



The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY,
EditorROY W. HOWARD,
PresidentEARL D. BAKER,
Business Manager

PHONE—Riley 5551

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

No Weasel Words

If the delegates to the Democratic convention, which meets in Indianapolis next week, sense the demands of the people, they will know that this is not the year for weasel words or the dodging of any issue.

The Republican platform adopted a week ago leaves much to be desired from the standpoint of the independent voter who wants some real changes in government that will be reflected in industrial and governmental affairs.

While the prohibition plank of the Republican platform is advertised as a "wet" proposal, it is not as clear or as plain as those who believe that the present situation is intolerable, would desire.

At its best it is an assertion that the people have a right to rule themselves on this question, an advance of course from their attitude of years that when the Anti-Saloon League speaks, the people must obey.

But there is nothing said as to what that party would do if the question of repeal of the eighteenth amendment were submitted to the people.

It takes no stand against racketeering, against the tyranny of the federal prohibition agents, against the use of official power to punish political enemies, against the new infamies that have been introduced under the federal agents who protect their friends and punish their political enemies.

It does not even pledge its legislators to repeal the Wright law, although it does go as far as to say that they favor such action upon this local instrument of tyranny and injustice.

What the people of Indiana are demanding is a repeal of the eighteenth amendment and the substitution of a system that will no longer produce a crop of gunmen to supplant orderly government. The people want a system that will permit temperance and produce something more than bad whisky and graft.

There is a special need that the promise to the people on the matter of utility control be plain and clear. The utilities dominate government. There is a strong suspicion that they dominated the Republican convention working with Watson.

The exactions of these utilities are heavy. They have failed to respond to the trend of the times. It is impossible to regulate them under the present system and public ownership or local control must be adopted.

This is no year for pussyfooters or trimmers. The situation demands strong men and straight speaking. The forces that have brought the bankruptcy of the farmer, the distress of the merchant, the impoverishment of the worker must be overthrown.

That can not be done by attempting to placate those who have ruled through corruption in the past. The people demand the overthrow of special privilege of every sort and kind.

Up to the President

Congress, confronted with a new demand for cuts in the federal budget, after it has spent six months looking for ways to save, very properly has turned to President Hoover with a demand that he recommend to them cuts to the extent necessary for balancing the budget.

This is a duty resting on the shoulders of the President under the federal budget act—which called for careful, forthright recommendations from him monthly ago.

It is true that the President cut \$365,000,000 from the 1932 budget when he cast up the balance sheet last December, and asked for new taxes. But these were the first, obvious economies, the easiest ones to make.

When it was learned that taxes would not yield the amounts of revenue first counted on, that more savings must be made in the budget, the President did not suggest to congress how these might be made.

On the other hand, his cabinet members, unrepresented, protested again one cut after another proposed in senate and house.

While Mr. Hoover was flaying a bewildered congress for not making cuts drastically and promptly, his secretaries were appealing to congress and the country to prevent cuts. The President himself put a stop to the most promising economy of all—that to be effected by joining war and navy departments under one administrative head.

Congress already has cut as much under the 1932 budget figures as the President did—cuts that hurt. The President calls for more cuts and the senate has put the problem squarely up to him to solve.

If Mr. Hoover should have the courage and statesmanship to demand reductions in our vast expenditures for national defense, in our ship subsidies, and our mail subsidies, the lawmakers and the voters would stand behind him.

Hogs and Hukum

The cheery observation of Dr. Wilbur, secretary of the interior, that American children are better off today than in normal times made hardly more of a hit with the social workers than a recent statement by another Washington officeholder will make with the farmers.

American farmers are sitting pretty, observed Dr. R. W. Dunlap, assistant secretary of agriculture. "They are the folks who are best off," he said, "and their condition is improving steadily."

This will be news to Farmer Estes of Littleton, Colo., who reports that he took in 75 cents for seven sheep that cost the ultimate consumer \$83.70. It will puzzle Farmer Magnan out in Ft. Ripley, Minn., who says he pocketed 5 cents for a 250-pound hog that cost him \$10 to raise.

It will mystify Freddie McCargo of Randolph, Va., who claims to have shipped 457 pounds of tobacco to a market fifty miles distant and sold it for 37 cents less than freight and warehouse charges.

It will bring smiles to the faces of those farmers who still smile and whose products are selling for less than this year than last.

If Dr. Cou's psychology could cure hard times, such men as Dr. Wilbur and Dunlap would be our most useful citizens. Unfortunately, the call is for economics.

Jobless Self-Help

It is not only in Chicago that interesting and important things are happening.

In Seattle, 55,000 jobless men and women have organized the "Unemployed Citizens' League," to administer some \$150,000 of monthly public relief. These jobless, working under twenty-two co-operative district committees, run their own garage, conduct commissaries, investigate needy families, repair and repaint old houses, send workless men into forests to cut and distribute fuel wood, and raise funds by giving dances.

In Tacoma, jobless committees own a shoe factory.

and a clothing establishment, raise vegetables on vacant lots, reclaim small farms for the hungry.

On the banks of the Mississippi, near St. Louis, is "Hooverville," a city of 1,500 jobless. These have their own mayor, fire department, police and court. There being no money, there is little crime, and the police go swimming.

The Hooverville News, America's only Jobless newspaper, broadcasts: "We are badly in need of funds," but practices tolerance.

On the banks of the Potomac, thousands of jobless veterans are bivouacked on wet grass and mud as they clamor to congress for a bonus they hardly expect to get. Their self-discipline is amazing, their patience Job-like.

In New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Bridgeport, Akron and other cities, thousands of unemployed unions have been formed. These supply legal aid to prevent evictions, supervise hunger relief, organize the planting of vacant lots and farms, demand of states and nation direct relief funds, unemployment insurance, public works and substantial help.

Our country is fortunate so far this spirit of self-help and restraint rules the millions of suffering unemployed. Surely congress and the states and cities will meet them half-way.

Practical Politics

There is something refreshingly frank, and at the same time something puzzling, in the Democratic appeal for campaign funds just issued and signed by party leaders.

Campaign contributions often are solicited in more or less secret; announcements of large contributions usually are news.

But now comes the Democratic party, glowing with hope, getting down to bedrock in its appeal for money to carry on its campaign.

The "united victory fund appeal" starts with the statement that "this is a message of practical politics," and it recounts how Republican officeholders are in a position to help the G. O. P. treasury, and how "great financial interests . . . have reaped profit out of the administration's tariff bill."

It contains this naive statement:

"Nor should it be lost sight of that a dollar in the Democratic treasury today may be worth many dollars later on."

Are the Democrats promising, by indirection, the favors they condemn in the Republican administration?

That statement ought to be interpreted.

Now they are saying that it's the small profit-taker, not the bear, who is responsible for the present state of the stock market. That's the first indication we've had in some time that the small man was getting any profit.

While congress was looking about for something new to tax, its members would have done well to consider the wishes of future voters by placing a prohibitive tariff on castor oil.

There are plenty of mystery thrillers on the market, but we have yet to see one so difficult of solution as the question, "What are the Boston Braves doing up there?"

Andrew L. Mellon is a bigger figure in London than was in Washington, a cable dispatch says. But that isn't a fair comparison. Andy never tried knee pants in Washington.

At last we've found out why cadets at West Point and Annapolis feel so superior to ordinary college students. They get a job along with their diplomas.

If Germany calls a Hohenzollern back to the throne, they might as well throw away the old saying that a "burnt child dreads the fire."

Political writers are having a lot to say about what congress has done for the "vets." Haven't they gotten "vets" and "votes" confused?

Gigli says the people want a lighter and more popular form of opera. That might go for opera stars, too.

Automobile sales are bound to pick up soon. Otherwise, there won't be enough left to take care of the hitch-hikers.

The war debt that almost every male American is in favor of abolishing is alimony.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THESE are phrases which we use to keep ourselves cheerful and save the trouble of thinking. Women, for instance, are fond of repeating this one: "At least we have attained business and political equality with men."

So far as truth goes, this is a sentence devoid of meaning. Although we have come far along the road, we still have a hard trail to travel before a partisan standpant.

We are obviously in for the same old song and dance, a well-organized, well-trained chorus to sing praises of the record. Prosperity having collapsed, the boys and girls are going to tell us how efficiently the wreck has been salvaged and how thankful we should be.

M: E. Tracy

Says:

There Is No Vision at the Republican National Convention. Only a Cheap, Trafficking, Safety First Philosophy.

NEW YORK, June 15.—What promises to be the most reactionary, illiberal, unprogressive Republican convention since 1900 now is in session, with the old guard in complete control and censorship clamped on about everything, except praise of the Hoover record.

The preliminaries were enough to identify standpantism as the ruling emotion.

Keynoting for the campaign, Senator L. J. Dickinson of Iowa forgot to mention prohibition, and who can doubt that this was in obedience to orders? What he offered was a blurb on the tariff and a little romancing as to what might have happened because of the depression but for President Hoover's nation-saving graces.

He allowed the American people no credit for the courage and patience with which they have endured three years of distress and disappointment.

No Vision There

ONE begins to understand why Senator Borah is absent and why the Democrats still are hopeful, in spite of their problems and dissensions.

Here is no vision, no inspiring reaction to the demands of a country in which there is no such venturesome spirit as men must summon to their aid when confronted with great obstacles. Here is a cheap, trafficking, safety-first philosophy, which seeks nothing and hopes for nothing but to sit tight.

Interruptions by the progressive element will not be tolerated. What the various cliques and committees decide on in their night sessions will be pushed through.

If prohibition gets to the floor of the convention, it will be because some of the bosses made a mistake.

Harmony, on the surface at least, has been decreed, no matter what the cost. Should we take a repeal plank too seriously if adopted under such circumstances?

Glorious Things! Done!

THE administration at Washington is reported as being willing to give the wets most anything, provided they will keep quiet. General Charles G. Dawes can have the vice-presidency if he wants it. The Democrats already have been ridiculed for proposing a tariff conference and the Republicans exalted for participating in a naval conference.

Even the farm board has been praised, while owners of shut-down factories and laborers have been informed how much worse off they would be for the glorious things that have been done in their behalf since 1929.

Sound money, high tariffs, aid for big business, continued protection for vested interests and, above all else, the dire misfortune that would have overtaken us had the Republican party not been in power, represent the bone and sinew of the campaign as outlined by Senator Dickinson.

The Old Bunk

THE convention is being ballyhooed as dominated by substantial business men. It sounds like '96, with a so-called campaign of education in prospect. One easily can guess how much we are about to hear concerning the danger of novelties and innovations; how carefully and continuously we shall be informed that this is no time to rock the boat, or make experiments.

One easily can guess, too, that, no matter what kind of prohibition plank is adopted, the issue will be presented as nonpartisan and, therefore, not pertinent to discuss a partisan standpant.

We are obviously in for the same old song and dance, a well-organized, well-trained chorus to sing praises of the record. Prosperity having collapsed, the boys and girls are going to tell us how efficiently the wreck has been salvaged and how thankful we should be.

People's Voice

Editor Times—The Associated Press reports Senator Simeon D. Fess of Ohio as saying that the prohibition issue "must be ironed out so that both sides will be fully satisfied" and there must be "no straddling or ambiguity."

What are the facts? One side wants prohibition. The other side wants relief. No honest declaration in the platform can or will satisfy both sides. If there is no "straddling or ambiguity," the platform must declare either for or against prohibition. If it does that, it can not satisfy both sides.

The situation is interesting in that it exemplifies the mental calibre of all too many of our lawmakers. We have the pitiful spectacle of these cringing souls, bereft of courage, fearful lest they shall incur the opposition of either wets or drys. One of two things is true: Either they seek the support of the drys under a misrepresentation of their intention or they are misrepresenting their intention to the wets.

But the chief trouble seems to be a lack of heart interest. The show is clean, but dull. Since there is no central thread around which to wind the entertainment, the piece cries out for some personality and this element is wholly lacking.

Unless the performers are willing to go co-operative, there is slight possibility of a run. The house is much too big for the type of attraction offered. Somebody should tell the producers that what they have on their hands is an amateur show, if anything, and a theater setting seven or eight hundred ought to be customary.

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What the voters want and expect is a clear-cut declaration of intention. They are utterly fed up on the cheap politicians who have made a fetish of the word "noyes." It is this persistent "misrepresentation of fact" that has led to the contempt for the politician by the average "man on the street."

In business we would call it "fraud." In politics we will answer by election. We will vote for a change on the theory that no change could be worse.

We are looking for men in high office who will declare definite convictions. We may not agree with them, but by the eternal, we will know where they stand.

HARRY E. VEDDER,

518 North Delaware street.

Daily Thought

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.—St. Mark 11:24.

Those who seek for something more than happiness in this world must not complain if happiness is not their portion.—Froude.

Traveling Light!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

'Sympathetic' Eye Injury Is Puzzling

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

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN