



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### The Case of Walb

Before you shed too many tears for Clyde Walb, who is on his way to a Federal prison, spend a moment or so in pity for the State of Indiana.

There is a different picture in this State today than was presented two years ago when Walb was acting as the spokesman, manager and general director for the campaign which sent James Eli Watson and Arthur Robinson to the United States Senate.

This newspaper has had something to do with changing that picture. It also believes that the attitude of the voters of this State has been changed.

It has helped to show how they have been betrayed and misled and deluded by as ruthless a band of political pirates as ever scuttled any ship of state.

This newspaper had something to do with the exposure of Walb and first printed the story of the forged note in the La Grange bank and Walb's connection with it. That story was printed at a time when political pressure was being used to cover up the crime itself and to raise funds for the bankrupt company which Walb headed, from the big beneficiaries of the Republican machine, an effort which continued almost up to the hour of Walb's indictment.

It may be said in all truth that the printing of the story stopped the scheme to thwart justice.

Two years ago Walb was the leader in the campaign of suppression, distortion and coercion which was used to elect Watson and Robinson.

It was he who spoke for both of these candidates and who blandly charged in their behalf that the international bankers were flooding the State with money to accomplish their defeat.

It was Walb who declared that there was nothing on the part of any of the Republican leaders to hide, making the statement only after he was forced to do so by Col. Theodore Roosevelt.

It was Walb who was consulted by Watson and Robinson and who raised the funds and spent them in their behalf.

It was Walb who tried to blacken those who opposed the machine of which he was the engineer, who planned to "frame" innocent men, who used his position in endeavors to send the critics and opponents of the machine to jail.

The jury which heard his case evidently believed the old banker who forged notes in Walb's interest that Walb had finally asked him to accept the entire responsibility for the looting of that bank because he had influence enough in high places to secure a light sentence.

That plea ran true to form. It is the essence of the machine ethics. It is the method by which the machine rules.

What is the history of Walb?

The people are interested only in his political activities. And his rise to power was possible only through alliances with two men.

The first of these men, of course, is Senator James E. Watson.

But it was only through D. C. Stephenson and the Klan that he retained his power. He directed the party in 1924 which elected Jackson, who escaped prison by pleading the statute of limitations.

It was Walb, working for and with Watson and Robinson, who was at the helm of the party during its dark and dismal years.

There will be sympathy, of course, for any man who goes to prison. There will be sympathy for his family.

But there should be a little pity, too, for Indiana. She has suffered much from the hands of Walb and the group of which he was spokesman and chief manipulator. She has suffered from the humiliation thrust upon her and perhaps the sending of Walb to a prison cell for looting a bank may serve to remind the voters on May 8 that, if they wish to have decent conditions in the State, if they wish their funds in banks to be safe, if their property and lives are to be protected, it may be well to get rid of the influences which created a Walb.

The new deal has started. This step was taken in a criminal court. It is up to the decent and honest voters of the party which Walb so recently headed to finish the job.

### Fishing With Bent Pins

Major Fitzmaurice, doughty trans-Atlantic flier, tells how he and his comrades had planned to live if forced down on an uninhabited Arctic waste. They had an ax to cut wood for fuel, planned to use the plane's generator to furnish sparks to start a fire, and had a small supply of sandwiches.

When their food gave out the major says he believes they could have caught fish. They had no fish-hooks, but he believes they could have made out very well with bent pins.

Maybe so. But we're mighty glad they didn't have to try it. As a lad, we tried valiantly, time and again, to catch fish with a bent pin for a hook, and never came close to succeeding. The fish always slipped off. We have a hunch the aviators would have gone rather hungry if they had depended on that means to stock their larder.

### Col. Stewart Entertains

The Senate oil investigation consistently suffered from lack of a comedian.

This weakness never was more apparent than during the testimony of Col. Robert W. Stewart, head of the Standard Oil of Indiana, recounting how he unfortunately stumbled into possession of \$759,500 in Liberty bonds, which he had a strong suspicion came from the malodorous Continental Trading Company.

It seems, according to Stewart's statement to the committee, that on Nov. 26, 1921, a Canadian named Osler told him he was going to participate in the profits of the Continental deal, realized from a "squeeze play" in oil.

The play had been put over in a New York hotel in Stewart's presence a few days previously. Indeed, Stewart had signed a financial guarantee necessary to put it over.

Stewart did not think he was entitled to any of the profits which Osler seemed determined to thrust upon him, because he was connected with one of the companies being squeezed, but, always a gentleman, he did not want to make a scene about it.

So without inquiring about the Continental Trading Company—who was in it, and why it was—he graciously agreed to accept a share of the profits.

Then, lest there be the slightest suggestion of impropriety, he penciled a secret agreement, terminable at his option, proving that his share of the profits should be held in trust for companies with which he was associated.

Having made a righteous disposition of any profits which might come to him from the Continental deal, Stewart at once joined all the principal parties to the transaction—Sinclair, Blackmer, O'Neill, Osler—in a special car for a trip to the Mexia oil field in Texas.

Although he had only the vaguest kind of an idea of what the Continental Trading Company was, or why it insisted on giving him one-fourth of its profits, it never occurred to him to ask anyone of the Continental group, packed into the same car with him on a trip of many days.

Later, he took a long trip with Blackmer, central figure in the Continental deal, to see former Interior Secretary Fall in New Mexico, but on that trip it seems that the Continental Trading Company never got into the conversation.

And from time to time Stewart went to the Belmont and Biltmore hotels in New York and picked up packages of Liberty bonds, finally aggregating \$759,500, which he had a strong suspicion were from the Continental Trading Company, but it never occurred to him to make any inquiries about the concern.

Stewart, and with amazing fortitude, Stewart let bonds to which he thought he was not entitled be heaped upon him, and thence into his secret trust fund.

That big business executive, whose very name is a terror to the small fry in the oil business, it seems, was victimized by a group insistent upon showering him with gold.

He said nothing, he asked no questions, he simply endured.

At least that is the story which Stewart conveyed to the Senate committee, and the story about which the committee solemnly questioned him for hours.

The cession was obviously not one for solemn cross-examination. It was one for uproarious laughter.

### Royalty, If Only a Baby

Little Princess Ilona of Austria, daughter of the Archduke Frank Joseph, the other day won first prize in a baby contest at Budapest.

We're really rather glad she won. Our story books always told us that princesses were somewhat finer than the rest of us, and could be recognized even if disguised as peasants; and lo! it seems that it is true. Glad only in a royal diaper, this wee princess was easily the best-looking baby in the place.

They are supported by Representative McClintic, Oklahoma, whose franked envelope was alleged to have contained council literature. One affidavit to this effect was made by Harold M. Weeks of Wellesley Hills, Mass., according to Representative Andrew, Republican, Massachusetts.

In the House debate, McClintic called Andrew "A rattlesnake" for calling Andrew "A rattlesnake" for spreading false charges.

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