



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co. 211-212 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. 50 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier 12 cents a week. Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$3 a year; outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

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

PHONE—Riley 6551.

THURSDAY, AUG. 18, 1932.

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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

Ask the Candidates

The petty loan gentry, basking in the protection of a law that gives them the right to charge 42 per cent a year to the desperate borrower, are in a happy spot.

The special session of the legislature failed to pass any law that would lessen this rate of interest. The death of the proposals came in the lower house where members of both parties joined in the last moment in the slaughter.

The inside history of the death of needed laws is not a pleasant one. It is filled with distressing incidents. The methods of the lobby were even worse than those employed by the utilities and they were bad enough.

So until a new legislature and a new Governor are elected, the same old usury will prevail.

Some of the companies engaged in this business insist that they do not charge above the 2 per cent a month which was the limit suggested in proposed laws. But, unfortunately for themselves, they joined with the others in endeavoring to defeat the remedial measures and must accept a part of the responsibility.

The government loans money to banks and railroads and big financial institutions at 3½ per cent a year.

It is quite conceivable that some of this money finds its way to these very loan companies to be loaned out to human beings at 3½ per cent a month.

Usury is the oldest of recognized social crimes. It dates back into written history as the worst form of offense.

Before you vote for any candidate for the next legislature, find out whether he voted on this measure in the special session. If he voted to protect the present practices, you can safely afford to vote for his opponent. You could do no worse.

If the candidate is not asking re-election, ask him where he stands on this matter. It will be one guide to his fitness for office.

There is a need in society for these loaners to those who have great needs and little security. But there is no place for those concerns which by comparison would make a philanthropist of Shylock.

Two per cent a month should seem to be a fair return in the days when the government is loaning to private industry at 3½ per cent a year.

Chore Boys in Congress

A congressman's lot, like a Gilbert and Sullivan policeman's, is not a happy one.

Take the case of Representative David John Lewis of Cumberland. Of Maryland's six men of congress, none is able to Lewis. His career, from the time he started work at 9 as a coal miner, has been one of sturdy, honest service.

As a former United States tariff commissioner and four-term congressman, he has led the fight against Grundy. He was father of the parcel post. He headed a move to regulate coal mining, the Costigan-La Follette relief bill in the house, framed other constructive national measures.

Yet he is the one Marylander who faces serious opposition. The chief charge against him is that he is too much a statesman, too little a messenger for his constituents.

Lewis' dilemma is not unusual. If congressmen become effective in national or international matters, they're damned by the local boosters for letting others get away with the pork.

If they spend their days running errands for the home folks to the neglect of the duties of statecraft, they're damned as provincials. Which horn shall they scratch?

A good congressman, of course, will grasp them both. Since his is a dual function, he will work for the home folks and for the U. S. A. with equal energy. And, since each year the job of law making at Washington becomes more exacting, each year the people should choose their representatives with greater care.

Right now there are too many local messengers, too few statesmen. The ideal is a happy combination of both. In selecting their 435 representatives and thirty-three senators this fall, the voters will do well to remember that something more is needed than chore boys.

Putting the Kellogg Pact to the Test

According to the Kellogg pact, the United States has renounced war as an instrument of national policy. But the nation objects, apparently, to having its prospective citizens do so. The Mackintosh case, decided by the supreme court last year, illustrated this.

Professor Mackintosh asserted that he would have to get advice from his conscience and God before he could participate in another war. His citizenship application was denied.

A much more specific effort to expose the inconsistency of the government was made in the case of W. H. Dewar, who appeared recently before Judge Stein in Elizabeth, N. J., applying for citizenship.

He tied up his application specifically with the language of the Kellogg pact. He describes his experience in a letter to the American Civil Liberties Union:

"I appeared before Judge Alfred A. Stein in county court Feb. 25. A representative of the government, Mr. Steadman, said to Judge Stein that I had been instructed to send in a written statement and had failed to do so.

"I explained to Judge Stein that I, and my wife, also, had understood it was a matter of choice as to whether I should send a written statement or answer questions before him.

"On the government's representative's insistence that there be a written statement, Judge Stein suggested that I retire to his chambers and prepare such a statement. I do not have a copy of that statement, as it was written in longhand.

"The government representative asked for an opportunity to present a brief opposing the application, whereupon Judge Stein took the matter under advisement.

"Mr. Forrest Bailey wrote me suggesting that I seek an opportunity to state my reservation in the language of the Kellogg-Briand peace pact.

"I got in touch with Judge Stein, explained to him that I would like an opportunity to put in a substitute statement in more careful language. He said I could do this and I then sent the following statement:

and expressed the hope that in stating my position in these terms I had done so in a form legally acceptable for granting of citizenship.

"Union county naturalization court is held the last Thursday of each month. It so happened that Judge Stein was not sitting until June 30. I appeared on that day and the application was denied.

"Judge Stein said he was very sorry, but on the basis of previous decisions, as submitted to him in the government brief, he would have to deny the application. I asked if the revised statement had been taken into consideration in reaching his decision and he replied that had.

"In denying the application, he said he did so without prejudice, which meant that should I at any time change my views, and make a new application, this decision would not in any way prejudice the new application.

"I do not know what was in the government brief, but on my first appearance in court, Mr. Steadman called attention to the fact that my position was similar to that taken by Professor Mackintosh and I presume it is on that decision that the objection was made."

Veterans Versus Veterans

One of the worst results of the President's use of the army against the bonus marchers in Washington is the new force it has given the cash bonus movement in the American Legion.

Last year the legion, in national convention, refused to support this demand. But the legion meeting in Portland, Ore., next month is expected to swing into line behind the bonus marchers' program.

Some advance idea of the temper of the Portland convention can be gathered from the attitude of the various state conventions now in session. Of the twenty-two state meetings already held, fifteen have adopted resolutions for the cash bonus.

It is noteworthy that in such states as Massachusetts and Ohio, the cash bonus demand was linked with a bitter protest against Hoover's folly in calling out federal troops to ride down unarmed veterans.

Even those in least sympathy with the bonus agitation easily can understand that the emotion reaction of rank-and-file veterans throughout the country to the "battle of Anacostia" has given a new and dangerous character to this drive.

The policy of this newspaper is well known. It is not a popular policy, either with the administration or the veterans. It is the same policy which the Ohio legion state convention hissed when expressed by Senator Bulkley.

We have fought and will continue to fight for protection of the veterans in their right to be free. We have opposed and will continue to oppose the administration's terrorist tactics.

We urge adequate care for war disabled veterans. We have demanded and will continue to demand unemployment relief for veterans and nonveterans. But there we stop.

We will not support any blanket measure, such as the cash bonus which will set apart all veterans—rich and poor, sick and well—as a privileged class, to be supported by the taxpayers, while nonveteran classes suffer.

World war veterans and their dependents are getting three-quarters of a billion dollars annually from the government. Much of it is deserved, some of it is not. Special benefits now given to veterans for disabilities which have no connection with service to their country should be discontinued.

Unless those just economies are made in present veteran appropriations, along with other federal economies in military preparedness and special subsidies to favored industries, there will be no adequate unemployment relief.

We appeal to those veterans who have health and jobs. If they try to get more money out of the government for themselves they will jeopardize the funds for the care of disabled veterans, helpless veterans needing and deserving special care.

They will endanger the federal unemployment relief fund, which must stand between jobless veterans and starvation.

There is neither sense nor fair play in any employed veterans asking special depression relief—such as the cash bonus—from the government when every penny of such relief is needed to feed the unemployed, both veterans and nonveterans.

Payment of \$2,400,000,000 of cash bonus—most of it to able-bodied and employed veterans—is impossible. Taxpayers will not stand for it. Public opinion will not permit it.

Politicians and veterans' leaders stirring up this agitation can not deliver. They are arousing a class against the rest of the country. When the movement fails, as it must fail, there will be a terrific veterans' reaction, which the leaders and politicians can not control. Then public opinion will prevail.

Four weeks remain before the legion's national convention. There still is time for the legion leaders to show the veterans the injustice, the hopelessness and the danger in this movement.

Just Every Day Sense

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

WE often speak of the arrogance of youth. Yet it hardly can equal the arrogance of age.

It is unfortunate that so many men in middle life regard the oncoming generations so casually. Now and then they seem to feel that the boys and girls are interlopers and pointedly ignore their ideas or laugh at their suggestions. They inflict hurts that rankle and never may heal.

And in this respect, the pompous elders commit bitter mistakes which frequently react upon their own heads. For time goes quickly. The lad of today soon will be the business man of tomorrow.

They like to think that business and politics will progress, as they have done in recent decades, and that progress spells, not alterations, but merely an accumulation of money and power for his kind and his generation.

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YET this sort of individual may find himself suddenly deposed by the very boys whom he now ignores. Middle age always is just around the corner, with old age not upon his heels.

The super-lords of today may find themselves crowded from their places of authority and displaced by younger, bolder men. They even may become suppliants for favors at the hands of the lads who have come of age.

This is one reason why it is stupid to be too inconsiderate of the opinions of youth. As a mere act of self-preservation, the youngsters should be accorded a dignified hearing.

For boys and girls just out of high school or college, from every walk of life and every race, with their heads filled with dreams, have a great deal to contribute to this business of living.

I called attention to the fact that the quotations were taken directly from the Kellogg peace pact, which I understood was the supreme law of the land,

M. E. Tracy

Says:

We Should Be Working for Modification of the Prohibition Law, Instead of Dreaming of Repeal.

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—Many wets are so sure of repeal that they won't even talk about modification. That's a mistake. At best, repeal is a long way off. It needs a two-thirds majority in each house of congress to begin with and can be blocked indefinitely by thirteen states.

Modification can be brought about by a simple act of congress. It would not solve the prohibition problem, of course, but it would produce something like \$400,000,000 in revenue for the federal government.

Nothing stands in the way of modification, but apathy. Overconfidence often is the chief cause of apathy. When people think they have a thing clinched, they are likely to lie down on the job.

That is what they are doing right now with regard to congress and the Volstead act. They are overrating the change in sentiment, and under-rating the difficulties of amending the Constitution.

It's Practical Step

WE can get beer and a tax on beer within six months. It is doubtful whether we can get repeal within two or three years.

Legalized beer would go far toward removing the menace from bootlegging. A tax on beer would go equally far toward relieving the oppressive burden of providing

At this moment we should be working for modification, instead of dreaming about repeal.

As H. I. Harriman, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, has pointed out, modification is one effective measure of relief which can be adopted easily. All it requires is the election of a majority of the right kind of congressmen.

Modification is a practical step toward repeal. It deserves support for that reason, if for no other. This waiting for a "whole hog" is dangerous.

Nothing is doing so much to create disrepect for law as the tolerance of an illegal traffic. Nothing is doing more to finance corruption and encourage gang rule.

The fact that we want to end it all and expect to end it all should not be regarded as an excuse for failure to end any of it whenever and wherever we can.

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