

## The Indianapolis Times

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ROY W. HOWARD . . . . . President  
TALCOTT POWELL . . . . . Editor  
EARL D. BAKER . . . . . Business Manager

Phone—Riley 5551

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TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1933.

## THE NEW DECLARATION

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN years ago Thomas Jefferson voiced the revolutionary sentiment of colonial America by denouncing George III of England. He indicted England's king in the following fashion:

He has refused to assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us...

Therefore, Jefferson reasoned: "These United Colonies are, and of a right ought to be, free and independent states."

While fittingly celebrating the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we should bear in mind the fact that President Roosevelt has loosed the rhetoric of a far more momentous edict of emancipation.

The American revolution was chiefly a political secession from the British empire. In its economic aspects it was primarily a struggle of rising capitalists against the aristocratic landlords. The economic doctrine of the patriots was that which is today espoused by our economic reactionaries—the notions of laissez-faire, natural rights, and unrestricted individualism which have been invoked by the supreme court to sabotage efforts to bring about a regime of social justice and economic decency.

On March 4, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt denounced a more sinister tyrant than George III or any other monarch of history—organized cupidity and speculative piracy:

Values have shrunk to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no market for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone. . . . Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of the supply...

Primarily, this is because the rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure and abdicated. Practices of the unscrupulous money changers stand indicted in the court of public opinion, rejected by the hearts and minds of men.

Stripped of the lure of profit by which to induce our people to follow their false leadership, they have resorted to exhortations, pleading tearfully for restored confidence. They know only the rules of a generation of self-seekers.

They have no vision, and when there is no vision the people perish.

The money changers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We now may restore that temple to the ancient truths. . . . There must be an end to speculation with other people's money.

The grievance of the American people against George III in 1776 were slight compared to those of Americans today against the predatory financial interests which have brought our country to the edge of the abyss. At the most, George III wished to stop smuggling tax colonists on the basis of their capacity to pay, and reorganize and administer the British empire in North America.

The evils we have suffered at the hands of old-line capitalism are far more serious and devastating. We have a planless and chaotic economy in which some people starve and others burn wheat in the fields; some go unclothed and others plow their cotton under the soil.

Speculative finance has gutted industry, transportation, utilities and mining. The rich have hogged the social income to such degree that the masses can not buy, thus undermining the whole capitalistic system.

The small fry have learned the something-for-nothing ethics of our moguls and applying them in their petty and vulgar ways, give us a crime and racket bill annually amounting to a quarter of our national income. Patriots, collaborating with plutocrats, perpetuate the war system and drain off three-quarters of our national budget to pay for wars—past, present, or future.

Theodore Roosevelt talked much about the "square deal," but it went little farther than words with him. If his illustrious cousin is able to introduce some decency and justice into capitalism, he will have brought about a more fundamental revolution than any historic change of political masters, and his inaugural address will supplant both the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg address as our foremost document of liberation and dedication.

## ABOLISH CHILD LABOR

IT is the best sort of good tidings that the cotton textile code provides for the end of child labor in that industry.

Before we rejoice too much, though, we might look at some statistics.

In the United States more than 600,000 children between the ages of 10 and 15 are listed by the census as "gainfully employed." Only some 20,000 of these are employed in the textile industry.

This code, excellent as it is, touches only a small fraction of the children who ought to be classed as school pupils instead of wage earners.

Furthermore, all these industrial codes are designed as emergency measures only. We have no guarantee they will be in effect four years from now.

We might as well do the job right and ratify the child labor amendment. That would affect all industries—and it would be permanent.

## THE SPIRIT OF '33

THE first American revolution, born in Philadelphia 157 years ago, was not more significant than the bloodless American revolution now taking place.

The revolution of '76 was fought to secure for the colonists the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Through wars and laws this country has to some degree established for its people the rights of life and liberty. Now it is setting out to make the pursuit of happiness something more than a barren quest for millions of unhappy Americans.

Thomas Jefferson's majestic words were no more prophetic of essential change than Senator Wagner's in describing the object of the new recovery act as one intended "to give every deserving person a permanent opportunity to earn a comfortable living."

The men toiling in shirt sleeves in Washington this summer do not resemble the ragged Continentals of Valley Forge, yet their work is quite as revolutionary.

These Rooseveltian experts are out to bring order to industry and security to the masses, to free from wage labor 2,000,000 American children, to restore to a decent living 50,000,000 workers of city and farm, to redistribute the vast machine-made wealth by means of higher wages and shorter hours, to fit the wage system into the power age.

Compare to this task, the work of the revolutionary fathers in cutting thirteen colonies free from the old world would seem to be child's play. Yet until it is accomplished men and women can not begin to pursue happiness.

Revolutions become bloody affairs only when stupid rulers deny inalienable rights to their people. This country has its industrial Bourbons, who never learn and never forget anything; its Tories, who are too blind and greedy to accept peaceful change. These can turn the present revolution from orderly paths of law into those of havoc and chaos.

Fortunately, however, they are a minority. If the majority of employers will continue to co-operate with labor and government in the new partnership, this revolution will remain peaceful.

## SAFE, SECURE, FREE

INDEPENDENCE DAY is just another holiday, nowadays—a day on which we go on picnics, or get the car out for a long drive into the country, or trot off to see a ball game, or hop on an excursion train for a little trip to the city.

Children set off firecrackers and grown-ups take advantage of an extra day's idleness. Everybody enjoys the holiday—and hardly any of us stop to remember just what it's all about, or think just what we're celebrating.

And that very fact is, perhaps, as good an omen as the most patriotic hero of '76 could have wished for his descendants.

Years ago, when grandfather was a boy, they took their Fourth of July celebration seriously. The winning of American freedom seemed very real and very recent, then. The country still was relatively small, as nations go. Europeans were still inclined to look down their noses when any one mentioned the United States of America.

In short self-defense Americans had to get together once a year, let the eagle scream and retell the splendid old stories of the Revolution.

But a lot of water has run under the bridge since then. Our nation has grown up, and no one denies its right to stand among the leaders. And because of that fact we don't need to celebrate our national birthday as exuberantly as we used to.

We can take our independence, our greatness, our freedom, for granted, in other words. We're used to them. We know they are things which no one can take away from us.

We don't have to make a lot of noise and burn a lot of red fire once every year to remind ourselves of their existence.

So we celebrate the Fourth in a different way. All over the land today there are happy, carefree people taking a holiday in honor of their nation's birth—and forgetting that they are celebrating.

In that very forgetfulness is the most solid of all proofs that the nation's birthday is a great occasion. It bespeaks safety, security, and freedom.

## RUSSIAN TRADE AWAIT

SENATOR GEORGE W. NORRIS of Nebraska issued a little statement on trade with Russia the other day which is worth close attention.

I have learned, on reliable authority," says the senator, "that the Russian government desires to buy in the American market \$10,000,000 of metal products, 1,000,000 bales of cotton and \$400,000,000 worth of machinery.

She proposes to ship us products of which we import a large proportion or what we use. She proposes to ship these products and apply the proceeds upon her debt."

To a country which for years has been looking frantically for customers, this sounds like important news. If Senator Norris' information is correct, somebody down at Washington ought to see to it that this deal is consummated.

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Furthermore, all these industrial codes are designed as emergency measures only. We have no guarantee they will be in effect four years from now.

What we are doing, in a slow and round-about manner, is to adopt the viewpoint first popularized by Henry Ford—that industry can prosper only in a direct ratio to the amount of money it pays out in wages.

That proposition always has been exceedingly simple. The more money the workingman earns, the more he can spend on the

things the factories produce—that's self-evident.

Yet its obvious truth has failed, so far, to prevent wage reductions in this country, because there is a little catch in it.

If it is to work, it has to be applied all along the line. No individual employer can afford to follow it unless all his competitors do; and in an unregulated society there is not the slightest chance that all of them will do so.

The measures that are being taken now do not, as some suppose, restrict the freedom of the industrialist in any very genuine sense.

They are intended to provide for him a fairly rigid basic code of the wages he must pay and the hours he must operate; but beyond that they actually set him free in a way that he never has been set before.

He is made free, that is, to reap the advantage of this simple and important little equation of Mr. Ford's—that higher wages, in the long run, equal higher profits.

He is freed from the competition of the sweatshop, the fly-by-night operator, the industrial pirate.

The economic enfranchisement of the worker is going to mean a brighter day for the workman's boss.

## THE BREAD TAX

A NEW and extraordinary tax is to be levied, starting July 9, a tax unique in its purpose. On that day and thereafter, until the secretary of agriculture proclaims otherwise, the federal government will collect 30 cents on the milling of each bushel of wheat.

The United States treasury pools other tax money—revenue from the income tax, from the nuisance and stamp taxes—and spends it for a hundred different purposes, providing national defense, law enforcement, salaries for congress and the judiciary, work for the jobless, regulation of transportation, and all the rest.

But the treasury is only a collection agency for this new tax. It collects the 30 cents on the processing of each bushel of wheat and pays it over to the wheat farmers. If as many as 500,000,000 bushels of wheat are milled in the coming year, the treasury will collect \$150,000,000, the sum the agriculture department expects to pay the growers.

For this money the growers must contract to reduce their wheat acreage next year and year after.

This is all part of the Roosevelt farm relief experiment. The test is whether, by levying upon the city man's bread and planning the wheat farmer's production, farm prosperity will return. No one knows whether it will; everybody hopes it will.

This experiment alone will cost consumers of wheat products about \$150,000,000, a considerable tax bill from any source, but all will be glad to pay if it means better times in the country.

We don't know how that newspaper debate over "Should Honeymoons Be Abolished?" is going to end up, but it is with breathless anxiety that we await the vote of the Niagara Falls hotel keepers.

Primo Carnera, the new heavyweight champ, has considerable difficulty in trying to speak English. Jack Sharkey discovered, however, that Primo has no trouble in talking with his hands.

"Governor's gas tank drained," says a dispatch from Colorado. Does that mean the Lieutenant-Governor will now have to make the speeches for a while?

A minister of Mansfield, O., recently set a record by playing 150 holes of golf in a single day. Apparently an attempt to show that the game could be made more holy.

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