

The Indianapolis Times



(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-229 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents a copy; elsewhere, 5 cents—delivered weekly, 12 cents a week. Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$5 a year; outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

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MONDAY, AUG. 22, 1932.

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

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

A Firmer Roosevelt

(The following editorial appearing in the New York World-Telegram, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, gives an impression from his home city of Franklin D. Roosevelt's performance to date in the Mayor Walker hearings.)

Praise without grudge or stint, we think, is due Governor Roosevelt for his fine handling of the Mayor Walker hearings.

From the first moment the Governor took command. For seven days, through the maze of technicalities, obstacles, and delays in which the mayor and his counsel have sought to entangle the proceedings, the Governor has gone straight ahead, never losing his grip on his sense of direction.

He has shown more than mere lawyer's skill. He has shown a firmness, a determination, a down-rightness that can not but impress many persons who, while admiring the Governor's qualities of mind, have found him lacking in moral and political backbone. And the test has been no light one.

The brilliant James J. Walker, accustomed to conquer by sheer personal fascination, has met his match.

Against the flashing adroitness, the facile evasions of the mayor, the Governor has used only quiet, perfectly controlled questioning, courteous but penetrative. Yet by the mere heat of a question he has pricked bubble after bubble.

Amid the endless flood of objection, quibble, obstruction, and preposterous demand from the mayor's counsel, the Governor's patience has been well nigh inexhaustible. Yet he has yielded nothing, and he has administered sharp and telling rebukes when needed.

"Have you read my decision in the Farley case?" knocked endways Counsel Curtin's plea for exclusion of the mayor's personal finances.

Elimination of the mayor's first term acts likewise was refused flatly. "I consider the evidence which was the basis of the charges, if you admit that it was taken properly under oath, as sufficient evidence to require (1) an answer by the mayor and (2) questioning by me of the mayor," disposed of the Curtin attempt to keep out all the Hofstader committee testimony.

completely called the Curtin bluff about subpehinga.

The Governor's quick, bland "motion granted" all the Hofstader witnesses—and dashed the mayor's hopes of martyrdom.

"Confine yourself to the evidence," "don't talk any more," "what I want is the kernel," "I shall take charge of this proceeding pretty soon and shut it off," are other samples of Roosevelt insistence on keeping to the track.

Curtis lets his party do his thinking for him. He is regular; he is conservative. At 72 he still is a champion handshaker. People like him.

His job in this campaign will be to supply the jolly touch which Hoover lacks—call 'em by their first names, the good old G. O. P. doctrine, what was good enough for pa is good enough for me, the American home must be protected, mother, the protective tariff.

The highest tribute to Governor Roosevelt's grasp of the case is the mayor's present desperate resort to the courts to challenge the Governor's removal power. It would appear that to attack that power now seems to Mayor Walker his last and only chance.

He apparently does not dare trust to the Governor's judgment and decision. The hearings have given the mayor no confidence whatever that consideration for Tammany will influence the decision.

For this excellent conduct of a difficult and important proceeding in the history of city and state, Franklin D. Roosevelt is entitled to full credit.

We have disagreed with some of his policies. We have disapproved of his hesitations. We have deplored his delays. But in the Walker removal proceeding, we think the Governor has shown, so far, commendable vigor and firmness.

We hope he will go on displaying the same qualities, not only as Governor of the state, but as candidate for the presidency. They are the qualities he needs, the qualities we should be glad to see him demonstrate further.

Good Work by Weather Man

When we think of the United States weather bureau, most of us simply think of an organization which contrives somehow to get a forecast of to-morrow's weather on the front page of the daily paper. We seldom realize that the bureau's work can save many human lives, on occasion.

A good example of the fine work the bureau can do was provided in connection with the recent hurricane that lashed the coast of Texas.

On Aug. 13, at 9:30 a. m., the weather bureau issued warnings that a "tropical disturbance of increasing intensity" had arisen in the gulf and was moving in the general direction of Galveston.

The storm did not strike until night. Because of the warning, Galveston and many adjacent places had been able to prepare for it; and many people who would have been killed if the storm had come unexpectedly were able to save their lives.

The Columbus Speech

Roosevelt's campaign speech at Columbus was splendid—as far as it went. His attack on the Republican administration for furthering the speculative orgy of 1929, for false statements regarding business conditions and for initial failure to understand or cope with the depression, was effective.

But this Roosevelt feat was not difficult. Hoover, having taken credit for the sunshine, should not refuse to take blame for the storm.

Of course, Roosevelt laid on the blame a bit too thick, as is customary in campaign oratory. He failed to give the President credit for certain admirable, if inadequate, reconstruction measures of 1932.

But since the Republican ballyhoo more than balances this omission by the Democrats, there is no danger that the voter will remain ignorant of such virtues as Hoover possesses.

That third of Roosevelt's speech outlining his own program should have been more important than the two-thirds blasting the already deflated myth that Hoover is the great engineer. But it was not.

The nine-point Roosevelt program of economic reform touches only the surface of the problem. We share his desire for effective governmental control of holding companies, of stock exchanges, and of banks, without having as much faith as Roosevelt that such regulation will alter the economic trend basically, either in good times or bad.

We are inclined to think that Wall street and our financial maladies are results rather than causes of the ravages of this dog-eat-dog economic system.

There seemed some hint of this in Roosevelt's discussion of mass production and the machine in creating unemployment, and the contradiction of tariff walls and foreign loans. But he was silent regarding remedies.

Would he reduce the tariff wall? He does not say. Would he attack machine-made unemployment with

national economic planning under a government board, or with higher wages and shorter work periods, or would he use some other method to redistribute wealth and thus maintain a mass market for mass production?

Or would he go in the opposite direction, turning back to the hopeful, but ineffective, trust-busting era of his fifth cousin, T. R.? He does not say.

Roosevelt ridicules Hoover for preaching "take this government out of business," while practicing "put the government into business"—and then proceeds to put himself on both sides of the same fence.

For all the fanfare of frankness in the Columbus speech, we are almost as ignorant as before regarding Franklin Roosevelt's basic economic problem.

The laudable but doubtful program of regulating certain financial scapegoats simply does not touch the heart of our economic problem.

300 Miles an Hour

It is predicted that the speed trials at the forthcoming national air races will see new records set for land planes. Last year a mark of 236 miles an hour was hung up; planes being prepared for this year's races will hit a full 300-mile-an-hour clip, according to advance indications.

When speeds of such breath-taking swiftness are reached, it is apparent that quite as much depends on the pilot as on the plane. Whirling along at a clip like that is a terrific strain on the man at the controls.

The slightest defect in the plane, the slightest bit of carelessness or faulty judgment on the part of the pilot, inevitably means disaster—swift, final, and inescapable.

That planes can be built to travel that fast is a tribute to modern designers. That men can be found to fly them is a tribute to the daring and skill of the aviators themselves.

Curtis on the Stump

Nobody will get excited about the acceptance speech of Charles Curtis. That is why it was successful—from his point of view.

Curtis always plays it safe. That policy raised him from a jockey's saddle to a seat in congress. That policy kept him in Washington for thirty-five years. It got him the vice-presidential nomination four years ago, and put him back on the ticket in Chicago.

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His job in this campaign will be to supply the jolly touch which Hoover lacks—call 'em by their first names, the good old G. O. P. doctrine, what was good enough for pa is good enough for me, the American home must be protected, mother, the protective tariff.

That line has worked for a long time. Charlie and the G. O. P. boys, perhaps, can not be blamed for counting on it to go over with the voters again.

But we wonder.

Mussolini is writing a book which ought to remind his secretary to order three more keys for his typewriter.

Americans will rejoice over the new Olympic records—but we could have done just as well with the old weather records.

Farmers are becoming more like the city dwellers every day. First they got telephones, electric power and radios, and now they have gone on strike.

A New York minister says that war is becoming unpopular. That's always the way—after the war.

Norma Thomas is quoted as saying he has a dream of victory in the 1936 campaign. We don't want to be discouraging, but we have dreamed of inheriting a million plenty of times.

Any trip across a busy street will convince the pedestrian that the old advice about not ever hurrying if you want to live long is completely out of date.

The British writer who says that no laws are enforced in the United States ought to come to our town and leave his auto parked beside a fire plug.

The real definition of a bigoted man is one who not only doesn't agree with you, but isn't even willing to argue about it.

Back in Queen Elizabeth's time, old soldiers were given permission to beg in the streets. Since then, we have been making constant progress, and now that privilege has been withdrawn.

The principal reason that charity can't begin at home these days is that there's nobody home.

Just Every Day Sense

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

EXT to the greatest optimist in the world is the person who gives advice about managing husbands. The greatest optimist, of course, is the woman who expects to do the managing.

We have the New York City health commissioner for instance, offering this perfectly grand tip to wives:

"If your husband is grouchy, he is probably not well. Send him to the doctor. If he is ill, do not let him diagnose his own ailments."

Personally, I seldom have read a more wise or sensible statement. It is reasonable, lucid, and to the point. And it sounds easy. In fact, it would be easy if it were applied to any one but a husband.

But sending the average American husband to the doctor is like trying to invite a mule into the parlor. He will snort and back off and shy and prance and kick and snarl. But he will not go.

While the grouchier he is, and therefore the sicker we may presume him to be, the less luck you'll have.

YOUR grouchy male person, as all ladies know, thinks that he has real grievances to upset him. Did you ever meet a man who blamed his bad disposition on his digestion, or, for that matter, did you ever meet a man who would admit that he had a bad disposition?

Not a husband, I'm sure. All are convinced that the women just want something to fuss about. And although most of us realize that there is grave danger in any individual diagnosing his own illness that doesn't help us bit with getting the husband and his physician together.

"Every man his own doctor," is a favorite slogan with men, and prescribing for himself is one of the chief occupations of the ailing married gentleman.

In short, I am convinced that the medical profession would bestow a boon upon civilization if it would cease for a time its researches into the origins of human disease, and turn its attention to the human husband and find out what makes him that way.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Old Guard Republicans Have About Made Up Their Minds to Pitch the Campaign on Roosevelt's Alleged Radicalism.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt's Ohio speech was confined to domestic problems, more particularly to those which center around banking and the security market.

This should not be taken to mean that he is unmindful of, or will ignore, other issues. He already has placed himself on record with regard to prohibition.

It is only fair to assume that he will do likewise with regard to the tariff, foreign affairs, power and agriculture in later addresses. He certainly has shown no disposition to sidestep or evade thus far.

Indeed, old guard Republicans have about made up their minds to pitch the campaign on his alleged radicalism. Even now they are "wondering" whether he is not another Bryan.

It is the strategy of Mark Hanna over again, but without Mark Hanna. Also, it lacks several other ingredients of a real highbrow drive.

Bryan entered the arena without any considerable experience in public office. Roosevelt has had a lot. Bryan was prescribing remedies for a slump which occurred during a Democratic administration and was compelled to criticize the policies of his own party. Roosevelt labors under no such handicap.

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