



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Watson's Coattails

Senator James Eli Watson announces that he will not return to Indiana during the special session of the legislature. His reason is explicit. Rather, it is an abject confession.

"I am not going to give any one a chance to grab me by the coattails," is the announcement of the great statesman.

Passing the suggestion that, where issues are involved, his coattails are the only part of his vesture ever visible to the voter, the senator says that he knows nothing of the problems before the legislature, nothing of the conditions in the state and has no suggestions.

Here is the real Watson, admitting his nudity of ideas and of thoughts or principles.

There are hundreds of thousands of men and women out of work and Watson knows nothing of Indiana.

There are thousands of families living upon charity from public funds that are near depletion, and he does not even suggest that the hungry must be fed and the naked clothed.

There are increasing numbers of farmers whose lands are being confiscated by an unjust share of taxation, and this expert on tariffs will not lend, even by a word, his senatorial influence to relief.

There are small home owners whose life savings are being threatened by catastrophe, and Watson refuses to come to the state which sent him, to its own shame and grief, to the United States senate, to give constructive contribution to the problem.

There is an emergency in the state—so declared by Governor Leslie—and Watson does not dare to return to his stricken and embarrassed province.

He serves notice upon the voters of this state that he does not care to listen to their troubles.

He serves notice that he does not want a single citizen of this state to grab his coattails as he dodges the results of his lifetime of evasion and political perfidy.

Others have not found him so inaccessible. There was, for example, the sugar lobbyist who turned over stock of a sugar company in return for the unsecured note of the senator.

By tariff increases, upon which the senator would have an important voice, the stock should have increased in price. That was the expectation when Watson took the stock from the man interested in an action of the senate.

The depression, not the refusal of Watson to attempt to increase the value of his stock by an increase in the price of sugar to every family in the state, prevented the profit.

And Watson, with a brazenness never equalled in the history of the senate, announced that the note he gave was worthless and the stock for which it paid was also worthless.

The state may be congratulated that Watson will not come back to Indiana with any suggestions.

If he gave advice there would always be the suspicion that some special interest had handed him securities in return for worthless notes in order to influence his opinion.

When cowardice is added to such ethical and moral blindness, no voter of this state can be longer fooled. Indiana owes the nation the duty of seeing that Watson no longer has a voice in national affairs. It owes itself the duty of restoring its own self-respect that not even an invitation to Rapidan can bulwark.

### Charity's Twilight

Congress has passed the relief bill, which authorizes Reconstruction Finance Corporation loans up to \$300,000,000 to states to relieve distress.

"Totally inadequate to meet the minimum requirements of the critical situation," as President William Green of the American Federation of Labor calls this federal aid provision, it marks a momentous change in American psychology. The so-called federal "dole" is here.

This country is loosing itself from old moorings, and moving to new ports. Almost as unfamiliar as the late Hoover phrase, "rugged individualism," sounded the remark of Pennsylvania's senator, David A. Reed: "We are making mendicants of the people and of the states."

The same old gush, you see. And I can't decide whether it proves that European women are better wives or European men worse husbands.

What are the qualities that mark the good wife? Opinions will differ, naturally, as they always differ upon other questions. But surely no one will contend that the traits of a dear, sweet, helpless child constitute the acme of feminine marital perfection.

For years the people have believed, with Henry Ford, that "routine charity is a shameful thing," debasing both to those who give it and those who take it. Inspiring as are the benevolences of kindly men and women of wealth, they no longer will suffice.

But even public giving is a mere expedient. Security must and will come through a social reorganization that makes a dole unnecessary. Such guarantees of security as industrial compensation and the old-age pension laws in seventeen states point the way.

We must add to these compulsory unemployment insurance reserves, health insurance, and social bulwarks against the risks of industry and life.

Pending the coming of these reforms, those blessed with more than they need must give to those

## M. E. Tracy

Says:

*Great as Its Work May Have Been, Congress Sidestepped More Than It Settled.*

**N**EW YORK, July 18.—The session of congress just ended was unique. The measures it adopted never were equaled in peace, and only once in war.

It legislated gloriously, rowed gloriously, and neglected opportunities gloriously. Cutting appropriations by \$1,000,000,000, raising taxes by \$1,000,000,000 and expanding credit facilities by \$5,000,000,000 set a real record.

As a general proposition, President Hoover got what he wanted, but it hasn't done much good thus far. In spite of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Glass-Steagall bill, people still find it difficult to obtain credit.

Better results are expected from the home loan bank bill and the \$2,000,000,000 relief bill, both of which were passed just before the session ended.

### Good and Bad

**T**o sum it up, congress made a notable reduction in federal expenses, authorized a notable increase in taxes, and created machinery whereby credit ought to be available for an enormous amount of public and private work.

But congress did very little to encourage foreign trade, or straighten out the Russian situation.

Rejection of the Patman cash bonus bill was in line with sound public policy, but failure to modify the Volstead act was not.

It is paradoxical that congress should have ignored Muscle Shoals while formulating a great public works program. It is equally paradoxical that congress should have taken six votes on prohibition before the conventions came out for submission of the eighteenth amendment, and not one afterward.

Furthermore, we have been pay rolls to a merry rate. As a result of Canadian retaliatory duties against us and of her wiser and more advantageous trade relations abroad, American factories making tires, farm machinery, chemicals, and other goods have invested more than \$500,000,000 across the border.

In view of such obstacles, Britain doubtless will be satisfied to make separate trade agreements and for the rest of the time indulge in motherly and brotherly influence on the coming campaign.

The President got his way with regard to individual loans by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but Speaker Garner got his way with regard to publicity for loans. The two will make it a draw, but we won't.

We are going to fight the battle all over again between now and next November. Indeed, we are going to fight many battles all over again, some of which congress tried to settle and some of which it tried to sidestep.

Great as its work might have been, congress sidestepped more than it settled. This was because it gave attention to temporary needs, rather than permanent problems.

Most of our permanent problems remain exactly where they were seven months ago.

### It's a Failure

**T**HOUGH the depression probably was brought to head by temporary blunders, it was made possible by permanent defects—defects like the Smoot-Hawley bill, the eighteenth amendment, the lack of a power policy, and so on.

How can we hope for anything like real recovery until those defects have been overcome?

We can not, of course, and that is where this session of congress, as well as the Hoover administration, has fallen down.

Admitting that it was necessary to repair damages and provide for immediate needs first, we can not expect to get back on our feet without reshaping public policy to serve those purposes which have been disclosed by the depression as essential.

We can not expect prosperity to return as long as gang rule threatens domestic trade and an unconscionable tariff balks foreign trade.

### Holding Companies

If the utility holding company system is not abandoned as a result of weaknesses exposed during the present period of financial stress it will be regulated thoroughly by the federal government.

This seemed certain today, as the federal power commission joined the swelling chorus of those who believe in following this course.

The power commission, after more than a year's investigation, finds that "federal control of the holding company is absolutely essential to effective public regulation of the operating company," and explains that in trying to estimate the accuracy of the accounts of its licensees it has been hampered constantly by the fact that holding companies are able to impose charges for services to their subsidiaries, and then retain control of all records showing whether these charges are justified.

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