



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Buying on Time

Many a man on the street says that the business depression was brought on or at least made worse by installment buying, which loaded consumers with deferred payments which they were unable to meet, finally bringing their purchasing power to an end. This is specious.

If industry had not needed to solicit purchases on very generous terms to distribute its accumulating products, it would not have done so. Had industry failed to market its surplus by this means, the depression would have come sooner; that is all.

Installment buying is not in itself unsound. There is nothing wrong with the principle of paying for an article as it is used. The trouble is two-fold: (1) Industry overproduced by working longer hours than was necessary; (2) Wages, though increased, were not made high enough to give the workers enough to cause the enormous quantities of goods that were flowing from the machines, constantly speeded up by American technical genius.

If industry had not had the outlet of installment buying, it would be worse off than it is. Automobiles, electric refrigerators, and radios have not been placed in too many homes. If the great industries which produce these things are to prosper and keep their workers employed, the market for these "luxuries" must be maintained and widened.

The trouble is not that there have been too many installments for the pay envelope; the trouble is that there has not been enough in the pay envelopes to meet the installments.

## Wilbur Should Choose

Stanford university trustees announce, as President Ray Hoover recently predicted they would, that Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur will continue to be president of that institution and will continue to be on leave of absence from it for another year, while he serves as secretary of the interior.

The trustees have stopped Wilbur's salary and have announced that the acting president, Dr. Robert E. Swain, will "exercise all the functions and responsibilities of the position of president."

But these announcements alter Wilbur's actual position before the public in no respect whatever.

Whether or not Wilbur's salary is stopped, whether or not another man is in active control of the university, Wilbur still is president of Stanford, with its \$7,000,000 investment in public utility securities, and its large public utility representation on the board that has granted him leave.

Likewise, Wilbur still is a member of the federal power commission, now considering an unprecedented proposal to exempt from all federal regulation and control the Appalachian Electric Power Company, in which some two million dollars of Stanford money is invested.

It is obvious that Wilbur, whether on salary or not, is as clearly allied with the university as ever. It is equally obvious that the financial interests of the university and the public interest may conflict sharply in this Appalachian company case.

It remains just as urgently desirable as it was before the announcement of the trustees that Wilbur relinquish one loyalty or the other.

## Strap and Dungeon in Reform Schools

The appalling brutalities recently revealed by the New York Telegram in the discipline of the Connecticut school for boys naturally raises the question of how widespread such practices actually are today. What is the nature and frequency of punishment in reform schools?

Hence we may welcome as unusually timely and illuminating the survey conducted confidentially by a well-known New York social engineer.

He wrote to some 143 institutions for juvenile delinquents with a population of approximately 30,000 inmates. He sent a carefully prepared questionnaire requesting information as to types of punishment employed. He endeavored to encourage frankness and co-operation by asking that the name of the institution should not be supplied on the sheet returned.

He received specific replies to his queries from thirty-one boys' schools and twenty-two girls' institutions. What did he find out? Four institutions for boys and five for girls asserted that they did not employ any of the punishments listed—meaning that no restrictive or corporal punishment was employed, if they told the truth.

Restrictive punishments seem in almost universal use. Twelve boys' schools and thirteen institutions for girls employ enforced silence as a disciplinary measure—the silent period lasting from fifteen minutes to thirty days. Standing on the line is utilized in sixteen schools for boys and five schools for girls. The period varies from fifteen minutes to thirty recreation periods.

The dark cell is employed in nine institutions for boys and nine institutions for girls. The period of confinement ranges from twelve hours to three months. Shackles, leg-irons, strait-jackets and handcuffs also are used rather freely.

Corporal punishment still is widely prevalent. Twenty boys' schools report its use. The instruments used in order of popularity are: Strap, paddle, hose, rattle, ruler, rope, whip and hand. The strokes varied from two with a ruler to 150 with a hose. Corporal punishment was in use in eleven institutions for girls, with the stroke running from five to fifty.

Other sundry punishments such as washing the mouth with soap, giving castor oil and applying capsicum ointment to sensitive parts are in frequent use. The two latter punishments are used mainly to repress sex offenses. Douching with pitchers of cold water is reported.

The author has compiled an approximate estimate of the percentage of the boys and girls in these institutions who thus are punished each month. He estimates that 12 per cent of the boys and 15 per cent of the girls are given the silent treatment. Twelve per cent of the boys and 3 per cent of the girls have to stand on the line. Two per cent of the boys and 6 per cent of the girls get the dark cell. Six per cent of the boys and 5 per cent of the girls receive corporal punishment.

The chief offenses punished are insubordination, running away from the institution, sex offenses, lying and violence to officers.

The figures are both illuminating and disconcerting. It may be assumed that the institutions which repelled—a little more than one-third of the total—were the most enlightened and the least ashamed of their record. Hence, the conditions tabulated above probably represent on the whole the best which exist today in our institutions for youthful delinquents.

Yet we have in full swing all the classic punishments which have been used in enforcing discipline in prisons for adults during the last century and have been condemned unreservedly by prison reformers for a century. The statistical story is, moreover, the most pleasant way of describing the situation. Where the strap swings freely other kinds of brutality inevitably exist.

This report shows us plainly enough why the juvenile delinquent, already warped and handicapped

## They Found the Reds

The Ham Fish committee that is sleuthing the U. S. A. in search of Reds is reported to have found the prescribed color, if not in this country, then in the neighboring land to the south. Word comes from California that while sojourning in the sunny southwest some committee members slipped across the border to spend a refreshing night in that far-famed Mexican spa known as Agua Caliente.

Doubtless they found there in that mecca of tired millionaires and movie queens plenty of the color their eyes are attuned to see—red wine, red chips, the rouge et noir of dizzy roulette wheels, the carmine lips and cheeks of dancing señoritas, the long red mahogany bars ci nearby Tia Juana.

And yet these institutions are our pride and joy among penal and correctional institutions as a whole. If so, what about our reformatories and prisons?

## That Neighbor's Tomcat

From Nebraska comes word of the bitter fight to defeat Senator George W. Norris, who, disgruntled Republicans assert, "has as much right to call himself a Republican as my Democratic neighbor's tomcat."

Norris, it seems, is standing on his record, as he successfully has done for some twenty-odd years, is apologizing for nothing, and declares, "I will wear no man's collar, even if that man be the President of the United States."

About three years ago the president of the state university of another independent commonwealth in the mid-west published a "prayer for those in government." It was intended chiefly for the guidance and inspiration of members of the Wisconsin legislature.

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## Picking a Loser

When we intimated yesterday that the state department had done a dumb thing in aligning itself against the revolutionists in Brazil, we didn't truly appreciate our own good judgment.

"It is not expedient," we remarked, "to incur the enmity of a large revolutionary commonwealth which tomorrow may assume control in Brazil."

In every issue in which this sapient observation appeared was a dispatch from Rio telling that the revolutionary party already had taken control. They hadn't waited for the morrow.

Which raises the question of not merely how intelligent is our state department, but how well informed?

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"May we know that it profits us nothing to win elections if we lose our courage. . . .

"Help us to serve the crowd without flattering it and believe in it without bowing to its idiosyncrasies. . . .

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