



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### The Two Fronts

Two emergencies exist in the state. One is the high cost of government, due to waste and misdirected activities. The other is unemployment.

The special session of the legislature, unfortunately, has a majority of its membership which does not aspire to re-election or further public service. In the shadow of election, public officials are more prone to think of the public than in times when the wrath of neighbors is a distant threat.

It is more unfortunate because this special session might conceivably fall into the hands of the big interests of the state which have evinced a desire to not only again forget the "forgotten man," but to give him one more kick.

The proposal to forgive the tax dodgers their past crimes and bribe them to honesty at 25 cents on the dollar in the future is an indication. The strong opposition to an income tax is another symptom of the mental attitude of those who will attempt to direct legislation.

There is one fund susceptible of uses that might benefit the public in both the reduction of taxes and in reducing unemployment.

The highway fund amounts to twenty millions. At the present time, its value is doubtful. The state can get along with its present road system. It will need even less roads unless men get back to work and can afford to drive automobiles.

The cities contribute most of this tax. The cities tax themselves for their own street repairs. The cities receive almost nothing back from this fund.

Whatever money is spent on roads in the next year might be profitably turned back to the cities, in proportion to what they pay into the fund, to be used by them in street repairs. That would put the unemployed back to work in larger numbers than is done under road contractors, whose peonage wages are a scandal and a disgrace.

A portion of the fund might be used to reduce levies in counties. None of it should be left to the present board, whose record is such as to suggest that its abolition would be the best solution.

Of course, the one simple way to reduce the cost of government is to reduce the salaries of the highly paid officials to a level of the purchasing power of the dollar in 1929, when many increases went into effect. That is probably too simple to be followed.

Unless some thought is given to the jobless man, the problem will become more than acute next winter. As a matter of fact, it is acute now. Many counties find it difficult to give relief. This session must not adjourn until there is a guarantee that no man, woman or child will be hungry or cold when the snows begin to fly.

This is not sentiment or even humanity. It is the only way to security for those who still are safe, fed and clothed.

### "The Sweat Box"

Two Georgia prison guards have been charged with first degree murder in a case of prison torture and death, the details of which are almost too revolting to recount.

According to convict testimony, Arthur Mallefret, 19, a lad serving time for larceny and robbery in the prison camp at Bayard, was beaten severely and then placed in a "sweat box," with a chain around his neck.

Having been ill and deprived of food for two days, he was unable to stand and, falling in a faint, choked himself to death with the chain. The prisoners told of the flogging of some twenty other convicts.

Torture of prisoners belongs to another age, yet, according to a report by the late Wickersham commission, still is common in some of the more backward states of the Union.

It must be stopped. Those responsible for this young man's death should be tried and punished like other murderers.

And the states that permit such medieval practices should be held up to the scorn of more civilized commonwealths.

### Congress Has Cut

Some weeks ago, when the new tax bill was passed, a premature cry was raised that the budget had been balanced, though at that time congress had not completed the task of paring annual appropriations for the government.

Today the cuts have been accomplished, the budget has been balanced according to the requirements laid down by the administration, and yet a new wall is going up to the effect that congress has failed to economize sufficiently.

The wailing was begun when President Hoover, who complained, when signing the economy bill, that "it falls far short of the economies proposed by the cabinet and other executive officers of the government," though the bill had been amended at his insistence to contain the furlough plan for government workers, instead of the far more drastic cut plan of congress; and at his insistence had omitted consideration of war and navy departments, estimated to save \$100,000,000.

A few days later a prominent business and financial weekly warned its readers to maintain a cautious attitude toward long-term government bonds, because of "the failure of congress to slice off more than \$150,000,000 from federal expenditures."

The fact of the matter is that government expenditures for the 1933 fiscal year, now begun, have been cut approximately \$754,925,468 under those of the fiscal year just closed.

Since fixed charges, such as interest on the public debt, could not be cut, all reductions were made in the cost of operating government departments, much of them at the expense of employees.

This three quarters of a billion dollar saving includes items in the economy bill roughly estimated as

## M. E. Tracy

Says:

Can You Tell Where Hoover Stands on War Debts, Water Power, Prohibition and Relief?

NEW YORK, July 11.—War debts, water power, prohibition and relief—four of the gravest problems before this country—can you tell where President Hoover stands with regard to any of them?

Assistant Secretary of State Casper says the President's attitude toward war debts has not changed. Drys would like to know if that is true of his attitude toward prohibition. There is no doubt that his attitude toward the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has changed. As for his attitude toward water power, it seems to lean one way at Boulder dam and another at Muscle Shoals.

Governor Roosevelt is warranted in asking a personal conference with the President to find out, if possible, where the state of New York stands in development of the St. Lawrence before a treaty is concluded with Canada.

If he succeeds, he will have furnished one more proof that he should be put in Mr. Hoover's place.

Where Quarrel Started

VETO of the relief bill passed by Congress last week generally is taken for granted, with the expectation that congress then will eliminate the clause which offends the President, but which only reflects some of his earlier recommendations.

Whatever happens, let us not forget where responsibility for this quarrel originated.

Said President Hoover on Oct. 7: "Furthermore, if necessary required, I will recommend creation of a finance corporation similar in character and purpose to the war finance corporation, with available funds sufficient for any legitimate call in support of credit."

When he actually recommended creation of such corporation in his annual message some two months later, the President expressed the opinion that it should "make temporary advances upon proper securities to establish industries, railroads and financial institutions, which otherwise can not secure credit."

Squarely on Hoover

THREE days after delivering this message, the President gave out his famous twelve-point program, point seven of which was the creation of the "Reconstruction Finance Corporation, to furnish necessary credit, otherwise unobtainable under existing circumstances, and so give confidence to agriculture, to industry, and to labor."

If these three specific references to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation did not create an impression that President Hoover visualized it as an agency to lend money where money was needed, and where it could be secured by good collateral, regardless of whether the borrower ran a private or public business, there is something wrong with the English language.

Perhaps before the year is up, we may pledge our sensible cousins' health and happiness in a glass of legal American beer.

### Swat 'Em

Some thirty years ago there were 450,000 cases of typhoid fever and an annual death toll of 45,000 from that disease. By 1925 the cases had dropped to 150,000 and the deaths to 15,000.

This 300 per cent decrease is due chiefly to one thing—the war on the common house fly that carries germs to human food. Screens and the swat-the-fly movement almost have killed this once great killer.

Last week there were 391 new cases of typhoid fever in forty-five cities, a big increase over the week before. The reason is that it's summer time and fly time.

Another good old American custom has gone by the boards. With several colleges announcing that they will not permit football broadcasts this fall, it will become impossible to sit around the radio on Saturday afternoons and wonder what actually is happening on the gridiron.

A genius is a man who gets paid so much a line for writing and who promptly introduces a character who stutters.

The man who said there is much to be said on both sides of any question forgot to add that too much generally is said.

Huey Long says he is sorry he ever went to the United States senate. Which makes it just about unanimous.

An Ohio lawyer has found that there is no law forbidding birds to sing early in the morning. How did the lawmakers ever overlook that one?

A fan asks why it is that movie stars have such long holidays. The pity of it is that some of them don't have 365 holidays a year.

### Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

ONE of the worst travesties on American justice is taking place at this writing at Los Angeles. A girl named Hazel Joan St. Pierre is suing David L. Hutton, husband of our well-known soul-saver, Aimee, for \$200,000.

Miss St. Pierre claims that he jilted her to wed the evangelist, and therefore she is the victim of a broken heart, and nothing less than the above sum can soothe her ruffled feelings.

The trial makes excellent light summer reading. It smacks of the movies. The remarks tossed back and forth by the leading characters are filled with sort of badinage that passes for wit among the gossips and certain of our modern smart alecks. The witswicks scintillate.

And when the defense announces that the plaintiff once spoke of the pious baritone as "a big fat slob" the house rocks with laughter.

Miss St. Pierre's sallies with the lawyers show that her wit is not so heavy as her heart. It is highly interesting to learn that the amorous Mr. Hutton composed love ditties to many ladies, and the descriptions of his sofa technique and his mastery of the art of kissings are truly soul-stirring.

Only a Democratic national convention could have pushed this case to an inside page.

IT'S too bad that admission could not have been charged to help defray the expense. For the proceedings well might be taking place in some darkened theater before a moving picture audience of adolescents.

But that such a parody actually could engage the attention of our courts of law and take up the time of judges and attorneys is beyond the comprehension of the layman, who has been taught to think of the judiciary as the dignified element of government.

With the possible exception of England, ours is the only country on earth where such a trial could take place, and where taxpayers of a commonwealth would not rise in rebellion at such expenditure of public time and money.

Why not pension those people and let them spend their declining years in their own homes, where they can retain their self-respect, instead of sending them to the infirmary, where they are treated like airmen?

This kind of thing constitutes one of the biggest rackets in the land. It is discouraging to see that the American bar makes no effort to stop it.

## And He Was Going to Make Such a Splash!



### DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Child Behavior Puzzles Studied

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

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