



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

A Leader and Builder.

Today the city mourns the passing of a man who gave direction and purpose to every unselfish movement which has engaged the thought and hearts of Indianapolis for more than two generations.

Whatever titles his church gave to him, he was known to his parishioners and to the city at large as Father Gavisk, the good friend, the wise counselor, the courageous crusader for humanity.

As a priest, he knew his parish. As a citizen he knew his city.

He understood the needs of broken men and his understanding sympathy with those who found themselves in prison brought to him national recognition as a student of crime and, more important, of the best means by which the bruised human beings might be salvaged for society.

Today and tomorrow thousands will march by his bier to pay their tributes of love and of affection that had come with personal contact.

The city as a whole, owes him much. He has been a leader in many enterprises. His commendation gave confidence to public projects. His silence brought doubt.

His monument is engraved upon the hearts of men and women whom he helped. His influence is imperishable, because it will appear again and again through all the years in the lives changed from failure to success through his wise counsel, from evil into fitness by his sympathy and understanding.

Watson and Labor

Organized labor, speaking through its state convention and the railroad unions, indorsed Frederick Van Nys for the United States senate.

That indorsement was given him not only because of his open and frank stand for legislation that will help labor, but because in all his years in congress, the votes of Senator Watson, in a crisis, have ever been against the interests of labor.

It is in perfect keeping with the record of Senator Watson that he now has a "labor" indorsement of an incorporated organization of labor politicians which has a high sounding name, but little influence or confidence among the men and women who work.

That indorsement fits well with the sugar stock transaction of Watson, which he dismissed with the cynical statement that he gave a worthless note for worthless stock.

This published support might well be listed as a worthless indorsement for a worthless service.

If there is any group in the state which should have no hesitation in this contest, it is that of labor.

Sending Watson back to the senate would mean one more vote against any needed progressive legislation that may be suggested to restore men to their jobs and give workers a chance to live in decency on the products of their toil.

Will Roosevelt Answer?

We ask our readers to be patient with the two presidential candidates now shooting figures at each other to prove, in each case, that the opposing party is a traitor to federal economy.

To be sure, figures always are hard to follow, especially when they disagree, as partisan figures have a way of doing.

But there are some figures so outstanding that they can not even be obscured by the bitter partisanship of this Hoover-Roosevelt fight.

Certainly the Roosevelt charge and proof that the Hoover administration has run the country into the red is not news. Every one knows that, without listening to Roosevelt.

And every one also knows that the Democrats in congress are partly responsible for government extravagance, without listening to Hoover's labored reminder of that pertinent fact.

But out of this debate come other facts, which, unfortunately, are not understood by the average citizen. These facts are:

1. The tax burden is chiefly a local rather than a federal problem, because the national government takes only 30 cents of the tax dollar.

2. The bulk of federal expenditures has nothing whatever to do with the civil functions which most citizens think of as constituting government. Of the three and two-thirds billion dollars in the current ordinary budget, only two-thirds of one billion goes to civil government—all the rest goes to war, including two billion to the debt and army-navy, and one billion to veterans.

3. Therefore, any major federal economy or tax cut can be achieved only by reducing military and veterans' appropriations.

That is why most of the economy talk which the American public has heard in recent years from its politicians has been bunk. The politicians have had no intention of cutting those two big appropriations.

President Hoover at Detroit performed a great service in public education in pointing out that the much-discussed "billion-dollar saving," or 25 per cent cut, is possible only by drastic army-navy and veterans' reductions.

This newspaper for several years has been trying to drive home this truth every time a politician of either party talked economy generalities.

Since this is the key to economy, the voters have a right to know where every congressional and presidential candidate stands on the issue.

President Hoover has declared himself. At Detroit he specifically opposed any army-navy reduction, until there is an international disarmament agreement, which, of course, is not in sight.

Of the proposal to cut the veterans' billion in half, he said "that would be a gross injustice." That ends any hope of large scale economy from Hoover and Republicans.

What about Roosevelt and the Democrats, who promise to save a billion? Hoover challenges them to say whether they will take most of this out of military and veterans' expenditures, or whether they are making demagogic promises they will not keep.

That is a fair question. Until Roosevelt answers that question definitely, his economy pledge is meaningless.

In the Name of Peace

The birth rate in Puerto Rico averaged 41.7 to the thousand in 1931, while the death rate averaged 20.4 to the thousand, an increase of 33,554 persons in a year, Governor James R. Beverley says in his annual report.

He pointed out that "further net additions to population in the island inevitably must result in greater distress and poverty and ultimately to a rising death rate."

Attempts are being made, as they would be under any civilized government, to improve public health, eliminate diseases, better living conditions, and otherwise prolong life in Puerto Rico.

But if a government is to interfere with nature's

method of checking overpopulation, is it not bound to substitute another means to a necessary end?

Two such substitutes exist. One is war, through the ages the inevitable result of crowding too many people into too small a territory, an alternative from which the world shudders.

The other is artificial control of birth, the solution to which thousands of educated persons in every country turn.

Of course no government will require its people to adopt this practice, but an intelligent government able to face conditions as they exist and to look into a predictable future will not place obstacles in its way.

It is time for the United States to step into this category and annul its laws regarding distribution of contraceptive information, not only for Puerto Rico, where the need is immediate and pressing, but for the rest of its territory.

The Good Earth

From down in Dixie come reports of a back-to-the-farm movement drawing thousands of jobless and city-weary folks to the soil that once nurtured them.

The United States department of agriculture announces that the trek to town which, since 1921, had sapped rural America of 15,000,000 people, has been turned back.

Last year the farm regions gained 648,000 people, the first substantial gain of a decade. This year the gain will be larger.

Many will hear this news gratefully. The good earth is a more friendly haven than city streets. But as a panacea for unemployment in a complex world, the land movement is all too simple.

The soil waits its bounty grudgingly. Endless pitfalls wait for inexperienced and underfinanced farmers. The song of the soil may prove a siren song. Listen to the warning words of the national land use planning committee:

"City folk, unfamiliar with agricultural conditions, are prone to develop exaggerated ideas as to the ease with which a living can be obtained in the country... it is certain that the great majority of unemployed do not have sufficient capital to purchase a farm or even operate a commercial farm on a rental basis, and the possibility of their having a return above subsistence is extremely doubtful under present economic conditions..."

"In most cases farms have been abandoned because they are undesirable economically or socially, and usually offer little more than bare shelter and food, and possibly fuel."

Land hunger, always stirring the soils of normal men, is almost irresistible to the jobless. So now they are on the march.

Their hegira, now largely led by chance, should be directed and protected. The new land seekers should be aided in settling on good land and defended against land sharks. Otherwise, the movement will result in mere substitution of rural for city slums.

The land use planning committee has urged that states set up committees to co-operate with the federal government in directing the back-to-the-farm movement.

Senator McNary of Oregon has a measure pending in congress, providing for such machinery. If the land movement is to be of real benefit to the jobless, such measure should be passed.

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President Hoover praised the nation's pharmacists with the following tribute: "Their scientific skill in compounding the remedies prescribed by physicians makes them indispensable to the healing art." Odd he didn't mention something about how handy they have made it for people to buy automobile tires, sewing machines, etc.

The Democrats have sicked Gene Tunney on Albo Booth, former Yale grid star who is barnstorming for Hoover. Now we can expect any moment that Jim Londos and Babe Didrikson have taken to the stumps. We'd like to get some figures on straw and stalks. We'd like to get some figures on straw and stalks.

Engineers of the department of agriculture have found that water leaking from a faucet in a stream the size of a pin wastes about 150 gallons a day. Something we've always wondered about.

Farmers annually waste 260,000,000 tons of straw and stalks. We'd like to get some figures on straw and stalks.

Nine leaders of the Croatian independence movement were arrested in Yugoslavia and charged with circulating "inflammatory leaflets." Wouldn't that burn you up?

Just Every Day Sense

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

CHILDREN of ministers occupy a difficult position in community life. They exist almost constantly under the critical eye of a laity that is too harsh in its judgments.

And this is not their supreme hardship. For in many instances their parents set for them impossible standards of behavior. Urged on by the knowledge that the congregations expect excellent examples from those who dwell in parsonages, these men and women exact too much from their children.

So the child or the adolescent whose father occupies a pulpit finds his most trivial misdemeanor exaggerated into robbery in the public mind.

And he also suffers from the fact that his parents often are so earnest in a desire to please church members that they do not take time enough to understand their children.

These conditions as they stand offer a problem in a climax of a long past, out of ages of unbroken selfishness and exclusive power ever leading to disaster and ruin.

Increasing power in America has crystallized into being a spirit of absolute denial of any or all consideration save retention of the power to rule or ruin.

One law never changes—the law that all things change. Even the follies of a ruler who rules solely for his own selfish ambition and desires, leaving the people to take their uncertain chances, even such have their limitations. The people will be patient; how long will power remain? How long will power in the interest of selfish wealth ignore the appeals of humanity?

Following traditions—in Maine, winter wool and unemployment began as the hurried completion of a fund of \$1,500,000 for G. O. P. electoral purposes, together with instructions to a presidential campaign manager to further explain the issues to the people. Really, are the American people entirely lacking in intelligence?

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