

## The Indianapolis Times

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## POWER TO ACT

Governor Paul McNutt now has authority to re-vamp the government of the state, wipe out unnecessary jobs, get quick action on any plan for economy and put through any program that will save money for the taxpayer.

The action of the legislature was almost unanimous. That no protest came from citizens indicates that popular opinion approves. It also strongly suggests that the public has such faith in the Governor as to believe that he will use the power wisely.

At last, there is power to act. With that power comes a responsibility that might frighten a timid man. For authority and responsibility always go together.

It is the only legislative way to return to real representative government.

One of the chief obstacles to efficient government has been the fact that there are too many elective officials.

In the long ballot, it is impossible for the citizens to vote intelligently. The result has been the elevation to minor offices of the unfit and the greedy.

Just why the ballot should be cumbered with such offices as a reporter for a court, a county surveyor, or a coroner in the name of democratic government is unexplainable.

If attention of the public could be centered on one or two offices, there would be a better chance to keep out the unfit.

In this county, the fact that all the citizens of the county vote for eleven members of the legislature and four or five senators does not make for real representation of the people in the legislature.

If the county were divided into districts so that the voters would vote for but one, there could be a careful scrutiny of the candidates by their own neighbors who would know better their qualifications that could voters in distant sections of the county.

The short ballot, impossible until the people get a new Constitution, is the short road to better government.

Until then, centralization of authority in the Governor should get results. If any part of the machinery of government breaks down, the voters know where to look for relief. It will be in the Governor's office.

Misuse of power will bring resentment. Results will bring the proper applause and approval.

## THE FIRST REQUISITE

While politicians of both parties are discussing possible candidates for the office of mayor, and the selection of candidates is but a few weeks away, the people should demand one thing from every one who offers himself for the job.

No candidate should be named who will not pledge himself to public ownership of utilities.

Before the legislature adjourns, there is every prospect for a law which will make public ownership easier and possible.

Regulation of utilities and monopolies, it has been demonstrated, is very much of a failure.

The demand of the city for a rehearing of the water decision, which increased the rates to the people, was turned down by the public service commission with no protest from the new member of that body. It was exactly the decision that would have been written under the McArdle regime.

Appeals for relief, in times of deflation, from other utilities have been answered by refusals.

The one way out is public ownership by which these necessary services can be obtained at cost. That would solve more problems than any tax reduction.

During the next four years, the city must take over the gas company. An administration, openly or secretly hostile to the theory of public ownership, could wreck this project, the result of a quarter of a century of planning.

Unless the old parties take some interest in this phase of city government, an independent movement to save the people from utility rule might find approval.

## THE ECONOMY RACKET

President Hoover says appropriation bills so far reported in the house of representatives call for expenditures \$163,000,000 greater than his budget estimates. The Democratic appropriations committee of the house says it has saved \$66,877,908 from Hoover's budget estimates.

And between the two, the citizen who foots the bill is left bewildered, uncertain whether his money is being saved or wasted.

The confusion has arisen because the budget was prepared in a new way this year. After President Hoover had submitted the budget and the house committee had started hearings on it, he sent up a revised budget, containing recommendations for savings by changing existing laws—such as a wage cut for all federal employees and rewriting veteran laws.

When President Hoover makes his statements excoriating congress for failing to economize, he uses for the purpose of comparison the lower figures submitted in the second message, dependent on legislative enactment which has been refused by congress.

The appropriations committee, in making its reply statement, uses the original budget figures. The disparity between the two actually may not be as great as it appears, for the senate economy committee has made general recommendations for new economy legislation which, if adopted, will bring the two much closer together.

One outstanding fact—the most important fact to the taxpayer—is dodged by both the statement of the President and the appropriations committee reply.

It is this: Congress is making no real progress toward cutting the biggest single item of federal expense, the item that will have to be cut if any substantial amount of saving ever is made in the federal budget.

This is the billion-dollar appropriation made annually for veterans. In the 1934 budget the veterans get more than one-fourth of the entire federal outlay. Instead of being cut, their new appropria-

tion is \$20,000,000 greater than that for the present fiscal year.

Congress has ignored the President's recommendation for very minor savings in this item, and likewise the demand of numerous groups of citizens for substantial cuts. Time-killing hearings conducted by a joint committee will last until the end of this congress, according to present plans, with no action.

Veterans get a billion dollars a year. The public debt takes another billion and a quarter. National defense takes about \$700,000,000. Only about a billion dollars is left for running the rest of the federal government for the judicial, executive and legislative branches.

Devoting its attention to this billion, congress, in a frantic effort to seem economical, reduces by 65 per cent the appropriation of one of the most important bureaus of the government—the federal trade commission—saving less than a million dollars by eliminating work that has saved taxpayers at least fifty times that much in the last few years alone.

The senate is to be commended for going beyond the President and house and eliminating \$19,000,000 of air mail subsidies.

But both congress and the President fail of their obvious public duty when they shut their eyes to veteran economy, which is the key to relief of taxpayers.

## WHAT'S THE ANSWER

The prophet of the new deal must be discouraged as he looks upon the behavior of his party in the house of representatives.

House Democrats just have struck a deadly blow at the federal trade commission, cutting its appropriation by 65 per cent and wiping out the government's one division of economists.

The trade commission was created by Democrats in 1914, the first and only department of government ever created to represent the consumer. With the end of the Democratic administration it passed under Republican control; conservative members were appointed; many of its functions were abandoned, others were curtailed by the courts.

In spite of that fact, it managed to do some of the most useful work performed by the government in many years. Its investigations in the Pittsburgh plus case, for example, are saving American farmers \$30,000,000 a year.

Benefits accruing already from the investigation of utilities have been recited here many times. The dollar and cents value of a newly proposed investigation of corporation practices scarcely can be estimated, to say nothing of its social value.

The house Democrats, at a time when their party is to assume general power, when vacancies on the commission make it possible for the new President to control its policies at once, have attempted to block this and end the commission's life.

To say that this is done in the name of economy is not convincing. That amount saved is infinitesimal in relation to the budget. What force has been powerful enough to put the house Democrats in this strange position?

## THE BARRY CHARGES

The senate has acted properly in demanding that Sergeant-at-Arms David J. Barry prove his magazine charges that unnamed senators and representatives will sell their votes for money. Congress is accustomed to attacks, often unwarranted. Usually it is in the course of wisdom to ignore them, but bribery charges can not be ignored.

Barry's other charge that some members of congress are demagogues speaks for itself and needs no proof. But bribery is something else.

When questioned on the floor of the senate Friday, Barry failed to produce proof that any votes had been sold. Indeed, he fell back on the lame answer that he had no particular member or incident in mind when he wrote the charge.

Such answer seems to convict Mr. Barry of trying to blacken the reputation of members of congress without cause, or of being too frightened to give facts if he possessed them.

If Mr. Barry has proof of bribery, which appears improbable, he should be forced to disclose it, and the guilty members should be punished.

If Mr. Barry has no proof, he should be punished by the law, and not merely let off with loss of his job.

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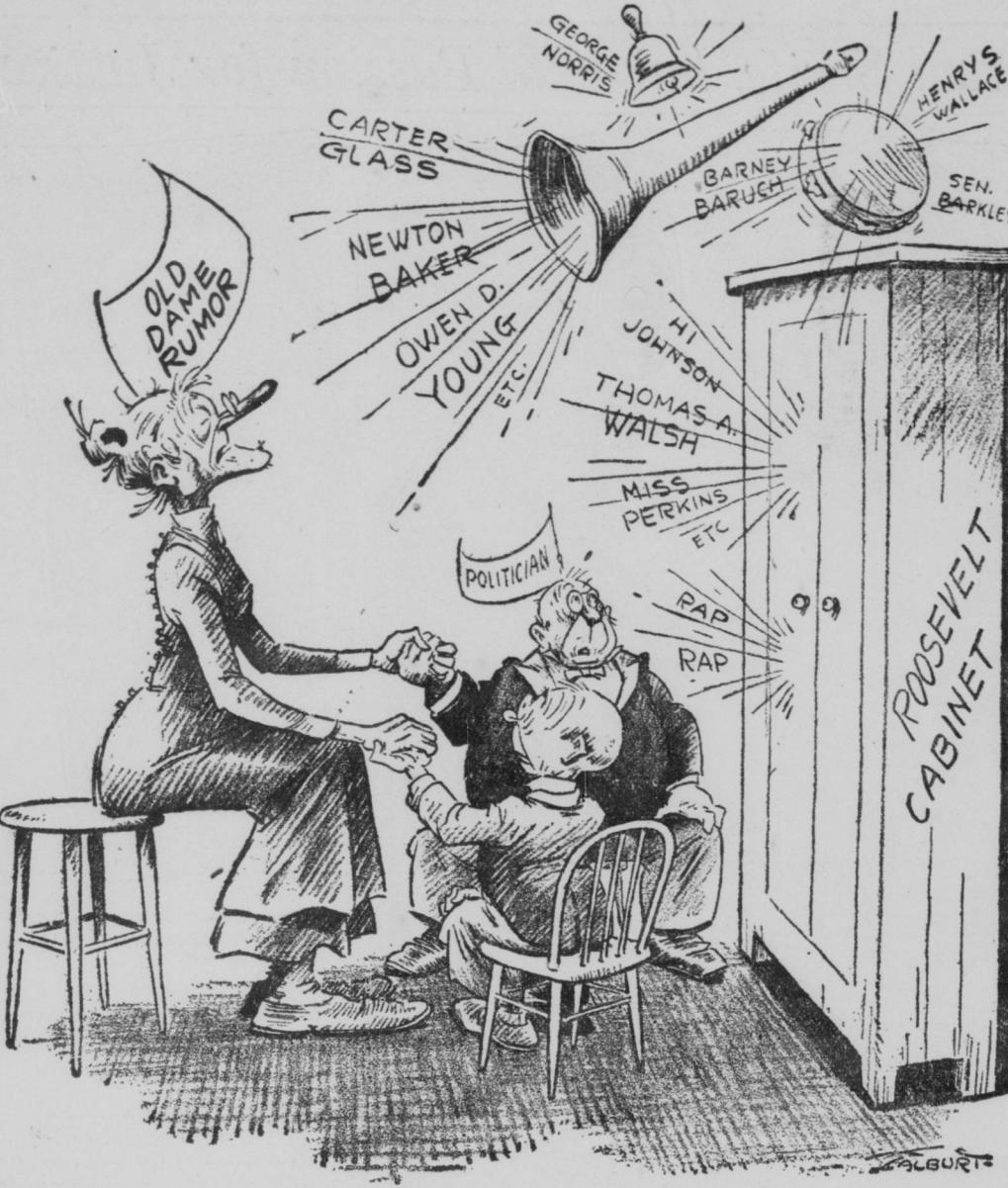
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## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## The Medium



## M. E. Tracy Says:

ALUMINUM AGE IS VISIONED



A aluminum age is just around the corner, according to Colin Fink of Columbia, with trains, buildings and ships constructed from alloys of that metal.

Such a prophecy hardly will be received with enthusiasm by those who own steel stocks, but commercial profit in any particular line never has served the demands of progress very long.

Progress owes much to the annihilation of old habits, old trades and old industries. Men can not move a head and save their existing institutions. Aluminum follows steel just as steel followed copper and copper followed stone.

When the Pilgrims came to America they needed little but a wood lot and a corn patch to make them comfortable, unless it was a ship to carry goods. They were no exception to civilized life.

Shakespeare never knew the pleasure of turning on an electric light or riding in an automobile. He did a job in literature, however, that will tax our brightest minds to imitate, much less equal.

## Good Men Appear When Needed

SOMETIMES you wonder how much methods and materials have to do with human achievement, especially along artistic and cultural lines.

We keep telling ourselves that prosperity and modernity are essential to the production of great men. When we need them, however, they are apt to come from the humbler and less comfortable walks of life.

Look at Lincoln, Franklin, Jackson, Ramsay MacDonald and Mussolini. It is hard to escape the conclusion that many of the institutions, activities and systems which grow out of progress are contrary to its basic principles.

The average institution, activity, and system seeks nothing so much as permanence, but permanence is the one thing which can not be reconciled with progress.

Growth is mainly a matter of change. Failure to recognize it as such has done more to confuse social ideals and destroy governments than any single element.

## We Need Conservatism to Balance Radicalism

THOUGH we are well aware that practically all advantages we enjoy were brought about by ruthless and often revolutionary improvements, we are inclined to oppose such improvements, especially if they touch our pocketbooks or our political prejudices.

People still dream the latest achievement not only is best, but beyond improvement, and that though other ages and civilizations have been swept aside, theirs will remain as it is.

No doubt this is a good thing. Lack of faith in existing ways, customs and enterprises would open the door to chaos.

We need conservatism in order to give radicalism a balanced form, if for no other reason. At the same time, we should not blind ourselves to its true purposes, should not permit it to justify unwholesome fear.

Precedence and tradition are to be taken seriously as long as they inspire us to go on and emulate those who made them.

They are not to be taken seriously when they stand in the way of advancement.

## SCIENCE

## Polar Secrets Sought

BY DAVID DIETZ

A TRIO of the world's most colorful explorers is getting ready for another attack upon the secrets of the Antarctic. They are Lincoln Ellsworth, Sir Hubert Wilkins and Bernt Balchen.

The three recently finished testing their powerful Northrop Gamma plane at the Teterboro airport in New Jersey. The plane being created for shipping to northern Canada, presumably for tests under Arctic conditions. It is equipped with a 300-horse power Wasp motor and can make 211 miles an hour.

And yet it would have been unfair to assail Franklin D. Roosevelt as an exponent of birth control, because his wife happened to be a great admirer of Mrs. Roosevelt.

For instance, I was a little concerned during the campaign that ammunition might be made of the fact that Mrs. Roosevelt is a member of an organization which selected Margaret Sanger as its honored guest.

I think it would be an excellent idea to drop the whole conception which marks the wife of the President as having any official connection with the administration.

There even have been campaigns in which voters seriously discussed the merits of a candidate's wife, just as if the lady in question were running for public office. The wife of a king, save under special and unusual circumstances, is a queen, but there is no such thing as Mrs. President.

Now, it stands to reason that no one who adopted that line of conduct possibly could be the first anything. The best that "yes" men or "yes" women can hope to achieve is second place.

And yet, it would be unfair to accuse Mr. Roosevelt of being a bad example.

I would be glad to have Mr. Roosevelt come out for birth control, but I certainly think that he can not be identified as one with or against the cause until he speaks up for himself.

You may think, as I do, that "Babies, Just Babies," is rather a silly title for a magazine, but I see no reason why Mrs. Roosevelt should not be the editor if that is her will and pleasure.

Indeed, I am delighted to know that