can swim by sitting on the beach in bathing suits.

### More Worry for 'Big Bill'

In his second volume of George Washington's biography, Rupert Hughes opines that Patrick Henry never said, "If this be treason make the most of it," that "the picture of Washington crossing the Delaware is ridiculous," that "Ethan Allen captured Fort Ticonderoga with rum, not bullets," that "the credit for designing the American flag belongs to Francis Hopkinson, not to Betsy Ross," that "the Boston massacre was the work of ruffians and not a deliberate British attack, and that "the revolution was one gigantic civil war with little civil wars going on madly inside everywhere."

Something more for "Big Bill" and his "America first foundation" to worry about.

### Unimportant Details

American history has grown voluminous.

Our library shelves groan with volumes, the majority of which express some individual viewpoint.

Though the basic facts may be well authenticated, there is confusion and disagreement over many of the details, the very unimportance of which should cause us to pass them by rather than quarrel.

It really makes no difference what Ethan Allen said when he confronted the British commandant all dressed up in his "undies" and no place to go, or what Patrick Henry did not say in his immortal speech, or whether Betsy Ross originated the design of the Stars and Stripes or patterned it after another's idea.

It does make a difference whether this republic represented a new form of government, a new conception of liberty, a new interpretation of human rights, and it makes still more of a difference, whether we are acting faithfully toward the original ideals.

### Prefer Legends to Gossip

So far as real respect for the fathers goes, it will be determined by the way we emulate their example, and by nothing else.

By and large, the chattering over such controversies as whether George Washington cut down a cherry tree, whether John Hancock was a smuggler, whether Samuel Adams paid his bills, are of no great consequence.

The real object in teaching our children American history is to help them solve present day problems through the application of those standards and principles on which this government rests.

It is more important that they understand what the fathers would do about farm relief, flood control, foreign debts and the coal situation than it is for them to be confused with a lot of trivial incidents.

Patriotism, like every other virtue, can only be trusted when it rests on the power to think.

Loyalty of the mocking bird never protected a State, and never will.

### Mines Real Problem

Putting aside some half a dozen other problems, what would the fathers do about such a place as the coal miners of Pennsylvania have presented to President Coolidge?

What would they do if told that thousands of policemen and deputy sheriffs were paid and housed at the expense of private corporations, and that courts had issued injunctions which might be construed as forbidding union miners to assemble at church and when strike breakers were in attendance?

### Issue Stumps England

It is a curious fact that both England and the United States should be facing trouble in the coal industry at this time.

England has shown an almost complete inability to solve the problem.

This gives us an obvious opportunity to prove that the American Revolution meant something of vital importance.

### Busy Tory Chiefs

A. J. Cook, secretary of the British miners' federation, leads 240 leg-weary followers on a 170-mile hike to London only to find that the Tory government has no ears for his petition.

The Tory government is too busy thinking of foreign affairs, of plot and intrigue, of where the next European explosion will occur and how it can be used to the advantage and glory of the empire.

The Tory government is about the same as it was in 1776, occupied with dreams of imperialism and lacking time to consider the problem of human welfare.

## Maybe He Has an Alias



## What Other Editors Think

(Elkhart Truth)  
(Republican)

A Greek myth relates that Pan-dora, the first mortal woman created by the gods as a revenge upon man for the theft of fire, was induced to open up a certain box, thus letting out into the world all evils and disease.

The myth does not describe the color of the box, but it can be presumed that receptacle for so many evils should have been black—something like D. C. Stephenson's famous black box, or boxes.

The story of Stephenson's box and its contents does not coincide in all details with the beautiful story related by the Greeks, but it has its resemblances. In the first place, it would appear that the gods, or fate, wanted revenge upon man for the theft of fire from heaven by Prometheus, and if they are true the black box must be a wonderful source of scandal. The public is entitled to have the lid raised completely, for after being permitted to know a little, it should know all. If certain officials who are said to figure in the black box are innocent, their innocence will be established by throwing the contents wide open.

According to newspaper dispatches, Senator Arthur R. Robinson has expressed the hope that the prosecutor will publish everything in the black box or boxes in order that his name might be cleared from annoying rumor. The Senator relates frankly that on one occasion he and his law partner presented Stephenson with Beveridge's "Life of John Marshall." No doubt Stephenson was so busy at the time making his famous collection for the boxes that he had no time, until later, for heavy reading.

Encouragement came from the fact that the Emerson students started something recently when they walked out as protest against bringing Negro students to their building. Now students of the Kounts High School have struck because township authorities refused to build a gymnasium, in which the high school team could play basketball.

Encouragement came from the fact that the Emerson students stood upon their point, at least temporarily, when Gary school authorities decided to keep the Negroes out of the Emerson building while they investigated the possibility of erecting a temporary structure for them. The Kounts students figured logically, that if the pupils of the larger school could succeed they could also win.

Discipline is one of the most vital things an adolescent must learn for the reason that life is difficult. These student strikes give those involved a swelled sense of their own importance and create in their minds the idea that there is an authority that cannot be coerced into yielding. Instead of accepting discipline, they accept the mob principle. There are better ways, always, of settling such difficulties.

Every State, every community has its quota of thoughtless hunters who are so intent on killing that they never think of the peril in which they place others.

Hunting seasons are always notable for the mistakes of some of the hunters. It is so much a matter of course to read of accidents and tragedies in the woods and fields in hunting season that

has become a subject for the jokesmiths.

Probably the human victims of hunting accidents do not see the joke. Neither do the animals that die to furnish sport for men. There are people to whom hunting with firearms does not seem a wholly civilized pastime. And in this generation it is obviously a blundering pastime. The hunting age is gone.

(Kushville Republican)  
(Republican)

Emerson High School students started something recently when they walked out as protest against bringing Negro students to their building.

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What is correct to say "I had my picture taken?"

"I had my picture taken" is the correct form.

What debt does the United States owe to foreign nations?

The United States owes no money to foreign nations.

## Mr. Fixit

In Need of Sidewalks,  
Visit Board of Works for  
Form on Which to Make  
Application.

Let Mr. Fixit, The Times' representative at city hall, present your troubles to city officials. Write Mr. Fixit at The Times. Name and address on which must be given, will not be published.

A request to aid a Hamilton Avenue resident in getting sidewalks was received today by Mr. Fixit.

Dear Mr. Fixit: Will you please help us get our sidewalks fixed. I live on Hamilton Ave. We are getting up but the walks are bad at the New York and Hamilton intersection.

It is an old brick walk and the bricks are gone. Can't be fixed. Unless very careful one frequently stubs his toe and falls. Our home have cost us a great deal and we would like to have them look as nice as we can.

You should file a petition bearing names of all property owners, asking the board of works to improve the sidewalks. Mr. Fixit could not relieve this situation for you. The board will furnish a petition blank at its office.

Dear Mr. Fixit: Radio reception in my neighborhood is practically a failure on some nights due to some kind of "local interference" that sounds like somebody turned on a great buzzer.

Then, too, somebody in the neighborhood who has a "regenerative" set makes a nuisance of himself. Can anything be done to remedy either one or both of these evils?

G. R. P., 2014 Southeastern.

This complaint does not fall in the province of Mr. Fixit, Times representative at city hall. However, we are glad to refer you to Andrew J. Allen, secretary of Broadcast Listeners' Association, 1407 Merchants Bank Bldg., who probably can straighten out your difficulties.

## Old Masters

I stand upon the summit of my years;

Behind the toil, the camp, the march, the strife,  
The wandering and the desert; vast, afar,

Beyond this weary way, behold! the Sea!

The sea o'er-swept by clouds and winds, whose breath

Is freshness and whose mighty pulse is peace.

Palter no question of the dim Beyond;

Cut loose the bark; such voyage it self is rest,

Majestic motion, unimpeded scope, A widening heaven, a current without care.

Eternity! — Deliverance, Promise, Course!

Time-tired souls salute thee from the shore.

—Joseph B. Brown: "Thalatta! Thalatta!"

## Questions and Answers