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

Does He Approve?

President Hoover is reported to be reluctant to go to the state of Illinois, where former Governor Small is a candidate for another term.

His reluctance is said to be for the reason that he does not wish to be associated in the public mind with an official whose record contained so many disgraceful betrayals of public interest.

Yet President Hoover rushes to Indiana, presumably to save the state for himself, which is understandable, but also to save Senator James Watson, which needs presidential explanation.

Does President Hoover approve the action of Senator Watson in the sugar stock deal?

To those who hold the belief that a senator of the United States should be free from any possible personal interest in legislation, the transaction is as shameful as any charged against Governor Small of Illinois.

The deal is a matter of record. While the sugar tariff was pending, Senator Watson received a block of shares in a sugar company. He did not buy them. At least he did not pay for them. He gave his note.

If the sugar company prospered at the expense of the American consumer, Senator Watson could sell his stock and take down a profit where he had invested nothing but his note—or did he invest something more in the way of senatorial interest in the tariff?

When exposed, Senator Watson had the temerity to laugh and declare that the stock was as worthless as his note.

Does President Hoover approve of this deal? Does he ask them to send back a senator with this ideal of public duty?

Borah Versus Smith

Senator Borah's indignation over Al Smith's speech at Newark is hard to follow. In attacking the hypocrisy of the Republican prohibition plank, Smith merely was following the eminent leadership of Borah himself, who has been saying unkind things about that straddle ever since the June convention.

Whatever change of mind Borah may or may not have had on the subject, the fact remains that the Republican platform dictated by Hoover, and the Hoover acceptance speech, represent evasive bids for both wet and dry votes.

Hoover and his platform oppose outright repeal, but open the way for a questionable revision, retaining the federal usurpation of police power, which is one of the worst features of national prohibition. On the important issue of modification of the dry laws, pending repeal or revision of the amendment, Hoover is silent.

In contrast, the Democratic platform and candidates are for outright repeal of the amendment and immediate modification of the law.

Two points made by Borah are worth answering, because they are typical of the misleading dry propaganda in this campaign:

One is the charge that the Democratic repeal plan would "leave the dry states overrun by the liquor traffic." On the contrary, the pre-prohibition laws requiring the federal government to protect dry states from liquor shipments from wet states have not been repealed—that has been decided by the supreme court. Those protective laws would operate automatically, following repeal of the amendment.

The other Borah charge is that Smith and his group subordinate all other national questions to the cry, "Give us beer, give us something to drink." That is absurd.

People do not have to wait for prohibition repeal to get a drink. In most places there is no difficulty in getting a drink now. The demand for repeal goes much deeper than any personal desire to quench thirst, or even than any personal resentment against unwarranted interference with individual liberties.

This is proved by the large number of nondrinking citizens who oppose prohibition.

Prohibition is opposed because the experiment has failed; because it has bred racketeering in politics and business, increased crime, corrupted youth, undermined respect for all law, and put a premium on national hypocrisy.

Prohibition is opposed because it robs the government of revenues, without stopping the flow of liquor; because the beer tax is much needed in a time of depression, deficit and threatened government credit.

Prohibition is opposed because it has cut across party lines in such a way as to prevent party alignment and party action on the basic economic issues; because prohibition political trickery has produced a situation in which the bread issue will not be faced until the beer issue is out of the way.

Therefore, the prospect of a political showdown on prohibition at the polls ten days hence is one of the few heartening aspects of this campaign.

Out at Last

After many months, the suppressed Wickersham commission's report on the Mooney-Billings trials is given to the public.

Its appearance Wednesday in book form is a triumph for American liberals. Every effort was made by the Hoover commission and senate reactionaries to bury this public document and nullify the conscientious work of the commission experts, Dr. Zechariah Chafee, Carl Stern and Walter Pollak.

The report deals with only one phase of this "celebrated case," its lawlessness. The experts reveal "flagrant violations of the statutory law of California by both police and prosecution."

They show how Mooney and Billings were held in jail incommunicado while police searched their homes for evidence; how they falsely were identified; how the prosecution deliberately sought to inflame the public and create an atmosphere that made a fair trial impossible; how the prosecution made no effort to seek out the real criminals or follow obvious clews.

Nothing is said of the foul practices within the law, such as caused the trial judge to cry out: "It was the dirtiest job ever put over." From post-trial confessions, we know the trials were unfair; from the government's own experts, we now see that they were illegal.

The report represents the federal government's second intervention in these famous cases. In 1918 a commission under Woodrow Wilson also held a mirror to them so that the nation could see to what lengths a state had gone to punish two unpopular citizens.

Senator Burton K. Wheeler, in an introduction to the book, hopes that the publication of the suppressed report will "aid in freeing these victims of judicial tyranny and wiping from our national escutcheon this ugly stain."

We hope so, too.

More for Less

Death and taxes are, of course, still inevitable; yet thousands of taxpayers have concluded this fall, as their dollars passed from their reluctant hands, that there is no reason why taxes should be so numerous and so high. And they are right.

Mounting federal and state expenditures have been discussed and deplored frequently and constitute a problem which will receive considerable attention this winter. But so far there has been little recognition of the fact that local government absorbs 53 1/2 per cent of the total national tax bill; and too little consideration of whether city, county, town, village and district governments return value received for what is spent.

In this winter of pinched purses, there probably will be much pondering about what sheriffs actually contribute to law enforcement, about the efficiency of county supervisors as road builders, about the wisdom of having many sets of petty, untrained officials duplicating tasks which one trained executive with trained assistants could accomplish better and more cheaply.

A great many states already are experimenting with reform of local government, primarily as an economy measure, and secondarily as a means of improving governmental service.

In these states there has been no case where reorganization, scientifically undertaken, has failed to improve administration of local affairs.

A true hard times bargain awaits those communities which are ready to buy more for less.

Curing Cancer

Every so often in the unsung but relentless war on disease, a victory is announced. No spectacular victory has been heralded in the fight on the great killer cancer, but last week in St. Louis, thirty-one of the country's leading specialists agreed that cancer is curable if discovered and treated in its early stages.

They reported more than 8,000 cures of more than five years' standing. They urged annual physical examination of all persons past 35.

Cancer takes a toll of 150,000 lives in the United States and Canada every year. To save these victims and their suffering is the job of this generation, as the partial conquest of tuberculosis was the job of the preceding one.

King Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdul-Rahman al Saud, ruler of the "Kingdom of the Hedjaz and Nejd and Its Dependencies," is now merely "Ibn Saud, ruler of the Arabian Saud kingdom," through his own desire. Even that's too much.

During a recent riot in Ireland, several persons were wounded by pistol bullets. Perhaps they ran out of bricks.

Sometimes it is necessary to sell your car to get back on your feet again.

A writer says, "I can remember when the law was a profession." It sounds as if he might be holding something back.

Quite a few people seem to be finding employment surveying the unemployment situation.

Pike's Peak is said to be four inches lower than it was last spring. Just something more for President Hoover to explain.

The government is going to build 227 new post-offices. Do your Christmas shopping early.

International tangles haven't a thing on the sleeves of last winter's overcoat.

If you think that the old grad who goes back for the big game lacks the fire of his college days, just try the stuff in his hip pocket.

Alas and alack. If the "straight ticket" were only a guarantee!

Experience teaches that when diplomats say a situation is "hopeful" they mean the dickering so far has been a flop.

Maybe it's because the dollar goes farther, now that it's so much harder to find.

A law permitting the sale of near-beer has been passed in Alabama. The news does finally get around.

One of the newest of the "health juices" is extracted from cranberries. Another juicy business.

Just Every Day Sense
By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

ALEXANDER, grand duke of Russia, in his excellent book, gives us a kaleidoscopic view of the huge empire of his homeland and of the long series of blunders that led Europe into war and the Romanoffs to their doom.

"Europe," says the grand duke, "committed suicide in 1914." Yet, reading all the intimate memoirs, studying the detailed stories of the czars, the kings, and the kaisers of that period, we are forced to the conclusion that Europe did not, after all, commit suicide. She was murdered.

It is horrible to realize that such a small group of men can hold in their hands the fate of millions of people. Yet such a group almost annihilated civilization.

Maurice Paleologue, last French ambassador to the Russian court, also has left an interesting and important three volumes that give us a daily story of the court happenings prior to and during the war.

FROM it we gather that when kings battle they think of their people as pawns in a huge game they are playing against each other. It is astounding to contemplate their egotism. For at that time each ruler slapped his chest, announced that his cause was just, and God was forever with him.

Another fact we get from the French ambassador is that any one of the various diplomats engaged in the dangerous intrigue might have averted the catastrophe. If but one man had been willing to recede even a trifle from his position, thereby encouraging the others to an equal generosity, the war might not have occurred.

But diplomats, too, are trained to think of power and not of people, so no man among them would abandon his stubbornness.

They, like the generals, stood firm, and the result was chaos.

If the people only could know the trivialities they are called upon to defend; if they only could see that nine times out of ten their holy causes are the personal animosities and jealousies of a few erring men. I wonder whether they would continue to submit to war—the ultimate tyranny.

We hope so, too.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

The President's Imagined Power Is Largely a Matter of Political Pose.

NEW YORK, Oct. 27.—A President of the United States is not the all-powerful autocrat that our style of campaigning suggests, or that many people believe.

He can exercise a certain amount of influence over public policy and legislation, provided he possesses the right kind of personality, but he can do very little by himself, or on his own motion.

A President of the United States necessarily is under great obligation to his party. He can not defy its traditions, or ignore its advice on patronage, without grave risks.

He must co-operate with the crowd back of him, must consult not only official advisers, but with those who have nothing to warrant it, except the votes they control, or the contributions they make.

A President of the United States is greatly dependent on congress. He can not make important appointments, or conclude treaties, without advice and consent of the senate.

He can not obtain funds with which to run the government, except congress is willing to grant them. He can not get a single law enacted, unless congress is willing, or veto one if two-thirds of the house and senate favor it.

He can, however, be impeached and put out of office by congress.

Largely a Pose

THE President's imagined power is largely a matter of political pose. As a candidate, he becomes the front and shoulders of his party. His most trivial phrases are picked up and repeated as though they were of superhuman importance.

His opinions, even when carelessly expressed, are accepted as sure to become part of the nation's law or policy in case of his election.

We sidetrack everything for the presidential candidate in our national campaigns. That is one reason why we get no better results. Of vastly more consequence, it represents a dangerous drift in the popular attitude.

An outsider would be justified in supposing that this campaign was for the purpose of choosing a dictator, instead of a representative government.

He would see and hear little to indicate interest in the legislative branch, save the demand for repeal of prohibition. Even in that particular, he would find the expressions of President Hoover and Governor Roosevelt carrying great weight.

He would gather that while congressional action might be necessary for repeal, a President could force it, and that a candidate's promise to do so was equivalent to a guarantee.

He would gather that most people had come to look upon a presidential candidate in that light, not only with regard to prohibition, but other issues.

He would take all this flattery for pronouncements on the bonus as implying a general belief in a President's power to get things done. If he were a philosopher, he would regard all this as tending toward dictatorship.

Congress Is Important

MANY democracies have succumbed to the same careless form of thinking, to an unconscious abandonment of the legislative branch of government for the speedier course of one-man domination.

We Americans are unwise to believe little congress, even for the sake of whooping. Congress is the one branch of this government which guarantees its republican form, or through which anything like a popular expression of opinion can be written into law.

Congress is the essence of our Constitution. Let it fade out of the picture, even by appearance, and this government will become the mere shadow of what it was intended to become.

Congress deserves far more attention than it has been getting in the last few years, not only by way of respect, but by way of contact with the people.

Views of Times Readers

Editor Times—

HAVING only sixteen years' seniority on the railroad on which I am employed as freight brakeman, I am unable to hold a regular assignment, the man power having been reduced to such extent that I was placed on the extra list two years ago.

Therefore, I have much time to sit before my radio that I purchased when I did have a regular job and listen in on the many speakers for the different parties, and of course have plenty of time to read the speeches and opinions of different persons.

We have expected the present administration to put high-powered speakers in the field to defend Mr. Hoover and his associates, but we did expect the representatives of such a pure party to be honest and truthful. Instead, they have resorted to the lowest and most deplorable methods to swing votes for the G. O. P. And can you imagine anything lower than captains of industry going among employees, telling them that unless Hoover is re-elected they will have no jobs.

The Ford Motor Company advocates re-election of Mr. Hoover, stating that any break in the Hoover program will hurt industry. This no doubt was put before the Ford employees to intimidate them, and I think nothing less than a threat to force them to vote for Hoover. Mr. Ford recently made a drastic reduction in wages, maybe he is afraid that if Mr. Hoover is not re-elected it will hurt his program of wage slashing. I hope the men employed by Mr. Ford will respond to his threat by going to the polls and voting against Hoover, even if they intended to vote for him prior to this threat. If a man were to come to me with the threat "Unless you do, you won't have a job" I think I would give him a bad jaw to nurse for a few days.

However, in my opinion, it will be hard for the boys in the field for the G. O. P. to inject into our ears, Frankfort, Ind.

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