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ROY W. HOWARD President
TALCOTT POWELL Editor
EARL D. BAKER Business Manager
Phone—Riley 5555



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SECRETARY PERKINS LEADS

NOW that inflation is in the offing, quick passage of the short work week and minimum wage bill is more necessary than ever. Just as labor suffered first and worst in the deflation period, so labor will be the last to profit by inflation.

In the past the lag between the rise in prices and in wages has been about two and a half years. Unless that lag can be prevented this time, mass purchasing power will not be increased rapidly enough to lift us out of depression.

As Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins Tuesday told the house committee in her testimony favoring the bill, the object of this legislation is to spread purchasing power. Those who expect inflation to bring prosperity without a companion measure of this kind forget that increased efficiency of industry and displacement of men by machines has resulted in an estimated excess labor supply of about four million.

That is to say, even if industry were suddenly to revive to the 1929 level, we still would have a serious "permanent" unemployment problem.

The only way to solve this problem is by spreading the work among a larger number of workers. It is the share-the-work idea which has been approved by so many thousands of employers throughout the country.

But, as we have learned by experience, unfortunately the share-the-work plan becomes merely a share-the-misery system, unless unscrupulous employers are prevented from making low wages lower.

Without the minimum wage, the basic purpose of the legislation from the employer's point of view, namely, to increase mass buying power and thus revive and stabilize business, is defeated.

All this was explained in the vigorous testimony of Secretary Perkins. She speaks not only out of her own long experience as an expert in labor and industrial problems. She speaks also for the business leaders who have appealed to the administration for protection against sweatshop competition in many industries, which rapidly is driving reputable companies into bankruptcy.

Of course there are short-sighted business men who oppose this legislation, just as there are ignorant and selfish bankers who have obstructed the Roosevelt bank reform program. But in neither case should ignorance, prejudice, and fear be allowed to block the nation's progress up and out of depression.

The only employers who will be hurt by this legislation are the sweatshops. It will drive them out of business. That will restore honest competition for the employer who pays decent wages.

Mass buying power can not be created merely by inflation, controlled or otherwise. After the country gets more and cheaper dollars, there still will be the problem of getting those dollars into general circulation.

That must mean larger pay rolls. The short work week and minimum wage bill prepared by Secretary Perkins not only is to safeguard labor, but also to protect employers from suicidal competition.

A CLEANUP IN SIGHT

I DON'T care who this investigation hits. We intend to get to the bottom of this re-ceiverishness."

This declaration of Circuit Judge Earl Cox, in the State Savings and Trust case, is the first statement of hope given thousands of depositors in defunct banks of the city in more than two years.

Secrecy and apparent inaction which has marked the receiverships of the closed institutions has been a blight on the city and has intensified the depression for many who saw their savings of years vanish overnight, as doors of the banks clanged shut.

Now they can begin to hope again. If there is any chance for even small dividends out of the wreckage, this investigation should reveal it. If there has been crookedness in conduct of former officers or receivers on their attorneys, the inquiry should bare it and bring swift punishment to the offenders.

Justice has lagged sadly. Three years have gone by since some of the banks closed. Judge Cox is showing the way to action. If there is to be a thorough investigation and a grand jury inquiry, as intimated, it will be up to the judge of the criminal court and the prosecutor to give whole-hearted aid to Judge Cox.

If the matter is allowed to languish and die, it will be a blot on justice in Marion county.

COMMUNITY FUNDS

COMMUNITY FUNDS and other charity financing organizations throughout the country very properly will be thoughtful over the fact that Cincinnati's fund campaign, one of the very few conducted at this time of year, has got off to the poorest start of its history.

It is well known now that tax funds and not the community funds are feeding the hungry.

Sound effort to make people understand that vital supplementary problems of care of the aged, of the mentally incompetent, of the poorly socialized, of the orphan and the deserted widow, of the undernourished and the debilitated, lie almost as close to the heart of a sound society as to actual feeding, clothing, and housing of the needy.

Re-education of the people in these essential social services will have to be carried on.

POSSIBLE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

ADVISERS close to the President have reported that if Russia is recognized, Professor Jerome Davis of Yale university may be sent there as ambassador. Who is Jerome Davis and what are his qualifications?

He is one of the foremost experts on Russian affairs in the United States. While the czar still was in power, he went to Russia along with Ambassador Franklin, who had been appointed by President Wilson. Dr. Davis immediately was placed in charge of all prisoners of war in Turkistan.

While there he became acquainted with General Kuropatkin, commander-in-chief of the Russian army in the Japanese war of 1904. Finding that the soldiers were treated miserably, Dr. Davis secured the permission of the general to open a Y. M. C. A. unit.

After the revolution and while Kerensky was in power, President Wilson sent the Root diplomatic mission to Russia. This commission came in contact with some of the soldiers, who were loud in their praises of the work of Dr. Davis in Turkistan. The Root mission immediately wired him to come to St. Petersburg. He was placed in charge of all Y. M. C. A. work in Russia.

His work in establishing Y. M. C. A. huts along 1,500 miles of battle front was so completely acceptable that Secretary of War Newton D. Baker asked him to remain in Russia for duration of the conflict. Although he was opposed to Communism, the value of his work was recognized even by the Bolsheviks. Lenin personally gave him an autographed photograph.

After the armistice, Dr. Davis returned to the United States, speaking widely against further intervention in Russian affairs. He believed that this military adventure could not be successful and merely would create and validate claims against the United States government at international law.

At the time this position demanded great courage, for public opinion was hostile to an impartial analysis of the Russian situation. History, however, completely has vindicated his attitude.

Because of his command of the Russian language and his knowledge of Russian affairs, he was appointed by the Inter-Church World Movement to make a study of the Russians in the United States. His findings were published in two volumes, "The Russian Immigrant" and "The Russians and Ruthenians in the United States."

In 1921, at the time of the famine, Dr. Davis proposed that America extend relief to the starving peoples of Russia. Various business leaders declared that much relief would be unacceptable to Lenin.

Dr. Davis made an emergency trip to Russia, found that the American relief would be welcomed, and reported back to Secretary Hoover.

Beginning in 1921, Dr. Davis joined the department of sociology at Dartmouth college. In 1924 he was called to the chair of practical philanthropy at Yale university, where he has been ever since.

In the summer of 1928 he went to Russia as correspondent for the Hearst press, being one of the first Americans to have an extended interview with Stalin.

In 1927, after attending the meetings of the International Chamber of Commerce of Stockholm, Dr. Davis flew into Russia with Edward A. Filene, well-known business leader of Boston. At this time he interviewed Stalin for five hours and syndicated a series of articles for the N. E. A. newspaper service in America.

Because of his knowledge of Russian affairs, he has done extensive expert consultative work on Russia and has contributed the yearly article on Russia for the annual of the Encyclopedia Americana. He also has addressed the national meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science in 1924, 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1931, usually on Russian problems or issues related thereto.

In 1932 he was chosen to head a distinguished group of social scientists visiting Russia. They traveled more than 8,000 miles in Russia, going freely wherever they wished.

A TRIBUTE TO ACTION

OUT of the mouth of a staunch Republican and a former Hoover appointee comes about the best tribute we have seen to the Rooseveltian philosophy of action and experimentation as contrasted with the rigidity that characterized the preceding administration.

Charles A. Miller, former president of the R. F. C., says:

Even the impending inflation, which seems to be necessary rather than voluntary, may turn out to be a good thing, in spite of our old and conservative economic notions.

If the new radical school of economic thought can get us into a worse scrape than the old-fashioned conservative did, I shall be surprised. Our economic future is in our own hands.

A courageous leader can do more for us than all the wisdom of the economists, and we seem to have one.

It is our duty to give Roosevelt loyal backing and not to expect miracles from him. He may make mistakes, but still we must back him up. The only way to be sure of avoiding mistakes in this crisis is to do nothing, which would be the greatest mistake of all.

THE MOONEY TRIAL

BUT for its serious implications, the second trial of Tom Mooney in San Francisco would be a Gilbert & Sullivan burlesque. It is a trial without a real prosecution, without state evidence worthy the name.

On suggestion of an honest San Francisco judge and at Mooney's request, the state is retrying Mooney on the last undismissed indictment of seventeen years ago. A verdict of acquittal will not free the famous prisoner. It only will publicize the great wrong he has suffered through these years of imprisonment.

How flimsy was the state's case against Mooney and Billings in 1916 is shown by the attitude of District Attorney Brady, the present prosecutor. Mr. Brady is unfriendly to the trial because he believes Mooney innocent.

He indicates he will not even present the transcript of the state's old case. Being a prosecutor, he is loath to go on trial without a case.

Mooney was convicted on the word of one man. The judge and jury in the first trial now admit that had not Frank C. Oxman appeared at the eleventh hour with his eyewitness story, Mooney never would have been found guilty. That the late "honest cattleman" has gone to his reward is immaterial to the case; his testimony today would be worthless.

Even former Governor Young, who denied Mooney a pardon, called Oxman "nothing

more than a publicity-seeking romancer," who was ninety miles from the scene of the crime he professed to have seen. The other state witnesses either have confessed or lied themselves out of the picture.

Some day Mooney will be freed, whether by United States supreme court order or by pardon from a new Governor. It is important for California and America that the state courts pave the way by writing Mooney down on their books as guiltless.

NO POLITICS IN SCIENCE

POLITICAL appointments should play no part in the conduct of the scientific bureaus of the federal government.

When President Roosevelt nominated Dr. Lyman J. Briggs to the directorship of the national bureau of standards, repeating a Hoover nomination unconfirmed by the lame duck senate, he heartened the intellectual world.

Whether Dr. Briggs is a Republican or a Democrat is unknown and unasked at the White House. In fact, Dr. Briggs does not know himself. His job is science, not politics.

In the famous "patronage handbook," which, pursuant to congressional request, listed the noncivil service jobs in the government, the following were listed as potential plums: Surgeon-general of the public health service, commissioner and deputy commissioner of fisheries, commissioner of patents, director of bureau of mines, director of coast and geodetic survey, chief of the weather bureau, director of geological survey.

Great confidence will be created by President Roosevelt if steps are taken to continue in office the efficient nonpolitical incumbents and then insure adequate scientific and intellectual qualifications of future bureau heads by placing them under civil service, just as is the case with most of the scientific bureaus government at international law.

At the time this position demanded great courage, for public opinion was hostile to an impartial analysis of the Russian situation. History, however, completely has vindicated his attitude.

Because of his command of the Russian language and his knowledge of Russian affairs, he was appointed by the Inter-Church World Movement to make a study of the Russians in the United States. His findings were published in two volumes, "The Russian Immigrant" and "The Russians and Ruthenians in the United States."

This chap was out to swipe some young cedar trees from a roadside nursery. He was to grab them, a friend was to drive up in his car, he was to jump in with the trees, and they were to speed away.

It worked out—so the robber thought—just fine. He grabbed the trees and ran to the curb. A car slowed up, he flagged it, jumped in, dumped the trees in the back seat, barked "Step on it, Joe!"—and then discovered that he had, by mistake, climbed right into a police squad car.

The gentleman is now in jail, meditating on his mistake.

Conductor Stokowski has presented a concert by an invisible orchestra. All right for music lovers, but how about us fellows who keep awake at concerts only by keeping our eyes glued on the kettle-drummer?

University of California scientists achieved a temperature of 459.1 below zero. They can get a still worse one if they will put a thermometer beside Mrs. Ella Boole while she reads reports of the success of the 3.2 beer.

Don't know how Premier MacDonald and President Roosevelt will get along, but as for Herrick, we presume he can be depended upon to be quite frank.

Two-thirds of the human body is water, says a medical report. Some smart fellow will probably have it incorporated any day now, and sell stock.

M.E. Tracy Says:

ON April 23, 1616, a fairly prominent and substantial citizen died at Stratford-on-Avon. The town was duly shocked, but not unduly impressed.

Mr. Shakespeare always had paid his bills promptly, lived well, and minded his own business. His business, however, was something of a mystery to the home folk and had kept him in London most of the time until recent years.

It had to do with play-writing and play-acting, the neighbors told each other in a hazy sort of way, and they wondered how he could have made so much money at it.

Well, the big-wigs were pretty liberal toward those who furnished them entertainment, and Mr. Shakespeare must have made quite a hit with them. It wasn't every man who could retire at 50 and take it easy. Must be something to this theater game, after all.

Had any of them read, or seen Mr. Shakespeare's plays? A few, perhaps, but not many, and those few hadn't found much to rave about.

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IT took a century for even the best minds to discover that a genius had been on earth, and still another century for the world to make something of his work.

And now he is going out of date again, as part of the ages which modern machinery has made obsolete.

We are all for expertness these days, with slight regard for anything which can't be reduced to a set of rules. We don't care for philosophy, unless it can be stated in formulas or enforced by statute, or for psycho-analysis, unless it can be bought for so much a consultation.

Like Beethoven's music, Mr. Shakespeare's work is too involved.

We want things made plain and snappy. The ignorance of the mid-Victorian era, when they read Shakespeare, makes us laugh. We are enlightened, you understand, even if we do lack sense to govern ourselves and find it necessary to re-invoke state paternalism.

We acknowledge that Mr. Shakespeare was a great man in his time, but times have changed. How could a man who never drove an automobile know much about human character?

And now we can carry one voice to half the world, and with that triumph, who cares what the voice has to say?

OUR ideas are being translated into power, speed, and noise. If that is not enough, we'll translate them into dictatorship.

Mr. Shakespeare was the first great apostle of individual thinking, but how can we tolerate individualism and regulate traffic?

We can not, of course, as Lenin, Mussolini, and Hitler are proving.

The Bill of Rights, English revolution, and American concept of liberty are all dead along with Shakespeare, to let some folks tell it.

We are going in for controlled progress, with prices, wages, and production stabilized by governmental decree.

Can we keep free speech and a free press, if we do? You don't have to guess. All you have to do is observe what is going on in Russia, Italy, and Germany.

You wouldn't even have to do that, had you read Shakespeare faithfully.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Shadows on the Wall



The Message Center

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

BY F. J. ROGERS

A recent letter in your columns signed "Disgusted" speaking of the "basket stiffs" seems to me a particularly short sighted and vicious attack on a large number of our citizens who merely are victims of a system.

Then Mr. Taxpayer gets on the great unwashed horde. What a name for millions of unfortunate. We will grant him a few who just won't work and still have plenty of deserving poor. If there is a prize for selfishness and intolerance, it should be his. I suggest a Christian's head on a golden platter as appropriate.

One of the reasons that the great unwashed is unwashed is that they have been cheated out of their share of soap by "thrifty" and not too honest people.

Mr. Taxpayer, for your vacation this summer, allow me to suggest a trip to the Chinese war zone. Among this great, unwashed horde you will find untold misery, maimed and dying men, perhaps brought on by somebody's thrifty. You should be delighted.

Two-thirds of the human body is water. It is the great abuser here and there in the administration of poor relief, just the same as in our government mail subsidies and other treasury grabs, but no reasoning person can draw general conclusions from specific instances. No doubt

there does arise now and then just complaints from those who receive

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