



The Indianapolis Times

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

Records or Laws?

Apparently there is a greater desire on the part of the members of the legislature to make records than there is to get a few very essential laws.

On the Democratic side is a very commendable effort to redeem the pledges of their party platform and thus establish a record for good faith.

In the Republican senate, where there is concerted action on any subject, it seems to be directed to the purpose of blocking any law suggested by the Democratic house and thus make a record for loyalty to the financial and industrial interests of the state.

The Governor acts in a manner that strongly suggests that he believes it to be his high purpose to really represent the 15-year-old mind with which he accredits the public in politics.

The net result is that there are no laws, although the people are demanding relief and have been promised relief from government ills.

The income tax bill has been indorsed as a means of relieving the farmer and small home owner from too large a share of tax burdens. It should be a real law and not a botch.

The highway commission, with its bad reputation and disesteem, is still in existence. It should be either changed or the vast funds now raised for road purposes diverted to other channels. This is no time for waste of public money.

Several stupid ways have been suggested for raising money and business fears the special levies. The one sure way of solving high taxes by spending less is neglected. It is not too late to work along this line and cut out the frills during days of unemployment in cities and poverty on farms.

Nor is the prospect of a reapportionment measure for congressional elections at all bright.

There is a possibility that Indiana will be put to the necessity of a special session, costly at this time, or be without any representation in congress two years hence.

Is it not time to forget personal and party "records" and pass a few real laws?

The Road to Dictatorship

Why is it when congress seeks information on government business necessary to carry out its legislative function intelligently that the chief executive so often finds excuses for withholding that information?

A frequent excuse is the hackneyed one that submission of the desired information to congress "would be incompatible with the public interest."

The inference is that the executive is the government, and that the legislative branch is a troublesome appendix which exists on sufferance. This is in line with the trend in recent years for the executive to usurp the rightful power of the legislative branch.

It is as dangerous as it is unconstitutional. It is the road to dictatorship.

Thus Secretary of State Stimson just has withheld from congress most of the pertinent data on our disgraceful imperialist spree in Nicaragua. First the executive usurped power by waging war in Nicaragua without consent of congress, required by the Constitution.

Then when the senate requested all documents relating to the military occupation, Stimson submitted only a few of the least damning documents.

While Stimson was taking this high-handed attitude toward congress, the Wickersham commission—which seems to be as much under the domination of the White House as any cabinet officer—was withholding from the senate key documents of its prohibition survey.

Among the many missing documents were the reports of the former prohibition commissioner and others on sixteen states. Those states included the largest and the wettest, such as New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Massachusetts.

This is typical of the methods of the Wickersham commission from the beginning, especially its recent "summary," appearing to make a dry report out of the 7-to-4 vote of the commission favoring modification or repeal.

Congress is the policy-making branch of the government under the Constitution. That applies to prohibition and it applies to Nicaragua. Congress can not retain the respect of the nation by forever bowing to the usurpations and encroachments of the President, the cabinet, the supreme court and the commissions which congress itself creates.

Laid Off!

Laid off! Not through a fault of his own, but because orders are slack or styles have changed or an invention has wrecked the business.

Laid off! And then what?

First the employment agencies, if he has any money for fees; and almost certainly bitter and costly disillusionment.

And after that?

After that foot races with a hundred other applicants whenever a job is advertised, and in between, walking the streets, hunting.

Mrs. Raymond tells social workers she puts pasteboard soles in her husband's shoes, cotton in the heels and a brace on the back of his knee, so the walking won't be so bad.

Hopeless walking all day, and at night hunger, makeshifts and suffering at home. Wedding rings pawned. "Malnutrition" written on the school reports of the children.

Mrs. Walther took a twelve-hour night job and took care of her child and did the housework in the daytime, until her health broke and she went to a charity hospital.

A neighbor cleaned offices days and again at night, and her children were asked when she slept. "Oh, she puts her head down on the table after supper and sleeps until she goes out at 10," they said.

Congress has sat in Washington while these things were happening... these and many, many more like them... and has done almost nothing to prevent unemployment or to mitigate the suffering it causes.

Now, before adjournment, the house of representa-

tives is asked to pass a bill the senate passed long ago, the Wagner employment exchange bill. It is a small step, and if it becomes law it will make finding a job a little easier.

It will mean government and state agencies all over the country, giving free help to those who are out of work, and giving it more effectively than any lesser agency could, by co-ordinating information on the job situation from all parts of the country.

There is a government employment service in existence now, but it is of so little use that few persons know it exists.

As a substitute for the Wagner bill, the secretary of labor is urging merely that this service be continued and expanded a little.

To follow the Doak program is to do nothing at a time when doing nothing is inexcusable. Sick, dispirited, suffering eyes are fixed today on the house of representatives, to see if there is hope for tomorrow.

The Other Washington

In all the oratory and publicity given the father of our country on his anniversary day and in connection with the coming bicentennial celebration, many sides of the many-sided man are stressed.

We hear a lot about Washington the executive, Washington the engineer, Washington the country gentleman and real estate man, Washington the military genius—indeed, we hear most about Washington the soldier.

Little or nothing is said about Washington the peace leader.

In the interest of truth, we suggest that the George Washington bicentennial commission add, to its hundreds of programs, papers, booklets, plays and publicity stories, at least one on this Washington.

Florence Brower Boeckel in her admirable new book, "The Turn Toward Peace," points out:

"Washington reintroduced arbitration into the practice of modern nations, and thus began the long series of efforts to bring about world peace."

In his great farewell address, Washington said:

"Overgrown military establishments are, under any form of government, inauspicious to liberty, and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty."

Washington was the statesman who declared:

"My first wish is to see war banished from the earth."

Curing the Weather

Everybody is talking about the weather, but nobody is doing anything about it, Mark Twain once said.

Can we do anything about the weather?

Many scientists say so. They see a definite relation between rainfall and forests. Russian experiments reveal that in forested areas rainfall is three inches heavier than on the open steppes. Raphael Zon, forestry expert of St. Paul, says that forests give off more moisture than the ocean by a ratio of 7 to 2.

We know that forests are ideal natural reservoirs for holding rain that does fall. Without forests we will become like China, victim of alternate floods and drought, our rivers, yellow and silted, our water-sheds eroded of their best soil, our pasture lands hard-baked.

And we fast are becoming like China. Representative Harry Englebright of California recently told the house committee on agriculture that only one-sixth of our virgin timber remains, that we are consuming our timber supply by use and by fire at a rate four times greater than we are growing it, that timber in private ownership at this rate will last only twenty-one years!

Three things we should do immediately. One is to prepare an orderly program to fireproof our forests. Another is to regulate logging practices, to prevent the appalling waste of careless cutting. The third is a nation-wide plan for reforesting denuded areas.

Bloodhounds, a news item says, are being used in England to track down escaped convicts. And perhaps they are goaded on by the cry, "Fie, fie, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman."

A famous music publisher made several worthy philanthropic gifts. It remained for the facetious headline writer to remark that he benefited charities to the tune of \$100,000.

"King Alfonso's Rule in Balance," says a headline. A rule which doubtless is measured by martial feet.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDICK

If Vanderbilt should sue General Butler, it would serve to prolong his publicity, and to get all the gravy out of it, he should sue Butler for a whale of a sum, several millions, anyhow.

With Mussolini in it, international complications might arise, if he sued for a mere million.

If, as Vanderbilt claims, Mussolini said: "Vanderbilt, never look back; always look forward," he probably was thinking of the many divorce suits the Vanderbilt family has to its credit.

This Edgar Lee Masters book which bravely assails Lincoln sixty-five years after his death is founded on the bitter lecture which Herndon, his old law partner, delivered some years after the assassination.

BUENA VISTA BATTLE

WHILE Lincoln lived Herndon's lips dripped thick molasses, but after the assassination he produced great quantities of vinegar, due to the fact that he wanted high office and Lincoln thought him unfit for it.

Illinois people ascribed Herndon's outburst to his disappointment.

What the boys think of him in politics depends on whether they get what they are after.

If they get it, you're a whale; if they don't you're just a sardine—and hardly that.

Thomas A. Edison is a thoroughbred, as at 84 he labors with his old-time enthusiasm to persuade the goldenrod and the sunflower that it is their patriotic duty to make Uncle Sam independent of the English rubber monopoly.

On Sept. 24, 1846, General Taylor attacked the Mexicans at Monterey and took the town after a desperate battle of four days.

Early the next year, Santa Anna, the Mexican president and commander-in-chief, led a force of 20,000 men against Taylor, who had only about a fourth of that number.

The battle was fought in the mountains of Buena Vista. After an all-day fight, the Mexicans retreated. Among the southern officers, Colonel Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, particularly distinguished himself.

This victory gave the United States possession of northeastern Mexico, and won for General Taylor, who here fought his last battle, the presidency of the United States two years later.

And then if we would just turn upside down the furniture in the United States and scrape off the tired chewing gum, we would have enough rubber to furnish flapping galoshes for the ladies.

We have been expecting Mr. Coolidge to suggest this.

It was fine for the President to give one-tenth of his year's salary to the Red Cross, but it probably will lead to his personal acquaintance with other worthy causes, now in the red.

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Washington and Lincoln, Our Greatest National Leaders, Had Little in Common.

IT is a coincidence that our two greatest national leaders—Washington and Lincoln—should have been born in February. It is not a coincidence that they should have had so little in common.

The very talents which separate great men from the common run generally separate them from each other.

Lincoln was born to poverty, while Washington was born to fortune.

Both started out to be surveyors. Washington succeeded, as he did in most things, while Lincoln failed, as he did in many things.

Washington, the aristocrat, took command of a revolution which did not appeal to most of his class.

Lincoln, the commoner, became the outstanding leader of a movement which was conceived and fanned into flame by intellectual highbrows.

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No Familiarities

WASHINGTON was methodical and meticulous, a stickler for conventions, always well dressed, always dignified.

Lincoln was prone to be careless, if not slovenly, both as to personal appearance and as to work.

Still you can't imagine Washington flooring such an opponent as Stephen A. Douglas in debate, or writing the Gettysburg address.

No more can you imagine Lincoln refusing to pardon Andre.

The chances are that Washington never told a funny story in his life, while Lincoln seldom missed the chance. Yet it is Lincoln whom we visualize as much the sadder man.

Few of his best acquaintances ever ventured to take liberties with Washington. Robert Morris did it once merely by slapping him on the back and exclaiming, "Ain't it so, general?" only to receive such a cold, rebuking stare as he remembered to his dying day.

" "

Washington the Puritan

WE think of Lincoln as something of a Puritan, chiefly because he stood with New England on the slavery and secession questions, yet Washington was vastly more Puritanical in his attitude toward things in general.

Lincoln found it easy to forgive the sentinel who slept at his post, but not Washington.

Washington was a man of iron in all respects, absolutely faithful in the performance of his own duty and willing to tolerate no less in others. He believed not only in strict compliance with them.

He might forgive those who failed after an honest effort, though even then he might think those who failed because of timidity or discreditable could look for scant compensation.

It was Washington's unbending nature that held this new-born and badly demoralized country together during the dark days of revolution.

" "

Lincoln Had Sympathy

LINCOLN, on the other hand, possessed a deep and understanding sympathy with the weaknesses of men. He always could excuse more easily than he could punish because of timidity or discreditable conduct.

Discipline liked him, routine liked him, and except in the one great cause, methodical industry liked him.

No doubt Lincoln would have proved an utter failure as leader of the American Revolution, but in the civil war he was the nation's tower of strength. But for his patience, his willingness to make every effort to gain people's good will before resorting to harsh measures, the border states and, perhaps, the war itself would have been lost.

" "

Both Had Common Sense

IN our curious way of arriving at conclusions, we have come to regard Washington as the outstanding champion of federalism, centralized authority, representative government and all the other things which are opposed to so-called progressive tendencies, while we have come to regard Lincoln as the embodiment of liberalism. Yet it was Lincoln who wrote "finis" to the doctrine of absolute state sovereignty and whose success, more than any other single influence, led to the adoption of such amendments to the Constitution as altered its original purpose.

If we never had adopted the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments, it is doubtful if any one would have had enough nerve to propose the eighteenth.

It is equally doubtful that either Lincoln or Washington would favor the eighteenth amendment if they were in a position to express themselves, in spite of the former's strong feeling against liquor or the latter's strong feeling for centralized power.

Different as they were in origin, environment, habit of thought and attitude toward life, they bore a striking resemblance to each other and to most great men in one vital respect. Both were blessed with common sense.

" "

Times Readers Voice Their Views

Editor Times—Being a constant reader of The Times for the last twelve years, permit me as a World War veteran to voice my opposition to the views of some of the people who are opposing a cash payment of the bonus certificates. Congress assumed the obligation of equalizing the pay of the veterans to conform with the wages of those who stayed at home by allowing us \$1.25 a day for foreign service and \$1 a day for home service.

Then congress, under pressure for a cash payment by a few million service men, called in Mr. Mellon and a few Wall Street wizards to help out, and naturally they opposed any form of payment.