



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

Waste in Government

This city is joining in the crusade to reduce the cost of federal government.

Waste must be eliminated. The people can not pay on the present basis. The little leaks have become torrents. What was tolerated in days of inflation because of its pettiness becomes important in these deflated hours.

What is true of the federal government is also true of local governments.

The tax problem is important. But it is also important to stop waste at home immediately and that can be done only by a special session of the legislature.

The transfer of the gasoline tax to other uses should be made at once.

The tax that was once needed to build one mile of roads could today build three if the labor were paid on the basis of made work in townships. It could build two if the construction were paid for at prevailing rates of labor. But the state needs other things more than it does cement roads.

The farmers need relief from taxes. The idle men of cities need work. The real waste is the enforced idleness that is increased by the waste in government funds.

Every unnecessary dollar taken from the farmer and from industry today by taxation means a reduced wage for some worker and more men in the ranks of the idle.

A real demand for a special session that will change the direction of the one big fund at the command of the state would do more to help Indiana than an appeal to the federal government to cut the wages of its workers.

Good News

While the President and the Democratic leaders in congress are working out details of a compromise unemployment relief plan, the country can rejoice that federal aid of some sort at last is in sight.

Reports of local officials and relief agencies have shown for months that in many localities there is no way of preventing starvation without federal help. Private charity never has been adequate, even in the beginning of the depression when it was easier than now to collect funds.

During the last two years, approximately 72 per cent of the cost of relief distributed has come out of public treasuries, state and local.

Since last autumn, these state and local authorities have been increasingly unable to carry that load. Many of them not only have exhausted their funds, but have reached the legal limit of their borrowing capacity.

The dire conditions resulting in large cities, such as New York, Chicago, and Detroit, are well known. But it is not generally understood that conditions are worse in many smaller communities. That is true because some of the smaller towns and cities are dependent upon one industry virtually laid low by the depression, and because they have less wealth to draw upon in an emergency than have the metropolitan centers.

It is a disgrace that the centers of wealth can not or will not take care of their own unemployed. Nevertheless, it seems to be true. Such being the case, it is essential that the federal government help to feed the hungry in the large cities as well as in the small communities.

Both the Democratic plan advanced by Senate Leader Robinson and the administration plan outlined by President Hoover, accept the two-fold relief principle urged by progressives since 1930: First, immediate emergency relief to the hungry; and, second, public works to stimulate industry and provide jobs.

Whether the proposed \$300,000,000 emergency direct relief should be handled in the first instance by a separate government commission, or by the American Red Cross, or by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation does not seem to us vitally important, so long as the job is done—and done promptly and efficiently, without political favoritism.

In the matter of public works, Senator Robinson and President Hoover are making an important differentiation between general construction projects and those that are self-sustaining.

One trouble with the country already is that certain states and cities have built more roads and public buildings than they can pay for, and thus have mortgaged future taxpayers to a dangerous degree.

Obviously, when the local and federal tax load is so heavy that it contributes to the economic depression, relief should be sought in public works that produce income rather than increase taxes.

Toll roads and bridges and hydroelectric projects are types that produce financial return soon, and reforestation is a good long-term investment. Fortunately, there are plenty of income-producing projects upon which construction could be started now for the benefit of industry and of the unemployed.

The fact that leaders of both parties have committed themselves to the principle of federal unemployment relief before congress adjourns is the most hopeful news in a long time.

Wetward the Course

Wetward the course of opinion takes its way. And, one by one, America's dry surrender to its impact. The new recruits of the last fortnight include men and women of many faiths—repealers, thoroughly disgusted with the noble experiment; modificationists, still hoping and groping; mere dry submissionists.

All agree that the time has come for a showdown on the eighteenth amendment and its offspring, the Volstead act. For instance:

Representative Ruth Bryan Owen of Florida, dry daughter of a famous dry father: "I never have opposed a referendum on prohibition. My father (William Jennings Bryan) believed in the referendum. So do I."

Chester Rowell, California Hooverite and dry editor of the wet San Francisco Chronicle: "Let the Constitution prevail and let the people rule," meaning let's have a referendum.

Oswald Garrison Villard, ex-dry editor of the Nation: "Repeal the eighteenth amendment."

President Ernest M. Hopkins of Dartmouth, a former dry: "I am opposed to the eighteenth amendment, and believe it should be repealed."

Governor Henry S. Caulfield of Missouri, also an ex-dry: "The reason we have not been able to succeed with the eighteenth amendment is because it is fundamentally wrong; not wrong in purpose, but wrong in execution. It never was intended that the federal government should police the entire country."

Senator Thomas D. Schall of Minnesota, a dry: "I am willing to be quoted as advocating a referendum plank on prohibition in the Republican platform this year."

William Allen White, Emporia editor, speaking from the heart of dry Kansas: "The bitterness of the wet in the east threatens orderly government."

J. R. Nutt, G. O. P. treasurer: "I would like to see this prohibition question brought to a vote."

Representative Arthur Free of California, who represents President Hoover's home town of Palo Alto: "There is no question that prohibition has not been a success."

Representative Edgar Howard, Nebraska Democrat and former secretary to William Jennings Bryan: "The only proper plan for solving the problem of retaining or abrogating the amendment lies through expression of the popular will."

George W. Wickersham, who feels "more strongly than ever" that a roll call is needed to crystallize "the sober, informed and deliberate opinion of the people." The list includes many more wet and dry submissionists, along with most of the Hoover cabinet.

M. E. Tracy

Let Reason, Instead of Blind Fury, Rule the Nation in the Lindbergh Case.

NEW YORK, May 14.—The kidnapping of little Charles Lindbergh was greeted with unfeigned sympathy. The finding of his corpse is greeted with equally unfeigned rage.

Unfeigned emotionalism has characterized this tragedy from the beginning. First, there was maudlin applause for efforts to compromise with the underworld through pledges of immunity and cash. Now, there is a howl for severe and drastic laws. Pledges of immunity and cash accomplished little but to provide a picnic for chisellers.

Laws, passed to satisfy the present clamor, would accomplish little but to provide a picnic for loophole hunting attorneys.

We know now that sharp eyes and common sense could have solved this mystery in three days; that a properly organized search by the men available would have located the murdered child, spared the nation ten weeks of nerve-racking anxiety, ended torture for the distressed family, and saved a king's ransom.

We know now that there was no criminal Santa Claus waiting to make restitution for a price; that the problem was not to get reporters and peace officers out of the way so that he could sneak back unobserved.

We know now that it was not lack of law which prevented a solution of the mystery, nor zealous endeavors of the press to help, nor an insatiable demand for news.

We know now that those natural feelings which were permitted to dominate the case amounted to little less than an open invitation for every crook and faker to impose on people whose suffering, or susceptibility, had made them credulous.

Let It Be a Warning

LET the denouement of this awful drama be a warning. Let grief over the unhappy fate of this innocent child, whom society failed to protect, be the basis of reorganization, not to blind fury that weakens and demoralizes, once it has spent its force, but to those immutable principles of social justice, which are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Over the lifeless form of that baby who enjoyed boundless love, but who was hurled into eternity with no one by to shed an honest tear, let us swear an oath to abandon the thought that safety can be bought from crooks, or law be made strong by compromising with lawless elements.

There Is No Substitute

THERE is no substitute for common honesty and a sense of social obligation, no possibility of so arranging matters that crime can be profitable and decent people safe at the same time.

The line between right and wrong may wobble, but it must not be ignored.

There is no such animal as an honest grafter, or dependable kidnaper.

No matter how indistinct it may appear, there always is a cleavage between the forces of good and evil. No man can straddle it, without making things less secure for himself and others. No nation can think of disregarding it, without inviting chaos.

The Age of Hypocrisy

MUCH of the trouble we are in harks back to the illusionment that people can be crooked in certain respects and straight in others; that collateral is better security than character; that cleverness brings greater reward than reliability, and that success is not the real thing, unless it can be measured by money.

God knows why little Charles Lindbergh was murdered, but indirectly, the wicked, wanton, causeless crime can be attributed to the wise-cracking, jangled-up, hypocritical age in which we live—an age that pays racketeers for protection, that elects crooks to office, on the ground that they are smart politicians, that outlaws bootleggers, buys their goods at exorbitant prices, and then claps them in jail when they fail to pay income taxes on the profits they make.

Questions and Answers

How much silver does a silver dollar contain?

It contains 371.25-480 of an ounce of silver.

Who is president of the American Red Cross, and what is his salary?

The President of the United States is president of the American Red Cross. He receives no salary from that organization.

When and where was the last world's fair held in the United States?

It was the Philadelphia sesqui-centennial exposition in 1926.

What constitutes a thoroughbred among animals?

One that is bred from the purest blood or stock, of a breed kept pure for many generations.

Who was the secretary of commerce and labor in the cabinet of President Roosevelt?

First, George B. Cortelyou; second, Victor H. Metcalf, and third, Oscar S. Straus.

What is the term of office for members of the German reichstag?

When was the last election? The term is four years and the last election was Sept. 4.

What is Eddie Cantor's real name and where was he born?

His real name is Izzy Iskowitz. He was born in New York, Jan. 31, 1893, and is of Hebrew descent.

It is a French word meaning prose writer.

Who is the American minister to Bulgaria?

Henry Watton Shoemaker.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

On request, sent with stamped addressed envelope, Mr. Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.



A MONUMENT TO THE EIGHT HOUR DAY!

AUSTRALIA IS THE MOTHER OF THE 8 HOUR DAY: EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK, EIGHT HOURS FOR RECREATION AND EIGHT HOURS FOR SLEEP ENACTED IN 1856

—Melbourne, Australia

WHICH STATE IN THE UNION HAS THE RIGHT TO SUBDIVIDE INTO 5 STATES? Answer Monday

FRED ICE MAKES ICE AT THE ICE PLANT IN MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Following is the explanation of Ripley's "Believe It or Not" which appeared in Friday's Times:

A Jonah of a Key Tag—W. S. Black, a resident of Ravenna, Neb., accidentally lost his key ring while visiting in Lincoln, Neb., in 1922. Failing to recover it, he dismissed the incident from his mind. On Nov. 10, 1930, he was informed by mail that Clyde

Critchfield of Woodward, Okla., just had found the address tag of the key ring in the stomach of a ten-pound catfish caught at Dunlap, Kan.

In view of the fact that the loser never had been in that part of Kansas, the route the tag must have taken to the stomach of the catfish is extremely bewildering.

There is excellent authority for this strange fish story.

A Most "Courte" Ex-champion—Jess Willard has been a defendant in 726 lawsuits since the day he won the championship from Jack Johnson. He has lost none of these numerous legal tilts and now is facing his 727th engagement with the law with confidence, according to latest reports.

All the rest of the country compares favorably with the cities that have been mentioned, except that New Orleans suffers with a high non-resident death rate.

There were sixty-five deaths from typhoid in 1931 in New Orleans, but forty-eight of these cases were brought into the city from surrounding territory.

In Texas, Houston, San Antonio and Ft. Worth had excellent rates, and are superior in this field to Dallas and El Paso.

New England states as a whole were the lowest ever recorded, except for 1928.

Reading Pa., and Utica, N. Y., did not have a single death from typhoid fever in 1931. This is the second time that Utica has had this record.

Buffalo had less than one death for every 100,000 people. New York had a slight increase in deaths from typhoid fever in 1931, because of three small outbreaks which were traced to food handlers who were typhoid fever carriers.

The cities in the east-north central group led all others in its low typhoid averages, notwithstanding the fact that there were thirty-one deaths in Cleveland during the year; twenty of these were due to one outbreak in the state hospital for the insane.

South Bend has had two consecutive years without a death, and it seems reasonable to believe from the trend of the figures during the last ten years that the great group

of mid-western cities with nearly 10,000,000 population is headed for a complete elimination of typhoid fever.

When it is considered that there would have been 60,000 cases of the disease with 6,000 deaths in Chicago alone during 1931 if the rates of 1890 still prevailed, the world will have some idea of what a tremendous accomplishment this has been for science and for public health.

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