



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Who Is Indicted?

When the state board of education seriously considers the abandonment of the annual basketball tournament because of alleged misconduct of boys and girls who visited that great Hoosier event, the members expose their own minds.

It is due to this kind of thinking on social problems that new problems are created and never solved.

The old philosophy of suppression, edict, prohibition, force rules. That philosophy has never won a permanent victory.

One would dare to suggest that any considerable number of boys and girls could have been involved in any incidents that may have shocked. Nor could any sane person believe that were the tournament abolished that the pupils who may have been involved would not have found other places and other opportunities for the same indiscretions.

Instead of talking about the abandonment of the tournament, the members might better discover against whom the indictment lies.

Certainly not against the boys and girls as culprits. If they were indiscreet, it was because some one has failed to give them either character or knowledge of evils that would cause them to shun temptations.

Whatever they did can be traced to example. Who set the example for these boys and girls?

Most of those who came here for the games are still under the care of public schools. The public schools are under the general control of the very board now raising the question of removing temptations from a few by abolishing a great Indiana event, an event that has done much to develop character, a spirit of fairness, an enthusiasm for the state itself, and, most of all, a training in democratic life. Boys who play together are less likely to hate each other later.

What have the schools done to put into the minds of boys and girls standards of life that would protect them against temptation?

What are the schools doing to build character in those entrusted to their care?

In fact, just who is indicted? The boys or the board?

### Not Premature, We Hope

Big Bill Thompson has been put on the spot by Chicago voters. He will take the rap at the polls Tuesday. So, at least, we are told by the political insiders.

It would be impolite to cheer before the event, so we refrain for the moment—hopefully.

Perhaps Bill is not so bad as reputed. Probably no man could be quite that cheap. Halve his reputation, however, and he remains one of the most odorous officeholders in a nation where city graft is common.

His fame—if that is the word for it—rests chiefly on chauvinism and racketeering. Under his city hall reign, the racket was heard around the world, and the Capone pineapple became the symbol of a civilization.

His genius consisted in making his fellow-citizens overlook the rackets while they watched him clown. The spit of the machine-guns could not be heard above his bellowing—"I'll knock the block of King George."

Our Chicago friends warn us to temper our joy over Bill's prospective burial by the ballots. They say Cermak, his election opponent, isn't much better.

But we insist there is some relief, even in variety. As for fundamental reform, that of course does not depend on a Thompson or a Cermak or any other politician, but on the will of the citizens. Like the rest of us, the people of Chicago are apt to get the kind of government they deserve.

### A Great Victory

The best news we have heard in many a day is the decision of the federal power commission in the New River case. That sounds technical and uninteresting. But the heart of the power trust issue is tied up in it. And any citizen who thinks he has no personal stake in the power fight either is kidding himself or failing to read his monthly electric bills.

Government regulation of the intertwined power corporations is the immediate issue. If regulation can not be made effective to protect the natural resources of the country and the consumer's pocketbook, then public ownership is the only alternative.

State regulation for the most part has failed. Unless the federal government does the job, it won't be done. For one reason, because of the strength and size of the corporations.

For another reason, because about 20 per cent of power distributed is interstate, and this growing interstate business is not touched by the individual states.

In this emergency, the new federal power commission has reached out and reclaimed a vast power area for government regulation which seemed to have been thrown away by a ruling of Attorney-General Mitchell. That is the significance of the New River case decision.

Under the law, there can be fairly effective federal regulation of power projects on streams for which companies must obtain a so-called standard form license from the commission. In this case, the Appalachian Power Company, member of a vast combine, refused the standard form license and applied for a "minor part license," which provides only nominal federal regulation.

A minor part license is reserved for nonnavigable streams. When the law was written, and since "navigable" has meant streams affecting navigation and not simply those which were navigated directly, the Appalachian company argued for the latter interpretation, and was in part upheld by Mitchell's decision requested by the former power commission.

But the new power commission has ruled that New river is a navigable stream under the meaning of the law, because its flow obviously affects streams to which it is tributary and which are used in interstate commerce.

"It is the unanimous opinion of the commission that the evidence clearly sustains the finding that the proposed construction would affect the interests of interstate and foreign commerce."

New river and the proposed \$11,000,000 power project are not all-important in themselves. But the issue involved in this case is virtually the same as that in three-quarters of the power sites in the eastern part of the United States. Hence the importance of this decision as a precedent.

Presumably the power interests will appeal from the commission's ruling to the courts. That is their right. But it is hard to see how they can win. Meanwhile, a five-year fight has resulted in a victory for the people. In its first major decision the none-too-popular new federal power commission has shown that it understands the issue and that it is not a rubber stamp for Attorney-General Mitchell and President Hoover.

### German Dictatorship

For the second time in nine months, Germany has succumbed to dictatorship. That the change was made legally by presidential decree, under Article 48 of the Weimar constitution, makes it no less a dictatorship. Without civil liberties, there can be no democracy.

President Von Hindenberg justified the suspension of constitutional rights and assumption of dictatorial powers by the government on the ground that this was necessary to deal with "political excesses."

"Political excesses" is not an extreme phrase to use in describing a situation which has resulted in more than 300 political murders and thousands of cases of political violence in the last year.

Constitutional government having broken down, a return to dictatorship appears to be justified in Germany today; if it ever is justified anywhere, at any time. This German type of legal dictatorship has more to commend it than the similar but disguised unconstitutional dictatorship in the United States during the war.

The railroad newspaper pours scorn on a recent article in Popular Science which attributes the success of the five-year plan in Russia to the work of American specialists, and concludes with the assertion that Soviet Russia now is capable of "padding her own canoe."

The German citizen, however, is not interested in theoretical distinctions. He is up against the hard fact that the democracy won by the 1918 revolution has been lost again, for the present at any rate.

His immediate reaction to the dictatorship will depend on how much it pinches him personally. If he is a Centrist, he will rejoice if he is untouched, and if both the Fascist right and the Communist left are injured.

But it is improbable that only the Fascist and Communist extremists will suffer. When a government uses lawlessness to fight lawlessness, discriminations are lost. The poison of ruthless power tends to infect the entire country. Dictatorship, so easy to let in, is hard to drive out.

If the Germans can be made to accept a Hindenberg Centrist dictatorship today, will they not be more willing to accept a Fascist or a Communist dictator tomorrow? Having confessed by this new emergency decree that democratic government no longer can preserve law and order, and having proved by twelve years of increasing travail that it can not achieve prosperity for the masses, how much longer can the nominally democratic parties hold the loyalty and hope of the German people?

Not long, if the extremist gains of both Fascists and Communists in the last election are a sign of the future.

Germany's future is in the hands of foreign powers, including the United States. We and the allies dictated peace terms to Germany which made her revival as a prosperous nation impossible.

Later, when "the economic consequences of the peace" were understood, they were mitigated somewhat by the Dawes and more by the Young plan—but not enough. Even with large colonial and foreign markets not now in sight, Germany can not carry her economic load. Our tariff barrier increases her difficulty.

So, month by month, the German middle class and working class sink nearer to starvation.

Out of such desperation is born dictatorship and revolution. There is little hope of salvaging capitalist democracy in Germany without a virtual cancellation of reparations and war debts and a general lowering of tariff barriers.

Unless the United States and other powers are willing to pay that price, a Fascist dictatorship in Germany, followed by Communist revolution, appears to be only a question of time.

### A Cleveland Judge

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## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

**M. E. Tracy**  
SAYS:

**The United States Is Losing Its Importance in the Eyes of Soviet Russia.**

**NEW YORK, April 6.—**According to Walter Duranty, Russian correspondent for the New York Times, the Soviet attitude toward American trade has undergone a great change during the last twelve months.

"A year ago, the United States bulked large in the eyes of the Soviet government," he says, and then goes on to explain how our red baiting and embargoes, coupled with the more liberal terms offered by certain European governments, changed this feeling first to resentment and then to indifference.

"Without attempting to analyze the reasons for it," he declares that Soviet Russia gradually is adopting the view that we Americans are nowhere nearly as essential to her success as she once imagined, and illustrated this point by quoting two recent editorials, one in "Economic Life," and the other from a railroad road newspaper.

"Americans," says the editorial in "Economic Life," "are like Roosevelt's Chanticleer, who thought the sun rose because he crowed at dawn, and one morning overslept himself, to find, to his dismay, that the sun had risen just the same."

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**Not Our Best Customer**

**A**MONG the unusual claims made for the ultra-violet rays since they have been promoted so largely to the public has been the belief that the light rays will change the quality of the blood in several respects.

It occurred to Doctors Gerald Hoeffel and Dorothy Lyons to test these effects of ultra-violet rays on a group of children who were being treated with the rays for tuberculosis of the bones and joints.

Forty children were chosen and divided into four equal groups, one of which was to receive the direct rays of the sun, the second group to receive sunlight behind glass which would transmit the ultra-violet rays, the third group to receive ultra-violet rays from a mercury vapor quartz lamp, and the

fourth group to serve as a control, receiving no special light rays whatever.

The children ranged in age from 2 to 11 years. While they were undergoing treatment, studies were made of the total number of red blood cells and of white blood cells, of the red coloring matter in the blood generally.

So far as the red coloring matter of the blood was concerned, the average for the group of forty children at the beginning was 85 per cent, varying from 61 to 91 per cent.

During the winter and fall there were minor changes in the red coloring matter, but during the spring and summer periods all of the groups increased, except the control group.

In the late fall and in the early spring there was a tendency to the falling off of values.

As a result of this study, the authors concluded that there seems to be a slight tendency for hemoglobin values to be higher in summer, but apparently the ultra-violet rays have nothing definite to do with this.

The average number of red blood cells per cubic millimeter for children of this age is about 5,000,000. There was no apparent effect on the number of red blood cells in any of the groups.

Indeed, all the studies made on the blood from every possible point of view seemed to indicate that the ultra-violet rays were without specific effect on any of the blood factors.

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As far as the effects of the rays on the healing of tuberculosis were concerned, the authors have felt that the effects of light can not be distinguished from the beneficial effects exerted by other factors, such as good food, proper rest, outdoor air and general care.

**IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROUN**

**A** MAN who served in the New York state legislature with James J. Walker for several years said to me the other day:

"The people who are after Jimmy run the risk of underestimating his capacity. He isn't dumb. Of course, everybody knows that he has political sagacity. But I mean more than that. He can be brilliant at times in his grasp of legislative and administrative technique."

"I say at times because there's a catch in it. Jimmy is what the theatrical profession knows as a quick study."

Many times he has confounded critics at public hearings with the precision of his knowledge on intricate points. And yet I know that in several cases Jimmy had not the slightest idea of what it was all about until half an hour before he went into the meeting.

He can take a set of figures and memorize them in a flash. And, of course, he forgets them just as quickly as he learns them.

"Once in Albany he made a very telling speech on a matter having to do with state finance. Meeting him a couple of days later, I asked him to go over a certain point which was not clear in my head. He grinned and said, 'I don't know it myself now. That was two days ago.'

"The people who are after Jimmy run