

## The Indianapolis Times

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## HOMECOMING

THAT was a great party Senator Arthur Robinson had last Sunday in celebration of his return to his native soil. No one would begrudge him such a pleasant social occasion, particularly since it is extremely likely that he will be coming back to Indiana to stay at the close of his present term in Washington.

Still, now that the bands have ceased, the breast-beating has stopped, and the great, big American flags have been folded away, a cool squirt of reasoning may be pertinent.

The Senator is prone to speak of his fondness for his flag. Surely it is not unkind to inquire just how representative he has been of the great principles for which that flag stands.

In the first amendment of the Constitution these words appear: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

There is no mistaking the intent of such sentence. The founders of the nation made it clear that the United States stood unequivocally for the right of every man to worship God as he saw fit. The American flag guarantees that.

Several years ago this state fell temporarily under the dominance of an organization known as the Ku-Klux Klan, which stupidly flaunted this fundamental principle of Americanism. The former great dragon of the Klan now is serving a life sentence in prison for the revolting murder of an innocent girl.

Senator, were you ever a member of the Ku-Klux Klan?

Did you ever speak before a meeting of this misguided and bigoted group?

Did you ever renounce Klan support at a time when it would have been politically inexpedient for you to do so?

What was your connection, if any, with the Klan? There is no harm in asking, particularly from a person who makes such constant platform references to his devotion to the American ideal.

Now turn to the Senator's record on another great movement in representative government—the revamping of the laws governing the sale of liquor, so that racketeering may be eliminated, new revenues flow to a distressed treasury, and true temperance be promoted.

No need to inquire how Senator Robinson stands on this question. He has voted consistently against every liberal measure on the wet-dry issue.

But, Senator, why is it that, since Indiana voted overwhelmingly for repeal of the eighteenth amendment, you never have said one word about this important public question?

You used to be vocal enough about it. Surely you are not afraid of these "wets" whom you used to lambaste with such vigor. You used to be the plumed knight for the dry forces. If you were so honestly convinced a year ago, how is it that your crusader's sword now is sheathed?

Let us glance for a moment at your latest enthusiasm—the veteran of the World War. You think he is being ill treated. Certainly The Indianapolis Times will agree with you that the men actually injured in service and the dependents of those who died in the war are getting an extremely bad break.

President Roosevelt is to be praised for his statement that he has no intention of sending American troops. Such intervention would be legal under the Platt amendment and the treaty. Indeed, under that protective status, it is the specific duty of the United States to guarantee Cuban rights and liberties, but only when the Cubans are unable to a reasonable percentage of them drew it.

Perhaps if the President had not been so overburdened with emergency domestic problems in the spring, he would have taken a stronger course in Cuba by withdrawing diplomatic support from Machado and indirectly cutting off the dictator from his friends in Wall Street.

Instead, the President chose to dicker with Machado on the theory that the leopard might change his spots. That method now has failed, even under the skillful Ambassador Welles.

The disadvantage of this method has been the perpetuation of Cuban terror. The advantage has been the exhibition of patience by Roosevelt which should impress Cubans and Latin Americans that the United States today is not seeking excuses to use a big stick.

Of course, Machado has turned on his old friend, the state department.

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Machado should be told—and he apparently has been told—that the United States no longer will protect him, that he must choose between peaceful withdrawal and the revolution which has been held in check too long.

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