



The Indianapolis Times

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

They Never Learn

Once more the men who make a business of politics in this state demonstrate that they belong to the Bourbons, who never forget and never learn.

There could be nothing more archaic than the gathering today of the Republican state committee which calls in the candidates for mayor in forty of the largest cities and plans to help and aid them in their campaigns.

It reveals the viewpoint of the politicians toward the government of cities, their reliance upon patronage, pap and power, their desire to mislead the people with labels rather than attract them with real service.

All that the committee demands is the label, and labels in politics these days are just as authentic, and no more, as the labels bootleggers put upon their "pre-war" poisons.

The committee frankly is interested in the election of Republicans to this office. For the mayors have power. They name policemen. They give contracts. They handle delegates. They distribute public funds. They turn over public employes to partisan service.

They do not discriminate between Duvals and the Seeberts. All stand upon an equal footing when the directors of the machine gather to plan and plot for a continuation of power.

What these politicians have not learned, although they must fear it, is that the people understand that partisan politics and city government have no real connection and that this burden will be lifted by the city manager form under which party labels disappear and men are elected on principles, character and fitness, and not upon secret deals and back room plottings and deals with bosses.

The people of Indianapolis have pointed the way. They are getting rid of government that always threatens rulership by Coffin, who stands very high and is still most powerful in the state committee.

If the committee had desired to gain public confidence, it might better have announced that it would examine the candidates who desire to ride into office under its flag and would repudiate those who are palpably unfit and who will probably disgrace their party if they should happen to be elected. And there are some, at least, who should be repudiated. They won their nominations through trickery. They are candidates of the grafters and the corruptionists, the criminals and the gangsters.

Public notice that the state committee would repudiate such candidates would be the very best politics. But the tradition of machine politics is still too strong. Not even the memory of recent disgrace and humiliation has taught the lesson.

Some day, perhaps, there will arise in the state a leader who understands the spirit of the new politics, which will be based on real service. When he comes, those who have thrived on trickery and deals and party labels will go into oblivion.

A general endorsement of all party candidates, good, bad and indifferent, merely means that its recommendation is meaningless and worthless.

The G. O. P. Chairman

Dr. Work at last has departed and Claudius H. Huston of Tennessee has taken over his job as chairman of the Republican national committee.

Republicans generally seem pleased by Huston's selection. As the first southerner to hold that position, he is expected to consolidate the gains made by Hoover in breaking the solid south under the unusual circumstances of 1928 and there is no reason to question Huston's power as salesman, publicity man and organizer. All of which is needed by any party organization.

But we are inclined to doubt whether Huston or that manifold thing called organization will have much to do with the election or defeat of the Republican party in the next congressional or presidential elections. As the majority party, it always has a larger organization and more campaign funds than its opponents. It is able to make many tactical blunders and still get by, thanks to the power of habit.

When it has lost elections, the trouble has been of a different kind. It has lost on issues.

Therefore, we are inclined to believe that the Republican politicians, in their present long-distance campaign preparedness, would be wise to rely less on Huston's alleged miracle-working powers in the south and think more of issues.

For the fact is very clear that as a result of six months in office the President personally has increased his popularity greatly, while his party as a party is not sharing that popularity.

One reason, of course, is the tariff. The Hawley bill, widely characterized as the worst in history, was written and forced through the house with inadequate debate by the Republican politicians who control that.

The Smoot bill now presented to the senate by the Republican majority of the senate finance committee is little better. By a general increase in duties on manufactured products, which will raise living costs, it violates specific Republican campaign pledges.

If the Republicans lose the next election—as they will if they are not careful—this is the sort of thing that will defeat them.

Farmers and the Tariff

The tariff bill now before the senate has failed to satisfy the farmers, if the attitude of twelve national farm organizations correctly reflects the views of the industry generally.

These groups have united in sending a letter to members of the senate finance committee, in which they ask for higher duties on twenty-seven soil products, including such important commodities as sugar, raw wool, cotton, wheat, live cattle.

The farm spokesmen may be justified in their request. Certainly they are entitled to any reasonable increases in the tariff which will give them genuine benefits and not inflict undue hardships on the population generally.

But, we wonder, what is their attitude toward the hundreds of increases proposed for manufactured products, many of which are wholly unjustifiable? The farm organization statement is silent on this point.

There are two ways of making the tariff help the farmers. One is to elevate the duties on imported farm products. The other is to lower the duties on manufactured things the farmer must buy.

This latter remedy frequently has been proposed. The senate in January of last year, in fact, overwhelmingly passed the McMaster resolution declaring it favored an immediate lowering of tariff schedules by that congress. The McMaster resolution was the result of protests from the farmers that they did not gain commensurately with industry under the Ford-McCumber act.

Purpose of the present tariff bill was to equalize agriculture and industry. It is difficult to see how this can be accomplished if increases on farm products are to be offset with higher industrial rates. The farmer may find, as he has before, that the tariff revision takes more from him than it gives him.

It is to be hoped that the farm spokesmen are not approaching the senate as a selfish group concerned only with "getting theirs"—that they are not willing to swallow the industrial increases in exchange for being given what they themselves want.

Worth Considering

If it is true that criminal convictions in England have been cut in half, and that the British people without the aid of a Volstead law are drinking less liquor each year—and this is the statement made by Winston Churchill, distinguished Tory statesman, now visiting in our western states—the facts should be investigated by the Hoover law enforcement commission.

As chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Churchill said he was compelled to write off fifteen million dollars a year of revenue from drink taxes. This was due to the increased amount consumed. At the same time the government took in five hundred millions a year from liquor taxes.

"An amount," says the former chancellor, "which I understand you give to your bootleggers."

"There has been an immense decrease in drunkenness," he declared, "and we actually have had to shut down some of our prisons."

In a beautiful ankles contest in London, one man was disqualified because of too many contours. Apparently the mosquito got there before the judges.

A North Carolina Leghorn hen died after living thirteen and a half years. Just think—if she laid an egg a day all her life, that would be 4,927 and a half eggs, or about 410 dozen. But she didn't.

REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

SOME of the dear brethren in cities who have been bearing up very bravely amid the adversities of the new politics, which will be based on real service. When he comes, those who have thrived on trickery and deals and party labels will go into oblivion.

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