

# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)  
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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

## A Balanced Budget

The federal budget will be balanced. That is the hopeful significance of the revenue bill amendments submitted by the ways and means committee Tuesday and promptly taxed up by the house.

This is not surprising news. But it will have a lifting effect on business just the same, because it will kill the propaganda myth prevalent during the last month that defeat of the sales tax would mean an unbalanced budget.

The Scripps-Howard newspapers have pointed out daily that there were plenty of ways to balance the budget more effectively for the government and less harmfully for the country than the un-American sales tax.

We deserve to credit for seeing that. It had been demonstrated several months ago by submission by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon of a revenue plan which would balance the budget without a sales tax, and has been demonstrated since by numerous other expert plans.

Just as we supported in principle the original Mellon plan to make up part of the deficit by nuisance taxes, and just as we have continued ever since to support that plan, so now we support the principle of the ways and means committee amendments for nuisance taxes.

As to the details—whether one particular nuisance tax in the Hoover-Mellon plan or in the new Democratic plan is preferable—all of that, of course, is subject to discussion as each item is taken up.

But, relatively, that is unimportant compared with the main fact—that the budget can and will be balanced.

We accept the nuisance taxes as a lesser evil than a continuing federal deficit. But we accept them under protest.

We accept them only because one group of politicians and propagandists has a gun at the heart of the government, and refuses to let the government take the revenue which rightfully belongs to it and which could balance the budget without the nuisance taxes. We mean a beer tax.

Even if the country could forget for a moment all the evil moral results of prohibition—the increased crime and lawlessness, the racketeering, the increase in hard liquor drinking, the fact that it acts as a great barrier, blocking political action on most of the vital national issues—there remains the additional fact that it denies the government essential revenue in a time of crisis.

No one—no matter how fatal—can deny that a beer tax quickly, easily and surely could raise the revenue which now must be raised by these nuisance taxes.

Every time you buy a postage stamp, a box of matches, a package of cigarettes, an automobile, a tire, a radio, a theater ticket, an industrial stock, a package of gum, you will be paying more than you should pay more than is returned to the capital and labor which produced it.

You will be paying to perpetuate the bootlegger and racketeer. You will be paying indirectly the beer tax which the government refuses to make the liquor industry pay.

We say, which the government refuses to make the liquor industry pay. The citizens of the country do not refuse. The country is at least 2-to-1 in favor of a beer tax, as revealed by all recent polls.

But representative government in this matter can not be blocked much longer. Today congress can refuse to balance the budget with a beer tax. In June, however, both political parties, at their conventions, will be put on the spot of public opinion.

In the campaign and election which follow, every party and every candidate will be made to face this issue.

And when the new congress meets next winter—if not before—there is a good chance that the nuisance taxes will go out and the beer tax come in. Until then, they must be paid.

The nuisance taxes are here to stay—just so long as the people of the country permit the dry politicians to defy representative government.

In the midst of the relief and the cheering over prospects of a balanced federal budget, let no one forget for a moment that the plan depends not only on increased taxes, but also on cuts in expenditures of a quarter billion dollars or more.

Congress is to be congratulated on its apparent willingness to make those cuts. Congress should be supported by public opinion when the inevitable lobby pressure begins against cuts.

Equally important is the point made by President Hoover Tuesday in his courageous statement regarding the bonus. There is no use putting ourselves on the back for adding a few hundred million in new taxes and cutting a few hundred million from government expenses if we are going to turn around and spend two billions on a cash bonus.

This newspaper favors adequate care of veterans who need the care. It is particularly solicitous for two classes of veterans, the disabled and the unemployed.

But we believe those special needs can be met without a two billion dollar blanket bonus given regardless of individual need. And we believe those special needs can be met without endangering federal finances in this emergency.

If congress will carry out its plan of cutting a quarter billion or more from the budget, and refrains from such additional outlays as the cash bonus, it will be holding fast to the economy line which is essential.

## The Public Defender

Shall the poor man have a fair break before the law? This is the core of the public defender issue.

It is obvious that the poor are at a great disadvantage today in all litigation. This fact has been emphasized by Jurists as eminent as Chief Justices Taft and Hughes and Elihu Root. It was proved by a vast bill of particulars in Reginald Heber Smith's "Justice and the Poor."

The public defender movement has grown up as the answer to this challenge. The idea underlying it is well summarized by Charles Mishkin in an article in the "Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology."

"It is axiomatic that one of the primary duties of the government is to administer justice. Rich and poor should be on an equal plane when before the bar of justice; but in practice are they equal?"

"The rich man has his corps of brilliant attorneys and sufficient funds to employ investigators to discover witnesses, gather evidence, and prepare an adequate defense on his behalf."

"The poor man, on the other hand, is helpless, without funds, often not understanding what the proceedings are all about, and is forced to rely for his protection upon an attorney assigned to represent him without compensation."

"Honest and well-meaning though the attorney may be, he is handicapped by lack of funds to con-

duct an investigation to ascertain the facts, and often without experience in criminal matters. Thus handicapped, he is forced to contest against the unlimited power and resources and prestige possessed by the public prosecutor's office.

"Truly this is a spectacle of the state bringing all its power and wealth to bear against a weak and powerless accused person, who may in fact be innocent of the charge brought against him."

"The state should be just as diligent in attempting to prove the man innocent as it is in attempting to prove him guilty. Still it maintains the powerful offices of public prosecutor to represent the prosecution, and leaves the indigent accused to present his defense as best he may. The truth is obvious that if it is the primary function of the state to seek the truth, then that function is not fully performed unless, side by side with the office of public prosecutor to prosecute the charges, there exists also the office of public defender to defend against the charges. This, in brief, is the basis for the public defender idea."

The present system of assigned counsel is highly defective. Assigned attorneys often are young, inexperienced, and incompetent. A class of undesirable lawyers hovers about courtrooms, eager for assignment with the sole purpose of getting as much as they can from the accused and his relatives, and then lying down on the job.

Such conditions lead high-grade attorneys, who otherwise might accept defense assignments, to avoid the responsibility.

The public defender is not a new institution. This office was created in Spain five centuries ago. Among other countries adopting it are Hungary, Norway and Argentina. The latter has developed the idea and practice to a high degree.

The system has been established in California, Connecticut, Minnesota and Nebraska and in several cities, Portland, Ore.; Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Indianapolis.

The obvious advantages, from the standpoint of both justice and economy, are the following: (1) Clearly guilty offenders are urged to plead guilty, thus saving unnecessary trials; (2) adequate defense is provided for all good cases; (3) jury trial often is waived; (4) cases are tried promptly when reached on the calendar; (5) cases are tried more expertly and expeditiously; (6) great economies result from the foregoing; (7) trial judges may trust the public defender in advice as to sentencing; (8) the usual chicanery of criminal trials has no logical basis for existence; (9) there is a great reduction in the probability that a poor and innocent defendant will be "railroaded."

It is to be hoped that this product of civilized criminal jurisprudence will not be long in establishing itself in the United States.

## Police Rioters

Public order throughout the nation rests in the hands of the police today, in a special sense. For months millions of workers have been unable to find employment. Local relief efforts alone have been inadequate, and the government refuses aid.

As time goes on, earnest men and women are hoping more and more fervently that some way will be found to meet the situation before the needy are goaded by hunger into acting for themselves.

At such time, resort to wisdom instead of force is thrice essential. Police should be more than ever alert to protect the civil liberties of the people; reluctant to do anything that might turn discontent to frenzy.

Police throughout the country are entitled to leadership by the bluecoats of the capital.

In Washington Saturday two score unarmed persons sought to picket Japan's embassy, bearing banners denouncing Japanese imperialism in Manchuria and Shanghai; slogans similar to headlines that have appeared in nearly all newspapers in the United States.

The Washington police turned the peaceful demonstration into a riot; broke heads right and left; caused news photographs of a young woman lying unconscious on the pavement to be broadcast, together with news reel films of street fighting; arrested twenty; and capped the official rowdism by throwing the pickets' attorney out of the police station when he tried to exercise his rights and theirs in their defense.

It is only a few weeks since Brigadier-General Pelham D. Glassford, chief of the Washington police, made himself famous from Maine to California by refusing to be stampeded into using force against 1,500 hunger marchers who, under his protection, sang the "Internationale" on the Capitol plaza.

He destroyed that reputation Sunday. By example he invited police in all cities where starvation stalks to provoke the reign of violence.

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

"ONE of the things this country needs," writes an enraged editor, "is revival of the old-fashioned sewing circle. Too many women are skilled in the mechanics of contract bridge, while American manhood is crying out for feminine architects who can rebuild damaged socks and turn collars on frayed shirts."

Good gentlemen, does not this smack of treason? Is it not vicious and insidious propaganda designed to break down our civility?

For our editor evidently forgets that American manhood also is crying out for women to keep up normal spending. Otherwise, so other editors tell us, things will collapse. The women must spend every cent they possibly can, so business may go on as usual and jobs may be kept and prosperity return. Let us see what would happen if the old-fashioned sewing circle were revived. The women probably would start to making their underwear, their house dresses, their pillowcases and sheets, and a good many other things.

MANY manufacturers would be compelled to shut their doors. Dress shops would go out of business. Department stores would suffer. If we turned all the frayed collars on husbands' shirts, the shirt makers would set up an awful howl. If we darned and repaired the socks, the hosiery men would protest. It is obvious that the most harassed creatures at large these days is the American housewife. The above paragraph is merely one of thousands of items offering her advice and criticism.

Already being weighted with responsibilities, this gibe about the sewing circle probably will not move her. She is told on one hand to keep up and on the other to squeeze every nickel.

It was the great male business genius, if I remember aright, who took all our home work away from us and put up innumerable factories to do it, while he announced that he was ushering in the millennium.

In view of that fact, it is my opinion that the best thing we can do now is to ignore him.

I do not know how things are going to turn out, but I do wish the men would stop giving us advice until they make up their minds about what they want us to do.

# M. E. Tracy

Says:

The Nuisance Taxes Should Be a Constant Reminder That Prohibition Has Increased Our Tax Burden and Fostered an Era of Gang Rule.

NEW YORK, March 30.—Last week, millions of people imagined that the federal budget could not be balanced without a sales tax. Now they know better. It took the ways and means committee only three days to frame a substitute, and it took the house only three hours to pass half the items.

In one sense, this substitute imposes a sales tax of varying degree on certain specified articles and transactions, but the fact that the articles and transactions are specified makes a great difference.

If the general sales tax measure had been adopted, consumers could not have told just how much they were paying the government because the amount would have been hidden in the price.

The substitute leaves no doubt on that point. When you pay 3 cents for a postage stamp, instead of 2, or an extra 6 cents when you buy a dollar theater ticket, you will not have to guess at the amount Uncle Sam is getting.

## 'Lest We Forget'

THE substitute will be as annoying as the general sales tax would have been in some respects, but it will be open and easily identified. For that reason, it will not lend itself to price boosting. Because it is specific and itemized, people constantly will be reminded of its presence, and how it might have been avoided.

It should be thought of and referred to as a compound of nuisance taxes, and a tribute to racketeers.

It could have been avoided by a tax on beer.

That is something for people to remember every time they pay over the pennies, or percentages for which it calls.

## Beer Could Bear It

IT goes without saying that the budget should be balanced, and that cutting down government expenditures by \$250,000,000 and raising \$300,000,000 by taxation represents a sensible way of getting the \$500,000,000 required.

The \$300,000,000 to be raised by taxation could have been produced by levying 2 cents a pint on beer.

Instead, this vast amount of money, and a whole lot more, will continue to finance an illegal traffic, with political corruption, disrespect for law and increase of crime as the logical by-products.

## Tribute to Outlawry

YOU and I would not be confronted with the necessity of paying these nuisance taxes which congress is now adopting, except for one simple fact.

Politically dry law-makers, who still represent a majority in congress, would rather tax us than the beer barons. They do not put it that way, of course, but that is what it amounts to.

These nuisance taxes represent a tribute to unlawful trade, political graft and broken laws.

Outside of producing the cash which is needed to meet an emergency, their one virtue consists in the fact that they may arouse a long-suffering public to express itself with such force as politicians can not misunderstand.

## Speed the Day!

PROHIBITION has done as much as the slump in business, if not more, to create financial embarrassment at Washington and subject the American people to tax burdens such as they never knew in time of peace.

In addition, this "noble experiment" has set the stage for such an arch standpatter in the senate as privately a few weeks ago: "Down here we recognize the fact that La Guardia is the fellow we've got to fight. He's always on the job, and he's one of the few men in Washington with a definite political philosophy."

He is, in the eyes of many, a Socialist in sheep's clothing, and today, in spite of all opposition, he stands as the most powerful and persuasive member of the lower house, if not of the entire congress. Naturally you have guessed by now that I mean Fiorello La Guardia.

For many days now you will be reading editorials in which he will be denounced as a shameless demagogue intent wholly upon his own interests and preferment. Even the most ardent of his enemies upon the floor know better than that.

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Was Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh graduated from a college? He had two years in the chemical engineering course at the University of Wisconsin in 1920, but left the university without graduation to enroll in a flying school at Lincoln, Neb., in 1922.

How high are the mountains Whitney, Ranier, McKinley and Shasta? Whitney is 14,496 feet; Ranier, 14,408 feet; McKinley, 20,300 feet, and Shasta, 14,161 feet.

How large a population did San Francisco have in 1910? 416,913.

How many miles of slate highway has Ohio? At the end of 1930 it had 11,343 miles.

Are atomic weight and specific gravity the same? Atomic weight is the weight of an atom of a substance compared with the weight of an atom of hydrogen; specific gravity indicates the weight of a substance compared with the weight of an equal volume of water.

Will oxygen ignite? Pure oxygen will not ignite.

How does Cincinnati, O., rank in population of large cities? Sixteenth.

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## Daily Thought

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# Make Him Talk or Vote Him Down



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

# Extreme Care Needed in Using Radium

BY DR. MORRIS FISHER  
Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

IT long since has been recognized that radium is of special virtue in the control of cancer. It may early diagnosis, surgical removal and treatment with radium and X-ray constitute the main reliance in all cases of this disease.

Radium is, however, such an important substance from the point of view of its effects on the human body that all sorts of measures have had to be developed to protect those who use and apply it.

Cases are on record and have had wide publicity in which girls who painted watch dials have suffered destructive bone conditions from continued action of radium.

The skin, specially that of the hands, must be protected at all times from direct contact with unfiltered radium.

For this reason, the radium must be handled with long forceps, preferably made of wood, so long that the radium will be at a considerable distance from the body and the hands.

In addition, it is customary to put between the person handling the radium and this material itself a sheet covered with at least one centimeter of sheet lead or its equivalent.

Whenever radium is moved from one room to another, it should be carried in boxes made of lead.

The room in which the radium is kept is usually a lead-lined room, and a room in which people do not work constantly.

Dr. E. S. Ernst recommends that radium, when not in use, be stored in a safe with lead protection equivalent to five centimeters of lead for every 100 milligrams of radium.

During the period when the radium is being applied to the patient, his room should not be visited frequently, except by those who are taking care of him, and a sign should be placed at the head of the bed indicating that radium is being employed.

# IT SEEMS TO ME

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

At a time when brickbats are flying in the direction of congress, I think it appropriate to bestow at least once bouquet. Fortunately, in the case of the individual I have in mind the wreath need not take a floral form. He would not be unwilling, I believe, to reach for a cocktail instead of a coccus.

The real leadership in the house has come into the hands of a man who has won that position wholly by his own driving force. The orthodox members of the Republican party are not in sympathy with his political views.

He is, in the eyes of many, a Socialist in sheep's clothing, and today, in spite of all opposition, he stands as the most powerful and persuasive member of the lower house, if not of the entire congress. Naturally you have guessed by now that I mean Fiorello La Guardia.

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There are records of serious injury and deaths of people who have walked off from hospitals carrying radium in their bodies. The use of radium is not a simple matter.

It has to be applied under controlled conditions and according to the physical changes that have taken place in the individual patient.

Experts nowadays use both X-ray and radium in a combined attack on cancer. The supply of radium available for the treatment of cancer is limited.

Its use is, therefore, controllable by the reliable institutions that have it.

Unfortunately a considerable number of charlatans of one type or another have exploited the word "radium" without themselves having actual radium or radium products for the purpose.

The general interest in an element so potent and so valuable as this has made the very word "radium" a selling word for quacks.

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of one of America's most interesting writers and are presented without regard to their agreement or disagreement with the attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

of Tammany rule, and, though his charges went unheeded, they formed the backbone of the investigation into the magistrates' courts. La Guardia manages to be factual and firm at the same time.

His successful fight against the sales tax required great political courage. He had to war against both Republican and Democratic leadership. More than that, it was necessary for him to incur the enmity of William Randolph Hearst, who is the real father of the measure.

Garner, the favorite son of the publisher, soon proved to have a glass jaw and went down without even striking a blow in his own defense. Yet there still was left able opposition, and La Guardia conquered it without any organization support whatsoever. Not within our time has an individual won such a striking legislative victory.

They Will Make Him Pay UNDOUBTEDLY La Guardia will have to pay for his temerity. It is nonsense to talk about him as mere careerist, for from now on the hand of every boss is against him.

The truth of the matter is that he put up his battle purely upon the urge of a sincere conviction. He has been licked in good causes before and may again. They have counted nine over Fiorello upon occasion, but never ten.

Nor is it true that he has destroyed all hope of budget balancing without having any constructive suggestion to make. From the beginning, he has been one of the most effective advocates of prohibition repeal and its attendant revenue.

If the finances of the country are to be muddled, the blame lies squarely at the door of those who insist that it is better to go both hungry and thirsty at the same time.

Attaby, Fiorello!

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People's Voice

Editor Times—As the national election is not very far "around the corner," the powers of the almighty party that engineer the G. O. P. are doing everything within their power to hypnotize the American people to vote for continuance of the present "Hoover prosperity" another four years.

In their fertile brain the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has been hatched, a gigantic institution supported by the mass of American people, to be operated by and for big business for its pecuniary gain.

As it is conceived, it acts merely as a life saver, or rescue party, for the billion-dollar corporation that is in "Dutch" financially. It is not an instrument devised and designed to benefit you and me or the man in the street who lost his all through the so-called frozen assets in the defunct nation-wide bank failures.

His pile is gone forever, as no

scheme now or prospective has been promulgated to recover or retrieve his lost lifetime savings.

The big banks and corporations are the guilty parties to this hoarding spree. Press reports last week showed that one corporation alone, the United States Steel Corporation, had \$100,000,000 surplus in its coffers, which was of no benefit to any one.

The subsidized press tells the public that all that is lacking is confidence. Well, that is true. Lack of confidence in the government, courts, banks and the Hoover administration.

If the phrase, "lack of confidence," could be coined into one word specifying the prevalent disease, I would call it too much "Hooveritis."

FRANK T. BAINE JR.

Editor Times—There is real merit in the suggestion of Postmaster Leslie D. Clancy as to distribution of liquor by the internal revenue department through the postoffice. Wouldn't this prevent the bootlegger and racketeer from muscling in, should the eighteenth amendment be repealed? Whatever legislation is enacted for goodness sake let's get rid of