



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### The Beast Snarls

Years ago Judge Ben Lindsey wrote a book which he called "The Beast in the Jungle."

It was not about an animal at all. No lion, jackal, tiger walked through tropical undergrowth.

It was the story of graft and pillage in government, of the boss who ruled with graft, of the special interests that stole pennies from playgrounds and dollars from the dinner tables.

There is a likeness between a beast, savage and rapacious, and graft in government. For graft, in turn takes on the likeness and the form of all the beasts that are loathsome and fearsome.

At election times it turns polecat and starts its squad of whispering women with vile rumors to defeat good candidates and confuse the well-intentioned.

When beaten, it turns its bared teeth to the people and snarls.

The beast in Indiana is snarling now. For it knows itself beaten and driven from hole to hole, seeking a new place from which to dart out to plunder. The polecat finds itself no longer able to loot the chicken coop with the same old security which was once its boast.

Its snarl takes the form of a measure in the legislature to prevent cities from adopting the city manager form of government.

Some member, the same one who tried in vain to keep John Duvall in the mayor's chair for two years and failed because a grand jury discovered evidence of his crime, now proposes to repeal the law which permits cities this measure of home rule.

There is every reason to believe that the utility lobby, those sleek gentlemen with fat bank rolls who fill the hotel lobbies and are intent on defeating every good bit of legislation, will help him in his scheme.

There is more reason to believe that the old machine in the Republican party will take a hand and try to prevent the establishment of this modern system of efficient and more popular government.

The only argument for the denial of city manager government is a desire of the politicians to control the jobs and the taxes of this city for the purpose of loot and plunder and "party" success.

The machine wants the police force, the fat contracts, the power and the privileges that go with authority.

The people of this city, by a vote of five to one, decided that they want city manager government. They know that it has been a success in other cities.

They know that other communities which stagnated under graft rule have blossomed and become prosperous under this new form of government.

The people of this city must defend their rights—and this new government is a very definite right.

They must stand ready to march upon the statehouse if necessary and present their petitions for justice. Those petitions, perhaps, must be made in boots.

There is no mistake as to the crisis which confronts this city and the cause of popular government.

The beast, snarling and driven into the open, is pouncing for its prey and the prey it wants is the right to rule this city as it was ruled under Coffin and Duvall.

The city manager committee should marshal its army of citizens and make it very clear to the politicians that they will stand for no interference with their rights and their expressed wish.

### Senate Secrecy

Some years ago the American people got so excited about secret treaties that they fought a war on the slogan "open covenants, openly arrived at." The idea was that the people's business was—the people's business.

But while we have been trying to democratize the methods of world diplomacy, we seem to have overlooked some of our own archaic institutions. For instance, that rule for secret senate sessions for consideration of executive nominations, providing expulsion of any senator disclosing the debate or vote of these star-chamber proceedings.

This un-American rule has only one advantage. It puts a premium on political deals, which need the protection of closed doors.

Whenever attempts have been made in the past to modernize this rule, the reform resolution has been referred to the senate rules committee—sometimes called the senate graveyard.

Fortunately the United Press, through its senate correspondent, Paul R. Mallon, has forced the issue to the front again by publishing the prescribed secret roll call on the confirmation of Secretary of Interior West.

Mallon may be subject to contempt proceedings. But his press colleagues are standing by him. So are many senators, who are humiliated by the secrecy rules imposed upon them. Anyway, Mallon must have obtained his information from a senator, just as other correspondents are accustomed to receiving regular though less complete information on such secret votes from senators.

So the senate can not move against the press without implicating its own members—and that probably will be the end of the rule.

The secrecy rule may be thrown out in any case, as it should be. Senator Jones, Republican whip, has introduced a resolution providing that all sessions be

open except on two-thirds vote of the senate. That would reverse the present procedure.

Now executive sessions are secret unless two-thirds vote in secret for a public session. If two-thirds of the senators, as provided by the Jones resolution, have to vote publicly before the senate can resort to hush-hush proceedings, there will not be many secret sessions in the future.

Anything which is considered too confidential for the ears of the American public is apt to be precisely the public business in which citizens have and should have the most vital interest.

### While They Wait

While the legislators are waiting, they might take an hour some afternoon and pass the two bills asked by attorneys of this city to clarify the gas situation.

No other section of the state is concerned. This city has a very definite contract to purchase the gas plant. The terms are fixed and the price settled. No taxpayer in any other part of the state is concerned.

The attorneys for the city and for the trustees of the company combined in drafting these measures which are intended to hasten the day when the city takes over a valuable property whose increased value already belongs to all the people.

Certainly no member of the legislature can have any reason to delay or block. Why not clean up this purely perfunctory job as quickly as possible?

Or does the utility lobby object?

### Mr. Britten Gets in the Papers

Well, Mr. Britten has got himself into the papers again.

One method of a minor politician seeking to break into print is to make a press statement purporting to give the views of the President. Britten, chairman of the house naval affairs committee, improved on this by attributing to President-Elect Hoover support of the fifteen-cruiser bill, now having a hard time in the senate.

The President-elect has authorized an official denial of Britten's statement that Hoover "certainly gave me the impression of declaring for a navy second to none in power and efficiency.... I am sure the time limit will be pleasing to Hoover." Hoover had not discussed the pending legislation, it was said on his behalf at Miami Beach.

Of course Hoover is on record in many formal statements as favoring an adequate navy. But that is quite different from the attempt of Britten to use Hoover's name to oppose the Coolidge request that the time construction clause be dropped from the cruiser bill, and to oppose the effort of others to postpone the cruiser program, pending further friendly arms limitation negotiations with Great Britain.

Doubtless Britten is satisfied with the publicity thus obtained, despite the humiliating repudiation.

In the same statement in which he was misrepresenting Hoover, Britten befooled the American ideal of the sanctity of treaties in these words:

"Steel ships with big guns accompanied by airplanes speak with much greater force than time-worn words of friendly treaties."

No wonder part of the world thinks the United States is "a bully and a menace."

We only can hope that the world will judge our nation by its acts and not by the misshapen ideas of the Brittens among us.

If the British people will judge us by our acts, they will see that our government since the Washington naval limitation conference has ignored patiently the provocation of the British admiralty's big cruiser programs.

Unless the British people soon curb their admiralty's war-like policy, they cannot expect the American people forever to succeed in preventing the dangerous armament race desired by our Brittens.

The actress who stopped the show on Broadway because two men in the audience laughed in a most tragic moment, shouldn't feel hurt about it. Probably just a couple of Englishmen who had been to a comedy the night before.

New York scientists who are studying smoke in behalf of the city's health may have a hard time gaining admittance to the ladies Wednesday afternoon bridge clubs.

Last year 880,000,000 wiener were sold in the United States. Proving that we're not subsisting entirely on canned goods after all.

A Washington society woman testified she couldn't remember shooting her husband. Little things like that are apt to slip one's mind.

People who get to the bottom of things often come out on top.

### David Dietz on Science

#### Human Body Is Engine

No. 266

ONE of the most interesting and most important systems of the human body is the digestive system.

The human body is an engine which requires two things to keep running. They are food and air. The body converts them into energy and into its own tissue.

Dr. Logan Cledenning gives an excellent summary of the relation of the digestive system to the other systems in his fine book, "The Human Body."

He points out that the process of digestion is to take food and reduce it to a state where it can be carried to the tissues of the body and absorbed by them.

The process of respiration brings air into the body. The circulatory system carries the food and air through the body. The medium in which they are carried to the blood.

The various tissues absorb the food and air from the blood and convert them into energy. This process is called nutrition, or metabolism. At the same time, waste products are eliminated.

The central nervous system controls and regulates all these processes, apparently with the aid of the ductless glands.

The digestive system is a long tube of varying thickness. It begins with the mouth.

Food meets a digestive juice as soon as it enters the mouth. Saliva is secreted by the salivary glands into the mouth. Saliva is a ferment which begins at the work of digestion.

The salivary glands are stimulated by the thought, sight or smell of food.

In this instance, Prof. V. H. Mottram recounts that it is said that a German band can be reduced to silence by the sight of a man eating sauerkraut.

## M. E. TRACY

SAYS:

"Those Who Walk on Level Ground Can Make Missteps Without Great Risks; Not So Those Who Walk in High Places."

ENVER, Jan. 29.—The frozen bodies of a Colorado lawyer and his wife were found in their home. Notes left behind, as well as conversations with friends preceding the tragedy suggest that, fearing the loss of her mind, the woman persuaded the husband to kill her and then himself.

Last Saturday a Denver man of 55 shot himself through fear of approaching blindness.

Out in the Puget Sound, there floats an ark, built by a man who has become obsessed with fear of another flood. Fear, especially of perils in the future is still the bane of humanity, still the chief source of crime, war and insanity.

Whether it is a witch murder in Pennsylvania, an Afghan mob overthrowing their king to save old-time religious customs, or a cruiser bill in Washington, fear can be found lurking in the background.

The attorneys for the city and for the trustees of the company combined in drafting these measures which are intended to hasten the day when the city takes over a valuable property whose increased value already belongs to all the people.

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### Victims of System

STILL the former kaiser is not wholly wrong in refusing to take full blame for the war.

If not the victim, he was at least the product of a system—a system which is as old as human consciousness, which has taught the people of every race and clime that others were not only a little different, but a little worse, which finds embodiment in 99 per cent of all written history and which is being perpetuated in millions of school rooms throughout the world. In considering national relations we are up against a system, not a mystery.

What the peace movement needs, if such it may be called, is more frankness based in intelligent thinking, and less of the backstairs scheming and back alley gossip which have played such an important part in the diplomatic game.

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## Between Bites



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

### Onset of Sleep One of Life's Riddles