



## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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BOYD GURLEY,  
Editor

ROY W. HOWARD,  
President

EARL D. BAKER,  
Business Manager

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

### The Drive Is On

Two events on Friday show the determination of the people of this state to protect themselves from bankruptcy that is threatened through unfair taxation, both official and protected.

The first is the decision of the commission named to write a program for a special session of the legislature that promises to relieve the farmer and the home owner from the unequal burden they now carry.

The other is the courageous declaration of Lawrence F. Orr, head of the state board of accounts, that utility rates must be lowered before any real relief can be secured.

The committee recommends an income tax. Such a measure was killed in the last legislature by the most powerful lobby which ever gathered at the state capitol.

An income tax would take the money from those who have it and lift the menace of sheriff sales from owners of real estate.

It is admitted that only a small percentage of the wealth of the state pays the taxes. New forms of wealth escape and real estate pays the bills.

It is true that before there will be a really fair distribution of taxes the income tax must also include a tax on corporations, which have supplanted the individual. But the income tax is the proper start.

The frank declaration of Lawrence Orr that the utility bills are in reality tax will accelerate the drive that is being made all over the state for relief from unjust burdens established during days of inflation.

In the periods of prosperity the utilities established for themselves the principle that they had the right to collect not on investments, but on the cost of reproducing their plants. They capitalized the war and its inflation.

The Times suggested months ago that a legal principle of valuation that worked in periods of inflation should work in periods of deflation. Orr repeats this with emphasis.

Utility service is an essential part of modern life. The water rates are a direct tax in this city. No building is useful, either for habitation or for commerce or industry without it. To permit the local company to continue its extortions is unthinkable. The same is true to a degree of electricity.

The best way to avoid the disaster that is threatened by present conditions is to readjust the tax burdens and give the people a break—or at least, half a break. Today they are slaves to injustice.

### Will Cuthbertson ACT?

Mayor Sullivan, acting for the people, has demanded that the public service commission investigate the methods of the local electric monopoly and its foreign holding company.

He demands to know which of two sets of figures are correct—the reports made to the public service commission as to income or the statements given to the public in order to sell securities.

He demands to know why the management of one company costs twice as much as the management of two companies before the merger.

He demands to know the reason for the long term contract with the Insull interests for power at a much higher figure than the cost of production, with the inference that this was a part of a deal between two promoting interests for a division of the loot in Indianapolis.

He demands to know why coal is purchased from a subsidiary of the holding company which owns the stock of the local electric company.

A brief inquiry by Commissioner Cuthbertson into the two sets of figures should be a basis for an immediate order for reduction. If the company is losing greatly in revenues, he might be justified in refusing to take action. But if that is true, he should know why the company showed, in a pamphlet issued while such an appeal was made, that its revenues for the twelve months ending Sept. 30 of last year showed a very small decline over the revenues for the same period a year before.

The law has a name for such statements, if they can not be reconciled.

Commissioner Cuthbertson has plenty of time to give an effort to prove that one candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket is utility minded. He may hope to distract attention from his own long service as a legislator to utility interests and his present reward as a member of the public service commission.

Apparently he has no time to act on the appeal of Indianapolis for relief.

Political activities will not be accepted as an excuse for his failure to give attention to this important matter.

The people want relief—and want it now.

### Canada and the United States

Gentlemen now speaking in congress for the party of Jefferson, Jackson and Wilson, apparently are so bankrupt of native statescraft that they boast of having received their inspiration for the proposed \$600,000,000 sales tax from the discredited systems of Europe, Australia and Canada.

If we are to follow other nations in our fiscal policies, we hope it will not be the unhappy sales tax countries of Europe, nor the virtually bankrupt Australia.

As for neighbor Canada, why do these same Democratic and administration leaders who refused to imitate the Canadian policy of feeding the jobless now seem to swallow an unsound and unpopular tax on consumers which Canadians themselves want to get rid of?

The house ways and means committee may have given Canada's sales tax exhaustive study. Several of them recently made a junct across the border. Obviously, however, they did not learn about it from the Canadian people.

The Canadian people, we hear from our correspondent, are about unanimous in declaring it fair

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

### M. E. Tracy

Says:

*Do Our Public Officials Realize How Hard It Has Become for Many People to Pay Taxes, How Taxes Are Forcing Thousands of Them to the Wall?*

NEW YORK, March 12.—Sales tax or luxury tax, income tax or nuisance tax, this is no time to ask the American people for an extra billion dollars in cash.

No private business could survive on such a policy. For that matter no private business could survive on the policy pursued at Washington since 1929.

Had the Hoover administration begun to curtail expenses right after the stock market crash, it would not be facing such an enormous deficit.

Had preceding administrations refused to repeal taxes favoring wealth and speculation, even in part, they could have built up an ample reserve with which to meet this emergency.

The economic situation confronting our government is rooted in lack of foresight.

### Economy Talk

MEANWHILE let us not forget that the public debt has been reduced by some eight billion dollars since 1919.

That represents a surplus credit that the government might use, and which it should be using.

Instead, the government proposes the identical policy for which it has been criticizing banks—call for cash and refuse credit.

Furthermore, it proposes to avoid such economies as the vast majority of people have been obliged to make.

There has been much fine talk about saving money here and there, but for the most part, it has resulted in little, except the discharge of a few poorly paid employees at the foot of the line.

### Swivel Chair Immunity

UNITED STATES Steel cut the salaries of all its high officials before reducing wages. Did the government?

Has there been a single move at Washington to reduce the pay of those who could best afford it?

You can go to the books of most any great concern in this country and find that its operating expenses are down by 30 or 40 per cent.

Better still, you find that those at the top are sharing the loss.

When you go to the public books, you find a very different condition prevailing. You find some of the most overworked clerks overworked because vacancies have not been filled, but you find the boys at the mahogany desks drawing the same old pay and expense accounts.

### Rank Inconsistency

THE government is in a hole because it could get away with things the rest of us couldn't. Now it wants us to pay off its deficit or worse, because it has the power to make us.

At the same time, it wants all the banks to be liberal with credit and all the mortgage companies to be lenient with extensions.

### Why Not Bonds?

IF one billion dollars in taxes each year for two years is sufficient to balance the budget, why couldn't the same result be accomplished by a bond issue for two billion, but in order to be fair, let's call it three.

With the public debt reduced by eight billion since 1919, is there any sound reason why such a bond issue should not be made?

Is there any sound reason why credit shouldn't be employed to make up a hole at a time like this?

Do our public officials realize how hard it has become for many people to pay taxes, or how taxes are forcing thousands of them, if not hundreds of thousands, to the wall?

### The Last Straw

TAXPAYERS' strikes are becoming dangerously common, not so much from a spirit of unreasoned discontent as from necessity.

Down where people live, and where a third, or a fourth of them are out of work, the margin of safety has grown pitifully thin. It often occurs, that a ten-dollar bill represents the difference between failure and the ability to hang on.

Any kind of pressure, no matter how slight, should be avoided, if possible.

Arizona women are fighting for a bill providing for easier divorce. What they really want is easier alimony.

Since the depression, America has become a land of law and no orders.

### Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

WE are being educated today to the danger that lies in hoarding money. It destroys business, they tell me. And it destroys something more than the individual who does it. It kills his appreciation of the joys that are within his grasp today.

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### Questions and Answers

Who was Jean La Fitte?

He was a noted pirate operating in the Gulf of Mexico. He was born in France and held a commission as a privateer from the French government, but degenerated into a pirate with Barataria bay, as his rendezvous. Upon the outbreak of the War of 1812 the British made overtures to La Fitte who refused to join them. Later, he joined with the American forces under General Jackson in the defense of New Orleans, and he and his crew acquitted themselves so well that President Madison issued a free pardon for all their misdeeds. La Fitte is supposed to have died in Yucatan in 1826.

The most wonderful was a chest of solid silver. After the couple had returned from their honeymoon it began to be whispered about that the bride was indulging in the rankest extravagance. She was using her good silver every day.

Then in eighteen months the bridegroom sickened and speedily died. That beautiful part of the girl's life had passed forever. Do you think during the long years she ever regretted that each night for herself and her lover she had spied her table with the best silver?

THE housewife attitude is flourishing with us. Save, save, save, they cry. But save for what? And how much? The present, we contend, is the only time we have, but most of us act as if the future were ours for certain.

We postpone so many of the splendid experiences we might have because we are too stingy with our time.

Time is money—how we have worked that phrase to death! Time is far more precious than money ever can be. We let it slip by us while we contemplate our dollars. We put off our possible pleasures, the charming yet simple holidays that husbands and wives might have together, the family picnics with our children, the visits to friends and relatives, the trips we could take, the good times we might have, all to hoard some more cash.

Indeed, the most pitiful thing about all our modern scene is that we always are so busy making a living that we have no time to live.

The wicked flee when no man pursueth.—Proverbs 28:1.

Daily Thought

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### No Question Who It Will Hurt Most!



### DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

### One Out of 26 Lives to Be 90

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

ONE of every twenty-six white persons in the United States lives to be more than 90 years old!

This interesting fact has been brought out by Dr. Raymond Pearl, who recently finished an analysis of the diseases and causes of death of the aged.

Strangely enough, your chances of living to be 90 are better if you are a woman. For women, nearly one in twenty lives to be 90. The percentage for men is lower.

The usual cause of death for persons over 90 is senility, which means that the person is old and dead.

Actually, of course, even though a person may wear out at the age of 90, it is probably some special organ among the important parts of the body that breaks down and is the primary cause of death.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the breakdown of the circulatory system should be today the leading cause of death after middle age.

The woman past 90 no longer is

affected by the causes of disease associated with the reproductive organs and the kidneys, whereas, the man, after 65 years of age, still is liable to prostate difficulties.

Indeed, most of the serious illness of men after 65 is associated with such trouble.

People who live to 90 years of age do so because they begin with

constitutions that are superior and resistant to infection.

Throughout life infections and other harmful forces which surround us take off the weak and leave the strong.

Medical knowledge and skill and improved sanitary conditions prevent an increasingly large amount of sickness and death before 90 years of age.

Ultimately, Dr. Pearl points out, there is a group of extremely old people for whom infections have no particular terror.

They have developed resistance. Most of them die because their constitution or system breaks down.

Dr. Pearl is convinced that if any considerable number of people are to live longer than they now do, it will be necessary for man to acquire by some means not yet clear a circulatory system organically superior to the one that he now has.

But we do not regret the fact that a large element of the dramatic is needed to capture the universal imagination. It is easier for us to heed the agony of one or two than that of millions.

If a survey showed that in some single city thousands of boys and girls were suffering from malnutrition, we would be sorry, but the forces of county, state, and nation would move less rapidly to save and solve the situation.

The remedies for ills which afflict us are generally not dramatic. We will have in many papers letters advising the organization of vigilance committees, and citizens will be urged to take the law into their own hands. In other words, to cure lawlessness we will be asked to embark on more lawlessness.

It has been said that plays and pictures and stories about the underworld have tended to make a hero of the gangster and to encourage him in the pursuit of his profession. Yet there never was a talkie which flattered the ego of the racketeer as does the pantomime of "The gunmen have us licked."

Not Dramatic, But Useful

WITHIN the last few days a newspaper editorial considered the advantages of America's turning to a form of dictatorship such as that administered by Mussolini in Italy. It seems to me that it would be better for us to turn to the point of insulation against the suffering of others.

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