

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."—Dante.

The Hand of Coffin

Citizens generally will be interested in the explanation of Councilman Otis Bartholomew for the actions of the Republican members of the council in trying to get rid of Mayor L. Ert Slack.

Not the gamblers who have been disturbed after years of at least toleration, but the organization Republicans dictated the move and it was designed, not to obtain better city government, but a "Republican" administration.

His exhibits are even more interesting—two petitions, both headed by George V. Coffin. The signers are those who play the Coffin game of politics or have received favors from him in the way of offices.

That makes it very clear. There is a deeper purpose than protecting the gamblers. There is a determination to seize the city administration, which under Slack is showing some consideration for the rights of all citizens without regard to party politics, and use it for what?

The decent citizens of Indianapolis should awake to the fact that there is something more important at stake than whether Slack holds the office of mayor or turns it over to someone else.

The question at issue is whether this city is going back to the hands of Coffin, who dictated the Duvall election and ruled its ill-starred destiny.

It is a question of whether the city government, with its power to tax, its power to levy tribute, its power to enforce laws, is to be turned over to the political manipulations of the head of a discredited political organization.

It is a question of whether this city is to have its chance to forget the bad days gone by and go ahead with a program of building.

It is a question of whether the business men of this city are to be allowed to do business under decent business conditions, or be at the mercy of men who think only in terms of political power and all that such power implies.

Why is there anxiety to get control of the city jobs and especially of the police force?

There are primaries ahead and an election. By giving favors, it is quite possible to obtain not only legal votes, but illegal votes. The control of the police can be used to prevent frauds or protect frauds and the elections in this city in the past have not been free from suspicion.

Bartholomew deserves thanks for giving to the public the inspiration for his activities as president of the council.

He has laid bare the conspiracy. He has made public the real purpose behind the sinister move to keep the city in turmoil, to block any movements for growth. It is that Coffin may again rule.

This newspaper holds no brief for Mayor Slack, except as he proves his worth by good deeds. It has no interest in either a Republican or a Democratic success. It has a very deep interest in an Indianapolis success, in the triumph of the decent citizen, in a victory over the forces of corruption, fraud and pillage.

It is important, however, to call attention to the fact that the attack upon Slack is not based upon any charge that he has misused his powers of office.

There is no word of criticism against his official acts. There is no charge that he does things for the profit of his friends or of himself. There is no charge that he so has arranged his official family as to be able to commit frauds at elections. There is not even the suggestion that he has any purpose to misuse his powers for the advancement of the political party with which he may be allied.

The only reason given frankly by Coffin is that he wants a "Republican" administration. That is not the whole truth, for it is doubtful whether Coffin can be said to represent a Republican organization.

He does head an organization that sails under the Republican banner, but those who vote that ticket from principle are humiliated by his leadership.

The civic organizations of this city have a duty. The decent people have a duty. They should express themselves immediately and emphatically against this latest effort to kidnap the city government.

It is time for a government by orderly processes, under decent direction. The time of rule by mobs and gangs should be ended.

Human Nature Does Change

"Human nature has not changed so very much from the time of Adam up to the present moment," said Mrs. Alfred J. Brosseau, president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Brosseau was speaking before the Women's Patriotic Council of National Defense, in session in Washington, with representatives of thirty-four patriotic societies present.

We are without knowledge as to just when Adam lived, but we wonder if Mrs. Brosseau's assertion about human nature can be accepted without question.

Men no longer kill their neighbors, and carry off their wives. Cannibalism no longer is practiced. Slavery exists in but a few places.

Prisoners of war no longer are put to slaughter.

Prisoners are not broken on the rack. Witches no longer are burned to death. Armies of most nations no longer slaughter civilian populations, saving only for themselves the female children.

Piracy no longer is tolerated. Dueling is regarded as foolish. Feeble-minded persons are cared for, rather than tortured.

For our own part, we believe human nature does change, and that it changes for the better, although we are willing to admit that the changes are not always perceptible, and that at best they require all too long a time.

It would be a sorry world indeed if we were willing to concede there exists no chance for improving it and making it a better place for our children and our children's children, with less of misery and more of happiness.

Mrs. Brosseau and her associates of the patriotic council advocate more adequate national defense. We hope that they do not subscribe to the view that it is useless to seek the eradication of war, on the theory that man is naturally a belligerent and warlike animal, bent on slaying his fellow men, and that it is impossible for him ever to change his nature.

Jail for This Citizen

"Stewart defies oil probers," the headlines say. Stewart is Robert W., chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. The oil probers are the members of the Senate committee seeking to learn what became of that \$3,000,000 profit of the Continental Trading Company.

The committee already has uncovered the fact that some \$233,000 of this profit was turned over to Secretary Albert B. Fall by Harry F. Sinclair—part of the corruption and fraud, as the United States Supreme Court expresses it, that marked Sinclair's grabbing of the Government's naval oil reserves.

What was done with the remainder of the \$3,000,000? The committee's request for this information is a natural and a proper one.

But Stewart says he won't tell. "I never got a dollar out of the deal personally," he told the committee. "I never gave any of the bonds to any political party, any Government official or any official of any municipality. Further than that, I must decline to answer."

The Senate committee appears to be at the very crux of the mystery surrounding the most amazing instance of official corruption in American history. The man now facing the committee apparently is able to remove that mystery.

It is vitally important to the American Government and the American people that he be compelled to do so. Big, smooth, polished millionaire that he is, this Stewart is just one American citizen with one American citizen's rights and no more.

For three years he dodged the processes of the courts to avoid testifying in the Teapot Dome civil case. Now, having ceased dodging, he assumes the role of cool defiance.

The Senate has the power to send him to jail for contempt if he continues his defiance. If he does, the Senate should exercise that power and without delay.

Houston Isn't So Hot

Mayor Holcombe of Houston, Tex., was not loath to tell New Yorkers, on his recent visit to Manhattan, of the advantages of Houston as a summer convention city.

He pointed out that Houston's climate is cool and mild; that sea breezes from the not distant Gulf temper the heat of the Texas sun; that the city is distinguished for its architecture and the number of its fine shade trees, and that the main thoroughfare, 100 feet wide, has along the curb giant oak trees that touch overhead.

The mayor added, "with a touch of embarrassment," according to a New York paper, that this thoroughfare was named "Main street."

New York, of course, would be ready to smile superciliously at that. Yet the good mayor needn't have blushed. Main street is an American tradition. And why not? If a certain street is your main street, why not name it so and be done?

Anybody Desire Prosperity?

High wages help make prosperity. That is the new industrial creed, sometimes called the Henry Ford creed, since he was among the first to preach it—and to practice it.

The United States Government could do its bit toward prosperity, if this theory is correct. It could begin paying half-way reasonable salaries to its great army of employees in Washington and throughout the country. So large is this army that if the Government were to adopt this policy the effect on business conditions generally would be greater than simultaneous wage increases by a dozen Henry Fords.

If Congress desires to promote prosperity, here's one way of doing it.

Our Support of Hoover

(From The Nation)

By unanimous vote of the editors of the twenty-six Scripps-Howard daily newspapers and the general managers of the entire group, after a two-day session, the support of these dailies has been given to Herbert Hoover. This is the most powerful accession to his strength which Mr. Hoover yet has received, so far as the daily press is concerned.

For the Scripps-Howard papers are as a whole the most liberal group which we have, and their decision is the more remarkable because the most ardent press supporters of Mr. Hoover to date have been the most reactionary organs of opinion, such as the Curtis papers, the Chicago Tribune and others, owned by extremely rich men, entirely hostile to the progressivism of 1912 and 1924.

The value of this Hoover support is apparent when one remembers that the Scripps-Howard paper in Cleveland was largely responsible for the carrying of that city by LaFollette. At the same time, while all the outward ones are favorable, Mr. Hoover's victory in the convention is not yet assured. Mr. Mellon and Calvin Coolidge will decide the nomination, unless an unexpected bolt within the party takes the decision away from them.

Obviously the time is approaching when Mr. Hoover and Mr. Coolidge will have to take a position in regard to the former's continuance in the Cabinet—Mr. Hoover is running in the New Hampshire primary, to be held Feb. 24. The political gossip is that if Mr. Hoover is to be given the presidential blessing he will stay in the Cabinet; if not he will make the fight on the outside.

Finally, the Scripps-Howard editors paid a warm tribute to Governor Smith for his record of achievement and promised to support him if the Republicans should nominate Daves or Lowden, or some other man equally objectionable to the group.

BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

(Copyright, 1928, by The Ready Reference Publishing Company)
BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than 10.)
1. Declarer bids one no-trump. All pass. Dummy holds K Q 10 X. Declarer holds X X X. What should declarer play when opponent leads small card through dummy?
2. In planning your campaign against a no-trump bid, what should be your aim?
3. (a) Is it necessary to know how to score? (b) Why?
The Answers
1. Queen.
2. Establish a long suit.
3. (a) Yes. (b) Bidding is influenced by the score.

Times Readers Voice Views

The name and address of the author must accompany every contribution, but on request will not be published unless it exceeds 200 words will receive preference.

To the Editor:

During the year past, much attention has been given to the matter of educating the public along the line of safeguarding human life, and the results achieved by those who have interested themselves in the work have been the subject of much favorable comment. During 1927 the number of fatal accidents affecting school children were reduced one-half as compared with the preceding year.

This campaign, instituted and carried on by public spirited individuals, has been directed largely against the hazard growing out of the extensive use of automobiles, where the greater number of serious accidents occur. Now the automobile is not the only machine that destroys life and limb, nor should the whole work of accident prevention be wished upon a few individuals who are willing to give both of their time and money to protect their neighbors and their neighbors' children from avoiding accidents. It would seem that our national Government should at least set a laudable example, not only by doing everything possible to promote care among its personnel, but by insisting that in the general direction of equipment be kept in proper condition. Only a few days ago a freight elevator in the Federal Building fell some fifteen feet, seriously injuring three Government employees.

About four or five years ago, this same elevator made an untimely rush in the general direction of China, and three postal employees were badly crippled as a result. This particular elevator is of an antiquated type, presumably about the same model as that used by Noah in the Ark, and judged by any standard of modern engineering, it is a mechanical absurdity.

But in the interest of administrative economy, so dear to the hearts of certain 100 per cent profit Americans, this piece of obsolete equipment no doubt will be patched up so that more men may be maimed or possibly killed, while in line of duty. The Government States of Indiana would not permit private corporation or individual to operate such a potential death trap for even one day, yet the wealthiest Government on the face of the earth is so little concerned for the safety of its employees that any sort of "junk" must be used forever if it saves a few dollars.

A little revision of our much vaunted "economy program" downward to a point where it conforms with the spirit of "Safety First" might not be amiss.

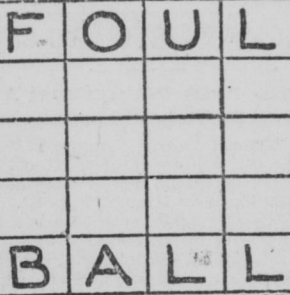
OBSERVER.

To the Editor:

I am very much peeved at the actions of the police in arresting these two boys who accosted girls in front of English's the other evening. These "asphalt Arabs," to use the slang of today, may be guilty, but why don't the police get some of the female offenders?

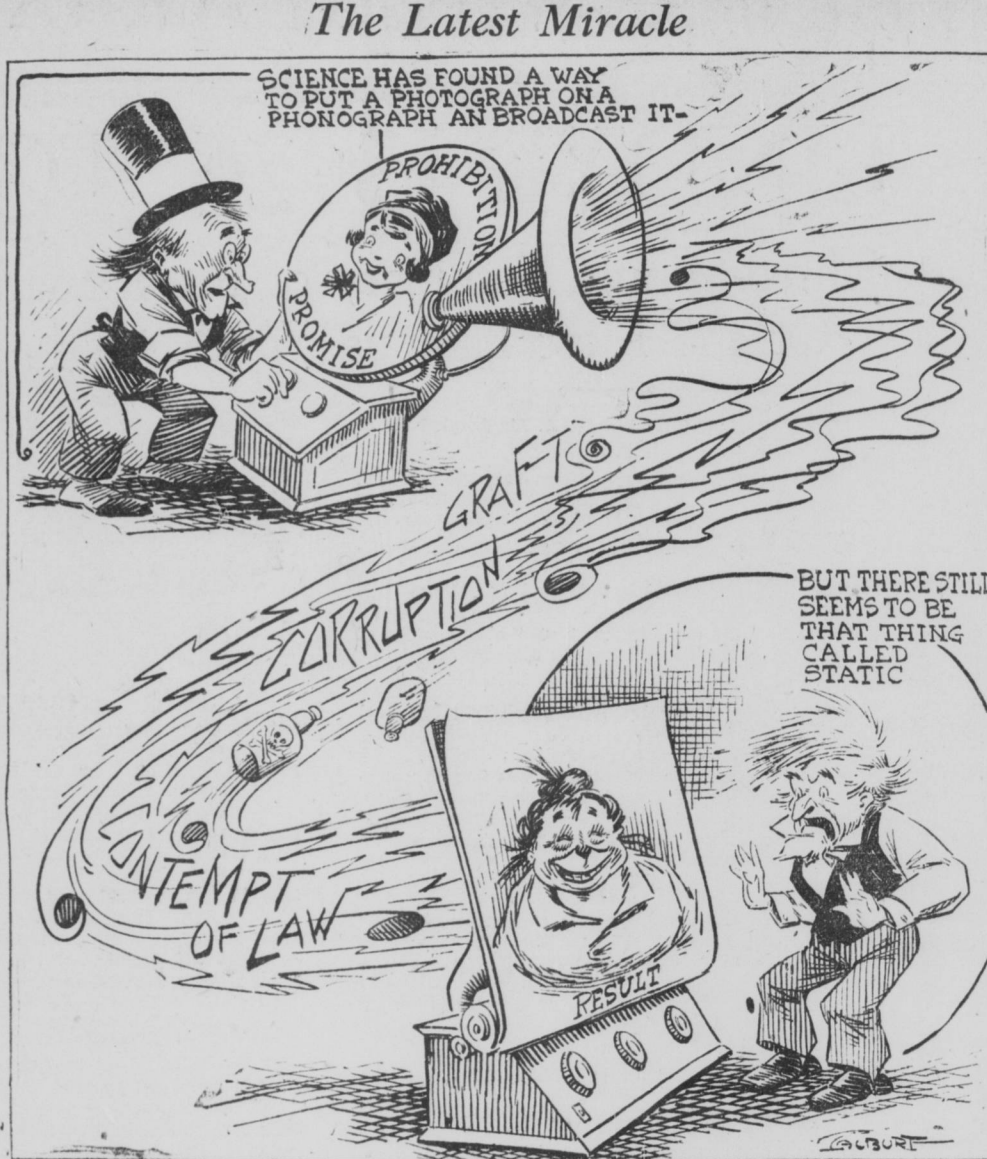
The streets are alive with these "meandering Mollos" who are daily strutting their "waves" about the streets of this town. Illinois St. is fairly overrun with them, with their nod and a wink and their "eye open for a sucker" air. Surely they ought to be run in as nuisances to the public. I thought with the abolition of the "red light" district that they were to go, but they haven't. Can't something be done?

WILLIAM SULLIVAN



The Rules

1. The idea of letter golf is to change one word to another and do it in par, a given number of strokes. Thus to change COW to HEN, in three strokes, COW, HOW, HEW, HEN.
2. You can change only one letter at a time.
3. You must have a complete word of common usage for each jump. Slang words and abbreviations don't count.
4. The order of letters can not be changed.



THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION Christianity Revives Tired Souls

Written for The Times by Will Durant

The wise man, Lucretius thinks, will not take too seriously the magnificent and marvelous inventions of his race; these are but variations, and the pagan touch is gone; not only in the Stoic sternness driving out the will to live and the zest of love, but almost a premonition of Christianity is upon our poet, filling him with a sense of universal vanity and inevitable death.

History, which is the joke book of philosophers, was never so facetious as when it gave to the saintly Epicurus and the sombre Lucretius the joyous name of Epicureans.

It is true that the great poem calls upon "alma Venue" and "Dux vitæ via Voluptatis"—creative love, and divine pleasure, guide of life; but it is only poetic, not moral license; the final counsel, as with Epicurus, is that quiet ordering of the soul, that godlike ataraxia, which preserves our flesh from ill only by dulling every sense.

Lucretius, torn with passions and emotions, lifted to poetry while he meditates philosophy, longs for the wise man's calm—"to be able to look on all things with a mind at rest."

And at the outset of his second book he makes a pleasant metaphor convey his idolatry of peace. "It is sweet when on the great sea the winds trouble the waters, to behold from land another's deep distress; not that it is a pleasure and delight that any should be afflicted, but because it is sweet to see from what evils you are yourself exempt."

"But nothing is more welcome than to hold the lofty and serene positions as well fortified by the learning of the wise, from which you may look down upon others and see them wandering all abroad and going astray in their search for the path of life—see the contest among them of intellect, the rivalry of birth, the striving night and day with surpassing effort to struggle up to the summit of power and be masters of the world."

"O miserable minds of men! O blinded breasts! "Mankind tolls over vainly, and wastes life in groundless cares, because they have not learned what is the true end of getting, and up to what point genuine pleasure goes on increasing; by slow degrees this has carried life out into the deep sea, and stirred up from their lowest the night billows of war."

It may be so; but then perhaps Nietzsche was right; when we become so reasonable it is time for us to die.

This attempt to satisfy with light never succeeds. It is fire we want as well as light; for in our secret hearts we are chilled with loneliness.

Soon a gospel of love will come and carry away these apostles of a weary wisdom; soon a breath of fire from the parched hills of Galilee will sweep down upon these tired souls and make them live again.

When Plato's passion, hopeful of all things good, subsides into the Lucretian resignation and despair, the world is ripe for Christianity. (Copyright, 1928, by Will Durant)

(To Be Continued)

What Other Editors Think

Fl. Wayne Journal-Gazette (Democratic)

Senator James Eli Watson of Indiana, voted to seat Truman H. Newberry, Michigan's slushy senator who later found peace of mind in resigning. Senator Watson afterwards boasted that he had voted for Newberry and "would do it again." When the case of Colonel Frank E. Smith, Senator-elect from Illinois, came to a vote in the Senate last Thursday, Senator Watson voted for him. Senator Arthur R. Robinson, Indiana's thickest tribute, voted against Colonel Smith.

Of the pair of them, we prefer Senator Watson's conduct. He showed some courage and certainly he showed consistency. Senator Robinson's vote, though cast on the side of honesty and decency in politics, was a gesture of perfectly obvious meaning and purpose. We have not the smallest thought that Colonel Smith or the character of the primary in which he was nominated are the least objectionable to Senator Robinson. We are quite certain that honesty and decency in politics are among

his most minor concerns. We have had utmost proof that Senator Robinson doesn't give a tinker's cuss how a man may get into the Senate of the United States. Grand Dragon Stephenson, from his cell in the Noblesville jail while on trial for murder, first put Arthur R. Robinson in the Senate of the United States.

Robinson, pal and protégé of Stephenson, knew what was transpiring in the Republican politics of Indiana during the year 1924 and the immediate months preceding that year. We say he knew, because it is impossible to conceive him ignorant of what was going on. He was a part of it. He knew his party was undergoing debauchment and corruption by Stephenson and the Klan, to whom he owes his own seat, which of these two men do you think was sincere? One thing about Watson, you got to hand it to him for all the standing "pat." You will remember he voted for Newberry, and he is one of the few in the Senate who voted that way who still has a seat in the Senate.

Heartford City News

Senator Watson voted to give Smith of Illinois, his seat and Robinson voted against seating him. In view of Robinson's affiliation with the Klan, to whom he owes his own seat, which of these two men do you think was sincere? One thing about Watson, you got to hand it to him for all the standing "pat." You will remember he voted for Newberry, and he is one of the few in the Senate who voted that way who still has a seat in the Senate.

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Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any answerable question of fact or information by writing to Frederick M. Kerby, Question Editor, The Indianapolis Times, 214-220 W. Washington, D. C. Enclose two cents in stamps for reply. Medical and legal advice cannot be given, nor can questions requiring research be answered. All letters are confidential. You are cordially invited to make use of this free service as often as you please.

EDITOR.

What are the expressions used to distinguish between the two horses of a team?

Facing the same way as the team the horse on the right is called the near horse and the other called the off horse.

What is the best way to keep ants out of a house?

Ants go where they can find food and if the food supplies of the household are kept in metal containers or tightly covered jars, or refrigerators, where they cannot be reached ants will not stay. Floors should be swept frequently to remove any stray bits of food or crumbs which may have fallen on them. Tartar emetic and powdered sugar in equal parts moistened with

a bit of water and placed near their haunts will drive ants away. Where the house is badly infested the legs of tables, ice box or cupboards may be set in cans of water and the water in turn treated with a few drops of kerosene or crude oil to prevent mosquito breeding.

On what day of the week did April 7, 1827, come?

Saturday.

What is the derivation of "pin money?"

Back in the fourteenth century after the invention of pins, makers were not allowed to sell them except on the first and second days of January. The reason was that women, delighted with the novelty and usefulness of pins, spent an undue proportion of the family income on them, since they were very expensive. It became the custom for the women of the family to place aside a bit of money now and then throughout the year so that they might have sufficient to buy pins on the first and second of January. This came to be known as "pin money."

and the natural development of this phrase has come to mean small amounts of money set aside for a special purpose.

How are potato chips made at home?

Pare potatoes, slice into thin shavings and allow to soak in ice water for an hour. Take from water, dry with towel, place in frying basket and fry in deep fat or oil until they curl and are a delicate brown. Shake as free from fat as possible before lifting frying basket from kettle and put to drain on oiled paper. Shake with salt. Do not have fat too hot as chips must cook before they brown.

When and by what States were the first mother's pension laws passed?

The first mother's aid laws were passed in Missouri and Illinois in 1911.

Is New Year's day a general holiday throughout the United States and its possessions?

Yes.

TRACY

SAYS: "The Question of Whether Sinclair and Fall Are Guilty Merges Itself Into the More Important Question of Whether Multi-Millionaires Successfully Can Defy the Government."

With Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, refusing to answer questions, and with H. M. Blackmer of the Midwest Refining Company preferring to remain in exile rather than tell what he knows, it looks as though the Teapot Dome case, which has become a challenge to the authority of the United States.

The question of whether Sinclair and Fall are guilty merges itself into the even more important question of whether multimillionaires successfully can defy the Government when it comes to given evidence regarding shady transactions.

If they can, we might as well admit that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor in this country.

Get All the Facts!

In order to unravel the Teapot Dome case, it is necessary to go into several transactions which, though they may seem to be of a private nature, have a definite bearing on it.

If these transactions were honest and above board, there is no reason in the world why they should not be described freely and fully. If they were not, there is every reason why the public should know it.

As things now stand, it looks as though the Continental Trading Company were organized for no other purpose than to enable someone to extract \$3,000,000 profit without disclosing his identity.

The Liberty Bonds which former Secretary Fall received from Harry F. Sinclair are supposed to be a part of that \$3,000,000. In order to prove that they were it is necessary to show who got it and where it went. That is why the Government wants to know, and has the right to know all about it.

Devious Trail of Gain

To begin at the beginning, Mr. Humphreys had 33,333 barrels of oil which was willing to sell at \$150 a barrel.

H. M. Blackmer of the Midwest Refining Company entered into a contract for the purchase of his oil at that price.

Somewhat later the Continental Trading Company was organized and took over this contract.

Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and Harry F. Sinclair guaranteed that the Continental Trading Company would carry out the contract to the extent of \$500,000, which was the total amount involved.

It is inconceivable that they would have done this without knowing all the details of the transaction, or that Stewart would have agreed immediately to buy the oil at \$175 a barrel, which represented a profit to the Continental Trading Company of \$30,000, without very excellent reasons.

It is even more inconceivable that the contract would have been sold for \$400,000 when it was about half fulfilled, unless those interested had taken out all the profit they needed for some specific purpose.

In other words, there is no explanation for this peculiar deal, except a deliberate plan to organize a fly-by-night corporation as a snare for the unsuspecting certain people to lay their hands on a large amount of cash.

Amazing 'Ignorance'

Mr. Stewart, who was so anxious to get hold of oil that he made no bones about paying 25 cents more a barrel than he needed to and who did not hesitate to guarantee a \$500,000 contract, is strangely ignorant of the other details.

What is more amazing, he remains untrifled when told that the Senate committee might assume that he was an imbecile, but gets dreadfully riled when it is remarked that there is equally good ground for assuming that he has lied.

Why, Mr. Stewart?

If Stewart was so anxious to get oil and Mr. Humphreys had it to sell at \$150 a barrel, why did he not buy it direct, instead of allowing Blackmer to run in ahead of him and obtain a contract for it?

If Blackmer were willing to sell that contract, and Stewart still wanted oil, why did he not take it instead of allowing the Continental Trading Company to do so?

If he knew that the Continental Trading Company were going to pay \$150 a barrel, as he must have when he guaranteed the contract, why did he agree to pay \$175 without discussion or delay?

If he were the shrewd executive his stockholders and associates believed him to be, and if he were so short of oil as he says, why did he allow himself to fall for such an obvious hold-up when he could have avoided it by merely dealing with Humphreys in the first place?

Conspiracy of Silence

The Senate committee believes Mr. Stewart knows a great deal more than he has told. So do a lot of people. The man obviously is attempting to evade a free and full disclosure.

In this respect, he is like Blackmer and O'Neil, who ran away. The Government apparently faces a conspiracy of silence, and has no choice in the matter but to adopt drastic measures.

Stewart, Blackmer, O'Neil and Sinclair are only citizens after all, and the time has come to prove it. This is just another case, though perhaps the most flagrant, that has yet occurred in which big business undertakes to ignore, regardless of rhyme or reason. As it proceeds the issue becomes clearer. Has money outgrown the law?