

The Indianapolis Times

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THREE CURBS ON CRIME

INTERESTING and informative indeed is the analysis of city crime, its causes and the methods used to combat it, in a statement by Chief Mike Morrissey, rounding out his second year as head of the Indianapolis police department.

He gives credit to the return of beer for reduction in number of arrests. He foresees future diminishing of shocking crimes which have stained the pages of city history during the prohibition regime. His views and his figures well serve to refute the arguments of dry leaders that the highways would be strewn with wrecks and the streets littered with drunks when brew came back.

Of special interest is the chief's emphatic declaration that the police radio setup has been a major factor in curbing crime and keeping the city free of gangsters who have made life perilous and hideous in so many of our large population centers.

The average householder takes the police radio cars for granted, as just another part of the city's equipment, like the fire engines or the ash wagons.

He rarely takes into account the fact that all night long these cars are roaming his neighborhood, protecting his life and property. He gives little thought to the speed with which they can answer a call, compared to the time it took a beat man to reach the scene, under the old system.

But the thug and the crook know and they fear the radio cars as they never before feared any police agency. They know that they have only seconds to operate and make their getaway where once they had minutes or hours.

A third point which Chief Morrissey stresses is juvenile crime. "It's not the gangsters who are our main crime concern; it's the youngsters," he says.

Youths who often go hungry and have no money for amusements of any kind naturally become embittered. They do not steal from choice, but they must eat. From petty thievery to fill their empty stomachs, they grow bolder and rob that they may have money for hectic entertainment.

And here the chief strikes a point that city officials should take to heart.

"Boys need plenty of fresh air and organized play to take their minds off their troubles," he declares. "Good outdoor sport and popular idols like Lindbergh and Babe Ruth do more to break down juvenile crime than a million cops can."

Juvenile recreation centers are the answer to this. Every dollar that the city can afford to spend should be so expended on public playgrounds. They may be the means of keeping scores of lads away from lives of crime in the years to come.

Bear, public playgrounds, and police radio cars—a strange hook-up, but an effective one in battling crime, and every good citizen should say, "More power to them."

FAVORED GROUPS MUST GIVE

THE time is just about ripe for America's ex-service men to look about them and inquire irreverently, "When are the rest of you birds going to step up and take your medicine?"

The ex-service men took theirs first. The federal budget had to be cut and cut heavily. Out of the payments to ex-soldiers came \$450,000,000. The service veterans, naturally enough, fought against it; but once the law went through, they took it, on the whole, like men.

At the time the country had a lot of praise for an administration that dared to defy such a well-organized and powerful lobby. It was remarked widely that however much merit there might be to the veterans' claim for special attention, times were extraordinary and the interest of the nation as a whole must be put above the interest of any single group.

That was all true enough. But the ex-service men are entitled to wonder, now, when some of the other groups that have been enjoying special privileges are going to get similar treatment.

So far, these groups have shown no inclination to get out of the way of the administration's recovery program.

Some industries which have enjoyed high tariff protection are not falling in line on the plan to give the President blanket power to discuss a lowering of trade barriers with Mac-Donald, Herron, and the other foreign statesmen.

The United States Chamber of Commerce and the public utility groups are fighting to block the administration's Muscle Shoals scheme.

Certain bankers have slowed down reform measures designed to protect the small depositor and the small investor. Other financial leaders are trying to delay the federal "blue sky" regulations.

Real estate interests are reported antagonistic to the government's plan to include cheap housing in its vast public works program.

Each of these cases, when you get right down to it, is not unlike the case of the veterans' bloc and the economy bill.

The veterans' bloc finally had to yield; and, in the main, when that time came it yielded with good grace.

And the veterans now are entitled to ask when these other blocs are going to take their cut, too.

TRAINING NEW SOLDIERS

HAVING spoken his mind with refreshing frankness about faulty organization, in the war department, the useful and outspoken Major-General Johnson Hagood is now proposing a radically new system of training service rookies.

At present, as everybody knows, the new recruit spends weeks and months just in learning how to do squads right. The intricacies of parade ground maneuvers, the manual of arms and so on make a long primary course

in the school of the soldier, and it takes a long time for the pupils to graduate.

It is stated that it takes from one to three years to fit a recruit for actual combat service.

General Hagood thinks this is all wrong. He would teach rookies to handle their guns in the field first and let them learn the other stuff later; and he asserts that it ought to be possible to fit a rookie for active service in no longer than ten days.

His battalions doubtless would be sorry sights on the drill field; but he says they would be able to fight acceptably—and, after all, is the main job of the soldier.

CONTROLLED INFLATION

THERE is good inflation and bad. Put in another way, an inflation which restored a reasonable price level, achieved a just balance between debtors and creditors, and put us on a fair trade basis in relation to the rest of the world, would be the road to economic health.

But an uncontrolled inflation, which depreciated the currency without provision for breaks or bottom—as in the case of the old German mark—would be the road to suicide.

Of course, every inflationist denies that his particular brand is of the uncontrollable variety. And every last-ditch deflationist insists that all brands of inflation are uncontrollable.

Neither extremist can be very helpful to the world at this time of crisis.

The figure used at the White House is apt. It was said that the President was clear as to his goal, but that he could no more fix all his plans in advance than a football quarterback could call all his plays in advance.

A general has an objective, but he never will reach the objective unless he is able to shift tactics and mature strategy as his line of advance.

Some months ago Mr. Roosevelt, along with most Americans, was opposed to currency inflation. That he now moves quickly toward controlled inflation, under pressure of domestic and foreign developments which could not be foreseen last winter, shows that Mr. Roosevelt is not fettered by the rigidity of mind which was so disastrous to the country under the Hoover administration.

By acting quickly when the monetary crisis occurred, Mr. Roosevelt, far from plunging us into uncontrolled inflation, has taken the one course most likely to save us from printing press money.

Insofar as a government can embark on necessary reflation, and at the same time throw up barriers to prevent it from running wild, the President is providing controls for inflation.

One thing conducive to uncontrolled inflation is gold shortage. The President has prevented that. By suspending gold payments and exports immediately on taking office, and by tightening that embargo policy this week, he stopped the drain of gold before it began.

Today we have all the gold we need; indeed, many economists think we have too much. The gold holdings of the federal reserve system now total \$3,365,000,000, the largest amount with one brief exception of any reserve ever held by our banks of issue.

The nation's monetary gold stock has reached the enormous figure of \$5,313,000,000 out of the world total of \$11,880,000,000.

Another thing which forces inflation to run wild, once it gets started, is an unbalanced government budget. Like a narcotic victim, the government resorts to more and more paper money to meet its operating deficit, until the money becomes virtually worthless.

But, before embarking on even the mildest inflation, the President arranged to eliminate one billion dollars of government operating expenses. With the operating budget in approximate balance, no shortage will tempt the printing presses and undermine the government's determination to keep its money sound.

But the President has done more than avoid the dangers of a gold shortage and an unbalanced operating budget.

By asking congress to give him discretionary power to employ certain carefully restrained types of currency inflation if and when needed, he probably has headed off in congress a 16-to-1 silver law or another extreme form of inflation.

Not only does the Roosevelt inflation bill provide definite limits of expansion, but it has the added advantage of being highly flexible.

Reverting to the White House's football analogy, this flexibility will allow the quarterback to adapt his strategy as the situation changes.

Just as there are no absolute certainties in life, there is none in monetary policy. But we know that blind retention of the old gold standard under the circumstances created an artificial and unjust debt and price level.

Reflation is necessary to create an honest dollar, so essential for business revival. The President's purpose is to get back to that honest dollar.

There always is the danger that we shall witness from one extreme to the other, from the dishonestly dear dollar of deflation to the dishonestly cheap dollar of extreme inflation.

But the Roosevelt policy should protect us from the dangers of both deflation and extreme inflation.

YELLOW DOG CONTRACTS

STATE legislatures adopted anti-injunction laws last winter, similar to that enacted by congress last year. That makes eight states now in operation.

This means that workers in eight states the years of the depression have not been without definite gain in their long fight for economic freedom.

The new laws forbid state courts as well as federal courts to issue injunctions interfering with the right of workers to organize, bargain collectively, to strike, and picket. They outlaw the yellow dog contract—except for the law in Pennsylvania, where this important provision was omitted. They require jury trials for all contempt committed outside of court.

Twenty years ago the country believed it had guaranteed the rights of organized labor by enacting the Clayton law. It soon became evident that congress had reckoned without the courts.

In spite of the law guaranteeing labor's right to organize, to strike, to assemble and otherwise to exercise its collective bargaining power, injunctions were issued which undermined constitutional rights and civil liberties.

Property rights were elevated above human rights. Workers were, in effect, forced into involuntary servitude.

Slowly the fight is being fought all over

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again. Wisconsin, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho and Utah have acted once more to secure for workers the rights that should be unquestioned.

Other states should follow quickly. The issues are too well known to require more debate.

DARROW'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT

LAWRENCE DARROW professes to have no faith in the human race. His own deeds contradict him, for he just has marked his seventy-sixth birthday anniversary by saving the life of 18-year-old Russell McWilliams and the honor of Illinois.

It was his volunteer pleading with Governor Horner's pardon board that won a commutation for the youth, about to be electrocuted for having killed while drunk.

Mr. Darrow hates injustice and cruelty, whether of individuals or society. Particularly he hates capital punishment.

"There is nothing," he says, "in the history of the world that ever so cheapened human life as war, and next to that the indiscriminate killing of men by the states. If the state wishes its citizens to respect life, it should stop killing them."

Our birthday wish is that Mr. Darrow live long enough to see the end of legal killing in his United States.

HELP THE MUSIC CAMPAIGN

THIS week in Indianapolis is marked by the annual membership campaign of the Indianapolis Civic Music Association, when the budget for the fall and winter season of concerts is built up. That it will be successful is assured by the energy of the officers and members of the club who are working to that end.

Several years ago the club adopted a widespread system of guaranteeing financial success of its concert seasons by a co-operative plan of memberships. Lovers of music are asked to become members of the clubs and pay dues of \$5 a year. This payment entitles them to a seat at every concert, and no tickets are sold at the box office.

If the club enrolls 500 members, its fund will be \$2,500. If it enrolls 1,000 members, its fund will be \$5,000. The hope now is, as the campaign near its end, is to enlist 1,200 to 1,500.

The more members enrolled, the more and better concerts can be presented. The club undertakes no expense beyond the sum in the treasury and therefore can sustain no loss. The plan is in successful operation in 25 American cities.

There is nothing "exclusive" about this arrangement. The Indianapolis Civic Music Association will welcome any one who applies for membership.

Despite adverse conditions, attendance at concerts of the last season was large. Indianapolis is a music loving city and is generous in its patronage. It is to be hoped that, the music club will increase its membership appreciably in the present campaign and by enlarging its fund provide a concert season of exceptional interest.

One way out of the depression would be to hire the fellow who gets up the seed catalogues to make out the corporation report.

President-general of the D. A. R. urges all Americans to support the government. Judging from our recent income tax report, lady, we're practically keeping it right now.

Just because a man is a flat tire, it's no sign he would be helped by inflation.

Every team is a pennant contender until its efforts begin to flag.

M.E. Tracy Says:

LIKE the war from which it sprang, this depression calls forth a clamor for America to take the lead. Ours is the only nation that can do it, they say, and human nature, if not good judgment, compels us to agree.

But there are two kinds of leadership, one which guides by example, while the other takes command and assumes responsibility.

We made it possible for the allies to win by jumping in with both feet, by hurling such masses of men and money against the German lines as left no doubt of the result.

We accumulated the wealth and developed the power which enabled us to render such effective aid largely by minding our own business.

It was our first adventure in direct meddling with European affairs and we have yet to learn just what anybody gained by it.

What we accomplished not only for ourselves,

but for other people, before the war compares quite favorably with what we have accomplished since,

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WE strive to console ourselves with the thought that we couldn't keep out of the war, that it marked a change in the tide of world relations, and that, whether we preferred to do so or not, we had no choice but to join the fray.

The same thought persuades us that we have no choice but to continue and that, though we can keep out of the League of Nations, we can not avoid becoming involved more deeply in European affairs.

We move from one conference to another in a sort of hypnotized trance, always hoping for better results, but generally emerging with increased perplexity and disappointment.

In time we may learn the ropes, but we have not been trained to play the peculiar kind of diplomatic poker which has been Europe's great indoor sport for the last five centuries.

Meanwhile, we have shown what we could do by playing our own kind of diplomacy, not on this side of the Atlantic alone, but for people on every side.

The United States made steady, constructive, inspiring progress up to the end of the World war.

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EVEN though the World war represented a definite change of policy on our part, it still left us square with the past, since we were in a position to re-establish our former attitude of aloofness or accept the new order.

Instead of making a straightforward choice, we stood "fast on one foot, and then on the other." We wouldn't sign the Versailles treaty or join the League of Nations, but we would get mixed up with the reparations controversy.

Now we are about to undertake some more pow-wow with the idea of leadership in the back of our heads, and with European statesmen lying awake nights over schemes to put us in a position where we can't avoid assuming it, especially with regard to debts.

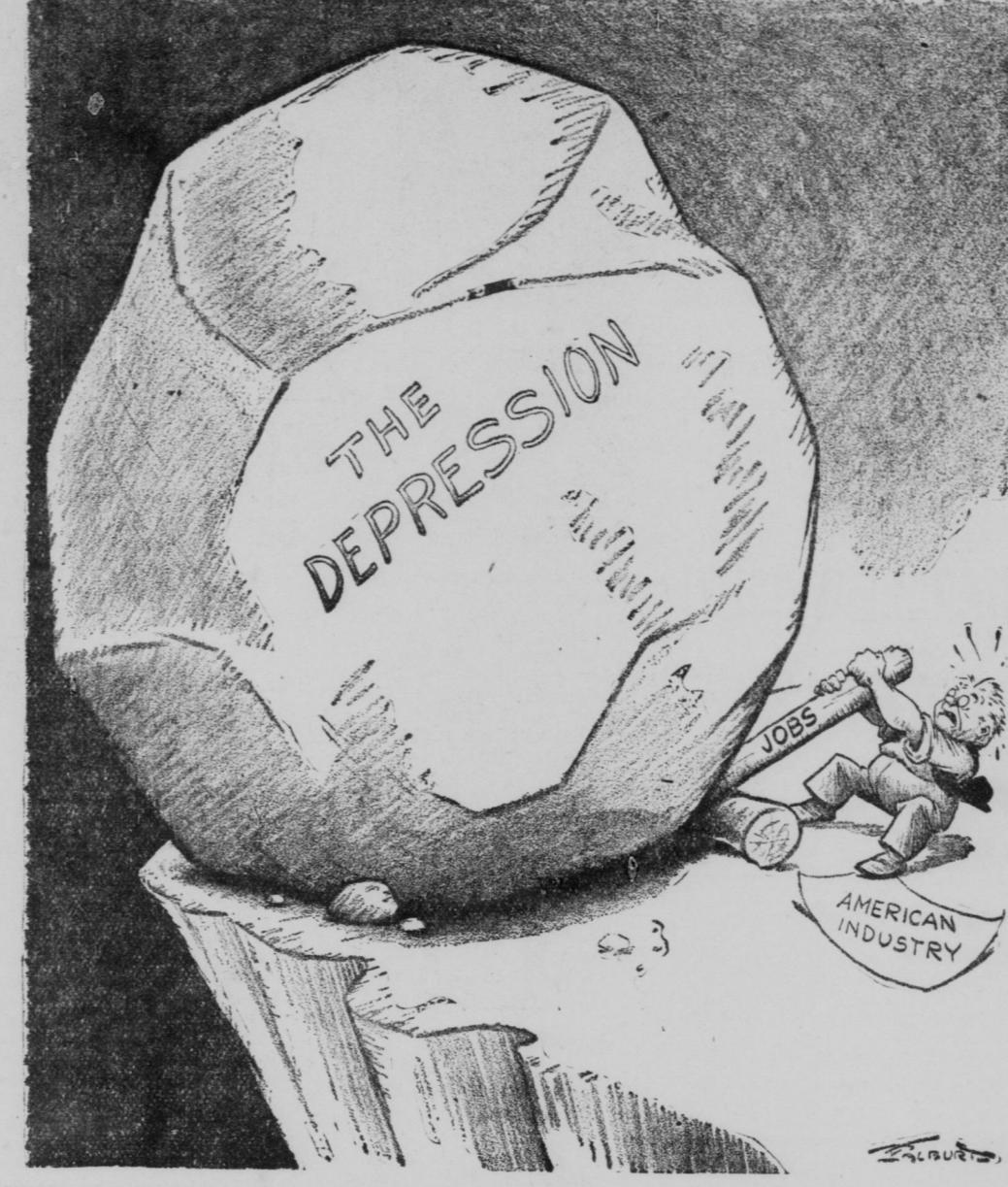
We won't enter a general conference, but we will talk with each government separately, provided tariffs and similar matters are included.

That is not as clever as it looks. After the boys from abroad find out what we want, or are willing to concede, they can get together and when they feel like it.

There just isn't any half-way business about this new order of international co-operation. We either accept it or we don't.

Slowly the fight is being fought all over

Where More 'Purchasing Power' Is Needed!



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