



# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

## The Sales Tax Threat

Every citizen is interested in the threat of the special session of the legislature to legalize a sales tax as a way of supporting state and local governments.

The argument advanced is that the present forms of taxation will not bring in enough revenue to keep the government functioning.

The legislature has fixed definite limits as to expenditures. It is attempting to say that every city shall reduce its expenses by a definite percentage.

That law is bad, of course. In such cities as Indianapolis where there is no hint of waste or extravagance and where economy is practiced, the new law may mean a serious deflation of official activities that will leave the community unprotected.

There are some expenses of government that no mayor can reduce.

The interest on debts is fixed. There is little that can be done in the saving of money for supplies furnished to the hospitals. Nothing can be done about water and electric bills, if the city is to be protected against disastrous configurations and to keep its streets lighted at night.

Under the former administrations, cuts could have been made without seriously threatening the welfare of the city. But that period is over. The waste has been eliminated.

The arbitrary tax reduction, coupled with the policy of turning over all tax matters to the state tax board, means that there is likely to be a chaotic condition next year.

It is quite possible that the police force must be cut to a point where it is no protection against crime.

It is possible that the first department may not have funds to run and that the schools will be compelled to shorten their school year considerably.

But now that the damage is done, the tax lobby is bent on preventing an income tax.

That is the real reason for the proposed sales tax. The income tax has wide endorsement. It has the merit of taking money from those who have it. But the sales tax is levied for the most part against the wage and salary workers. It will raise the price of everything that is consumed in the home.

States which have tried the sales tax do not find it a success. It breeds discontent, perhaps because of its stupidity and costliness of operation.

Taxes on incomes can be justified. They measure the ability to pay. Naturally the over-comfortable do not like it. The sales tax is their preference.

The time is short. If you happen to know any of the members of the legislature, you might tell them what you think of the plan to soak the poor in these desperate times and relieve the burdens of the rich.

## "The Aimless Army"

The United States children's bureau rightly is aroused over a situation that is bringing a harvest of social evils. An "aimless army" of 300,000 boys, plied loose from home life and driven by the depression to wander about the land as box car hoboes, "bundle-stiffs," "hitch-hikers" and "flivver tramps," is a prey to forces of degeneration.

After a national study, the bureau finds that, unlike the usual transients, most of these "are young men and boys who normally would be at work or in school." Communities, unable to care for their own, have relapsed into "the vicious practice of 'passing on' due to the sheer inadequacy of local resources." The resulting hardships and hazards are frightful.

We read that many are killed and maimed in boarding freight cars. Disease, vermin, filth, perversion are rife. Many eat nothing but a meager ratio of coffee, bread and beans. Their "homes" are the "jungles," their companions and teachers are criminals and degenerates.

It is useless to blame the communities for this condition. But it is criminal to do nothing about it. The remedy appears to lie in two channels of endeavor. The first is to see that the young wanderers get ample food, adequate housing and medical care. The second is to do everything possible to keep them anchored—restored to home or given a new home.

Projects such as reforestation camps offer a means of wholesome outdoor work for adventurous young men.

Squalid conditions themselves will help to rob "the open road" of its glamor if the boys are given a decent alternative. The communities' job is to make their homes livable and to prevent disastrous migrations.

This will cost effort, co-operation and money. But whatever the cost, it will be cheaper than the aftermath of crime.

## Rinty

On Monday, Rin Tin Tin of Hollywood lay down, looked trustingly into his master's eyes, and died. He had reached the ripe old age of 14 and was a bit tired after thirteen years of hard work. But, like John Drew, Sir Henry Irving, Joseph Jefferson, and other great actors, he died on the job. He was about to start on the first of four films starring him as Rinty.

Rinty was a creature of intelligence, a great actor, and a great dog. He died a millionaire and one of Hollywood's two most popular actors. His going will bring an achoe to the hearts of admiring millions of fans.

If there is an eternal stage set aside for dogs, Rinty has gone there in glory, to chase cats and villains and bark in the applause of angel audiences.

We are glad his son, Rinty Jr., survives to carry on the noble tradition.

## Background Workers

"A man can do a great deal of good in this world if he is willing to let some one else get the credit for it."

We have seen that admirable saying itself credited to the late John Morley—and others. Probably the man who actually said it first never got the credit for it, and so illustrates part of its truth.

But whoever "owns" it, how equally and without bitterness it belongs forever to hosts of cheerfully toiling men and women.

Permanent undersecretaries who carry on the real work of government offices, whose respondent "chiefs" come and go and get all the glory.

Scientific workers in laboratories who accumulate the data and do the patient experimenting from which some inventor strikes the spark and becomes immortal.

Background diggers feed statesmen's minds and help prepare the speeches and projects hailed as "epoch-making."

Sometimes these dim toilers emerge and themselves become famous. But many of them lack the "limelight gift" and go on doing useful work that earn no reward in the headlines.

Without envy, without malice, without the discon-

tent that slows up effort, they "do a great deal of good in this world," regardless of who gets the credit.

And honor to them, to their genuine if uncelebrated achievements, to their unflagging zeal and courage!

## Good Signs

Seasons of stress call for boldness, decisiveness, clarity, frankness, directness. Often, during the last four years, we have criticised President Hoover for indecision. We have criticised Governor Roosevelt on the same ground.

While disagreeing with President Hoover on many of the policies enumerated in his speech of acceptance, we are glad to note a quality of positiveness in that speech—a quality that is new, refreshing, and reassuring.

On the same day, Governor Roosevelt stepped into the opening of the Walker trial with quite the same decisiveness as that which characterized the Hoover speech. We sincerely trust that Roosevelt will demonstrate the same trait in his campaign utterances, and that Hoover will continue as he has started. The times cry out against the side-stepper and the pussyfooter.

In no part of his speech did Hoover more strikingly display that tendency away from the negative and into the positive than in his discussion of prohibition. Four years ago what he had to say was only weasel words about "a great social and economic experiment, noble in motive and far-reaching in purpose;" about "searching investigation" into something, the failure of which already was so obvious as to require no investigation.

But now in 1932, Hoover comes out for a change. And some of his words are no less drastic than might have been employed on the same subject by Alfred E. Smith.

We do not believe in Hoover's program for a change. We do not believe that even the slightest trace of prohibition should remain in the Constitution of the United States. We do not believe that police regulations belong there. Complete repeal is the only final answer.

But, apart from the method of the change, there can be no mistaking the fact that Herbert Hoover now is clear in his conclusion on the larger question of whether prohibition is a failure. He says:

"An increasing number of states and municipalities are proving themselves unwilling to engage in such enforcement. Due to these forces, there is in large sections an increasing illegal traffic in liquor.

"But worse than this there has been in those areas a spread of disrespect not only for this law, but for all laws, grave dangers of practical nullification of the Constitution, a degeneration in municipal government, and an increase in subsidized crime."

That—coming from Hoover—sounds the death knell to the domination of politics by the Scott McBrides, the Dinwiddies, the Bishop Canons, the Clarence True Wiliams, the Anti-Saloon League.

No matter what plan may be adopted, the Republican plan of revision, or the Democratic plan of outright repeal, national prohibition as we know it is being placed in the casket.

They're still arguing about whether John Hanson or George Washington was the first President of the United States. If they keep that up much longer, the only solution will be for the supreme court to hold the Declaration of Independence unconstitutional.

A great deal has been written about the fact that the ancient Greeks didn't use the word Olympic in referring to the Olympic games. The whole thing could have been avoided by the simple statement that none of our sports writers are ancient Greeks.

Cal Coolidge has announced that he'll have little part in the presidential campaign. Cal lost practically all interest in presidential campaigns shortly after November, 1924.

A Hollywood movie star brags that she once remained in a hot bath for twenty-four hours. Must have been preparing for one of those hard-boiled parts.

Lumbago means that the blood is poor, a doctor tells us. Or that the lawn needs mowing, we might add.

A Hollywood star has been late at all four of his bathing, a gossip tells us. He ought to try a new best man.

A novelist says that he frequently fails to write a single word in the first hour he works. Just another argument for the one-hour work day.

In Chicago, at least, they'll have to change the answer to the old problem: asking how much Johnny receives if he works four days at \$4 a day.

## Just Every Day Sense

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

"LET us," cried the militarists, "be prepared for every emergency." We were. With guns, with tanks, with gas bombs, the great United States army route dand put to flight the tattered remnants of the B. E. F. Thisfeat probably will not go down in history as another victory of Mania bay. No chronicler will have the temerity to mention this exploit. The flag of our country forever must fly at half staff here.

Yet we still may count upon such results when armed men go forth to suppress riots, uprisings and revolts with the unarmed. For the man with a gun always will find a good excuse to use it, just as a nation with a great army will contrive eventually to get it is too late.

Just because she does not see these things is no reason they do not exist.

People do not ask for the saloon's return, but the woman who passed them was no more of a by-word among the men who congregated in front of them than they now are by the crowd in front of the poolrooms.

Some of our womanhood do things today that make the rest of us blush because we are women and what some of these young girls are going to tell their children I, for one, don't know.

True, some who were confirmed drunkards are trying to do right, even then they did have stuff that was decent to drink, as such stuff goes, but now a self-respecting hog would not drink it. READER.

Those preoccupied with the manufacture of armaments will want to utilize them. Of this you may be sure. Yes, the army always is prepared. And some of its salines into enemy territory are as useless and ignoble as the recent charge on Camp Anacostia.

When we must pay for arms to kill our hungry countrymen, then it seems to me that the ultimate charge against militarism has been written.

Without envy, without malice, without the discon-

## M. E. Tracy

Says:

Hoover's Speech Shows That He Is the Same Phlegmatic, Slow-Moving Standpatter That He Always Was.

NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—President Hoover's acceptance speech was logically self-satisfied and disappointingly original. He appears to have learned something about war debts from his 1928 opponent, former Governor Al Smith, and something about prohibition from the Democratic platform.

Whether he has learned anything from the depression is not so clear. He still believes in prosperity and, having failed to preserve it, thinks the American people should give him a chance to restore it.

He still sympathizes with the drys, but recognizes the necessity of being wet.

Virtually all the interesting suggestions President Hoover made can be traced to borrowed ideas or changed opinions, and the changed opinions come too late to be regarded otherwise than as the products of submission to pressure.

One can not read that the President says about changing the eighteenth amendment, or solving the debt problem, without suspecting that he voices a synthetic viewpoint, rather than his own.

As some can about changing the eighteenth amendment, or solving the debt problem, without suspecting that he voices a synthetic viewpoint, rather than his own.

Indeed, its studied character was so apparent as to leave the impression that it might have been benefited by some collaboration, if not editing. Not that such a thing is unusual, or would reflect on the author, but that it scarcely reveals a great leader.

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