

## The Indianapolis Times

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ROY W. HOWARD . . . President  
TALCOTT POWELL . . . Editor  
EARL D. BAKER . . . Business Manager  
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## ROOSEVELT ON RELIEF

**P**RESIDENT 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-prong 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 unobliged 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 Costigan 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-liquidating 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 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

**T**HE Civil Liberties Union's request that the new secretary of labor oust Mrs. Anna C. Tillinghast from her job as immigration commissioner for the New England district brings the vital deportation issue again to the fore.

Mrs. Tillinghast is represented as personallying 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. Tillinghast'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

**I**F 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 plead should be heard.

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

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

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

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

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.

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 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.

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