

The Indianapolis Times

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SCRIPPS-HOWARD
 Give Light and the
 People Will Find
 Their Own Way

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1933.

ROOSEVELT ON RELIEF

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is showing the same speed and intelligence in tackling pressing problem of jobless relief that he showed in meeting the bank crisis.

His three-day plan, as he outlined it Tuesday to congress, embraces the essential elements of an emergency program.

First, the President would make available at once for forestation camps some \$200,000, 000 of unobligated public works funds already appropriated. This would employ possibly 250,000 workers for one year at wholesome and useful work.

It would both regenerate the idle men and add to the nation's permanent wealth. And it would do both with a minimum of delay.

Next, he would replenish the almost depleted Federal hunger relief fund. By using the word "grant," it is obvious that he has reached the conclusion, with Senators Cogan and La Follette, that many states are at the end of their borrowing power.

In asking for appointment of a federal relief administrator, he shows that he also wants federal grants administered scientifically instead of haphazardly and politically.

Since there remains only \$68,000,000 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation relief loan fund, this part of the program can not be delayed long.

Finally, he soon will outline his plan for what he calls "a broad public works labor-creating program." This is, by all odds, the most important of the three.

Work relief on a scale comprehensive enough to start re-employment of the 12,000,000 or more jobless and at the same time stimulate private industry through increased buying power is an essential to the decent survival of these unemployed and to the economic health of the nation.

Inspiring as is the small forestation plan, it alone will not suffice to pump buying power into the pockets of the masses. Senator Wagner's bill indicates a manner in which public works can be expanded at once without unbalancing the budget.

He would make available the unused R. F. C. credit for loans to cities and states for tax-litigating purposes. Thus, some \$1,500,000,000 would be unfrozen and localities could begin borrowing for permanent and sound improvements—for slum-abatement projects, roads, bridges, schools, parks and other works.

Senator Wagner also will propose a \$1,000,000,000 federal public works program, federal aid for unemployment insurance, and a "new deal" federal-state system of employment exchanges.

These reforms are in line with the oft-expressed views of both President Roosevelt and his labor secretary, Miss Frances Perkins. They are indispensable ingredients of the new deal.

SECRETARY PERKINS' JOB

THE Civil Liberties Union's request that the new secretary of labor oust Mrs. Anna C. Tillingshast from her job as immigration commissioner for the New England district brings the vital deportation issue again to the fore.

Mrs. Tillingshast is represented as personifying the anti-alien complex, so foreign to the human ideals of the new administration. Specifically, she is accused of having led an unauthorized campaign for a Connecticut state law to register all aliens. So unpopular was the measure that the Connecticut legislature promptly buried it.

Mrs. Tillingshast's action, the union tells Miss Perkins, "is in line with her whole record of provocation against aliens and of tactics far more in keeping with membership in the D. A. R. than with her public duties."

Most important is the early cleanup of the whole deportation mess. This means not only in personnel, but in the legal machinery of "the system."

Miss Perkins and congress need go no further than the Wickersham commission's report to learn that under this system "grave abuses" and "unnecessary hardships" have grown up, that the methods of the labor department's immigration men have been "unconstitutional, tyrannical and oppressive," that practices have been engaged in that "violate the plainest dictates of humanity."

Delay in correcting these evils continued suffering among the most defenseless and least vocal of the American poor. We trust that Miss Perkins' new broom will clean out the dark corners of the deportation racket at once.

ROOSEVELT AIDS THE VOICELESS

IF the passage of the Roosevelt economy measure by congress did nothing else, it at least gave us a new education about the place of the lobby in democratic government.

When you get right down to it, in one sense, there is not necessarily anything fundamentally wrong with the lobby scheme. A minority, in a democracy, has got to have some way of reaching the ear of the government.

When it organizes for that purpose, and retains agents to present its case at the Capitol, it is simply getting up on a stepladder so that it can reach the government's ear more easily.

Nor is there, fundamentally, anything wrong with the notion that a congressman or a senator should listen to a lobby. The minority has a right to be heard; it is only fair that its pleas should be heeded.

The trouble comes when a minority, because of its compactness, its determination, and the skill of its agents, gets an influence greater than it deserves.

Then—as frequently has happened at

Washington—it can override the majority, for the simple reason that the majority is not organized, and consequently is voiceless.

It is right at this point that President Roosevelt's action in regard to the economy bill became an important departure from the ordinary routine.

What he did was simply to appoint himself lobbyist for the voiceless and unorganized majority.

That he did so—that he had to do so if the vast majority was to be protected—does not necessarily reflect on congress. It is congress' business to listen to organized minorities. Representative government hardly would be possible if it did not do so.

But that, in turn, means that if the President himself does not make it his business to represent the majority, nobody will.

This conception of the President's job is a profoundly important one. One of the heartening things about the present situation is that Mr. Roosevelt has grasped it so firmly.

The great mass of people who can not band together, formulate a program and hire a lobby have their spokesman now.

THE MACDONALD-MUSSOLINI PLAN

UNDER threat of European war, intensified by the Hitler dictatorship in Germany, the powers are seeking another peace agreement.

Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, in his visit to Rome, worked out a general plan with Mussolini, which has been accepted with reservations by France as a basis of negotiation.

There have been too many peace and security agreements between the powers in the past for this latest one to be accepted popularly as a road to the millennium. The question is being asked, Why are not the Locarno and Kellogg pacts and the European agreement of last December serving the purpose of peace?

The answer to that question seems to be that the sundry no-war and no-force treaties and agreements are inadequate in themselves, because they failed to remove the cause of war. All the solemn promises and treaties in the world will not preserve peace if the torches of hatred and strife are left to drive peoples and governments to war.

Among the many causes of war which still are operating in Europe are economic, military and political factors. The economic causes include tariffs, trade barriers, debts, competition over raw material sources and foreign markets, and the like.

The coming world economic conference is supposed to deal with these questions, though the prospect of success is not bright.

As to military factors, ten years of almost continuous disarmament negotiations and conferences, resulting in almost complete failure, seems to indicate that effective disarmament will not be achieved until some of the major economic and political strife behind the armament race is eliminated.

Hence the necessity of facing the political conflicts.

The hope in the so-called MacDonald-Mussolini plan is that the European political disputes growing out of the unjust and unworkable Versailles and other peace treaties will be modified.

The nations conquered in the last war will continue to seethe with revenge and belligerent nationalism under their respective Hitlers, leading to eventual war, unless the humiliating Versailles discriminations are removed and unless certain territorial wrongs are righted.

For example, no amount of treaty pledging or of disarmament, can make the Polish corridor any less a powder mine of war.

The issue is basic. The price of Franco-British hegemony over Europe, which has existed since Versailles, is that the subject nations will plot to throw off the yoke, and that France will insist on keeping a super-army and Britain will insist on keeping a super-navy to maintain the status quo.

The top dogs will have to choose between peace and the status quo; they can not have both. Either the top dogs will give the under dogs more of the bones, or there will be a fight.

The official statements regarding the MacDonald-Mussolini plan still are too vague, and the unofficial reports too meager, to determine whether the powers are dealing seriously with the political and territorial war causes of Europe, or whether this is just another futile sleight-of-hand performance.

There is not much the United States can do directly about that political issue, even though our destiny is entangled unavoidably and irrevocably in European war or peace.

But we can and should lead in the settlement of the world economic conflict—tariffs, debts, raw materials and markets—which underlies and multiplies the political conflicts that threaten war.

A RAY OF HOPE

INTIMATION wafted from the statehouse that something may be done toward reduction of utility rates brings a loud cheer from the overburdened public. Even an intimation is good for a fairly deep-throated cheer.

Since the legislature ceased its frenzied endeavors under the spur of Governor Paul V. McNutt, little has been heard concerning the utility problem. It appeared as if the new public service commission deal was merely another one of those things—a rose under another name, with just a different set of thorns and smelling about the same.

But the report that John N. Shannahan, head of the vast Insull interests in the state, will return next Tuesday with a new schedule of rates for the properties once manipulated by Athens' latest leading citizen stirs hope in the flattened breast of the consumer.

Light rates, water rates, gas rates and phone rates certainly are not down to the level to which the bank roll of the utility patron has shrunk in the last three years. Not to mention the tax which has been plastered on the monthly bills.

Rate slashes on the Insull schedule alone will affect 672 towns on light and power and ninety-five on gas. This is a very sizable portion of the state, and a cut here would be a fine start toward easing the load on the consumer.

What the public service commission does to further this laudable movement will be of deep interest to the man who pays.

With the light, power and gas schedule being given attention, it also might be well to give a little thought to phone and water rates.

Mr. Clarence Geist, the justly celebrated Philadelphia philanthropist, still is reaping a swollen harvest, by the absurdly simple method of keeping his rates near the war-time level, cutting off employees and slicing wage scales.

A cut in water rates might affect his generosity in giving pipe organs to clubs of which he is a member, but the public in general is more interested in what comes out of water pipes than what comes out of pipe organs and what it costs to coax it out.

So while the new public service commission is bursting into feverish activity, let it do some of its bursting in the direction of the Indianapolis Water Company.

DON'T HURT BASEBALL HERE

THE city council showed good judgment in blocking the attempt to pile additional cost of operation on Indianapolis' American Association baseball club at its Monday night meeting.

Effort to assess the club heavily for police and fire protection was ill-advised. Norman Perry, owner of the club, has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in building one of the best professional plants in the country here and buying the best talent available in the market.

He should be given encouragement, as his club is one of the best advertisements the city could have. Few baseball magnates have served the game with more credit and few have shown the willingness to spend their money for winning teams that Perry has.

The city has a big league magnate in a minor league city and should show its appreciation, during both the off season and the playing season.

The maximum temperature on Mars is around freezing, and the nights are far below zero, says Dr. Edison Pettit, California astronomer. And, one might add, pretty much the same conditions are obtained in some apartment buildings.

Chicago school superintendent slipped in bath; skinned his knee. Told convention what this country needs is a good nonskid bath tub. Just another little matter for the new administration to attend to.

Just how much motor fuel can be produced from 60,000,000 bushels of surplus grain hasn't been calculated. But we know a chap who can produce a peck of trouble from a pint of rye, if that's any help.

A Stockton (Cal.) family owns a rooster with four legs, and thus will have two extra drumsticks for Sunday dinner. Can it be that this inflation movement has spread to the barn yard, too?

A veteran baseball umpire declares it is his ambition to die on the field of play. All right, just let him give a couple of bum decisions against the home team this summer.

Fashion experts announce that the prevailing colors for spring will be black and blue. Maybe they got the idea during the recent skating season.

"The government is issuing vast quantities of new money hot off the presses," says a Washington dispatch. Let's hope it won't be hot enough to burn a hole in the pocket.

Chicago plainclothes men foxtrotted around the city's dime-a-dance halls; then closed them up. That's stamping out crime, for you.

Housewives are being urged to economize by doing their own cooking. Well, that's one way to persuade husbands to eat less.

M. E. Tracy Says:

ANOTHER disarmament powwow is on at Geneva, with an army double its present size for Germany to start the horse trading. The European situation has grown ugly of late, and disarmament might ease it. The real source of trouble, however, goes deeper than the caliber of guns, or the amount of powder on hand.

Speaking generally, Europeans are sore at the way the war turned out—victors, as well as vanquished, and neutral, as well as victors. They are sore at the political and economic confusion which resulted from tearing the map to pieces and setting up a flock of little governments to scramble for revenue and clutter up the field of trade with tariffs.

They are sore at the back-stair intrigue by which new alliances are being formed behind the smoke screen of peace palaver. They are sore at the oppressive taxes and laws under which most of them are compelled to live.

It is doubtful if any European government wants war, or would not go out of its way to avoid war. By the same token, it is doubtful if large numbers of people under about every European government are not in a mood to fight.

THE situation calls for something more statesmanlike than the scaling down of armies and navies, since if the scaling down were fair, it would leave the relative strength of each government right where it is now. It would have the same effect on the relative hate, fear, and hope. For instance, if the French feel that they could beat Italy under existing conditions, they would feel the same way if the armament of both countries were reduced one-half.

Men in a mood to fight will use guns if they have them. If not, they will use anything on which they can lay their hands. If they can not lay their hands on anything, they just will use their hands.

The influence of armament on war originates in disparity, not the general level. If the people of a country think they have enough men, guns and ships to raise hell with impunity, their military establishment may tempt them to do so. Reducing their military establishment, along with that of other countries in the same proportion, would not remove this possibility.

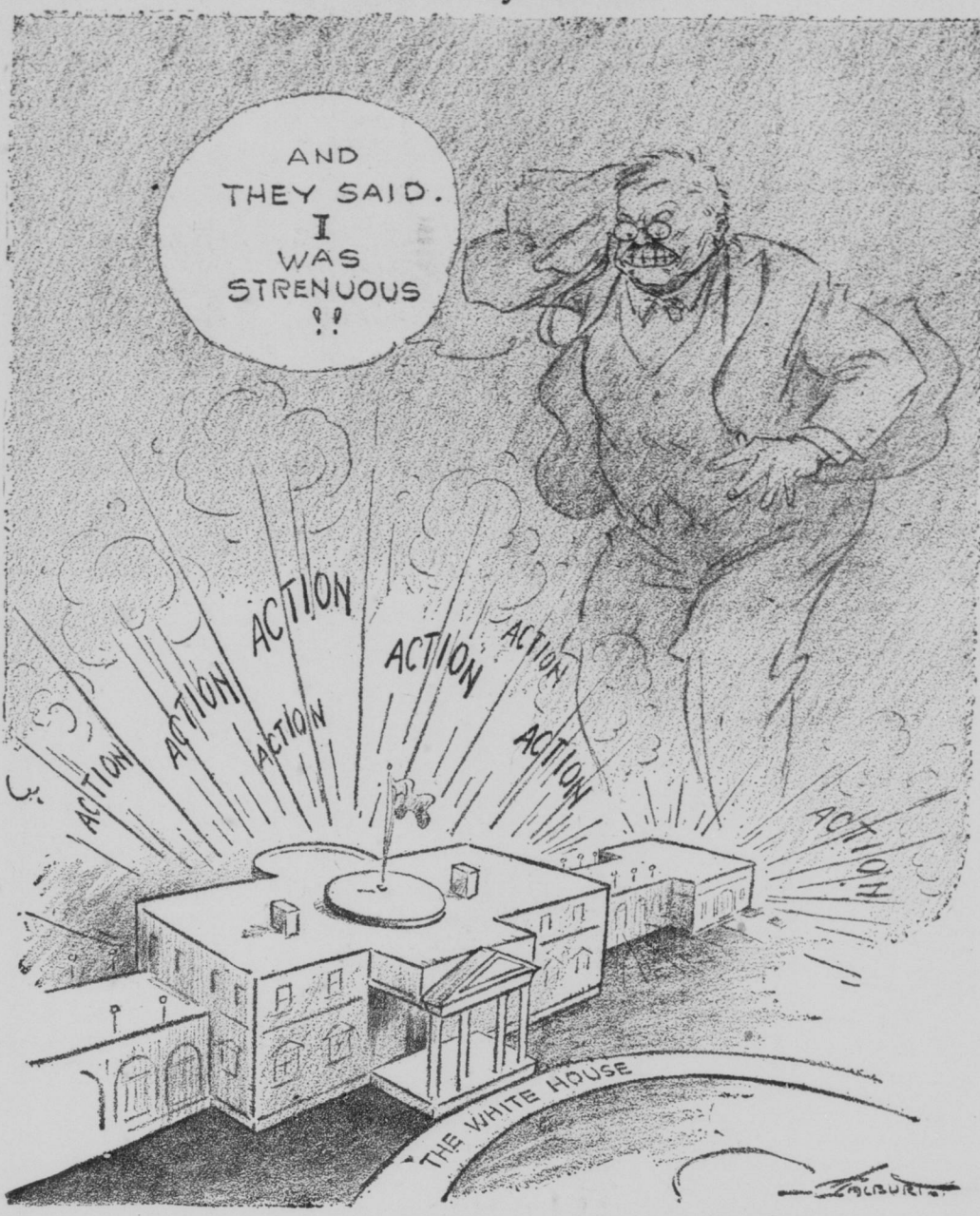
DISARMAMENT is desirable to liberate men, money, and ideas for more constructive work, but it promises about as much to eliminate war as prohibition did to eliminate drunkenness. Modern weapons did not teach men to fight, and something more effective than the removal of those weapons is required to teach them not to fight.

The man that people feel that they understand what that something is; feel that they have proved it by example.

The American people could maintain the most powerful army and navy on earth if they so desired. They do not so desire, and that simple fact is the only sound basis of peace.

As to the European situation, the American people are interested and hopeful, but they are not going to rush any more wars to end on European soil, rush to the rescue of any more European countries with the idea of saving civilization, or advance any more big loans to make trade for their own ammunition factories on the theory of promoting permanent peace.

Shade of T. R.



The Message Center :

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns. Make your letters short, so every one can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

By A Hoosier

I am a Hoosier and thought perhaps a few Hoosiers might like to read another version of the earthquake which shook southern California March 10, at 5:55 p. m.

We just were sitting down to the evening meal, the radio was playing, and we had turned the lights on. All at once the radio stopped and the lights went out. The house just seemed to jump up and down and then rock back and forth just like a bucking bronco.

To say we were frightened is putting it mildly. We all spoke at once, "It is an earthquake." We rushed outside and found yards and streets full of people.

We live in the Verdugo hills and my first thought was that a mountain had fallen, but I looked around and they all seemed to be in their proper places. Everyone was laughing or seemed to be.

We went back in the house and found our meal all over the tablecloth. Then the radio started playing and we thought everything was over. Long Beach began calling for help and another tremor struck us. We realized then that what we thought was mirth in the people was hysteria.

Compton also began calling for help. All night long we sat at our radio and listened as tremor after tremor shook the earth. Long Beach reported several dead and many homes in ruins. Also, her business district was hard hit. Compton was almost in ruins, but reported only a few deaths.

All beach towns were hit, but the inland towns suffered slight damage. In Hollywood the jar started every traffic light and burglar alarm to ringing and made a terrible uproar.

The first night, every one seemed confused and scared, but the morning sun seemed to put new heart into them, for they faced the day and the millions of dollars' loss with a cheerful outlook and are rebuilding their homes and business places.

We still can feel slight tremors. They say it is the earth settling. I hope it soon gets settled, for it is an uncanny feeling to be rocked in your house every so often, like being on a ship on the ocean.

But I must say that they are a great people here. A few fires broke out and Signal Hill, which is a mass of oil wells even was reported on

fire, but everything was under control in a few hours time, thanks to the navy department, fire and police department, American Legion, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army and the wonderful spirit of the sunny southland's own people.

It is a great country and great people in it, with every confidence of building a greater southland than ever before. May their hopes be realized.

By Charles Franklin

IN reply to the letter headed a Slap at the Democrats, in Sunday's Star, in which Constant Reader says there is no telling what the country would have been had congress and citizens backed up Hoover while President, I'll agree with him. God knows it has gone bad enough without anyone else's support. The great plans that you say Mr. Hoover had for the good of the country still are in his head, as none ever came out while he was President.

I have voted the Republican national ticket from James G. Blaine all the way down until we came to this wonderful Hoover. I still think I have lived a life in company with a noble, open-minded bunch of Republicans, for when we saw a chance to elect the greatest statesman since Abraham Lincoln as our leader, we dropped Mr. Hoover like anyone would a hot potato and voted for Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt and are proud of our actions up to date.

I for one am more than pleased by the change. You will learn something later on about your forgotten man.

By R. M. Bowers

Real men, men of character and purpose have made Indianapolis whatever she is or ever has been. Real men, men of character imbued with purposeful progress will develop whatever prosperity Indianapolis may have to bestow upon her average citizen in the future.

Plainly stated, it is the banker who has used his resources to promote the welfare of industry within the confines of Indianapolis who is the banker of character, after all.

Some Indianapolis bankers have advanced finances to Indianapolis industries and to an extent have based advances upon confidence in the ability, character, and integrity of men behind these industries. These men of industry have at least to some extent kept the wheels turning so as to pay salaries and wages.

To bring back and build real prosperity, we need and want the banker of real character who has the confidence in humanity to advance finances so that honest industry may continue to operate and pay living salaries and wages to average citizens.

Now is not the time to be gossiped, gabbled or wise-cracked into walking out on the progressive banker of real character. The Shylock banker invariably demands that wages and salaries be cut where he puts out. He has always got to get his pound of flesh and cutting is his philosophy of life.

Real Banker Needed

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And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, has not forsaken them that seek thee.—Psalms 9:10.

MAKE not Christ a liar in dis-trusting His promise.—Rutherford.

Daily Thought

By R. M. Bowers

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Glaucoma Causes Much of Blindness

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN

Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

ONE of the most dangerous of all diseases of the eye is glaucoma, a condition responsible for a large proportion of blindness that exists today.

The cause of this disease is unknown. Its principal manifestation is an increase of pressure inside the eye.

Glaucoma causes about 15 per cent of all blindness that occurs, and about one-half of all the blindness that occurs in adults.

The blood that comes into the eye to nourish it must pass out or the fluid accumulates, then there is a sense of pressure with pain.

The eye gets hard and red, and, from the front, the eye appears gray and cloudy.

In other cases, the fluid goes out partially, but not completely, so that the increased pressure takes place gradually and the loss of sight takes place gradually.

A competent physician actually can measure the pressure in the eye by means of a special instrument called the tonometer. He can look into the eye with the ophthalmoscope to see whether there has been sufficient pressure to cause a depression in the optic nerve tissues as they come into the eye.

As the glaucoma develops, the individual can see in front of him, but not so wide on the sides. Gradually his field of vision becomes narrow, with final loss of sight.

The expert can determine the narrowing of the field of vision by use of an apparatus called a perimeter. If untreated, glaucoma leads certainly to blindness. It is difficult to control. Excessive pressure on sensitive tissue, such as that of nerves, produce degeneration.

Physicians treat glaucoma by use of drugs which lower pressure in the eye and contract the pupil. Such a condition can not be treated by the use of glasses.

If medical methods fail, it is customary to establish proper drainage and to keep the pressure in the eye permanently low.

No condition of the eye should be neglected, because prompt diagnosis and treatment are necessary to take care of the condition before permanent changes occur.

At any rate, the two heroines of Miss Paterson's book are delightful creatures, cultivated American women, who have struggled, loved and suffered disillusion, yet preserved their friendship—a precious boon—through it all.

They look upon life as a slow moving panorama of which they are only a small part. Unlike the old-fashioned heroine, they realize they are not the center of a universe that revolves around their little emotions.

In short, these modern women debunk themselves—and if one must debunk, why not begin with the old ego?

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