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THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has great courage. Sunday night he resisted the temptation to boast of his achievements and to make big promises for the future. As for the remarkable record of the last two months, he simply recounted the facts and let them speak for themselves.

He even went to the extent of warning the country against overconfidence, saying: "Industry has picked up, railroads are carrying more freight, farm prices are better, but I am not going to indulge in issuing proclamations of overenthusiastic assurance. We can not ballyhoo ourselves back to prosperity."

Here is the answer to those who are afraid that the President is losing his head about this inflation business. Unlike the cure-all inflations, he is not having pipe dreams. He said definitely that we will stop inflation at the point where debtors can pay back at prices they borrowed, that is, an honest dollar.

He said definitely that gold is a good basis for currency and that why he "decided not to let any of the gold now in the country go out of it." With the notion that extreme inflation as such can bring prosperity the President has no traffic.

Instead, he soberly turned to the bigger job yet to be done. A return to an honest dollar and to the type of prosperity we had before the crash is not enough. That kind of so-called prosperity was the cause of the depression. Hence the President's warning: "I do not want the people to believe that because of unjustified optimism we can resume the ruinous practice of increasing our crop output and our factory output in the hope that a kind Providence will find buyers at high prices."

"Such course may bring us immediate and false prosperity, but it will be the kind of prosperity that will lead us into another tailspin."

As an alternative, the President proposed national economic planning—not a government dictatorship over industry, "but rather a partnership in planning and a partnership to see that the plans are carried out."

From his address Sunday night, as from his Thursday speech to the United States Chamber of Commerce, it is clear that the President considers one issue more important than any other in this depression, one reform more necessary than any other. That is the need for the government to help industry to achieve a basis of order; permitting planned production, eliminating unfair competition by pirates and sweatshops; abolishing child labor, apportioning shorter hours and higher wages. This goal has many names—sustained purchasing power, mass market, justice for labor, redistribution of wealth—but whatever the name, it is the common goal of economists and the wisest business leaders who see that prosperity is not possible with low wages and concentration of wealth.

The President pledged a governmental measure "to give to the industrial workers of the country a more fair wage return, prevent cut-throat competition and unduly long hours for labor, and at the same time to encourage each industry to prevent overproduction."

Industry has proved that it can not bring this reform working alone. For example, the President cited the cotton goods industry, in which perhaps 90 per cent of the manufacturers would agree to eliminate starvation wages, long hours, child labor, and overproduction, but would be powerless to act because of the unfair competition of 10 per cent.

The President is going to smash that system, which once paraded under the title of rugged individualism, but is now unmasked as chaos and national suicide.

Mr. Roosevelt's declaration of national economic planning follows: "Government ought to have the right, and will have the right, after surveying and planning for an industry, to prevent, with assistance of the overwhelming majority of that industry, unfair practice and to enforce this agreement by the authority of government."

"The so-called anti-trust laws were intended to prevent the creation of monopolies and to forbid unreasonable profits to those monopolies. That purpose of the anti-trust laws must be continued, but these laws never were intended to encourage the kind of unfair competition that results in long hours, starvation wages and overproduction."

We shall not be as modest as the President regarding his program. We believe it is safe to predict not only a return to prosperity, but to a better prosperity, if the Roosevelt foreign policy is accepted abroad and if at home the President receives the full co-operation of congress, industry, and labor in his pledge for government enforcement of economic planning.

AMERICA'S FARM TRADITION

IT isn't altogether bad luck that this vest-pocket war of Iowa farmers should have occurred just as the final licks were being put on the big farm relief-inflation bill at Washington.

Our plans to help the farmer at last have crystallized into something definite and immediate; and the fact that a sensational row in the corn belt took place simultaneously with the final crystallization merely serves to focus our attention anew on the whole agricultural problem.

It is a good thing for us to understand just what is at stake in this farm relief program. Most of us have lost sight of the fact that the American farmer has occupied a favored position among the farmers of the world ever

since this country was founded. He never has been a peasant; America is the only land on earth that never has had a peasantry.

The old American tradition has it that any citizen, if he works hard and is intelligent and ambitious, can lay by as much material substance and as much happiness and contentment as any of his neighbors.

There has been a good deal of truth in that old tradition, and nowhere has it been so true as on the farm. The American farmer has been able to live better, to have more, and to spend more than any other farmer on earth.

Consider, now, what the years of deflation have been doing to this picture.

They have been striking terrific blows at the farmer's favored position. Wholesale foreclosures and tax sales, long continued, point to only one thing—the beginning of an American peasantry.

Circumstances have been laying a heavy paw on the farmer's neck and trying to force him down to the immemorial level of the agriculturist in other lands.

It isn't pleasant to look ahead to the culmination of such a program. Something inexpressibly valuable would be lost; the very cornerstone of our traditional Americanism would be gone.

That is what the Iowa farmers are rioting against. That is what the farm relief bill is designed to prevent.

The rioters may be deplorably mistaken, the farm relief bill may be a great blunder; but both are sincere protests against a development which would be nothing less than a major catastrophe to the entire American plan of life.

AMERICA'S NAVAL STRENGTH

WHILE the administration looks forward to an extensive disarmament agreement with foreign nations this summer, the general board of the navy issues a report declaring that "the growing inferiority of the American navy is a matter of serious concern" and urging immediate construction of forty-three war ships.

Thus once again we find ourselves in one of those peculiar situations where the necessities of the moment seem to urge two diametrically opposite courses of action upon us.

That there is a very strong and widespread desire in this country for armament reduction is beyond argument. There is also, however, equally widespread, an uneasy feeling that in the present state of things it is the part of wisdom to keep our powder dry and our boxing gloves handy, just in case somebody starts something; and how these two feelings are to be reconciled is perplexing.

As the navy's general board points out, a navy's strength is relative. You can't figure it unless you assess the strength of the navies maintained by other nations.

And it is the board's conclusion that in every class of ship except battleships our navy is inferior to the navies of England and Japan. To remedy this, the board urges construction this year of two aircraft carriers, seven six-inch gun cruisers, twenty-four destroyers, nine submarines and one eight-inch gun cruiser.

On the face of things, the argument is sound enough. The chief objection seems to be that the present is hardly the proper time for a program of that magnitude.

To begin with, federal finances right now hardly are in shape to stand the enormous costs involved.

In addition, we are right on the eve of a great international conference which is expected to produce further disarmament, and any large-scale building program will militate against the conclusion of that conference.

Sooner or later we shall have to decide definitely whether we intend to maintain our navy at full treaty strength. But we don't need to make that decision right now.

OUR DEBT BURDENS

FIGURES on the national debt issued by the Twentieth Century Fund, headed by Edward A. Filene of Boston, show in a striking way the enormous burden which the nation is trying to carry out of the depression.

Long term indebtedness in the United States today, according to these figures, amounts to 40 per cent of the national wealth, requires 20 per cent of the national income and is one of the major obstacles to economic recovery.

Corporations, government agencies and individuals share in a long term indebtedness of \$134,000,000,000, as compared with \$75,000,000,000 in 1921.

Looking at those figures, it is not hard to understand why such a strong demand for inflation has arisen during the last few months.

PURE FOOD AND DRUGS

A DISPATCH from Washington says that revisions of the federal food and drug law to provide a way of penalizing advertisers who mislead consumers is being considered seriously by administration leaders.

A number of people have pointed out that the existing law contains a number of loopholes. An unscrupulous manufacturer can take advantage of these to deceive the public seriously.

And it is not only the public that needs protection; it is the reputable manufacturer and the reputable advertiser, as well. Most firms doing business under the food and drug law do not need to be restrained.

They suffer as much as does the consuming public from the fact that a conscienceless few take advantage of the law's weakness.

RENAISSANCE

(From the Baltimore Sun)
THERE was a time when Indianapolis could dispute with Boston for the cultural honors of the country. Riley, Tarkington, Nicholson and many other lights of literature shone then with an unexampled brilliance in the Indiana capital.

It was the heyday of Hoosier enlightenment, and the whole nation looked to the banks of the Wabash for moral and intellectual instruction.

More recently the banks of the Wabash have lost a good deal of their verdure. We have seen there only the moonlight of a once proud civilization fallen into decay as a result of the machinations of Kluxery, the intrigues of Republican politicians, and general political cussedness.

It has been a sad spectacle, in dreary contrast with the brilliance of an earlier day and holding little hope for the future.

Now, however, hope would seem to be revived. Indianapolis once more is in the news

in a big way, and it is there not by virtue of the shenanigans of a McCray, but because of the reforming zeal of a new Democratic Governor.

Paul V. McNutt, a former national commander of the American Legion, who was swept into gubernatorial office in the Democratic landslide last November, is showing a flair for governmental economy, governmental reorganization, and the enlargement of executive power in general that is causing all hands to sit up and take notice.

Indiana is being galvanized into new life, and while the process is largely political up to now, it would not be surprising to see the glow of culture and enlightenment reappear almost any day.

For six decades, despite all the vicissitudes of fortune, the center of population for the United States has remained steadfastly in Indiana.

Who knows but that with a new political deal the state may regain its position as the cultural hub, if not of the universe, at least of the middle West?

WELL-MEANING FRIENDS

THE gentleman who remarked that he could take care of his enemies if only some one would protect him from his friends well might have had the case of Tom Mooney in mind.

A good-sized crowd of people who wanted Mooney freed held a demonstration in his behalf last week when his newly granted murder trial was called in San Francisco. The result was that the trial judge, quite properly, postponed the trial "until this feeling dies down," and the efforts of Mooney's lawyers to get a speedy hearing were foiled.

Mooney's chief counsel, Frank P. Walsh, begged that no demonstration be held, pointing out that "any man who takes part in such demonstrations is doing Mooney harm—almost fatal harm."

One wonders just what was in the minds of these demonstrators. Were they sincerely trying to help Mooney—or were they just using him as a good excuse for kicking up a row?

UP BOBS GRUNDY

IF we remember our nursery stuff there was an end to Solomon Grundy, born on a Monday. But none, it seems, to his namesake, Joe.

Ex-Senator and ex-Lobbyist Joseph R. Grundy, the greatest tariff-touter of all time, is back in Washington. He carries the blessing of the American Tariff League, and swears to scotch the Roosevelt plan for reciprocal tariff treaties with other nations.

In 1930 America was warned by thirty-six nations that the Hawley-Smoot-Grundy high tariff policies would ruin them and us. Secretary of State Cordell Hull said: "The practice of the half-insane policy of economic isolation during the last ten years by America and by the world under American leadership is the largest single underlying cause of the present world panic."

A group of 1,000 American economists said the same thing. President Hoover listened to the Grundy bloc. The voters retired Mr. Hoover to California. Mr. Hawley to Oregon. Mr. Smoot to Utah. Mr. Grundy to Pennsylvania.

Messrs. Hoover, Hawley and Smoot are silent in their little grey homes in the west. Silence likewise would be becoming to Mr. Grundy.

No, Doris, flat money is not the kind with which you buy those imported Italian cars.

Dietitians reports that no matter how you cook spinach, kids are apt to refuse it. Just an old spinach custom.

Maybe that stock market boom is just the echo of the crash.

M. E. Tracy Says:

LOSING a farm through foreclosure is tough, but no tougher, perhaps, than losing a life's savings in stock or all one's ready cash through bank failure.

In any case, it does not help matters the least bit to drag an old judge off the bench, pour automobile grease over his head, tie a rope around his neck, and mistreat him in other ways.

Neither does it help matters the least bit to make a deputy sheriff kiss the flag or run lawyers off the courthouse steps.

There are people who regard such acts as not only justifiable, but constructive in their effect. There are people who believe in the most childish kind of violence as a sound method of reform and relief. One hears such chatter on every hand and, occasionally, one gets an illustration of how it works when translated into mob activities.

We should be very grateful that most of these illustrations have been furnished by other people and that our own country has been so free from them.

Whatever else happens, we must maintain order, since with order all things are possible, without it, little can be accomplished.

NOTHING has done more to distinguish the United States in this season of worldwide agony than the firmness with which constitutional government has been maintained, unless it is the speed with which a new administration has made such radical changes without causing the slightest disturbance.

The flexibility of this government permits the people to do what is necessary without resorting to revolution, or mobilizing volunteer forces of discipline.

That fact has spared us from the upheavals and disorders with which so many other countries have been afflicted and which can not help slowing up the processes of recovery.

We are right in discouraging all forms of violent action on the one hand, and in insisting on the application of lawful sanction for every kind of relief or reform on the other.

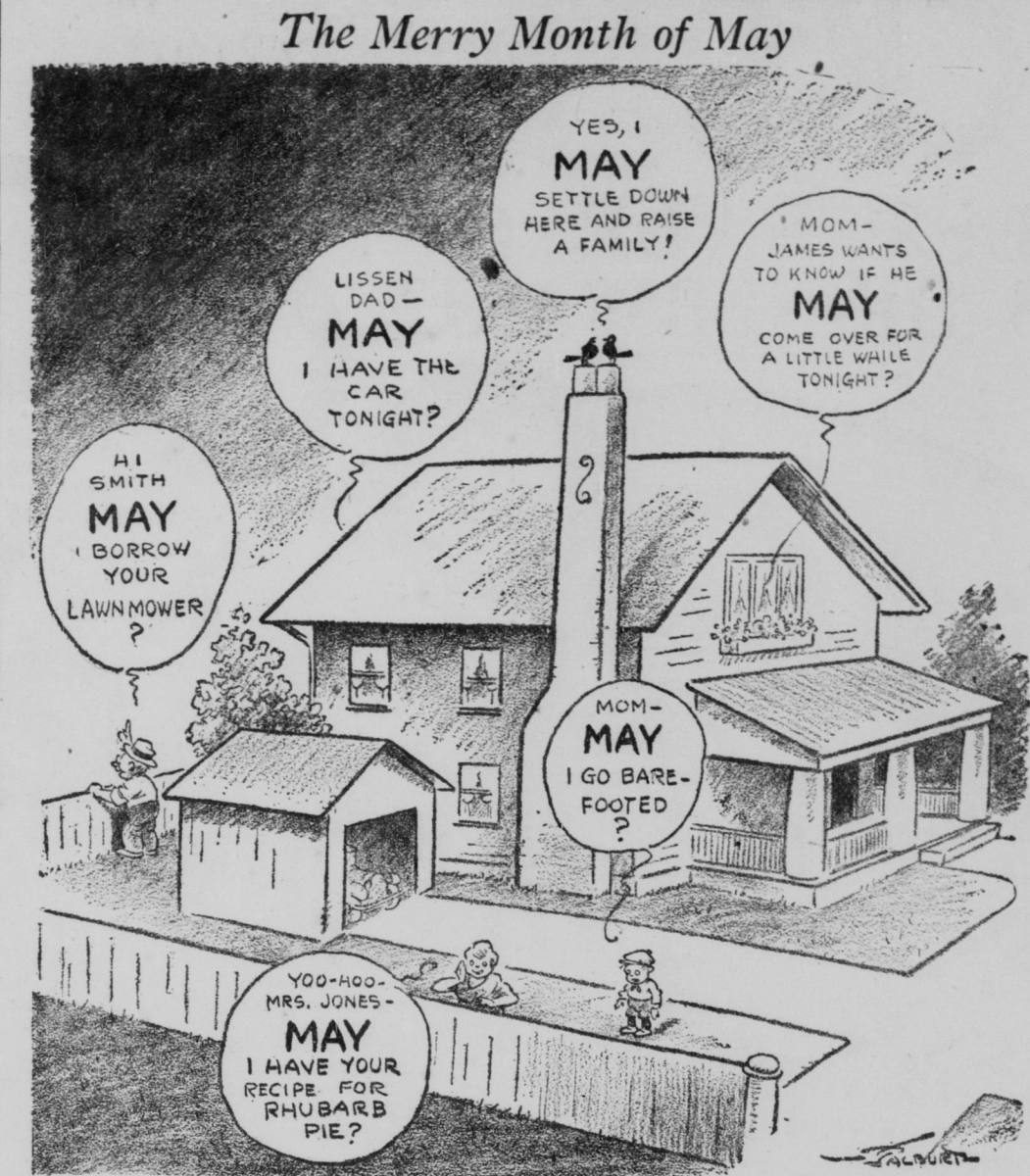
As things stand, the American people have nothing to overcome but material losses and economic handicaps, while many other people find themselves entangled with rump governments, arbitrary dictatorships, lost liberties, factional hatreds and political chaos.

ONE can go to the record and prove that the United States has suffered well above the average in the decline of trade, capital value, and earning capacity.

But—and this is the all-important point—the United States has found it possible to maintain the health of her people and keep her governmental structure intact.

We have found it desirable to grant the President dictatorial powers, we have found it unnecessary to call on "black shirts" or "brown shirts," much less invoke firing squads or persecute minorities.

All this puts us in a position to take quick advantage of the upswing and to exert a wholesome influence for peace and order throughout the world.



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 A Depositor
Now that a receiver has been appointed for the Meyer-Kiser bank, a great many depositors have settled back with a sigh of relief, glad to know that affairs of the insolvent bank have been taken out of the hands of the three liquidating agents. Let us hope that Judge Cox will continue to air the transactions and fees of the new receiver as thoroughly as he has the old administration.

By Donald E. Stebbing
My dear Taxpayer of April 24, the dirty neck and greasy hands belong to the faithful and blind slaves who sweat blood and grime in your factories, creating your wealth, giving you your perfumed soap. It has been easier for you to steal the candy of these helpless children than to earn it yourself.

When dead and dumb property and shiny yellow coins became more precious to you than the fate of God-made fellow men, violence to you and your gang is the last and triumphant card. Remember this, Bourbon: A quarter million young men will not shoot their own brothers, wives, fathers, and sweet hearts. The oath will mean little. It will be forgotten.

Will Your Excellency please be specific when he states that our leaders may be purchased for thirty pieces of silver?

If you are serious when you ask for a visit from a Red, I shall be most happy to accept. I shall not grovel and I shall not beg bread. Neither shall I convince you of your errors.

That, I'm afraid, is beyond human possibility. I am writing this for the benefit of those who are puzzled at your imbecility, and are possibly wondering whether you are not all that way. I wish you were.

The task of reforming this sick earth would be far simpler, if all the aristocracy had your frankness, your utter lack of guile, the common sense and several of your close servants would make a tandem for previous needs.

The scream of Bolshevism and victorious mob violence would ring through your beautiful halls. You would quake and whine for mercy.

Can any government continue to artificially fed. Any baby must be considered as an individual and handled as such.

The chief cause of diarrhea during hot weather is the pressure of germs in milk, which multiply excessively, particularly if the milk is not properly cooled or refrigerated.

Of course, the baby who is nursing is likely to have fresh milk free from harmful germs.

The breast-fed baby rarely suffers with summer complaint. Even such a baby, however, may suffer infection from impure water or from accessory feeding of materials which are not bacteriologically clean.

During the development and handling of milk it invariably becomes contaminated with some germs. The germs multiply rapidly in the milk unless the milk is kept cool.

When the milk is pasteurized, the germs are destroyed or inhibited, but after the milk is distributed it again suffers the possibility of contamination.

While such infection constitutes the responsibility for the vast majority of cases, there are other cases of summer complaint associated with infections and fevers with the feeding of too much sugar or of rich cream, and sometimes the baby is not getting enough to eat.

Babies that are undernourished and weak can not digest their food well.

A Woman's Viewpoint

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON
"DIRECTOR of the Mint" is a mouth-filling title, especially for a woman. Nevertheless, we're going to have one. Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross will be in charge of all the gold, silver and copper coins in this entire country and will supervise the assay offices, to which the metal is taken for conversion into money.

Here's progress, if you ask me. And when we become really intelligent, financially speaking, we shall put women in complete charge of national collections and disbursements.

We'll regulate our large expenditures as we do those at home—by giving mama an allowance on which to run things. And will they be run!

In spite of the idea prevalent in many quarters that we know nothing about money, and if given a free hand would be reckless spendthrifts, most of the actual saving accomplished in any country is done by women.

We are in fact Benjamin Franklin's daughter.

It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BRON
NEW YORK, May 8.—The city of Turin, in Italy, was about to have a fashion show, until Mussolini saw the murals which had been designed for the event by a young artist who favored angles rather than curves. The Duce said, "No!"

Before the show could open, it was necessary to fatten all the figures. Indeed, it is reported that shopkeepers have been warned to keep close watch on their store windows and see to it that no ladies of plaster or wax shall be exhibited if they so happen to be a little less plump than is pleasing to Benito.

The man who compelled the trains to run on time now asks the ladies of the land not to run at all. The Fascist fur must make each a victim of the Duce, so that Mussolini may go down to posterity as the proud ruler who launched a thousand hips.

Back to Romulus

From now on, I suppose, the national anthem is to be, "So let's have another cup of coffee, and let's have another piece of pie." It might not even be amiss to refer to Italy as the land of the spire and the home of the crave.

And, as for the wolf at the door, she will be lucky if she does not find herself drafted for the nursery in good old Roman fashion.

"Beyond the Alps lies Italy" no longer will be an accurate observation. Under the Duce's diet every village of the plain will teem with mountainous mounds.

But so far there has been almost no complaint. That is, with the exception of the protest being drawn up by the Venetian Gondoliers' Council of the T. V. U. L. has come out in favor of the Duce on the ground that repair work, inspection, and general overhauling have been very brisk since announcement of the new dispensation.

The Italian Shakespearean Society has somewhat altered the text in the rather well-known passage which now runs, as nearly as I can remember: "But soft what light through yonder window breaks. It is the east, and Juliet is the sun, the moon and several of the larger planets rolled in one." In fact, they've changed the name of the play, too. From now on it is to be known as Benito's Beef Trust.

Congressman Silent

I was invited, several days ago, to participate in a debate over the air with the Hon. Ham Fish on the question of the recognition of Russia by the United States. The task of Mr. Fish was to condemn any such action by our state department, while I was assigned to argue that recognition should be accorded—and the sooner the better.

Since that is my very strong opinion, I was delighted to accept. In addition I was curious to see and to listen to the Honorable Fish, who has won such a reputation for himself among the herring hunters. A red sky at night is the sailors' delight, but to the congressman it constitutes a warning.

At the appointed hour I appeared at the studio with a script filled with statistics and everything. But there was no "Ham Fish."

"You go on first," advised the station manager, "and undoubtedly he'll show up before you finish."

I started out to talk against Fish and time. The minutes seemed captive balloons—so stationary they were. On I went, and on, but Fish was fifty miles away. At least he was not visible.

Just before I went down for the third time, I made a despairing gesture to the local announcer to indicate that I could go no further. Being a man of rare presence of mind, he picked up the address of the congressman and thrust it into the hands of Ralph Esley.

An Esley for a Fish

Now, Mr. Esley is almost as famous a ghost trotter as Mr. Fish. Even the soft patting of the tiniest liberal feet will set Mr. Esley to crying out on alarm that the red shirts are coming. Paul Revere had a horse, Mr. Esley a motorcycle.

But circumstances were against him. He did not precisely thunder down the ether, because the script was strange to him and he could not pronounce some of the long words.

Even more unfortunately, there was a page to turn just after a paragraph embodying a defense of religious belief against all foreigners who would assault it. Mr. Esley lost his place and muttered under his breath.

Radio is a great invention, and not a single word of the impromptu whisper was denied the invisible audience. Out through the Oranges and into Radbourne went the agonized cry: "Damn it all! Where the hell does it hitch up?"

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Spring

BY EDWARD HIESE
Standing on the hillside
Ankle-deep in flowers
Her favorites flocking around her,
Or hanging back in bowers.

Resting in the valley.
Like a tired child from play,
Lying in fern and moss,
Breathing scents of May.

Spring is in the woodland.
More beautiful than all.
Opening blossoms 'round her.
Opening at her call.

Birds singing o'er her.
Bright blue sky above.
God surely sent her
To fill the world with love.

Woman is fitted both by nature and circumstance for economy. She has had a raw deal from nature and lived through the ages when she worked without pay. Everything she got for a long time had to be obtained by stooping necks away in cracked teapots and in slicing pennies from the family budget.

She schemed and connived to get a few extras for her children, and has run her home on a pittance.

If practice makes perfect, women ought to be able to run the country on one-tenth of what the men have to have.