



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-229 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price: 50 cents a copy; news, 3 cents; delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week. Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$3 a year; outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

BOYD GURLEY, ROY W. HOWARD, EARL D. BAKER
Editor President Business Manager

PHONE—Riley 5551 SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1932.

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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

The Door Still Open

Under the law, any ten citizens may petition the public service commission for a revision of utility rates. It also makes mandatory an appraisal and an audit.

The city administration and the South Side Civic Clubs have forced a confession from the electric and water companies that their charges were extortionate.

The concession in money means far less than this fact, for it will be remembered that these companies insisted that they would never surrender a penny of their plunder.

The city has obtained what will amount to a reduction in the tax rate of 2 cents. The people get 12 cents a month from the electric company. The water company will charge up any losses that come from a reduction of the minimum charge per month to those who use larger amounts than the first 700 feet.

These concessions came after the companies had decided that they could not afford to let the public look at their profits or books.

The water company has been paying the club dues of its Philadelphia president from the operating expenses, and it escapes, unchided and unrebuked, for this glaring invasion of the theory of regulation.

What other expenses have been paid by the people were not disclosed. But it may be inferred that a company which would have the bravado to charge its charities, its social activities, its contributions to tax organizations that are intent upon reducing the salaries of school teachers and policemen, has paid other bills of even more sinister significance from the same operating revenues.

The electric company was in even worse position. It had snarled its defiance to the people. It had received from Commissioner Cuthbertson the benediction of its defiance. It had declared that it would make no concession whatever and Cuthbertson had stricken the petition of the city and the south side clubs from the docket as untimely and unjustified when The Times printed the fact that the Cuthbertson figures and those issued by the company for stock selling purposes seemed to bear no resemblance to each other.

It was after this disclosure that Cuthbertson arranged the secret compromise by which the city saves on taxes and the people get one-bit a month.

But there is no public condemnation of the method by which this company obtains a profit of twice what it conceded in the purchase of coal from its own subsidiary.

There is no investigation of the high charges for long-distance management or the huge fees for engineering and financing by which hundreds of thousands of unfair profits are taken each year.

There has been no audit of its books. There has been no delving into its anti-social practices. There has been no effort to say what it would cost to reproduce their plants today.

What the city and the south side clubs accomplished has been to clear the decks and make exposures. The secret concessions amount to little.

But the door is open. Large users of water and of electric power, if they get tired of paying rates that are extortionate and that are endangering industry and business, could group together and demand action.

Two members of the commission resent the situation. The conversion of a third is all that is necessary.

The House Tax Bill

Passage of the billion-dollar revenue bill by the house should silence the propagandists who still are trying to frighten the country with the cry of an unbalanced budget. The house bill balances the federal operating budget. There never was any real danger that the house would fail to do this.

To be sure, the house bill is not yet law. It must go through the senate, then back to the house, and finally through conference. The final law doubtless will be somewhat different.

But there is no reason to believe that it will leave an operating deficit, or that it will depart materially from the general principles of traditional American taxation to which the house bill adheres.

Two events in the house late Friday, however, indicate that the forces fighting for a general sales tax and against a high income and estate tax are determined to keep the country in a nervous state over revenue uncertainties as long as possible.

Republicans tried to reopen the bitter sales tax battle, despite their decisive defeat of a week ago. Those who attempted to revive this dead issue showed that they do not care how much they rock the boat of public confidence, or how much they jeopardize a balanced budget, if they only can tax the poor man's necessities.

Secretary of Treasury Mills played into the hands of the unsuccessful wreckers. At the last minute, he informed the house that the sales tax substitutes would not raise the desired revenue, which might have had the effect of stamping the house back to the wall.

In other words, Mills lowered the estimates on sales tax alternatives which he himself had given the house and which the house had used in its sincere desire to balance the budget.

To complete the confusion, Mills added that there was no chance of achieving the federal economies to which the house was pledging itself.

The administration, in the person of Mills, thus put itself at the decisive moment in the position of obstructing an increase in revenues and a cut in expenditures, the essentials of a balanced budget.

In the circumstances, the public is apt to believe

the Democratic charge that the administration is trying to play politics with the revenue bill—an exceedingly dangerous pastime in this emergency.

If the administration tries any more of these tricks when the bill gets to the senate, the same enraged public opinion which routed the original Democratic sales tax leaders probably will be turned on the Republican reactionaries.

Net effect of the reactionary obstruction in the house Friday was to reduce the maximum surtax rate from 65 to 40 per cent. This action well may be regretted, but it does not unbalance the budget.

And the higher income and surtax rates, which proved most effective and just in wartime, are likely to be restored by the senate.

The country will have to pay nuisance taxes and higher income taxes until the voters force congress to legalize and tax beer.

Symbolizing the Nuisances

Representative Johnson of Oklahoma announces his intention of offering a resolution providing that the new 3-cent stamp bear the picture of Herbert Hoover. We rise to offer a substitute.

The likeness of Andrew J. Volstead would be even more symbolic.

And while we are at it, why overlook some of the other nuisance taxes we are going to have to pay so that the bootlegger may go free and the racketeer unb burdened?

Why not a picture of F. Scott McBride on every package of gum and of Clarence True Wilson on all the match boxes?

Padlock the Poorhouse

American liberals, who have said some unkink things about California's callous treatment of Mooney and Billings, must doff their hats to the Golden state for its pioneering social code written under former Governor Hiram Johnson and for its loyalty to the Johnson tradition since.

None of the modern statutes written by California has been more successful than its old age security law.

This law, substituting pensions for the old almshouse method, has operated two years. A survey, based on a questionnaire sent to officials of the state's fifty-eight counties, reveals that the law saves the taxpayers \$259,92 a year for each aged indigent.

Since this law was passed, 550 inmates of poorhouses have been able to leave these makeshift shelters and resume natural lives. Approximately 4,100 have escaped entering poorhouses.

While the pension averages only \$23 a month, the average cost of maintaining patients in almshouses is \$47.4 a month.

Thus, besides saving many a heartbreak, California is saving money.

California's experience is duplicated in New York and other pension states. It could become general if the Dill-Connelly bill, granting federal aid for old age pensions, were passed.

Thus this is in reality an economy measure, the Dill-Connelly bill should be passed in behalf of both the aged poor and the nation's taxpayers.

Senator Capper, fighting also for a pension law for the District of Columbia, has raised the slogan: "Padlock the poorhouse." This should become a national demand.

The Best Students

A survey recently made at Temple university discloses that students from small towns usually carry off scholastic honors at colleges and universities, and that students who are working their way through usually rank higher in their studies than students whose expenses are being paid by their parents.

These findings are interesting, but not especially surprising. The youngster from the small town usually has a better chance to learn how to study while in high school, for the simple reason that there are fewer distractions.

And the youngster who wants an education badly enough to wait on table or tend furnaces to get it ordinarily can be depended on to do some good, honest work in classroom and study hall.

Havana Communists who held up a radio station and forced employees to let one of their number speak for six minutes neglected one point. They didn't have anybody to hold guns on the listeners.

Herr Einstein says: "The curvature of three-dimensional space may be either negative, positive or zero." So that's settled.

No wonder the rubber industry is staying busy. Just think of the rising number of rubber checks.

The people can't say the newspapers aren't giving them plenty of warning. They print storm forecasts, stock market lists and radio programs.

No one can say that Ireland hasn't plenty of troubles, but at least it hasn't a disarmament delegation.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

VERY soon after the Lindbergh baby had been stolen, there appeared in a number of newspapers a picture which showed a row of orphan children, kneeling in prayer for the safe return of little Charles.

The same son in our house saw this picture. It impressed him very much. With his thoughts groping among the impenetrable mysteries of a grown-up world, where a baby could be stolen from his safe bed and loving parents, he felt confident that God would hear the voices of the orphans.

Then he went to Sunday school, where he joined in our day prayer, asking the same divine favor.

Now what is another to do when she faces such a situation? If the Lindbergh baby is brought home, all will be well. The boy's faith in Heaven will be justified. If the baby is not restored, what kind of reaction will come to innumerable children?

With the best intentions in the world, we commit many crimes against the child in the name of religion. Such examples as this, however, should prove that we do not do enough intelligent pondering on whether we are building up or destroying a faith.

GROWN-UPS, after many tribulations, realize that a good many of their prayers never are answered. We comfort ourselves by saying that God knows best.

But each time we leave the infant to plead for something which we may not receive, we confuse his thinking, sow dark needs of distrust in his nature, and the very sensitive we may plunge into oceans of misery.

Read once more "The Story of an African Farm." If you have forgotten the tragic grief that can find its way to the imaginative trusting child who finds his faith shattered. There is no finer example of the harm good people can do in their attempts to explain the unexplainable.

It seems to me that organized religions should think long before it announces universal prayers for any cause. Failure to obtain the things desired may be disastrous to the faith of thousands.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

If Americans Put Up Four Dollars by Way of New or Increased Taxes, the Government Ought to Save One.

NEW YORK, April 2.—Now that a balanced budget virtually is assured, Secretary of the Treasury Mills discovers that the government can cut expenses by only about one-half of the amount expected.

Instead of saving \$243,000,000 through economies, as congress and the public have been led to believe it could, Mills thinks the government would be doing right well if it saved \$125,000,000.

"If Mr. Hoover and Mr. Mills would co-operate," retorts Speaker Garner, "we could reduce expenses \$250,000,000 without the least trouble."

Economy Assumed

TO begin at the beginning and state the problem roughly, one billion and a quarter dollars were required to balance the budget. Congress was asked to raise one billion one hundred million by taxation on the assumption that the government would take care of the rest by cutting expenses.

During the last few weeks the idea gradually has gained ground that if congress provided one billion through new, or increased taxes, it would have done quite enough, and that the government ought to make up the balance by trimming down expenditures.

Where's That Help?

CONGRESS has tried to reduce appropriations, as well as impose taxes. It had a right to expect cheerful co-operation on the part of President Hoover and his official family.

"Instead of having that co-operation," says Speaker Garner, "every cabinet member is going over to the senate and yowling that we are ruining their departments."

These same cabinet officers and Mr. Hoover, he declares, could save that \$250,000,000 themselves if they wanted to.

Administration Unfair

THE Hoover administration is not playing fair with congress, or the public. It is not doing what it can and should to make the budget lighter.

If congress provides the money, it will go right on spending as usual. The taxpayers have no hope of relief, except through congress, and they can not realize that hope without making themselves heard.

The Hoover administration is not exceptional in its appetite for money.

By our own demands, we, the people, have taught every branch of government and every party to be extravagant, to believe in a show of service, to gather its henchmen around the pie counter and keep them there. Curtailment of expenses is the last thing a public official, or political leader thinks of in these United States.

Economy in government is like the weather. We talk about it more than anything else, but do nothing.

Government's Turn

IF the people of this country put up four dollars by way of new or increased taxes, the government ought to save one. Even so, the government would be making far less of a contribution to the common good than the average clerk, stenographer, or ditch-digger.

If congress heaps another billion dollars on the tax load and the people stand for it, the government ought to do its good faith by saving a quarter of a billion.

More than one board of directors has gone further. More than one well paid executive has taken a bigger cut in order to spare those at the foot of the line.

And don't be deceived by all this propaganda that is being put out with regard to the relative weight of taxation here and in other countries.

Government taxes may be much higher in some European countries than they are here, but don't get too excited over that until you have learned more about local taxes.

Questions and Answers

How many women have paid the death penalty for crime in the United States? How many have been electrocuted?

Twenty-six in all, 8 in New York, 2 in Pennsylvania, 2 in Vermont, 2 in New Jersey, and 1 each in Virginia, Georgia, District of Columbia, Louisiana and Arizona. Four have been electrocuted, 3 in New York, and 1 in Pennsylvania.

Which amendment to the Constitution provides for women suffrage? The nineteenth.

How many men and women are enrolled in the colleges of the United States?

In the 1,076 colleges and universities in the United States there are 563,244 men students and 256,137 women, a total of 919,381.

Can the President of the United States pardon an official who has been impeached?

The President's pardoning power is restricted to those who are convicted in the federal courts for offenses against the United States statutes. He has no pardon power in the case of impeachments.

It is true that the revolt in the house was not inspired for the most part by any clear-minded economic philosophy. The gentlemen who ganged Mr. Garner knew what they were against without being at all sure what they were for. The strident charge of "socialism" is very apt to send many of them surging back into the ranks again.

It is true that the revolt in the house was not inspired for the most part by any clear-minded economic philosophy. The gentlemen who ganged Mr. Garner knew what they were against without being at all sure what they were for. The strident charge of "socialism" is very apt to send many of them surging back into the ranks again.

The Beginning of Wisdom

YET even a blind resentment against old measures under which the poor must pay for their poverty seems to me the beginning of wisdom. The end requires even more courage and steadfastness. For years the words "confiscation" and "confiscatory" have been enough to terrify every congressman.

In a time of emergency, our national legislature deemed it wise to pass a bill by which the individual could be drafted for military purposes. His very life was potentially forfeit to the state. But we didn't call that "confiscation." We called it "conscription," and most of the millions submitted to it tamely enough.

Since that day there has been a certain amount of idle and insincere talk by politicians about drafting wealth in the event of another national emergency.

That emergency now is upon us. It was, indeed, a member of the United States supreme court who pointed out that the conditions which we now face are more critical than those imposed by the war. And yet there is violent verbal opposition to any far-reaching plan to use sweeping remedies for relief.

Do Mexicans belong to the white or the red race?

They are largely a mixture of Spanish and Indian ancestry. According to local custom if Spanish blood largely predominates, they are considered as belonging to the white race and if Indian blood predominates, they are classed in the red race.