

## The Indianapolis Times

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## RAISING REVENUES

Governor Paul McNutt, in declaring himself opposed in principle to the sales tax as a means of raising revenues, echoed the better judgment of a majority of citizens.

Yet the demand from certain groups of the state for such a tax prevails, heralded as an emergency measure necessary to raise enough funds to take the state out of the red ink column in which it was placed by the special session and the former Governor.

Before any such tax is contemplated, some consideration should be given to the practicability of the system. Some methods of taxation are so costly as to be stupid. A little research will probably disclose that the machinery for the collection of such a tax would place an unnecessary burden upon the consumer and the taxpayer.

There can be no quarrel with the general statement that the property tax upon which government has relied in the past is no longer the proper basis of raising funds.

The farmer and the home owner have discovered that real property can no longer bear the cost of government. The high rate necessary in a day of falling values means confiscation. There will be a general agreement that no tax policy will meet the emergency which leaves the burden upon real estate.

But a sales tax offers an equally objectionable result. It means crippling business at a time when business should be stimulated. It would probably mean fewer purchases and a higher cost of living.

In solving the tax problem, the main objective must be not only a fair distribution of burdens, but an indirect aid to industry and business which will put more men back to work. Until the general level of incomes is raised, the prospect of bankruptcy for large groups will always be imminent.

Intangibles and income may furnish the better solution.

## THE BEER BILL

Apparently, unscrambling the Wright bone-dry law and creating a system for the distribution of such beer as congress may decide does not violate the eighteenth amendment is not a simple matter.

There seems to be no unanimity of opinion as to what point a drug store or a restaurant may become a saloon. The matter of whether beer is to be sold from a bottle or a keg brings debate and division.

There is an agreement among those who are really trying to solve the matter on a basis of common sense that any system of huge fees or taxation that will make the beer with 3 per cent alcohol so costly as to be available only to a few will only continue the regime of bootlegging and home brewing in which began with Volsteadism.

One of the main objectives is to educate a taste on such part of the public as now goes for bathtub gin and corn liquor into finer realms of malt with mildly stimulating effect.

But there is one part of the Wright law that was so thoroughly vicious in principle that there should be no difficulty in eliminating it.

That provision of the law which placed a special fee for prosecutors to obtain convictions for violation of this law is thoroughly and completely indefensible.

Under that provision, in counties which still have prosecutors on a fee basis, the possession of a pint of home brew became a matter of more concern than a murder or robbery.

That system placed a special emphasis upon this one law that bred a disregard and a disrespect for the laws against older forms of law violation.

Even if congress hesitates about changing the legal formula for beer, something will be done in the way of progress if the legislature removes this bribe for prosecutors from our judicial system.

## DEMOCRATIC DELAYS

James A. Farley, the President-elect's closest political adviser and a presumptive cabinet officer, has expressed "doubt that the present congress will enact sufficient economic legislation."

His doubts are shared by most observers. There seems small hope that any of the important bills on banking, railroads, farm relief, depression relief, beer tax, and related subjects will become law. There is even more doubt that congress will achieve the large scale economies in appropriations necessary to balance the budget.

Democratic members of congress do not seem alarmed greatly by this situation. They incline to the attitude that President Hoover and the Republicans are to blame for everything, and that Democratic responsibility does not begin until March 4.

That easy subterfuge will fool nobody. Democratic members of congress are under oath and taking public salaries for service in this session of congress, as well as the next. Moreover, it happens that the Democratic party is in control of this session—with absolute control in the house and virtual control in the senate.

Therefore, Democratic failure in this session will be taken as a sample of what is to be expected next session. Altogether apart from the larger national interests at stake, viewed even from a selfish party standpoint, the Democrats are sowing misery for themselves.

Doubtless something of this feeling was in the mind of the President-elect when he summoned congressional leaders of his party to the recent New York conference. Now that the momentum of that conference seems to have been lost again, doubtless the same concern is in the mind of Mr. Roosevelt as he prepares to meet the party leaders in Washington this week on his way south.

On one matter, especially, the President-elect must be alarmed. That is the statement of certain Democrats that they do not intend to keep their party's campaign pledge to reduce federal operating expenses 25 per cent.

No such confession was needed. On the record to date, it is clear that the Democrats are not going to achieve real economies. The reason is the same as in the case of the Republicans when in control—they nibble at the small appropriations, but refuse to stop the big leaks.

The Democrats will not even discuss, much less act, on the needed saving of \$400,000,000 in veterans

expenditures—which can be made without cutting adequate relief to any war invalid.

Democrats just have brought in a war department appropriations bill which makes only insignificant reductions and which actually raises the national guard outlay \$9,000,000 over the Hoover budget.

Now a Democratic subcommittee has decided to limit the cut in prohibition enforcement to only 5 per cent. This direct prohibition appropriation for \$9,600,000 of course is only a small part of the dry cost, for it does not include the absurd coast guard outlay, the increased expense for courts and prisons, and other items.

But it is symbolic of the Democratic attitude. The country having elected the Democratic party on an absolute repeal pledge, with dry enforcement obviously impossible, with any one who wants a drink able to get it, the Democratic leaders seem satisfied to face a five billion dollar cumulative deficit with a prohibition cut of less than half of one million.

That does not look much like a "new deal." We shall be surprised if the President-elect is content with it.

## HUMANITY'S CALL

Chief opposition to the Costigan-La Follette \$500,000,000 direct relief act seems to be not that it is superfluous, but that it is without precedent. Here, some are saying, is something new and untried in America, a federal dole.

Records of the United States treasury will reassure them. These records reveal that since 1803 the United States government has responded to the call of distress 114 times.

Seldom before, the records will show, has America failed to come to the aid of sufferers, either in far-off lands or at home. Whether the sufferers were victims of flood, fire or famine, of hurricane, drought or earthquake, Uncle Sam has not failed to reach into his pocket, nor has he passed by on the other side.

Since 1812 congress has voted money to relieve the victims of foreign disasters nine times. In 1919 it granted \$100,000,000 for the American relief administration. The A. R. A., under Herbert Hoover, distributed a billion dollars in all, feeding upward of 200,000,000 persons in twenty countries of Europe.

At one time it was giving warm meals to 4,000,000 children. Other federal beneficences abroad included aid to victims of Russian famine, Japanese, Venezuelan, Costa Rican and Italian earthquakes, Chinese famine and French West Indian tornadoes.

Our charities began at home. Since 1803 congress has made appropriations for domestic relief no less than sixty-one times. Some of these appropriations appear as loans, most of them as grants. Not counting the \$300,000,000 hunger loan fund made available for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation last year, total federal disbursements for domestic disaster relief to date amount to \$650,563,362.

From 1827, when congress voted \$20,000 for the relief of fire victims in Alexandria, Va., until last July, when it gave out \$40,000,000 worth of farm board wheat and cotton for Red Cross distribution to depression victims, the U. S. A. has kept up its record as a generous giver.

Never, until now has Uncle Sam turned deaf ear to humanity's cry. And this time he is deaf to the call from his own people.

The time for federal giving is here again. It was here a year ago, when spokesmen from scores of cities told congress they were at the end of their resources. Testimony of social workers at the current hearings on the Costigan-La Follette bill shows how much more critical in the need today. They estimate from 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 Americans in distress now.

"Unless federal aid is changed from a loan basis to direct aid, American cities are going to have defaults which will shake not only municipal credit, but the whole credit structure of the United States," said Paul V. Peters, executive director of the American Municipal Association.

"Cities are crippling essential services to meet relief needs. They are facing default. The present system only stimulates financial chaos."

The "eternal light" erected by patriots in New York after the armistice has burned out. At that, it lasted longer than the "eternal peace" the Yanks were fighting for.

If the \$6,000 reward money for the capture of "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Oklahoma bandit, ever is assembled in one spot, they'd better keep it secret. Floyd has stuck up banks for less than that.

There are hundreds of useless words in the English language, observes a lecturer. "Keep Off the Grass," "Please Remit," "Men Wanted"—to mention only a few.

**Just Plain Sense**  
BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

HERR ADOLPH HITLER is not doing so well these days. German women, tired of hearing him thunder that females should stay at home and have lots of babies, are deserting his party in thousands. He never will get their votes again.

No doubt Herr Hitler is surprised and pained, since like all men who have put out this advice, he probably feels that he is right. I imagine he is hurt in his deepest moral sensibilities.

But as this event proves, women want original advice these days. The trite no longer appeals to them. And, so far as we are able to judge, they are justified in their rebellion in Germany.

Safe, comfortable, greedy men always have advocated more babies for unsafe, uncomfortable, and unwilling women. It is a monstrous incongruity that male leaders throughout all history have dared to order women to produce sons for them, to slaughter in their own advance to power.

THE worst thing about it has been that men have set this up as a moral principle. They have felt righteous and smug while they advocated the theory. For it always is so easy to outline the duties of others and so more than easy to make the Divine plan coincide with our own desires.

The way in which men have used their God as a fail to scourge women is the most evil thing that ever has been done upon earth. They have scared women with their Joves and Jehovahs.

They have pretended to believe, or it may be that they believed, that it was the Divine wish that boy babies be plentiful, so that a few kings might sit upon thrones.

This, as readily may be seen, not only contributed to their individual pleasures, but to their collective glory. And so long as they were able to advance the idea as heaven's instead of their own, they could have their desire and at the same time bask in the approval of the Almighty.

That women should submit longer to such mental tyranny is unthinkable. We may be accountable to God for our reluctance to ring more children into an already over-populated world, but we are not accountable to the Herra of the land.

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## Wrapped in Cellophane



## SCIENCE

## Heart Disease Toll Up

BY DAVID DIETZ

The sudden death of ex-President Calvin Coolidge from heart disease emphasizes again the seriousness of this problem in modern life.

Practically all authorities agree that heart disease is on the increase.

This increase, in the view of some authorities, is due to the fact that medical science has succeeded in conquering most of the diseases of childhood, with the result that more people live to an old age when they are likely to succumb to heart disease.

Such a clot may form in any part of the body. It is most dangerous, however, if it forms either in the brain or in the large arteries, the coronary arteries, which feed the walls or muscles of the heart.

When such a clot forms in the coronary arteries, the condition is known as coronary thrombosis. It is not always fatal, but frequently the resulting shock on the heart causes it to stop.

The death of Mr. Coolidge is believed to have been due to coronary thrombosis. It is also believed that it contributed to the death of President Harding.

When a blood clot forms in the brain, it leads often to bursting of a small artery. This is known as cerebral hemorrhage. It is not always fatal, but frequently is.

Cerebral hemorrhage caused the death of President Theodore Roosevelt and President Wilson. It also caused the death of Senator Dwight Morrow, who died at the age of 58.

But while medical men are studying the problem, it is probably wise for the average person, other than doing his best to lead a normal life free from too great nervous tension, not to worry about heart disease.

Medical men point out that it is possible for people suffering from hardening of the arteries often to continue a normal, happy life for many years.

I wonder how much of the above-mentioned "plenty of money" The Times receives for being one of those countless devices of the income tax payers to promote the scheme of the National Economy League in robbing the dislocated veterans of their pitance so the tax budget of the rich can be reduced.

If the owners of heavily taxed farms and homes could afford to give high-priced advertising contracts to the big newspapers, perhaps the subsidized press would give their cause some publicity also.

The Times must share the guilt of having misled the common people in believing that they are the ones who pay the taxes which furnish the money to pay soldiers' pensions. This was done to arouse public sentiment against the war veterans of America.

ROBERT A. HOFFMAN, Greencastle, Ind.

Questions and Answers . . . . .

Q—Does a watch always stop when its wearer dies? A—No.

Q—How many cases did the United States supreme court clear in its last session, and how many cases remained on the docket?

The question is whether the nervous tension of modern life promotes hardening of the arteries and whether modern life throws burdens on old people which the condition of their arteries makes them unable to cope with successfully.

Many medical authorities feel that this statement is undoubtedly true in the case of public men and particularly of our Presidents.

The public gave three score and ten as the natural age of a man. But only the last five Presidents of the United States reached it. He was William Howard Taft, who died at 72.

Coolidge died at 60. Harding at 58. Wilson at 67, and Theodore Roosevelt at 64.

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