



The Indianapolis Times

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

The Unforgiving Hoover

National discipline is indispensable in war time. The ordinary liberties of the citizen in time of peace are likely to be curtailed severely. We may not like this turn of events, but it is almost inevitable. But much unity of mob opinion need not be demanded years after the danger is over.

Nor must we preserve a vindictive attitude toward those who have had the nerve to differ from the over international relations.

Therefore, the failure after thirteen years to restore citizenship to our political prisoners of the World War period may be branded a public scandal. During the war we convicted some 1,500 men and women under the espionage act. They were guilty of expressing unpopular opinion.

Some said that they doubted that the Kaiser was a gorilla. Others expressed skepticism about the sainthood of Lord Grey and British naval officers. Others held that there might be some slight and indirect relationship between profits and patriotism in the case of certain great international bankers and munition manufacturers.

Not one of the 1,500 political prisoners now alive and denied restoration of citizenship was guilty of violence or convicted of being a spy. Almost to a man, they were pacifists or Socialists of decent repute.

Being barred from citizenship is no mere matter of sentiment. Such persons legally can not vote, they can not serve on juries, they can not hold public office, they can not get licenses for many important occupations and professions. Their status involves very serious economic, social and public handicaps.

Attorney-General Harry Daugherty and obvious reasons for wanting to appear a 300 per cent patriot. So he refused to recommend restoration of citizenship. His statesmanlike and liberal successor, Harlan F. Stone, favored restoration, but was translated to the supreme court chambers before he could act. His assistant, Colonel William J. Donovan, prepared a memorandum for the President recommending such action.

Neither Coolidge nor Hoover acted. Hoover had been waited upon by eminent members of the Society of Friends. In March, 1929, more than a score of most distinguished Americans petitioned Hoover for a proclamation restoring citizenship to these men. But the great humanitarian has remained adamant. He insists upon an individual petition in each case. In other words, these persons must petition like common criminals.

Further, this method involves much red tape and delay. Each petition must contain testimony from a 100 per cent patriot in the community that the petitioner is wholly dependable and contrite. This is not easy to obtain. The simple, obvious and just procedure is that favored by Stone and Donovan, namely, a presidential proclamation restoring citizenship to all with one stroke of the pen.

Every other civilized state in the world already has restored citizenship to all members of this class of political prisoners. Will this country, which was in the least danger in the late conflict, be the one to remain the most vindictive and unforgiving toward those who may have taken the Sermon on the Mount or Wilson's neutrality proclamations more seriously than their neighbors?

Porto Rican Home Rule

Being a polite and hospitable people, the Porto Ricans did not embarrass President Hoover with demonstrations of a "Give us liberty or give us death" character. Therefore, some of the President's party made the mistake of assuming that the islanders are satisfied with their political status.

It is true that the sentiment toward the United States has improved since the Porto Rican legislature gave the Patrick Henry message to Lindbergh to carry to President Coolidge. For that improved relationship, the enlightened policy of President Hoover and Governor Roosevelt is largely responsible. But the Porto Ricans would be less than human if they suddenly had ceased to want self-government. That they still want it was told to Hoover the moment he set foot on the island, by the mayor of Ponce, who welcomed him.

Self-government to them does not mean absolute independence. They want to remain American citizens. But they want statehood, the power to elect their own governor, and all the other privileges that go with home rule.

That desire is not unreasonable. Nor is it impracticable.

In his speeches, the President quite properly stressed the economic rather than the political problems of the island. The economic issues are more important to the well-being of the people.

But it would be poor statesmanship to overlook the psychological factors inherent in the political issue. Because of the basic problem of over-population, Porto Rico probably never will attain a high level of material prosperity. Therefore, the problem of morale always will be crucial.

Considered as a matter of morale, the question is not whether the demanded free-state status would be a more efficient method of government technically than the present method, but whether the Porto Ricans would be happier with more freedom and responsibility.

As long as the morale of the Porto Ricans remains as low as at present, their political institutions can not be evaluated solely or even chiefly by mechanical efficiency.

Certainly no American can argue logically against the inalienable right of the Porto Ricans to home rule if they want it. And why should any American want to deny them that right? Should we not rather want them to share as much as possible in the attempted solution of their own problems?

Surplus and Famine

Republican politicians are having a hard time trying to explain away the federal farm board failure, advertised by the board's decision to stop speculating in wheat. In fact, the explanation makes matters worse.

The farm board at least had the courage to reverse its bankrupt policy and publish the fact. Now the politicians explain that the 275,000,000-odd bushels of surplus wheat bought by the board will not be dumped on the market until that operation can be undertaken without harm to the farmer.

All of which is rather naive.

It is not only the dumping of that huge surplus on the market which will drive down the price of wheat and ruin the farmer trying to sell his own wheat. The very existence of that surplus, whether it is put on the market or not, depresses prices and will continue to do so.

That surplus can not be laughed off. To hold it for future dumping may be even worse than dumping it now and having done with the painful operation.

The suggestion has been made that the surplus

must be destroyed. Worse things could happen. For it must be gotten rid of somehow.

But if this surplus is going to be a great financial loss in any event—either to the government or to the competing farmer, or to both—it might better be fed to the starving than destroyed.

If the government and the farmers are unwilling that it go for flour to feed the hungry unemployed in this country, is it not time to reconsider the old proposal to send it to the Chinese famine victims? Or to some of our own hungry citizens?

Of course it is easy enough to point out objections to this or any other plan, but that does not dispose of the surplus.

A Splendid Opportunity

During the World War the reputation of Columbia university for academic freedom went into eclipse. The discharge of Cattell, Dana and Fraser and the resignation of Robinson and Beard contrasted sharply with President Lowell's defense of Munsterberg, Laski and others.

In the last decade, however, President Butler has encouraged at least a mild liberalism and himself frequently has spoken in behalf of this position. No single act is more convincing in this matter than the recent appointment of Dr. Leo Wolman as professor of economics to succeed the late Henry Rogers Seager.

Dr. Wolman is committed thoroughly to the cause of organized labor, though as a scientist he does not approve of all foolish policies of labor leaders, say those of Matt Woll. More, he is something beyond a friend in theory.

He has been actively identified with one of the most aggressive, successful and statesmanlike of the unions, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. He has been their chief economic expert, devised their unemployment program, and is a director of the Amalgamated banks. He was a "founding father" of the New School for Social Research.

There is no able American student of the labor movement than Leo Wolman. His appointment is a tribute both to the sound judgment of the economics department and to the liberality of the administration at Columbia.

The New Air Express

Good news is the announcement that a "straight through" day and night, coast-to-coast air passenger service will be started April 1 by National Air Transport and Boeing Air Transport.

Passengers then can fly, with stops only for fuel, from San Francisco to New York, via Chicago, in twenty-eight hours, and in the opposite direction in thirty-one hours.

Heretofore, transcontinental air passengers either have taken a train at night, or stopped over at a hotel. On the new service they will spend the night in reclining chairs, high in the air. The next step must be the Pullman plane.

There are two reasons why people at present do not ride Pullman planes. First, there aren't any; second, people are afraid to. Soon travelers will learn that if an airliner is going to crash, which is unlikely, it won't hurt the passenger any more lying down than sitting up.

Night is the logical time for business men to fly, because they waste no valuable business time. The new through service will be a real service to them. Within a year, the other two transcontinental routes will be doing the same.

Now provide, besides safety, more speed (a twenty-four-hour crossing, say) and Pullman planes.

Then there's the bootlegger who has been in business so long he calls himself a bottle-scarred veteran.

The speed of a new submarine is seventeen knots an hour. Tie that.

By going on a vacation while his city is making important investigations, New York's mayor is said to have made a risky step. A. J. Walker, as it were.

A man was found in Pennsylvania who sang while he robbed a store. Just a snatch of song, as it were.

Some hotels rate high, says the office sage, and others have high rates.

REASON BY **FREDERICK LANDIS**

READING of this former Governor of Idaho who took money for endorsing a book about Lincoln, reminds us of the time an author took a book to the White House and asked Mr. Lincoln to read it and give him a testimonial.

Lincoln looked at the book, which weighed about fifteen pounds, and told the author he couldn't read it, but that he would give him a testimonial.

And this is the testimonial he gave him: "To anybody who wants this book, this book is just like what he wants."

HERE'S a funny item from England: Over in London there are people whose distinguished profession is to wake up those who are so fortunate as not to possess alarm clocks.

They would go around in the early morning with pea shooters and shoot peas against the window of the slumber brother.

There's a much better way to do this, and it's the way we used to wake up each other when we were kids and wanted to get up early and go down to the railroad yards to see the circus unload.

This is the way we did it. Each kid tied a string around his big toe and then threw it out of the window—not the big toe, the string.

Then the official string puller went around to the homes of the other kids and pulled the strings until all the kids arose.

HERE'S an article in a city paper which ruffles one's plumage.

It's the story of how a World War soldier borrowed 50 per cent of his own money from the government and then blew it in.

There have been so many articles along the same line in the papers the last week that one suspects that somebody has started the old propaganda mill again.

And, if so, it's very contemptible.

Of course, some ex-service men will blow their money, not because they are ex-service men, but because they are Americans and the average American is a blower from Blowville.

But to try to differentiate the folly of the ex-service men from the ordinary folly of all of us, to try to present the soldier as the inventor of wild life in America, that's really wonderful!

World war veterans are no better nor worse than you and I who stayed at home very willingly while they waded through bloody days, and the press of the country should stop this shoddy, stupid vilification.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Our Administration of Justice Is About as Vague and Capricious as a Roulette Wheel.

COLUMBUS, O., March 26.—Like many other states, Ohio faces the problem of prison congestion. The necessity of providing relief, either through a costly program of construction, or revision of the penal code, can not be sidestepped much longer.

The state prison at Columbus now contains 4,759 convicts. That is only a few less than it contained at the time of the great fire in which 320 lost their lives.

But for that fire, the prison's population would show an increase of 6 or 7 per cent in the last eleven months.

A policy of imposing longer sentences for the same crimes largely accounts for this condition.

Some ten years ago, Ohio decided to try severity as a crime cure. The only result any one seems sure of is a greater number of convicts for the taxpayers to house, feed, and clothe.

If crime has diminished, the people have yet to be convinced of it.

England Does It Better

OHIO'S prison situation is typical of that prevailing throughout the country.

Where the average prison sentence in England is four months, the average here is five years.

Other things being equal, that one item alone would produce a prison population for the United States fifteen times as great as for England, in proportion to their size.

That one item alone is sufficient to explain why England finds it possible to scrap three of her once important prisons, while we face the necessity of expanding ours faster than architects can draw plans.

The general effect on crime, however, shows that that one item doesn't amount to very much.

England has been able to do far more in the way of crime reduction, including crime of all descriptions, though exerting only one-fifteenth as much prison pressure.

The difference is that England catches the majority of her offenders, while we are rough on a few.

As every peace officer or prison guard, will tell you, the would-be criminal is much more likely to be deterred by the certainty of punishment than by its uncertain severity.

Attitude All Wrong

THE American attitude toward crime and its treatment, is and always has been, a hodge-podge of irrationalities and inconsistencies.

First, we have a spasm of harshness, and then a spasm of maddening leniency, or vice versa, each leading to the other as inevitably as night leads to day.

One moment we are for putting all criminals in prison and keeping them there, while the next we are for letting them all out on one parole or another.

At no time have we done a very good job of checking them up, either before, or afterward.

Our administration of justice is about as vague and capricious as a roulette wheel, and that very fact has attracted more than one vacillating youth to embark on a career of crime.

One chance in two of not getting caught, one chance in two of not being convicted, one chance in two of getting a parole—how could the law offer better inducement to step out and gamble with it?

Wrong Way of 'Reform'

WHAT can society hope to gain by keeping a man in prison ten years and then letting him out? Is the justice of locking up a man who seems to be in some danger of missing a well-deserved promotion because he is fit and capable.

Naturally, I have a specific instance in mind. I am thinking of a man who seems to be in some danger of missing a well-deserved promotion because he is fit and capable.

He is a hopeless insomniac, obviously a greater menace than the normal man who kills because of some overpowering emotion.

Also, there is no possibility that he ever will be any good to himself, or society.

Capital punishment, however, is reserved for the normal killer, never for the hopelessly insane.

The conclusion is inescapable that we are for inflicting death only when it hurts, only when the victim realizes what it means, but can't bear the thought of inflicting it to relieve suffering.

The time for reform is before we have sentenced the soul to the branding iron of social contempt. The time to find out whether they can be made useful citizens is before we have made the task harder both for them and ourselves.

Joseph E. Corrigan has remained on the magistrate's bench over a long period of years. And in that time dozens of other magistrates have stepped up into higher judicial office.

And in almost every case he has lost his chance because he was universally recognized that he was doing a good job in a field where few good jobs were being done.

Call Your Shots

FOLLOWING up the same theme about criminal rewards and punishments, it is obvious that even the most violent campaigner against present conditions should not allow himself to be put in the position of being opposed to every single individual in the present administration.

There ought to be some selectivity in the matter of hates.

One of Tammany's favorite dodges is to turn moist-eyed whenever police corruption is mentioned and to cry out that critics are insulting the entire force.

Nobody, to the best of my knowledge, has really done that. Tammany's severest critics have taken occasion to mention the extraordinary bravery of hundreds of policemen in tough spots.

Indeed, I think it is only fair to say that under the system which prevails the police force is far better than anybody has a right to expect.

But it is less than accurate.

Today Is the Anniversary

RUMFORD'S BIRTH
March 26

ON March 26, 1753, Benjamin Thompson Rumford, British-American scientist, philanthropist and administrator, was born at Woburn, Mass.

It was the study of medicine at 13 and later taught school. Accepting an appointment in the militia from the English governor, he innocently incurred the distrust of the colonists.

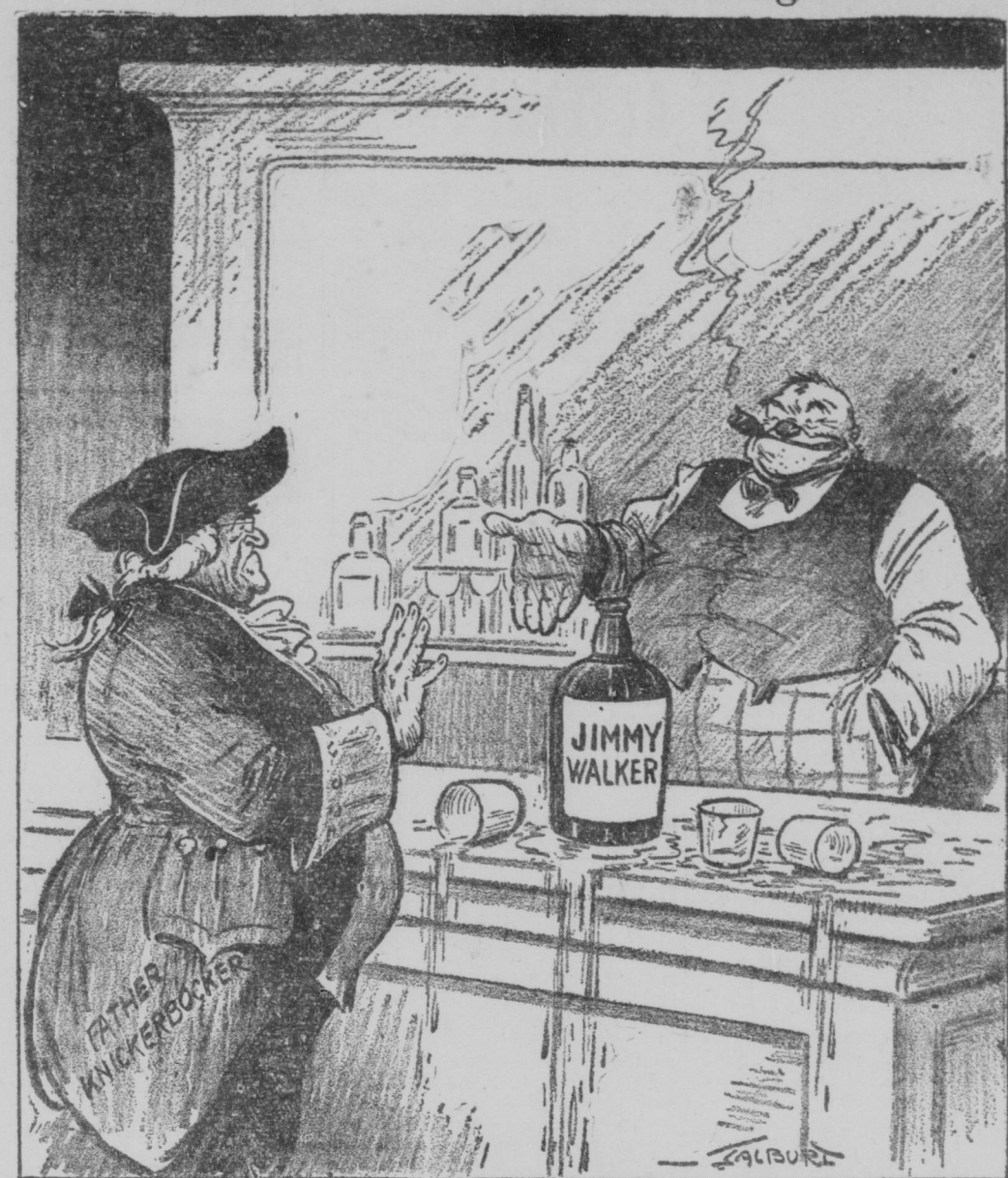
Although acquitted of all charges of disloyalty, he left America in 1776 for England, where he rose to high position in the British foreign office.

In 1785 Rumford entered the service of the elector of Bavaria at Munich, where he inaugurated important reforms and reorganized the army. For these services he was made minister of war and count of the Holy Roman empire.

On returning to England in 1785, Rumford made notable experiments on heat, which he was the first to recognize as a mode of motion.

He later established the Rumford professorship at Harvard. He died in 1814.

'I Know When I've Had Enough!'



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Color of Eyes Can Be Inherited

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

CASES in the courts sometimes cause unusual interest in scientific subjects. At present, there is much discussion of the color of the eyes.

It has been well established that the color of the eyes is inherited, according to the Mendelian law.

Mendel established the fact that the chromosomes, which are structures within the cell from which the species develop, carry with them certain definite characteristics.

Eye color is one of the characteristics carried in this way. It can be shown that the environment in which a person lives, his diet, and other factors may modify to some extent the structure of his body.

No method is known of altering eye color through environmental action. The color of the hair, for instance, may be inherited, but the color of the hair changes in later life due to various circumstances and experiences. The color of the skin may be modified by exposure to light.

Unfortunately for the direct application of this knowledge to specific cases, there has been some tremendous mixture of human beings in breeding that it is practically impossible to find human beings with eyes of absolutely pure color.

In other words, eyes may be blue eyes or so rare as to be almost absent.

Hence, it is not possible to say because the eyes of both parents are blue that the child will have blue eyes, the reason being that the parents probably have not pure blue eyes, and, according to the Mendelian law, it would require pure blue eyes to produce in every instance a blue-eyed child.

If somewhere in the ancestry, a pure blue-eyed person married a brown-eyed person, and four children resulted from the marriage, one would be blue-eyed, one brown-eyed, and two might be blue-eyed with traces of brown.

Thus, brown-eyed parents produce brown-eyed children, but also blue-eyed children.

Short people have tall children and tall people have short children.

But a family in which most of the members have been tall for long periods of time will produce far more tall children than short ones.

The operation of heredity therefore results on the whole in a certain degree of likeness or correlation between the characteristics of the parents and the children, but the results are averages which have to be applied on a large scale and which have to be interpreted with intelligence.

There almost is a collision as an electron approaches an atomic nucleus, but it is a collision that sweeps around in a sharp curve, the electron goes on with increased or reduced energy. After a thousand narrow shaves, all happening within a thousand millionths of a second, the hectic career is ended by a worse side-slip than usual.

"The electron is caught fairly and attached to an atom. But scarcely has it taken up its place when an X-ray bursts into the atom.

"Sucking up the energy of the ray, the electron starts off again on its next adventure."

Atomic Theory

To grasp the picture of the interior of the star given by Edington, we must remember that, according to modern theory, matter is composed of minute particles called atoms.

Atoms in their turn are composed of still smaller particles, called electrons.

It is assumed that an atom has a nucleus composed of both positive and negative electrons. The positive electrons usually are called protons, while the word electron is used to mean the negative ones. More negative electrons revolve around the nucleus.

The electrons which revolve around the nucleus are not attached permanently to it. Under various conditions an atom can lose or gain one or more electrons.

Temperature is a measure of atomic vibration. To say that the interior of a star has a temperature of millions of degrees means that the atoms are vibrating and moving about at a tremendous rate of speed.

The pressure at the center of a star is so immense that if it were the only force at work, the star would be a solid more rigid than steel.

But this gravitational pressure is balanced by radiation pressure, the outward rush of the energy within the star, the great wind of other waves of which Adams speaks.

This energy is supposed to exist in the interior of the star as waves much shorter than the gamma rays of radium.

Frequent collisions between the quanta or "bullets" of energy with the atoms causes them to split up into quanta or bits of energy of smaller content and therefore higher wave length.

Thus, in time, the energy attains the length of X-rays, and by the time it reaches the outer surface of the star, it is in the form of ultra-violet, visible light and heat waves.

Daily Thought

The powers that be are ordained of God.—Romans 13:1.

It is Godlike to have power, but not to kill.—Beaumont and Fletcher.

Seafood for Lent

You will be surprised at the many ways and the attractive dishes that can be prepared from various kinds of fish and seafood. Our Washington Bureau has ready for you in this Lenten season a new bulletin on fish and seafood cookery with a collection of recipes on the subject that you will want to have in your cook book for future reference. Fill out the coupon below and send for it:

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NAME

STREET AND NO.

CITY STATE

I am a reader of The Indianapolis Times. (Code No.)

Wait for about ten minutes, and if the disc continues to move you sure have a creeping meter. Some meters will creep a half inch in ten minutes.

Editor Times—Things are getting to be a pretty mess when a corporation the size of "Utilities Power and Light" stoops to graft for the purpose of inflating revenue.

To all Indianapolis residents who have complaints to make against the creeping of light meters, I would suggest that we get together and instigate a drive, using for our slogan, "Crimp the power trusts by eliminating our meter creeps."

Citizens of Indianapolis, stand up for your rights. We aren't compelled to accept this high-handed dominance. Why not public ownership of gas and light facilities? Everybody step down to the basement and be sure all the lights are off and check your meter by leaving one light on until the black spot on the revolving copper disc moves around to center, then quickly turn off the light.

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