



The Indianapolis Times

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

Speed Is Needed

The politicians, who look upon city jobs and city funds as the property of politicians, to be used for partisan advantages, have demonstrated their fear of and antagonism to the city manager government.

They have taken the first steps to grab the power if by any chance the supreme court can be induced to say that the formation of the sort of government the people have chosen takes away their constitutional rights.

Just how rights can be destroyed through a government selected by the people themselves is a mystery. But the political lawyers, who in their private conversations show a thorough contempt of the court and whisper of influences that are not written in the books, have the hope that a decision will be finally rendered to perpetuate the old grafts and greeds.

The matter ought to be very simple. The balancing of right and wrong ought not to be so delicate as to require long deliberation and exhaustive research.

Even a court which has a record of great deliberateness in decisions ought not to require a very long period in settling such a case.

To the minds of men and women who merely want a government that is owned by them instead of being run by the bosses, the problem seems very simple.

But with various candidates in the field for mayor awaiting this off chance of a decision that will permit them to try for power, the matter ought to be immediately brought before the court and an urgent request made for speed.

This city has had much of turmoil. Its government has been unsettled. Its administration has been under shadows of courts too long.

Perhaps somewhere in the line of legal procedure some lawyer who has a regard for the people of the city will appeal to the high court to give action and quick action.

The job of keeping the bosses out of power under the new government will be hard enough without the added handicap of delay, uncertainty and undercover campaigning.

Our Duty to the Cuban People

A little more than thirty years ago Cuba, the "Pearl of the Antilles," was being bled white by her tyrannical Spanish overlords.

Without any voice in their government, taxed out of everything they made, clapped into a political prison if they complained, the ragged, poverty-stricken people had no other recourse than to revolution, and when they attempted that the island for years ran red with blood shed in unequal strife.

At last we intervened and set Cuba free. After bringing peace to the island, draining off the swamps, constructing sewers, building roads, banishing yellow fever and helping the Cubans set up a republic of their own, we gave them their independence with our blessing.

Today, according to a long list of distinguished Cubans, their country once more is in the grip of a regime as tyrannical as was Spain's.

The present government of Cuba, we are told, is a dictatorship. Representative government has disappeared. Once again the people have no voice in their affairs, because only one name appears on the election ticket and they must vote that way or not at all.

Unconstitutionally, they claim, the present officials are remaining in office and unconstitutionally their terms of office have been prolonged—the president extending his from four to six years.

One of the president's own official family, his secretary of war, testifies that he was given twenty-four hours in which to leave the country after he had the temerity to suggest running for the presidency against the incumbent.

Certainly the United States has no desire to intervene in Cuba's affairs. This goes particularly for armed intervention. But, after all, the United States does owe it to the Cuban people not to force them to go on forever submitting to the present regime, if it is as sinister as described.

The United States morally is bound to do one or two things: Either bring diplomatic pressure to bear on Cuba to restore representative, constitutional government, so that the people can express themselves at the polls, else keep hands off altogether and let the present growing unrest take its course.

Most assuredly we have no right to stand by now and permit abuses to continue indefinitely under our very noses, then send an armed expedition to Cuba to put down a revolution, which, by the very nature of things, always grows out of such situations.

Besides, if the picture is as black as it is painted, we are at least half-way responsible for it. The republic of Cuba is now, and always has been, under American tutelage. We are morally and legally her sponsor.

We are pledged to maintain her independence and what is just as important, we are bound to insist that a government be maintained at Havana "capable of protecting life, property and individual liberty."

Large numbers of Cubans today insist that the present regime is not living up to any such definition. They are protesting in every way they know against the abuses. Among the signers of a recent manifesto against the alleged usurpations of power was Dr. Cosme De La Torriente, former ambassador to Washington and president of the assembly of the League of Nations, a man respected around the world for his ideals and for the high quality of his mind. And with him signed many others of similar renown.

Where there is so much smoke there must be some fire. It is the duty of the United States to investigate. Better a diplomatic move now than a military one later on. We should not forget that, after all, our prestige is tied up in Cuba as it is nowhere else in the Latin American world.

Wherein We Straddle

It takes more courage than we possess to jump into the free-for-all of the social masters and matrons of this once simple republic over the table rank at official functions of the Vice-President's half-sister.

Perhaps if we had a burning conviction on this international teacup topic, courage would be given us to plunge in and battle for the right. But our difficulty is that the moment we make up our editorial mind on one side, we flop to the other.

As 100 per cent Americans, we feel, for a moment, that any American must be better than any foreigner and so recognized at the social boards of Washington. The feeling is quickened by the fact that this is the case of a lady in distress. If a gentleman is asked to

choose between the ruling of a secretary of state and the claim of a lady, obviously he must be true to the tenets of chivalry.

But just as we get clear on this point, we are reminded that as true Americans we should scorn all the trappings of social rank as an alien importation from the courts of Europe, dangerous baubles turning our heads from the simple and democratic informality of our founding fathers.

So that jerks us back again to our original position on the fence. It is all very confusing!

Having confessed our neutrality, however, we would like to throw in one thought that has come to us lately—that is, provided we are not to be misunderstood as taking sides.

In searching for the best standard of 100 per cent Americanism, it seems that there is something just as fundamental as rating Americans superior to foreigners per se.

Since the earliest day of the republic, we Americans have been world-famous for our hospitality. However much or however little we have had in the way of a home, or a city, or a national capital, we have tried to welcome and honor the stranger.

These foreign diplomats, whom the Vice-President wants his half-sister and hostess to outrank at social functions, happen to be in this country not as individuals, but as the personal representatives of their own countries.

Perhaps this quarrel is not so much a question of conflicting "rights," as of being gracious to our invited guests. Isn't that good 100 per cent Americanism?

Jail, at Last

There is only one higher court in this country to which Harry F. Sinclair of Teapot Dome might appeal from yesterday's decision of "guilty" by the United States supreme court. That higher court is public opinion. It already has condemned Sinclair.

Now that the senate, a jury, a court of appeals, the United States supreme court, and public opinion, have found him guilty of contempt in refusing to answer senate questions regarding his share in the oil scandals, it seems that after all these years the multimillionaire finally is going to jail.

There is not much chance for him to get a supreme court rehearing, even if he petitions for one. The long legal red tape which wealth has strung out ends behind the bars.

Most of his fellow-citizens will think Sinclair is lucky in getting off with only a \$500 fine and three months in jail, although there still is the little matter of jury-shadowing which Sinclair may have to answer for also when the supreme court takes up his appeal in that case.

Much more than mere punishment of a guilty man is involved in yesterday's ruling.

It reaffirms the decision in the Mal S. Daugherty case upholding the rights of congress to conduct investigations necessary to aid legislation.

And it helps restore public faith that there is only one rule of law for poor man and rich man.

Dr. Will Durant says there is more difference between man and man than between woman and woman. We were just wondering if the same were true about differences.

Just to keep you informed, Secretary Kellogg, author of the international pact outlawing war, also gave the ruling that Charley Curtis' sister must sit with the wives of ambassadors and ministers at official dinners.

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