



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
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Editor. President. Business Manager.
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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Leslie Learns

That Boss Coffin won his first tilt with Governor Leslie was to be expected. It is also fortunate.

For if there be anything to the Leslie tradition that he has a fighting jaw and a bulldog tenacity of purpose, it may be expected that he has learned that to overthrow Coffin and that more important thing which is known as Coffinism, requires not a battle but a war.

The state Republican committee can truly form when it rather contemptuously swept aside the demands of the Leslie cohorts that the Republicans of this city be given a chance to recapture their party machinery by an honest vote.

For years, or to be more specific, since the day that Stephenson and Coffin took charge of the party in the state, the committee has been accustomed to doing the things necessary to retain control, no matter what the methods or how tricky the means.

For years it has helped and aided Coffin in his fight against the people of Indianapolis and the Republicans within his own party. In return he has been helpful, to put it mildly, to the political fortunes of Senator Robinson, and has not impeded the Watson program.

To appeal to the state committee, which is, or hopes to be, indebted to Watson and Robinson, showed a naivete on the part of the Governor that was most refreshing. The committee knew its master's voice and has been taking orders too long from Coffin and his associates to be swept away by any temporary pleas of a mere Governor.

The Governor must know the route on which he started. The people will watch with interest as he follows it courageously or makes his peace with the boss.

He must know, for he has been in the legislature, that Coffin is behind the various moves to further enslave this city.

Coffin is fighting the city manager plan, for he knows that when it is put into operation, his dynasty ends.

Coffin is fighting hand in hand with the utilities and his henchmen are the leaders in the battle against any remedies for utility greed.

Coffin is against every measure that the people want and for every law that promises to make public office a coaling station for the pirate cruisers of politics.

The Governor, perhaps, will understand that if he really wants to unhouse this buccaneer of politics it will be necessary to fight not only in political committees but in every spot Coffin wages battle against the people.

Movie Censorship

Possibly in the course of discussion the member of the legislature who introduced a measure creating the drastic censorship of movie pictures will disclose the inspiration for his bill.

Certainly as far as the public knows there has been no outspoken demand for such repression of films. No woman's organization, and women can be counted upon to take the offensive against any real menace to morals, has sent out appeals. Nor have the pulpits thundered denunciation of the present-day product of the movie colony.

It is just possible that the member who introduced the measure may be the innocent tool of other members who understand that the introduction of such measures is always the signal to the movie interests to send lobbyists, very kind lobbyists, to defeat the measure. Perhaps the utilities this year are too strong.

Censorship of any kind is abhorrent to American ideals and to be attempted only when there is a grave need.

In practice, official censorship of films usually produces graft and corruption, rather than any protection to the public.

Some states have censors. No two states agree on what pictures are bad. Films that are applauded in Pennsylvania are barred in Kansas, while those which Kansas permits upon the screen are criminal in the Keystone state.

As a matter of fact the public has shown itself the very best censor by refusing to patronize salacious films. The producers have discovered that objectionable films do not pay.

There is a very grave reason why film censorship at this time is more than dangerous. One of the recent developments is the photography of sound. The film of today is a talkie as well as a movie. Very soon all films will undoubtedly reproduce the spoken word.

Censorship of such productions creates a very dangerous precedent in that it is a limitation upon free speech. Official censors might easily enlarge their powers so as to prevent showing news reels in which those who advocate political doctrines not to the liking of censors give their messages.

If the legislature does not wish to put itself under suspicion, it will act promptly on this measure before the high-priced lobbyists appear and convert, not always by the most ethical methods, the members to its undesirability.

The measure has the appearance of being what is called "strike legislation." Its author may be sincere but a lot of the wise boys will thoroughly understand

He Finds the Princess

All of us are a little sad because the things we read in our beautiful childhood books did not turn out to be true. We wanted to believe them.

So when Charles Lindbergh flew victoriously into our disappointing world, where so often brave heroes are devoured by the dragon they go out to slay, we took him to our hearts and were glad.

Around his fair Nordic head we have spun all the legends mankind always has loved. He is young, he is daring, he is wise, he is modest, he is handsome,

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he is unspoiled. One day he was unknown, the next he was famous.

And now he is going to marry the princess, who seems as wise and modest and brave as he!

These two children add something very precious to our lives. They hold our whimsical dreams and our faith in their hands. May they never fail us!

To Complete the Record

President Coolidge lately has stressed the idea that his administration has liquidated the financial and other national problems left by the World war. In the main that is true. But at least one thing has been overlooked.

About 1,500 citizens convicted under the espionage act still are denied their rights of citizenship. They can not vote, hold office, or serve on juries. We respectfully commend these citizens to the fair consideration of the President, who has the power by proclamation to restore their rights.

The only offense of which these persons were guilty was to speak or write against the war. These are not the conscientious objectors, who were tried by military courts and did not lose their citizenship rights.

"Not one of these espionage act cases involved an act of violence," the American Civil Liberties Union points out in a review of the cases. "The few cases of real spies convicted during the war, or of persons charged with acts of violence, were brought under other laws."

Recognizing that hysteria had been responsible in many of these cases for extreme sentence, the federal government as early as 1919 reduced the sentences of about 200. Soon after Coolidge took office, he freed those remaining in prison. But their civil disabilities still operate to punish them.

After a man opposed to violence has paid for the privilege of uttering the truth as he sees it by serving a prison sentence with criminals and then has lost his citizenship rights for ten years, does it not seem rather barbarous to keep on punishing him indefinitely?

The right of free speech is fundamental, guaranteed by our constitution. The theory of setting aside that right in war time is that a temporary emergency requires silencing the few for the safety of the many. Whatever the merits of that theory, neither it nor any other theory can justify the penalizing of such free speech ten years after the emergency has passed.

In similar cases after the Civil war, citizenship rights were restored by presidential proclamation. And of course eventually such action will be taken for the benefit of the present 1,500.

But would it not be fitting if the President, who is proud of liquidating other World war problems, should make this gracious gesture? It is not only important to the few citizens concerned, it is important for the record of America.

"My kingdom for a horse" is an immortal line, but if Shakespeare had been writing in Michigan he probably would have had the gentleman say something like "My life for a pint!"

The tennis association has restored Bill Tilden to amateur standing. The association must have been watching his performance on the stage.

A Detroit woman bandit used tear gas in a bank holdup the other day. Same old feminine formula: Tears for money.

Arnold Rothstein, the gambler, left nearly \$3,000 and Senator Underwood's estate amounted to about \$50,000. It seems to pay better to break the laws than to make them.

Kansas City reports a mild epidemic of nausea. Maybe the editors had a slow day and ran a Hollywood press agent's story unadulterated.

London newspapers made a great to-do about the fact that an English lord swallowed a collar button. Not so remarkable. Some English lords who have visited America bound on matrimony have even been known to swallow camel's bones.

David Dietz on Science

Sun Spot Cycle Baffles

No. 279

SUN spots and their behavior constitute one of the most absorbing and perplexing problems facing the modern astronomer.

The sun spots are not permanent features. The average sun spot has a life of one or two days. Spots vary in size and frequently a spot will undergo striking changes in size and appearance.

The number of spots appearing on the sun varies from year to year, a maximum number being reached on the average every eleven years though some cycles have been as short as 7.3 years and others as long as 17.1 years.

As a sun spot minimum is approached, most of the spots will appear near the sun's equator, within a few degrees north or south of it.

Then as the new upward cycle begins, it will be heralded by the appearance of new spots at latitudes of about 30 degrees north and south of the equator.

As more and more spots appear, they make their appearance between these latitudes and the equator until at the time of maximum, the spots are scattered through two bands from a latitude of 30 degrees to one of about 5 degrees on either side of the equator.

As the number of spots begin to decline, they begin to disappear gradually from the higher latitudes until when the time of minimum is again reached, the spots are concentrated once more within a few degrees north and south of the equator.

This behavior of the sun spots, coupled with the variation in speed of rotation found at different latitudes in the sun, leads astronomers to believe that there must be some regular periodic activity going on in the gaseous depths of the sun.

Many of the world's leading astronomers, including Dr. George Ellery Hale, honorary director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, are working on this problem.

There is a feeling that a solution to this problem will be bound up with the solution of that equally absorbing problem, the origin of the sun's energy.

But no satisfactory theory as to what this periodic activity within the depths of the sun may be has yet been offered.

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