

The Indianapolis Times

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

Past Time for Housecleaning

Instances multiply that indicate it is high time for the oil business to do a big and thorough job of housecleaning.

And it is up to the daddy of all oil companies to get busy first.

For the most brazen of all of the oil magnates who have defied the Government of the United States is Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of directors of the Standard of Indiana.

This insolent captain of one of the Nation's biggest industries has pushed the Supreme Court of the United States aside with an imperious wave of his hand, has told the Senate of the United States that information it seeks of the mysterious and dubious dealings of his company, Sinclair's company and the notorious Continental Trading Company, is none of the Senate's business.

Is Stewart's insolence the attitude of the oil industry?

Do Stewart and his fellow captains of oil really think their industry has grown so great that it is superior to the Government of this republic?

What is the attitude of John D. Rockefeller Jr. toward the Government which protects him in his business activities and makes the vast fortune he inherits safe from anarchy and governmental chaos?

Are other oil captains of industry going to give approval by their silence to Stewart's insolence? Have they any attitude toward Stewartism? If so, what is it?

If some intelligent and patriotic action is not taken and taken soon, the indictment of Robert W. Stewart will, in the minds of the people of this country, be taken to be an indictment of the oil industry as a whole. And Standard Oil will recover the malodorous odor that its political and industrial piracy earned for it not much more than a generation ago.

When a lawyer disgraces his profession, he is disgraced by his fellow members.

When a doctor fails to live up to the recognized standards of the medical organization, he becomes an outcast.

There is an organization that represents and has power to speak for the oil industry, as the American Bar Association and the American Medical Association speak for the lawyers and the doctors. It is the American Petroleum Institute.

Up to now that body has remained silent about the Sinclairs, the Dohenys, the O'Neils, the Blackmers and the rest of the black sheep of the industry.

The implications of such silence are hurting the reputation of a business that is one of the most important in the world, in which many great and good men are engaged, and one which should show decidedly more concern about industrial morality than is being shown.

Protecting the Public's Power

The Federal power commission again has directed the attention of Congress to its inability to protect the public interest in power sites because of inadequate personnel.

A letter from the commission points out that the Federal water power act establishes the policy of perpetual retention of power sites and that licenses for development are issued for a period of fifty years. At the end of that period the power development may be recaptured by the Federal Government on payment of the net investment.

It is necessary, the commission says, to have adequate records of investment, and these have not been obtainable because the force of accountants has been too small.

"Failure in the administration of these provisions means failure in the very foundation of the law," said the commission's letter.

"Since under the Federal water power act legitimate cost is the basis of accounting, or rate regulating, of security issues and of recapture, the commission can not protect the public interest in these matters unless it is in a position to make thorough investigation of the claims filed by its licensees."

Here is a situation that Congress must not fail to remedy. The expense of hiring an adequate staff for the commission will be a pittance compared to the tax the public will eventually pay if this is not done.

Politics and the Churches

While foes of prohibition may find some satisfaction in the falling off in efficiency in the three biggest Protestant churches, others who feel the need of religious influence on advancing civilization will consider it a serious matter that the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches appear to be losing their grip.

The Men's Church League asked prominent clergymen in these three denominations this question: "What is the matter with the churches?" The replies were significant. The report, after a canvass of the replies, says:

Of the 9,299 Presbyterian churches, 3,269 had no converts last year; of 8,765 Baptist churches, 3,474 lacked converts in 1927; and of 16,591 Methodist churches, 4,651 went without attracting a single convert.

If the same ratio holds for all the Protestant churches in America, then there are 60,000 out of a total of 200,000 churches that failed to bring a single convert into the Christian faith last year.

Various explanations have been offered by as many leading churchmen, but none of them touches upon what many laymen will believe is the real reason for this situation. It so happens that the largest and most active backers of the political lobby known as the Anti-Saloon League are the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

They largely are responsible for making that organization the political arm of the Protestant evangelical churches, and hence must bear the chief responsibility for dragging the churches into the mire of bitter partisan politics.

Nor is a falling off in converts all the story. If there is any way of getting at the facts, it probably would be discovered that a vast number of members of these churches have lost some of their zeal, even though they have retained their church membership.

Turning over pulpits to political lobbyists who discuss politics instead of religion may have helped that kind of politics, but it hasn't helped religion, and it hasn't helped the churches that have gone into politics.

When our clerical friends learn that partisan politics has no place in the pulpit and that real Christians want their religion unadulterated, they will

have found out one thing that is the matter with some of the churches.

Certainly there is nothing wrong about Christianity. The spirit of its founder is just as vivid and forceful as it ever was, and there has been no diminution in the appeal to humanity of the gospel of love. But politics and controversial politics, at that, has brought into it too much of bigotry, intolerance and the anti-Christian gospel of hate.

Saving Our Birds

A movement has been launched in Congress to have the Federal Government appropriate \$1,000,000 to buy a tract of land in California for use as a refuge for wild birds.

A sports writer, commenting on it, remarks that if the bill passes, sportsmen will insist that this game refuge should not be open to hunters during certain periods of the year. The idea seems to be that there is no use in preserving our wild fowl unless they are preserved for the hunters.

We should like to dissent sharply from that viewpoint. A wild duck, brought to the table, is a very tasty article; but a wild duck in flight over a moor, or swimming on the surface of a wilderness pond, is a thing of beauty, worth saving for its own sake. Why not save our birds for the simple reason that they are a charming part of the outdoor scene—and give the hunters a little rest?

"Uninstructed" Strategy

On two separate occasions, President Coolidge has said to the people of this republic, and to the members of his political party, that he is not a candidate for renomination, doesn't want to be, and doesn't expect to be.

While he did not use the plain language of the candid West, there is no reason for any misunderstanding of his meaning. Whoever assumes that Calvin Coolidge was deliberately misleading his fellow citizens and that he didn't mean what he said, has not enough respect for his honesty and candor to justify a claim of friendship and high regard.

So the effort of some New York Republican politicians to create the impression that if Coolidge is drafted at the Republican national convention, he will grab at the nomination like a hungry trout grabs a fly may be set down as nothing more honorable than tricky politics.

While they don't trot out a favorite son, as a handful of professional politicians in Ohio have done, they aim at the same thing—a delegation they can control as a vest pocket vote, to be cast for the man hand-picked by the bosses at another midnight bedroom caucus like the one Harry Daugherty manipulated in 1920.

The answer to such tactics is for friends of Hoover or any other sincere candidate to place delegates before the voters who can be depended upon to represent honestly their sentiment. Let the rank and file of the Republican party in New York have something to say about what the party in convention shall do.

The uninstructed delegation is political trickery whose purpose is absolute control of New York's big vote, with somebody sitting in a presidential poker game in a midnight bedroom and the rank and file having no voice in the proceedings.

An 80-year-old resident of Salina, Kan., bet an insurance company \$100,000 he would live ten years. Maybe the drivers in Kansas are more considerate than in most States.

Here is an advertisement clipped from a western paper: NOTICE TO PARENTS—Grade cards were issued to all high school students yesterday.

A Dash for Culture

BY BRUCE CATTON

A generation or so ago, every newspaper editor used to sit in his study, and ponder, and write an editorial entitled "Whither Are We Drifting?"

As far as can be learned, none of these long Jeremiahs ever had any appreciable effect on the country's movements. But the habit of sitting down occasionally and meditating on our ultimate goal was a pretty good one, nevertheless. Even if you can't stem a current, it is a good idea to see where it is carrying you.

During the last few years one of the most marked traits of our civilization has been the tremendous growth of the average citizen's yen for culture.

High schools, colleges and universities have been jammed. Noted educators have publicly wondered how they ever were going to accommodate all the would-be students. City and state budgets for education have gone sky-rocketing.

Nor is that all. There have sprung up, like mushrooms, hosts of organizations that seek to fill in, with a few easy lessons, any gaps in your culture. You can not read a magazine without being implored to study French, to read Conrad, to enjoy the pick of the world's literary classics in homeopathic doses, to get a working knowledge of the great philosophies, to steep yourself in everything from relativity to psychoanalysis.

All of this being so, it might pay us to sit down and ask ourselves the old-time editor's question—"Whither are we drifting?"

Now it is not an American trait to go for something that has no cash value. And this scramble for education is no exception. We seem to be struggling for "culture" so that we can better ourselves in business; we read of salesmen who got promotions because they could speak French, of advertising writers who forged ahead because they had read Thomas Hardy, of farm hands who progress to big city offices because they were familiar with Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

The sort of thing isn't culture at all, and it is time we realized it.

One can be educated to one's finger tips and still lag far behind the uncouth man who doesn't know Plato from Ring Lardner. One can be versed in the world's greatest music and still be outstripped by a rival who never heard anything higher than a jazz band. Intimacy with Virgil won't necessarily increase one's earnings as a real estate salesman.

But culture does give one an advantage. It broadens a man so that his enjoyment of life does not depend on a high salary. It gives him a rich reward, not by boosting his earning power, but by enabling him to get along without boosted earnings.

For it doesn't matter that you can't afford a trip to Europe, if you are free to enter the Forest of Arden any night after dinner. Lack of a high-priced automobile won't bother you if you can sail with Ulysses past the baths of all the western stars. A three-room flat can be elegant if you can summon Sir John Falstaff or Chrysis of Alexandria or Doctor Faustus to your parlor at will.

Culture is worth acquiring, by all means. But it never will do you a bit of good if you go after it with your eye on the pay envelope.

BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

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

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

1. What does initial bid of five in a minor suit denote?
 2. What does initial bid of four in a major suit denote?
 3. What does initial bid of three in a major suit denote?
- The Answers
1. Ten probable tricks.
2. Eight sure tricks.
3. Seven sure tricks.

Times Readers Voice Views

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

To the Editor:

In The Times recently, under the title, "Questions and Answers," I note that Frederick M. Kirby makes a statement in answer to the question, "What are the expressions used to distinguish between the two horses of a team?" He says that facing the same way as the team, the right horse is called the near horse, and the other called the off horse. I am of the opinion that Mr. Kirby never has had anything to do with horses, as the horse on the left that he speaks about—always has been called the near horse instead of the off horse.

There are instances where the horse on the left is called the wheel horse or the lead horse, but he never has been called and is not the off horse. Please enlighten Mr. Kirby and if he can't get these questions and answers right, tell him I have a son—a very young man—who will be able to enlighten him in the future.
E. DAVIS,
Denison Hotel.

To the Editor: Some discussion has been had in reference to the recent proposed re-adoption of civil service for the police and fire departments. It was and still is the hope of the Federated Civic Clubs that the entire personnel of these departments will work under some feasible plan, this is from the department heads down.

When the last civil service commission was in effect several hundred men took examinations, approximately 100 passed and our present board of safety should feel obliged to appoint or advance these men as needed.

Also, we should not forget that the city statutes read that the police and fire departments must be under civil service.

This is the age of efficiency and should apply to these essential departments of our city government as well as other departments. Civil service, when applied properly, would not leave a man in the same rank for twelve years unless there is something wrong with him. The police department deals more directly with our citizens than any other department and it is on their actions and deeds that the average citizen bases his opinion of the efficiency of our city administration.

It seems to do no good to report the weak points of our police department, no one cares to hear of them. But they do want the world to know about the good points. There are ten items of inefficient points for every good one.

The streets of Indianapolis are being used for garages, thousands of cars being parked without lights, which endangers the lives of moving traffic.

The sheriff's office is unable to trace an arrest, a suspected murderer of a crime committed within the city limits.

Five homes were entered in the west part of our city last Sunday evening and when the emergency car approached they would have scared away any one who ever thought of being a crook, they made so much noise. They don't want to catch the crooks.

The writer knows of many other weak points of our police department if any one cares to know of them. You truly,
F. M. SWARTZ,
President Sherman-Emerson Civic League.

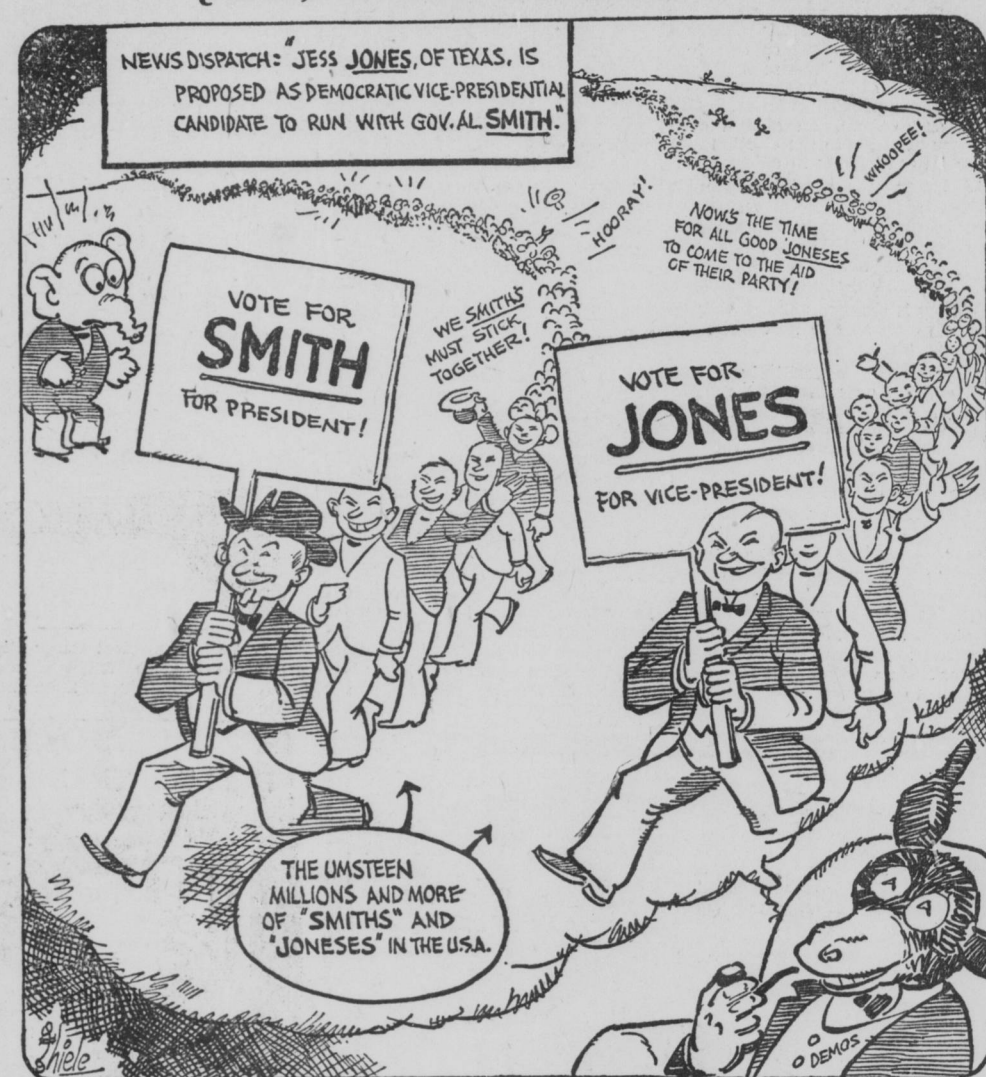
GOOD
NEWS

The Rules

1. The idea of letter golf is to change one word to another and do it in par, or 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.

TIME
TIRE
LIRE
LURE
CURE

Quick, Watson! We Scent a Plot?



NEWS DISPATCH: "JESS JONES, OF TEXAS, IS PROPOSED AS DEMOCRATIC VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO RUN WITH GOV. AL SMITH."

VOTE FOR SMITH FOR PRESIDENT!

VOTE FOR JONES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT!

THE UMSTEEN MILLIONS AND MORE OF "SMITHS" AND "JONESSES" IN THE U.S.A.

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

Decadence Eats Vitals of Rome

Written for The Times by Will Durant

LET us pass quickly over the bloody succession that followed the philosopher-king, Marcus Aurelius, on the throne; over his brilliantly insane son Commodus, who killed hundreds, and frightened thousands of capable men to make himself, as he thought, secure, only to be murdered by his own domestics.

Over Pertinax, who was so just and able a ruler that he was soon assassinated by the Praetorian guards; over the sale of the empire to Didius Julianus by these unmastered troops; over the civil wars that at last placed Septimius Severus upon the throne.

Over the tyranny of Caracalla, the usurpation of Macrinus, and the elegant insanity of Heliogabalus; over Alexander Severus, Maximin, Maximian, Maximus, Balbinus, Philip, Decius, Gallus, Aemilianus, Valerian, Gallienus, Claudius, Aurelian, Diocletian, Galerius, Constantine, Maximianus and the strategic campaigns by which, in the fourth century, Constantine made himself emperor, and for a time restored order and liberty to Rome.

These two terrible centuries are the nadir of Europe's recorded past; reading of them one almost acknowledges Gibbon's definition of history as "little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind."

WHAT were the causes of this decadence. Were the encompassing barbarians, reproducing their like with the fertility of paupers who have nothing to lose, the essential and primary factor in the fall of Rome?

But they had been there for many centuries; doubtless the Romans, had they retained their vigor and their bravery, would have held them off, as Caesar planned, until they could be gradually absorbed into the civilization of the empire.

But how had the Romans lost their vigor and their bravery? What were the causes of that internal decay which expressed itself externally in unrestrained invasion and surrendered liberty?

"Behold," says Petrarca, in the fourteenth century, "the relics of Rome, the image of her pristine greatness!"

"Neither time nor the barbarian can boast the merit of this stupendous destruction; it was perpetuated by her own citizens, by the most illustrious of her sons, and your ancestors" (he writes to a Roman) "have done with the battering-ram what the Punic hero could not accomplish with the sword."

It was Rome that destroyed Rome, as it was Greece that had destroyed Greece.

A superficial sign of the decadence was the growth of luxury; Tiberius complained that the once frugal matrons of the capital now wearing their weight in gold, and that in the purchase of female ornaments the wealth of Italy was passing into alien and hostile hands.

Women who once had gloried in raising fine families busied themselves now with political and amorous intrigue; marriage came later, and divorce sooner, and children seldom or not at all.

THIS reduction of the birth rate in Italy, and above all in Rome, becomes a vital factor in the gradual replacement of Roman with immigrant-barbarian stock.

Once the proletariat of the cities had been named because of its fecundity; not now that it had no votes to sell under the empire, and industry failed to balance with exported products the import of food and luxuries, birth control passed

down from the respectable idlers of the aristocracy to the inhabitants of the street.

The Emperors saw the trend of decay, and struggled to arrest it. Augustus offered one thousand sesterces for each child, as a bribe to parenthood; and Constantine arranged to feed and educate with state funds all children whose parents were too poor to provide for them.

But these expedients failed to effect and year by year the population of the empire was recruited by alien immigrants who had not yet learned the arts of abortion and infanticide.

Slowly the reluctance of Romans to marry the offspring of immigrants broke down; and though this mingling of diverse stocks was destined to reinvigorate the people of Italy after many generations, the immediate effect was a disintegration of character and unity in the race.

But deeper down even than this ethnic transformation was the disintegration of the economic life. The replacement of peasant proprietors by slaves, the exhaustion of the soil by careless tillage, and the drying up of the slave supply with the end of Roman conquest and expansion ruined the agricultural basis of the Roman state.

It was in vain that Augustus sent out colonists to recultivate abandoned farms and develop virgin soil; in vain that Nerva sent sixty million sesterces in buying back the latifundia or large estates, and dividing them among an impoverished peasantry.

It was too late; the Romans had tasted too long the variety and stimulation of city life; and only the pervasive Germans would descend to till the fields.

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(To Be Continued)

What Other Editors Think

public need is wholly irrelevant. "It is no doubt argued that, since we now have two judges, an additional clerk, marshal and district attorney—with their deputies—would impose no serious burden on the people."

We have no fight to pick with the Indianapolis News, but it seems entirely probable that that estimable daily is not fully apprised of the facts or that it is playing fairy godmother to the capital hotel gang, who have ample reasons, of a selfish nature, to wish the bill defeated.

Many witnesses from this part of the State are forced to make the long trip to Indianapolis every

year in order to answer summons from the Federal grand jury. Lawyers, too, suffer innumerable inconveniences from the present system. Indianapolis hotels and commercial enterprises, of course, receive their due benefits under the present plan.

But aside from this phase of the matter are the more important issues of faulty administration, serious errors in handling voluminous cases, the necessity for the district attorney to chase all over the State in order to try cases.

That, in itself, is sufficient cause to seek a remedy by dividing the State into two districts.

Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any unanswered question of fact or information by writing to Frederick M. Kirby, Question Editor, The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope. No extended research is made. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unassigned questions cannot be answered. All letters are confidential. You are cordially invited to make use of this free service as often as you please.
EDV:GR.

Are snakes useful to mankind? Many of the common snakes serve a useful purpose by devouring large numbers of insects, mice and other small animals that are injurious to garden crops and stored foodstuffs.

Does an alien who holds an honorable discharge from the American Army automatically become a citizen of the United States? He must be naturalized the same as any other alien.

Is there a game called "African golf?"

This is one of the names applied to the game of dice known as "craps" and is applied because of its popularity among the Negroes.

Where did the play, "What Price Glory," get its name? From the English colloquialism, "What Price," used by the London cockney to mean "what is the value." In the play the name

means "What is the value of winning glory?"

Which American troops reached France first in the world war?

The first troops were some medical and hospital units. Then came General Pershing and his staff. The first combat division to reach France was the 1st Division, made up of the Regular Army troops, in June, 1917.

What American city is known as "The City of the Saints?" Salt Lake City, Utah.

Why was Samuel Houston deposed as Governor of Texas? He opposed secession in Texas in 1861 and refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederate States, for which on March 18, 1861, he was declared deposed.

Does the Bible tell the exact number of Wise Men who presented gifts to the infant Jesus?

The Bible account does not state how many wise men were in the party that arrived at Bethlehem at the time Christ was born. Tradition has called them the three wise men, but the Bible mentions only three gifts are mentioned, "gold, frankincense and myrrh." Tradition also has named them Kasper, Melchior and Balthasar.

TRACY

M. E.

SAYS:

"Unless the Oil Industry Takes Positive and Effective Measures to Clean Up This Scandal, It Will Suffer From the Effects for the Next Two Generations."

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., appraises the situation correctly. The Teapot Dome case has come to be little less than a menace to the oil industry.

The attitude of Sinclair, the flight of Blackmer and O'Neil, the attempt to tamper with a jury and the deliberate reticence of witnesses leave the public no other choice than to believe that when it comes to a question of loyalty to the industry, or to the Government, oil has little use for the latter.

This republic cannot survive if its citizens are more devoted to a business, a religion or a cause than to the law.

Governor Smith's candidacy has led to a lot of talk regarding the danger of divided allegiance.

Divided allegiance brought about by money would be worse than divided allegiance brought about by anything else.

Is Law Impartial?

If oil men are impervious to the demands of good citizenship, they still can find reasons to tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" regarding the Teapot Dome case in the way it reflects on their own business.

As things now stand, they have shown little but an attitude which justifies people in suspecting that they would rather conceal crookedness than do their duty by the United States.

The fact that they have been able to elude the consequences of such disloyal conduct thus far only adds to that lack of confidence in the power and impartiality of the law which is bad enough already.

If these men were taxicab drivers instead of multimillionaires, Congress and the courts would find little difficulty in dealing with them.

Human Nature

A business is not necessarily bad because it is big, but bigness represents an element of danger.

Men in control of a billion dollar business are about the same as small boys in the front seat of an eighty horsepower car. There is a constant temptation to step on the gas and let other folks eat the dust.

While it may not be just to regard business as wrong because it is big, it is logical to suspect that it is more likely to go wrong.

Human nature is about the same at Twenty-Six Broadway as it is on an ice cart or in the grocery store. If we cannot trust the ice man and the grocery clerk to be honest without sealed scales why should we trust the big boys?

Public Protection

The public has just as much right to protect itself against the risks of a monopoly abusing its power as it has to see that the clerk behind the counter does not short-weight it. Further than that, it has just as much right to demand full and free evidence from an oil magnate as it has from a longshoreman, and citizenship implies the same obligations and responsibilities on the part of both.

These rich oil men who have closed the lips or run away in disfigurement of the Senate and the courts of the United States are in the same position as the commonest lout who helps to conceal a crime by refusing to tell what he knows and they should be treated with no less harshness.

The Teapot Dome case not only reflects on the oil industry, but on every industry that has ranged into the realm of big business. It reeks with "the public be damned" idea. It represents nothing less than a challenge to the power of the law to be honest and just. It tops a conspiracy to def