

# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion county, 2 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.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1, 1933.

## BUY ONE VOTE

As usual, the effort to restrain the greed of the men in the petty loan business lost by one vote.

It would be exaggeration, of course, to suggest that every senator who voted against the measure has been corrupted.

Some, charitably, may have been misled.

Others, more charitably, may have Shylock hearts which beat in sympathy with the forty-two per centers.

It may be unkind to suggest that discerning citizens study the geography of the vote and connect it with the fact that one of the Samurai of the dominant party is in the business of preying upon desperation and necessity.

But if there is any senator who really desires to know the effect of these loans upon other business, may it be suggested that he call in any merchant in the vicinity in which this member of the Samurai operates, Bluffton, for instance, and ask him whether it is not a fact that any one caught borrowing from this particular outfit is not automatically denied credit for any purchases.

Of course, nothing could have happened in Indiana which compares with what is happening in Ohio. In that state, the rate is limited by law to 36 per cent a year. A bill was introduced to reduce that interest rate to the figure named in the defeated Indiana law.

A member of the legislature, a minister, charged openly on the floor that he had been offered \$1,000 to withdraw his support for this measure. Indiana is pure, now.

But there is something peculiar in the fact that any bill which tries to limit greed is defeated by just one vote.

(Did the printer make a typographical error when he put the caption of this editorial into the printed page?)

## THE YOUNG AND OLD

There are 2,000,000 boys and girls under 18 working for wages as six times that many adults search vainly for work. The national child labor committee marked Child Labor Sunday by appealing to the forty-four legislatures to adopt a 16-year-old school age limit, save the schools from excessive economy drives, fix minimum wages and maximum hours for child workers, and abolish sweatshops.

This week might be called Old Folks' Security week. For it is the occasion of a nation-wide appeal broadcast by the Association for Old Age Security to save the aged poor from attacks on old-age pension systems in some seventeen states.

A number of Governors, forgetting that pensions are cheaper than poorhouse relief, are trying to pinch a few dollars from their budgets by cutting pension allowances and increasing the age limits for beneficiaries.

The wiser Governors of Michigan, Rhode Island, Indiana, Washington, Minnesota, Wyoming and Delaware are urging immediate passage of pensions for the aged poor.

Its innocent young men and helpless aged are the first charges upon America's conscience and purse-strings. By wiping out child labor, the states can create 2,000,000 jobs for family heads and relieve themselves of costly doles. By pensioning all the needy aged over 65, they can relieve themselves of doles of 1,000,000 more.

These steps might lighten the national relief load. They would start us toward the goal of a happy American youth and "an old age serene and bright."

Let us take these 2,000,000 children out of factories, mills, mines and sweatshops and send them back to school. And let us take the 1,000,000 aged poor out of wretched poorhouses and give them security through pensions—which actually cost the taxpayer less.

## CONGRESS VS. THE NATION.

Now that President-Elect Roosevelt is preparing for foreign debt negotiations—as President Hoover did before him, and as any President would be forced to do by the hard facts of the situation—the cry of the last ditchers is heard in Congress again.

Because Congress more than a year ago got crossed up with Mr. Hoover and refused his request to reopen some of the isolationists now say that the President-elect should stay away from the problem—apparently forever.

Certainly Congress should act, and certainly when Mr. Roosevelt comes into office he should ask Congress to act. But, meanwhile, world events will not wait upon the anomalies of a lame duck system or the vagaries of obstructionist senators.

The only chance of eventual action by Congress is that the President lead. Therefore, it is for sure that the President-elect is preparing even now for negotiations with debtors.

The issue is not academic. It is a practical situation, in which some debtors have defaulted already and the others have declared they will make no more payments under existing terms.

Confronted with the reality, we have only two alternatives: Either permit the defaults to continue and lose our money, or meet the individual debtors and get as much money as possible under the best terms possible.

Cancellationists are not those who favor debt negotiations and revision under which we shall receive cash or concessions, or both. The real cancellationists are those who refuse to reopen the negotiations, with the result that we shall get nothing.

With the case for negotiations so clear, why does Congress continue to stick its head in the mud of prejudice and refuse to see? The customary excuse given is that the country is opposed, and that

congress lacks the courage to move faster than uninformed public opinion. That may sound logical, but we challenge its accuracy.

We should like to see some proof that a majority of the country is opposed to debt negotiations.

As a matter of fact, all signs indicate that a great majority favors debt negotiations. There have been repeated statements, reflecting that attitude, from farmers, liberal labor groups, college professors, church and peace organizations, women's clubs, professional societies, and business organizations.

In a referendum the United States Chamber of Commerce just has voted 18 to 1 in favor of a moratorium and of congressional authorization "for negotiation of a modified agreement that will promote the best interests of the United States, upon a debtor country showing material changes in the basis of its existing debt agreement."

By an almost equally large vote, the chamber made trade concessions or arms reduction the condition for granting such debt reductions.

This 18 to 1 is a stupendous majority of business men. But there is no reason to believe that the majority for debt negotiations is any less sweeping among other groups, newspapers, and public opinion generally.

## JUDGE COX ACTS

The people will watch with interest the developments in the court of Judge Earl Cox in the matter of bank receiverships.

When a bank fails, it is more than a calamity. It means disaster to human beings whose life savings are swept away.

There have been bank failures in this city which have meant just that to countless thousands.

If a receivership is of any value, it must conserve for the depositors whatever is left of the wreckage caused by bad judgment or crookedness. A bank failure is no situation for a scavenger nor a timid person who fails to prosecute to the limit those who may have betrayed the trust of depositors.

The announcement of Judge Earl Cox that he intends to let light flood the bank failure situations will be welcomed by many more than the depositors directly affected.

## THE NEXT INQUIRY

Two townships of this county are fighting for the taxes on the new power plant of the Indianapolis Power and Light Company.

Only the taxpayers of those townships are interested.

The quarrel develops the fact that the plant is listed for taxation at about five millions of dollars.

When the legislature settles the matter of geography, the public service commission has a duty to perform.

It must inquire, if conscientious as expected, on just how many millions of dollars the people of this city pay interest for the construction of that plant.

If it should discover that many more millions of stock were issued for that plant, a change in the tax board which fixed this as the real value is strongly indicated.

Joe E. Brown, the movie star, backed out of that deal to acquire a third interest in the Kansas City baseball club. On sober reflection, Joe probably was afraid it would interfere with his work—which, you'll recall, is laughing.

Brokers who paid several hundred thousand dollars for their seats on the New York Stock Exchange hardly can be blamed if they don't get up to buy Kreuger & Toll when it sells at two dozen shares for a dollar.

After all this bewilderment about Technocracy, the Glass bank bill, and currency inflation it would be a relief to the ordinary fellow if Congress would get down to something like the 2-cent stamp.

President-Elect Roosevelt is determined to save \$1 out of every four now spent by the government. He'll be more than earning his pay if he saves \$1 out of every four now being wasted.

The man who hides behind a woman's petticoat nowadays must have an awfully lonesome time of it up there in the attic.

Any one can give a bachelor reason why he should marry, but the \$1,500 difference in his income tax exemption isn't one of them.

The chap who deals from the bottom of the deck and forgets to count a stroke when he lays out on the rough has met his Waterloo in jigsaw puzzles.

There are just as many men making their mark today as ever—but they're using red ink.

## Just Plain Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

IT is conceded generally that one thing wrong with the country is the vast horde of politicians roaming at large.

Yet, even that, I think, does not quite reach the heart of the trouble. A politician, after all, can be and often is a pleasant enough person. Indeed, you will find that before and after holding office he is normal in most respects and sometimes intelligent.

But there seems to be something in the official atmosphere that deadens the risibilities. For, once elected, he displays an utter lack of humor and this greatly augments his inefficiency and our economic grief.

As a private citizen, the politician often is possessed of a passable personality and exhibits a quick response to gaiety and glee, but once let him be chosen "the people's representative" and almost immediately he is changed and becomes immune to lighter moods and puts on the garments of pomposity.

He is, in fact, overwhelmed with his own importance, and conducts himself as if he were a visiting bishop come to reason with an erring janitor, while he carries about with him the aura of his own righteousness and a superior comprehension of all the larger affairs of life.

Why can't we get the business of government done with more spontaneous good nature? Certainly by this time the politicians should know how funny we are, since we go on voting for them, and if they only could at the same time realize how funny they are we all might laugh together and thus the more easily endure our mistakes and tribulations.

# THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## Shaking the Old Plum Tree



## It Seems to Me . . . . by Heywood Broun

I ALWAYS have been curious as to why Rome fell, and I have my own theory."

Very probably one of the causes of the decline of the empire was the fact that the patricians began to arrive late at the circuses.

Some commoner intent upon

watching the lion just about to devour a Christian suddenly had his view cut off by a citizen party which barged in half an hour after the beginning of the show.

The usher came down the aisle

and said: "Let me see your stubs. Are you sure you have the right seats?" And the people in the belated detachment couldn't seem to make up their minds whether Mildred should sit next to Jack or whether Betty should go in first.

By the time they decided that problem and allowed the poor commoner to have an unobstructed line of vision to the arena, the Christian was gone, and nothing remained but a rather smug and satisfied lion.

I spied the commoner's fun

for the whole evening, and when he got home he said to his family that the show was a flop and would be in cut rates within the week. He even spoke ill of the whole imperial system and ventured the opinion that Rome wasn't what it used to be.

Martyrs to Chatter

YOU see, the patrician party insisted on carrying on a

loud conversation all through the gladiatorial combats. The poor fellow was so distracted that he didn't have any clear conviction as to whether he should put his thumbs up or down.

As a matter of fact, in his irritation he kept them down, which was a little unfair to the victim in the arena, because what the serious student of the sport really meant was that he wished the crackling crowd behind him were all Christians and suitable for casting in the next blue plate offered to the lions.

I have a strong feeling that

something of the same sort is going on today. The most effective propagandists for the radical cause are the very rich. Of course, the cult of flagrant bad manners does not extend throughout the entire length of Park avenue. Here and there any fair-minded revolutionist would mark a white cross. But he wouldn't need much chalk.

It seemed to me that the worst

exhibition of boorishness I ever had seen in the theater occurred at the opening of "The Gay Divorcee" but at that time I had not attended the first night of "Design for Living."

There can be reasonable ex-

uses for arriving late, but that is only a small portion of the indictment. Those who showed up anywhere from fifteen minutes to half an hour late came whooping into the lobby and down the aisles. The later they arrived the more

noise they made as they swished down the aisle.

One theater party, which occu-

ped an entire row, swept in a

full fifty minutes after the cur-

tain had risen. And they behaved as if they were changing the guard at Buckingham palace.

Only Sirens Lacking

IT seems to me that the ermine

and sable are under some

illusion that they should be pre-

pared by footmen with silver

trumpets wherever they go. Nor

does any signal to cease firing

occur when Park avenue is finally in its place and ready to see what the mimes have to offer.

I want some day to see a Broad-

way opening without benefit of footnotes. I'd rather not be told

by the lady just ahead that a line

is "delicious" or "so quaint." I'd rather be surprised.

Indeed, since the play is hardly

the thing, I suggest strongly to

the leaders of New York society

that they hire some one of the

abandoned households of the town

and hold night receptions in the

orchestra and lobby, leaving the

stage quite untenanted.

As things stand now, the later

diners are under a sad disad-

vantage. At times when Mildred

greets Mary a full four rows ahead,

the cheerful salutation is almost

drowned by the hum of the actors

speaking lines. Some of our play-

ers have begun to forget the dia-

logues of the recent realistic school

and are actually audacious enough

to try to make themselves heard.

Running the Gantlet

AND I also would cite the mat-