

## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)  
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Member of United Press,  
Scripps-Howard Newspaper  
Alliance. Newspaper  
Information Service and Aus-  
dit Bureau of Circulations.  
Owned and published daily  
(except Sunday) by The  
Indianapolis News Pub-  
lishing Company, 214-220 West Maryland  
street, Indianapolis, Ind.  
Price in Marion county, 2  
cents; elsewhere, 1 cent.  
Postage—delivered by carrier, 12  
cents a week. Mail subscription  
rate in Indiana, \$3 a  
year; outside of Indiana, \$5  
cents a month.

MONDAY, AUG. 14, 1933.

## CUBA IS NOT THROUGH

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT's reasons for sending ships of war to Cuba at this particular time are not altogether clear. If the purpose, as stated at the White House, is to protect American lives in event of further disorders, the question arises as to how three small destroyers could be of much service, either in protecting or evacuating Americans.

Perhaps the President considers these ships a gesture of friendship for the new regime, calculated to have a stabilizing effect. If so, probably he will have to explain it, to counteract the deep popular distrust in Cuba and in all Latin America of any show of force by the United States.

Certainly the future freedom of Cuba is not yet assured. Liberty is not achieved simply by overthrowing one dictator. Political and economic conditions which lifted Machado to power and perpetuated his reign of terror will create other dictatorships unless basic conditions are changed.

Machado's reign can not be explained solely by his personal villainy. He represented a threefold alliance between American and Cuban big business interests and the military caste. The new Cuban administration will be judged by whether it serves those special interests or the people.

A good beginning has been made in reflecting a military man as Machado's successor. Apparently Colonel Sanguily, representing the armed forces in revolt, as well as other opposition elements, desired Colonel Ferrer as provisional president.

Ferrer, former chief of the army medical corps, was largely responsible for the belated revolt of the troops. But he wisely declined to take the presidential chair, on the ground that the army should not control political office.

Dr. De Cespedes, provisional president, is not an outstanding leader—a compromise candidate is not apt to be. He is a member of the old ruling class, having served in the diplomatic corps and cabinets of Machado and earlier dictators.

Laterly, he had broken with Machado to the extent of retiring, but not to the point of active opposition. He is a wealthy landowner.

The fact that Senor De Cespedes is acceptable to the American financial interests, which so largely dominate Cuba, does not necessarily mean that he will improve the desperate lot of the people.

Now is the report that he will retain in power General Herrera, Machado's secretary of war and navy, particularly reassuring.

Provisional President De Cespedes is distinctly on trial.

## TOUGH TALK

STIMULATED in part, no doubt, by the excitement over the kidnaping epidemic, there was a lot of hard-boiled talk at the Chicago meeting of the International Association of Police Chiefs.

Several speakers indulged in the typical "treat 'em rough" brand of scowling criminology. Such talk was by implication, a thinly veiled plea for the third degree.

The fact remains, however, despite all hysteria, that the rough stuff never has worked as well as skill and subtlety. The cities with the best record in repressing criminals do not employ the third degree as a matter of course. Crime today is well organized and run by men with keen minds, whatever the warping of their moral natures. If the police are to outwit them, they must show more intelligence than the master crooks.

Hence, what is needed is not so much to bear on harder with the night stick and billy, but to employ the best scientific methods of crime detection, and to move swiftly, silently, and effectively. Such is the procedure in the better European police systems, where criminals rarely escape from the toils of the law. Merely to bellow and bruise is like hunting tigers with a brass band.

But suppose we accept for the sake of argument the view of the tough boys in the police service. If we are going to handle the crooks roughly, let us see that the right ones get smashed up. The plea for tough treatment usually is based on the military analogy. Crime is war; the criminal has made war on society; therefore, he must be treated as an enemy, and there is no place for delicacy in the picture.

A major defect in all this has been that the military comparison falls down at just this point. In war, the generals meet the cream of the enemy's forces with their own men. There is no ducking the responsibility of battling with the bravest and most dangerous troops.

But in the tactics of the "treat 'em rough" school of crime repression, all this is reversed. The shock troops of the enemy are greeted politely, while the relatively harmless stragglers are swooped down upon with great ferocity.

The real enemy in crime land is the master crook, the organizer of crime, the racketeer, the supergangster. Has any one ever heard of a major racketeer or gangster getting the works from the police? He gets respectful if not deferential treatment, while the bums, lone wolves, helpless scum, degenerates and others, mainly without clever lawyers—all really cases for social work rather than criminal jurisprudence—are beaten and thumped. If the police demand the right to treat criminals roughly, then let them at least see to it that the severity of treatment is adjusted pretty closely to the menace of the individual in society.

Frantic demands were made that paying a ransom to kidnapers be made a felony, whatever happens to the unfortunate victim of the kidnapers. This is the worst nonsense of

all. The obvious result would be that the relatives would not inform the police and public authorities of the kidnaping, but would try to go it alone with the aid of intermediaries.

Kidnaping thus would become that much safer for those who practice it. Money does not rate very highly when a human life hangs in the balance—especially with the wealthier classes, from whom most of the kidnaped are drawn. Kidnapers likely would lobby vigorously for a law to penalize the paying of ransoms.

The revival of whipping as an alternative to the prison sentence is being advocated once again. Almost any fair-minded student of the history of punishment would have to admit that flogging, within the bounds of reason, is more humane and less demoralizing—as well as far more economical—than imprisonment.

If we had to choose between the whipping post and the typical hard-boiled prison, it would not be hard to recommend the former. But the way out is to abandon both.

The sensible thing is to transform our prisons into scientifically conducted institutions for the permanent segregation of the nonreformable, whatever their crimes, and reformation of the reformable types.

Today, they merely further demoralize the men who enter and turn them out a greater menace to society. And we can not escape by alleging that we do not know any better.

## A BIG CUSTOMER

THE country is fighting for purchasing power. That is the purpose of the NRA. We are spending billions of dollars in outright charity and in vast building programs to create and speed up orders for materials which in turn create pay rolls.

But in the midst of this tremendous effort and excitement, we seem to have forgotten one neglected source of industrial orders and purchasing power—a source that can be tapped easily and quickly. That is the Russian market.

While the domestic market is reviving only slowly and can not reach capacity demand for many months, and while most of the foreign markets grow worse instead of better, Russia is waiting to buy our products and make jobs for the American unemployed.

In that country are 170,000,000 persons whose standard of living and consumer demands are being raised more rapidly than ever before in the history of any nation. They can not begin to produce all they need, their land must be industrialized first.

Meanwhile, they are buying abroad, mostly from our competitors, where they are recognized diplomatically and receive good credit terms. And the more machinery, say, which they buy from England or Germany the more their future trade must be tied to those competitors rather than come to us.

A billion dollars' worth of orders are ready now for America or our competitors, according to Foreign Minister Litvinov.

In Washington, officials of the agricultural adjustment administration say Russia is ready to buy from us at once 1,000,000 bales of cotton (\$55,000,000), and railway equipment up to \$100,000,000. These are only two of the larger items.

In addition to being one of the few countries wanting to buy from us, Russia also has the unusual distinction of being a buyer that pays her bills. The Soviet Union has bought \$4,200,000,000 worth of foreign products without one penny of default.

It has dealt with many large conservative American corporations, such as International Harvester and General Electric, and established a business reputation of trust.

What, then, is holding up the diplomatic and trade agreements which will bring us this foreign business at a time when we need it most? No one seems to know.

The Roosevelt administration is not anti-Russian. It generally is believed that diplomatic and trade agreements will be made soon. But why wait?

## "CODE FOR HOUSEWIVES"

THOSE Iowa women who suggested that a working code be fixed up for housewives, so that the lady of the family could get some sort of break in the matter of hours and pay, seem to have started something which might give General Johnson and the NRA ideas to share by many people on both sides of the Atlantic.

The continuing failure of disarmament conferences, peace pacts, and other efforts of genuine co-operation leave little doubt that a universal feeling of suspicion and distrust lurks beneath the surface.

Neither is it logical to attribute this feeling to a few leaders, or assume that the masses are being balked in an honest desire for peace.

While leadership can accomplish much in guiding or even defying mass sentiment, it obviously is incapable of creating a vigorous war spirit in opposition to public opinion.

The Versailles treaty left Europe in a state of deep-seated dissatisfaction. By that treaty nations were torn apart, racial ties set aside and century old traditions disregarded.

A FEW statesmen, drunk with power, undertook to remap the entire continent, to set up a new political system, and to countenance minority rule in a number of cases. Better by far had the people been robbed of their physical possessions than humiliated as they were. Better by far had territory actually been seized than parceled out as it was.

Europe deliberately cut into a collection of little states to make it safe for a few big ones, the assumption being that the weakness of small, independent governments could be relied on to prevent organized conflict on a grand scale.

We need not theorize about the result. There are more men under arms in Europe today than there were in 1914, and the situation is such that they could be brought together in equally large bodies.

The same old struggle to control the balance of power, the same old disposition to form alliances and coalitions is evident on every hand. Bolshevism in Russia, Mussolini in Italy and Hitlerism in Germany stand forth as the nuclei of well-night unavoidable clash, especially in Germany.

HITLERISM marks the rejuvenation of the old German spirit. For the moment some of its less important phases attract public attention, but its real strength and popularity rests on the simple fact that it promises to reorganize and re-equip Germany on the old basis.

In this fundamental respect, it is typical, rather than exceptional, of European politics and European sentiment.

The entire peace movement has been thwarted, or misguided, by irrepressible tendencies which trained diplomats have sought to conceal with words on the one hand, and to placate with trickery on the other.

Much of the public chatter has had a double meaning, with the folks back home able to get one idea out of it, while those at the council table got another.

To put the situation simply, it has lacked honesty ever since the preposterous agreement was signed at Versailles and has gone far more to make people mad than to inspire confidence.

With many savings banks offering only 3 per cent, lots of men are putting their money in beer these days to get 3.2 per cent.

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## IL DUCE AND HIS DENTIST

DR. ARRIGO PIPERNO of Rome has been private dentist for Mussolini for eight years. Now, visiting in Chicago, he asserts that Il Duce is the one man who never flinches or wriggles apprehensively while in the dentist's chair.

When the dentist remarks—with that sardonic chuckle reserved for such occasions—"Now, this may hurt a little," Mussolini simply shrugs his shoulders and says, "I do not fear pain."

None of the dentist's gadgets ever bothers the patient, he even reads books while his teeth are being fixed.

Now this, somehow, strikes us as one story about Il Duce that is a bit hard to believe. Very likely the man does not "fear pain"—but what has that to do with being in the dentist's chair?

It isn't exactly pain that a dentist inflicts; it is a weird combination of fright, misery, and the kind of buzz-buzz business that puts teeth and nerves on edges. Is any man on earth capable of facing it the way Mussolini is said to face it?

## UNEMPLOYED STUDENTS

JOBLESS graduates of high schools and colleges should be allowed to continue their studies, says Governor Floyd B. Olson of Minnesota, until the economic picture brightens sufficiently to allow them to step into the wage-earning ranks.

This is good sense.

The Minnesota governor has asked a committee of educators in his state to formulate a plan for allowing the boys and girls to continue with free supplemental education, so that they "may be fitted better for jobs when they do obtain them."

He says he will ask for federal funds, if necessary, to aid the state in promoting the scheme.

The federal government itself may get around to some such plan while it is waiting for industry to absorb the millions of unemployed adults, with the aid of the NRA.

That plan of a Chicago scientist to cure baldness by giving the victim an injection of an extract obtained from a sheep gland sounds very logical—in fact, what could be more appropriate than a sheep gland for growing a crop of wool?

This forty-hours-a-week limitation promises to be pretty tough on some folks. What will be the alibi now of the poker-playing husband who returns home at 2 a. m. and tells his wife he has been working overtime on his job.

Louvre authorities indignantly deny that their Mona Lisa is a copy. Microscope and X-ray prove it, they say. But if you can't tell the difference without a microscope and an X-ray, what difference does it make?

Strangely enough, that Nebraska congressman who is charged with misbranding gas is not accused of putting a misleading caption on one of his campaign speeches, but of violating the state gasoline law.

Writer estimates that the United States will produce 46,000,000 bushels of spinach this year as compared with 42,000,000 in 1932. Hey! Haven't they heard about this crop reduction business?

Paris dispatch reveals Marlene Dietrich now has substituted red trousers for black ones. Just like a lot of business men—out of the black and into the red.

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