



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

Hoover's Move Now.

Theodore Burton's statement on the presidential election in Ohio crystallizes the favorite son-Hoover issue there and puts the next move up to Hoover himself.

Hoover immediately should enter the Ohio contest.

The Burton statement is a clear exposition of how the favorite son strategy is being employed to shut off consideration of any other candidate except Senator Willis and repose in Willis as agent for certain shrewd and designing politicians absolute control of the important Ohio delegation at the Kansas City convention.

The fact that Willis is not considered seriously as an actual presidential possibility by any one but Willis himself is one of the most obvious aspects of the whole situation, viewed nationally.

That Willis himself considers he has a chance is possible only through a case of super-egotism unequalled in present-day public life.

From not one single solitary section of the United States, outside of Ohio, has there been even the faintest intimation that Willis would glean so much as one delegate. Yet in face of that, Willis arrogates to himself all the importance of real contender and attempts absolutely to bar any other name from consideration in Ohio's pre-election affairs.

The ponderous way in which the Ohio Senator ap- praises himself has its amusing side. For ego such as that always is laughable. But amusing though that phase may be, the other elements are serious. If Willis, or rather those employing him as their pawn, is allowed by a process of default to accomplish his program of self-glorification, and the plan to hold the Ohio delegation around him works out, a tremendous power in the nominating convention will have been generated for such uses as the notorious Harry Daugherty (who is active in Willis' behalf) and others may desire.

Daugherty, Warwick of the Harding convention, is the man who was described by Willis himself on the floor of the United States Senate as being as "clean as a hound's tooth."

One very obvious, and, in fact, the only way of breaking up the sinister favorite son game in Ohio, presents itself. That is for the Hoover men to come out in the open, place a set of Hoover delegates in the field and give the rank and file of Ohio voters a chance to express themselves.

Burton, one of the State's most powerful and respected Republican leaders, has pointed the course of action.

If the Hoover people now vitalize what Burton has expressed, the ridiculousness of the Willis ego will be revealed.

If on the contrary the Hoover leaders fail to act and thereby permit the Willis game to be won by default, they can count on nothing but hostility from the Ohio delegates in the Kansas City convention—and the great mass of Hoover sentiment that now exists in Ohio will have no outlet of expression.

Up to now, Hoover, a member of the President's Cabinet and busy with the many details of his office, has been entirely passive. The time for a passive attitude is over.

In practical politics the man must seek the office or the office never will find the man.

The President and the Press.

President Coolidge's speech Saturday night dedicating the new National Press Club building in Washington is likely to be the subject of widely varying interpretations.

Appropriately enough, his text was, in effect: "What should be a newspaper's role in this country in matters affecting its national and international policies and relations?" Already a difference of opinion seems to have arisen on the exact meaning of his answer.

Some of the correspondents reporting the event apparently sensed a back-handed slap at that section of the American press which, on occasion, has been critical of certain phases of our foreign policy. Others interpreted the address simply as an appeal to the newspapers of the Nation to dedicate themselves to truth and "faithful public service."

Another view is the one this newspaper prefers to support, not only because the text of the President's speech as a whole bears out this view, but because any other journalistic ideal ultimately would prove calamitous in the extreme, both for the Nation and the people.

"The newspaper," the President said, "ought to be the supporter of efficient local administration and wise statesmanship. In international affairs it should cooperate with its own government and extend to foreign interests a tolerant and sympathetic candor."

It is this last sentence which, it seems, is being variously interpreted that the President meant to imply that newspapers should "yes" the government in its dealings with foreign countries, right or wrong, we do not for a moment believe.

That, more than any other single factor, was what made the world war inevitable. The European press, often subsidized or otherwise controlled by the various governments, "yessed" the criminal stupidities of their own diplomats and statesmen, though often manifestly wrong, until public opinion had so crystallized into bitter hatreds that the governments could not have prevented war had they tried.

Fortunately for us, it would be difficult for such a situation as that to develop in this country, because ours is a free press. Our public has presented to us all sides of every important question and for that reason it generally may be relied upon to reach just and reasonable conclusions.

Nowhere is a one-way press more dangerous than in the handling of foreign relations. Wars are the results of mistakes in that field. It should be perfectly clear, therefore, that for a newspaper to "yes" its government on a stand it honestly believes to be wrong, would be treason of the rankest and vilest sort.

Its duty, of course, both to its readers and to its country, is to leave no stone unturned to bring the statesmen responsible to see their mistake and to rectify it as soon as ever they might.

Does the President hold contrary views? We do not believe for a moment that he does. The press, he said in his speech, should be devoted to justice and truth.

It ought to contest with our universities as an influence for education, and match the pulpit in its support of high moral standards."

Which sets a lofty ideal for the press of the country, and one which would be betrayed were the newspapers to lend their support to wrong actions.

When Diplomats Fail

Assistant Secretary of State William R. Castle, discussing the functions of the United States Department of State, is quoted as having told an audience that war is a punishment of diplomacy's failure.

Nothing truer ever was said. Wars are just as truly the result of diplomatic incompetency, somewhere along the line, as a head-on collision between trains is the result of somebody opening the wrong switch, sending the wrong message, or failing to do something which should have been done.

Ernest L. Bogart, professor of economics at the University of Illinois, after a painstaking analysis, estimates that the World War cost \$337,946,179,007.

On top of that, 9,898,000 people were killed and another 20,000,000 wounded, more than 6,000,000 so badly as to be maimed for life. To this add the incalculable human anguish, mental and otherwise, that always accompanies war, and you will have just a faint appreciation of the "punishment" dealt out to the people of our time for the failure of their diplomats.

And still here in our country we give little real thought to the composition of our diplomatic service, or for that matter, to the personnel of our Government as a whole.

Sometimes we have at the head of our State department a statesman eminently qualified to fill that post with wisdom and distinction. At others the party which happens to be in power pays off a political debt by naming to that office a politician who knows next to nothing about foreign relations or how to conduct them.

Ambassadors and ministers are named to speak for us in foreign countries in much the same haphazard way. Embassies and legations abroad are altogether often treated as plums to be passed around to politicians who have done the party a good turn and who have the necessary money to spend from \$30,000 to \$60,000 a year out of their own pockets, entertaining.

Similarly, our political bosses get together in a back room somewhere and draw up a ticket for us to vote. And we go ahead and vote it, without stopping to think that there may be among the candidates men who may one day decide for us the stupendous question of peace or war.

The answer to all this, of course, is to pick the most capable men the Nation affords, both for Washington and abroad. War truly is a drastic punishment for the failure of our diplomats and statesmen, but let us not forget upon whose back the punishment falls the hardest.

As a reminder, just have another look at the statistics above.

Ladies! Ladies!

"The country practically is divided into two groups, those who want adequate national defense, and those who do not," says Mrs. Alfred J. Brosseau, president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution. "The groups who work for it actively and persistently are classified by at least some of the other side as militarists."

Mrs. Brosseau was speaking before the Women's Patriotic Council of National Defense, attended by representatives of thirty-four societies, in session in Washington.

She might have gone on to say that those in her own group regard those whose chief aim is seeking peace, rather than greater armaments, as pacifists.

For instance, Mrs. Brosseau herself said, "It also is high time that the good, unsuspecting American citizen took off his rose colored spectacles and viewed the out-and-out pacifist in his true light."

Another speaker remarked: "The year 1924 saw a strong movement under way to enlist the women of America in a movement the aim of which was to strip America of all means of defense."

Another question is, should our gas and electric companies, which have specified rates and no competition, be permitted to compete with our merchants in other lines unless their charters or franchises allow them to do so? And why should our transfers be limited to thirty minutes only. Have the citizens no say at all?

BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

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BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than 10.)

1. When you hold K X X in player's hand, and small cards in dummy, how do you finesse?

2. State two reasons why Boy Scouts should become good bridge players?

3. When you hold A J X in dummy and K X X in declarer's hand, how do you finesse?

THE ANSWERS

1. Lead small from dummy.

2. They learn to signal and to give truthful information.

3. Play K first, then lead small to finesse Jack.

Times Readers Voice Views

The name and address of the author must accompany every contribution, but names of readers will not be published. Letters not exceeding 200 words will receive preference.

To the Editor:

The action of our city council again has made Indianapolis the laughing stock of the nation and their "so-called" election of Ira Holmes is just another cause to show their dumbness.

In the first place Holmes was appointed by Mrs. Duvall, probably under stress. In the second place Mrs. Duvall never really was mayor, for the simple reason that Duvall himself was not a fully qualified mayor, therefore, by his resignation Mrs. Duvall only could inherit a sort of mayor de facto position, as that was all Duvall had to his credit.

In the third place, the resignations of Duvall and his wife were announced simultaneously, the time on both envelopes was stamped 9:01 a.m. They should at least have had sense enough to have had Duvall resigned first and let the people know he had resigned, then Mrs. Duvall could have inherited his title of mayor de facto and nothing more. She in turn could have appointed Holmes as a mayor de facto.

Now, the city council, under the conditions, probably had the right to call the office of mayor vacant and to insist that one of their number be elected mayor pro-tem for a period of ten days, after which they elected Mr. Slack.

The majority claim now that they had no right to do so. My own opinion is that the whole thing be settled by a special election, the expenses of such election to be borne by these arrogant seceding councilmen and John L. Duvall.

My hope is that, under any condition, Mr. Slack wins.

S. J. MENZE.

1715 Central Ave.

To the Editor:

Is the "Times Reader" who would like to see other comments on water-meters and rates fearful of being boycotted by the water company, inasmuch as he does not publish his name? At one time my rate was \$21 per annum, but was raised to \$26.99 a few years ago.

I was told in reply to a letter that if a meter were installed it probably would not exceed \$18 for the year.

As my plumbing is in good condition and I do not wish to skimp on water, I do not propose to change or risk an advance.

Quite a while ago the press informed us that Mr. Geist of the water company had paid cash for \$7,000,000 worth of Florida property and from the same source we learn that he does not intend to sell the canal, as he is going to hand it to his children as an inheritance."

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CHARLES H. KRAUSE SR.

647 E. Drive, Woodruff Place.

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