

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

ROY W. HOWARD President
TALCOTT POWELL Editor
EARL D. BAKER Business Manager
Phone—Riley 5551



Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion county, 2 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week. Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$3 a year; outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 1933.

SCHOOLS DEMAND THOUGHT

As some millions of school children all over the United States are getting themselves squared away for the coming year, their fathers and mothers profitably might spend a little time in meditation about the present plight of the entire school system.

Few public services have felt the depression more than the schools. Teachers have gone unpaid, school activities have been cut, some schools have been forced to extend their holiday periods, others have had to close entirely, nearly all have had to drop certain courses and consolidate a number of activities.

Nor is that the worst. While all this has been happening, there has been developing an influential and vocal group which has insisted that the schools have been getting more than their share of tax revenues, even in good times.

We are being told that our school system is far more elaborate and more expensive than it need be. It is being argued not only that the school budget must be reduced drastically during the depression, but that the reductions must be permanent.

Any one who ever has paid taxes will admit that the schools have been costly. It probably is true that many school executives have become a bit self-important in their claims for tax support.

Some towns have built school buildings on a too-elaborate scale. Some schools have tried to include too many things in their curricula.

Nevertheless, admitting that there has been extravagance and lack of judgment in many school boards, one far more important fact remains unchanged. It is simply this: Our whole society is built around the public school system, and any drastic change in the school system must have far-reaching effects on the entire nation.

We are committed to a political democracy, and we now are trying to broaden it to make it an industrial democracy as well. To make a go of it, we must have a body of citizens whose minds have been given all the training, all the enlightenment, which they can assimilate. The system simply can not work otherwise.

Before we consent to permanent reductions in our public school services, we must do some very careful thinking.

SLOWING UP THE PARADE

SPEED is the essence of NIRA. Anything that holds it up is properly suspect.

Despite the wide flutter of blue eagle wings under the temporary presidential agreement, many of the individual codes are being delayed. This holds off business recovery.

Surprisingly enough, most of the argument, and consequent delay, is not over the wage and hour scales—the main factors in boosting purchasing power and achieving the purpose of NIRA. Most of the fuss, rather, is over individual clauses, which, in turn, brings in some form of price-fixing.

The statement has been made that of the more than 600 codes all but four or five provide for some form of direct or indirect price-fixing. This means that the country, without warning and for the most part without even being aware of the fact, is being plunged into something it never bargained for.

The dangers involved are clear enough. It entails, in effect, a government guarantee of operating costs, which in many cases can mean a government guarantee for inefficiency. Instead of creating a condition of fair competition, as provided by the law, it would in many cases virtually eliminate competition.

And experience shows that this is bad not only for the average industry, but disastrous for the consumer.

There may be exceptional cases, involving nonreproducing natural resources, such as oil, in which some form of government-controlled price-fixing is essential to national welfare. But that is far different from the method of slipping unguarded price-fixing clauses into most of the codes.

The danger is especially acute in retail codes. Fortunately, the cabinet recovery board, General Johnson, and the consumers' advisory board of NRA see that danger. The consumers' board takes the position that the codes should be held up, pending a very thorough study by government statisticians and economists of the cost-plus and invoice-plus figures presented by private groups, and of the entire price-fixing policy.

But the rub is that the codes can not be held up without sidetracking the recovery parade.

Under the circumstances, in justice both to consumers and to the larger interests of the recovery program, the codes should be signed without the price control clauses, which can be considered on their own merits and added to the codes later, if justified by facts.

MACCORMICK, PRISON REFORMER

MODERNIZATION of the Federal Industrial reformatory at Chillicothe, O., and appointment of Austin H. McCormick as superintendent mark another milestone in America's slow progress in the treatment of criminals.

The new institution is the best of its kind in America. Like the new federal Northeastern penitentiary in Pennsylvania, it goes on the theory that it is better business to make convicts into good citizens than to turn them loose as hardened crooks on society.

It will take some 1,100 first offenders, segregated, treat, educate, and train them. Doctors will cure the bodily sick, psychiatrists the mentally sick. By means of the merit system, the young offenders will be graduated from harsher to milder punishment and, when fitted

for the world, will be turned loose under the parole system.

Mr. McCormick, now assistant director of federal prisons, is a pioneer in prison reform. His new position gives him opportunity to demonstrate that the new methods are sounder than the brutalizing routine common to most county and state prisons.

The Wickham commission two years ago exposed the common practices of prison torture, overcrowding, political control, and inhumanity.

To the credit of the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations, the federal bureau of prisons is leading the way toward fundamental reform.

WELCOME VICTORY

NOW Gar Wood holds the top prize of motorboat racing by a title so clear as to be beyond any cavil and objection, and it is an occasion for the warmest congratulations.

King of speed boat pilots since he brought home the Harmsworth cup from England in 1920, he has been pursued by a "breakdown jinx." Something nearly always happened, although not to his boats. His rivals one after another were unable to finish, making his championships a barren solo routine.

It climaxed in the controversy which soured his 1931 race with Kaye Don, and when Don came back for another try last year the jinx halted the challenger in mid-career.

And now Wood's Miss America X has gone up against Hubert Scott-Paine's Miss Britain III, the two flashed together over the full course to the closest finish in cup history, and Miss America X won.

Gar Wood's sportsmanship has been vindicated, and Scott-Paine hopes to come back next year with a faster boat. Who could ask for more?

LIVERPOOL CLEANS HOUSE

IT is extremely interesting to read that the city of Liverpool, in England, is about to spend around \$35,000,000 to rebuild its slums.

Nearly 13,000 ancient and insanitary houses are to be demolished and 16,000 new ones are to be built in their place, to provide homes for some 40,000 people.

Liverpool's slums have had an unenviable reputation for many years. If they have not been the worst in England they have been very close to it; and the vice, illness, crime, and general bad citizenship which they have bred have cost Liverpool many times the sum which now is to be spent on slum abolition.

Liverpool's willingness to spend money on that scale in a time of depression might be a useful object lesson for a number of cities on this side of the Atlantic.

THE SHIP OF BLASTED HOPES

THE ship which Henry Ford chartered for his famous peace party eighteen years ago has been sold for junk. She was a 10,000-ton liner, built in England for Danish owners. Under ordinary circumstances, she would have worked out a prosaic salvation in the freight and passenger service, going to the scrap heap, unwept, unhonored, and unsung.

The one great moment of her career, even though it proved a fiasco, warrants more extended obituary notices than usually bless such craft.

This ship stands for the blasted hopes that have buoyed up a distraught civilization during the last two decades, the fantastic dreams and wild ideas by which ingenious minds sought to circumvent reality.

Like thousands of others, Mr. Ford saw no reason why Europeans should not quit fighting. Theoretically, he was right. Not one in a thousand knew what the row was all about. But there was something powerful back of the murderous psychology, something that would not permit sound judgment to speak.

At the moment, the Americans stood proudly neutral, well satisfied with our ability to resist the infection, and professedly amazed that sane men could become so crazy.

Even after Mr. Ford came back without so much as obtaining an audience, we gave Woodrow Wilson a second term, on the ground that since he had kept us out of war up to that time, he could be depended on to do so until it was over.

It is a good thing to look backward now and then just to recall how mistaken we were, if for no other reason. Not the least astounding fact in connection with this season of astounding facts is the obvious inability of our best minds to comprehend the drift of events.

At first they thought the war might last three months. Toward the end they thought it might last ten years.

At one time we were assured that the result would be bad if either side won. Within a year or so, we were told that humanity was headed for destruction if Germany were not defeated.

Mr. Ford's peace party was born of the notion that we could and should remain neutral, that the war meant little to us, and that our real concern was to see peace restored without victory.

His expedition expressed an ideal which we had tried to preserve ever since the storm broke, but which failed to harmonize with the explosive psychology that brought it about.

He made no impression whatever on rioting Europe, but he did show a lot of Americans how far they were from understanding the forces which had started the rioting.

During the first two years of strife, we tried to make ourselves believe that it was a sort of Fourth of July celebration which meant little to this side of the Atlantic, save as it provided interesting headlines and improved markets.

When it got too bloody, we thought that peace-makers should interfere, and many of us had little doubt that they would succeed if they went at it in the right way.

We still are approaching some problems with the same romantic optimism.

THE NEW VIGILANTES

NATIONAL COMMANDER LOUIS JOHNSON'S advice to the New York convention of the American Legion, urging the organization to fight incessantly to drive graft, corruption, fraud, and extravagance out of the national government, points the way to a new field in which the legion can be very useful.

The qualities mentioned by Commander Johnson happen to be far less prevalent in

the national government than in most state and city governments.

But they always have existed in greater or less degree, and the legion very profitably could make a determined drive on them.

Such things can be eliminated from public life only if the citizenry is alert, vigilant, and well-informed. The legion could do a great service by seeing to it that the necessary vigilance and knowledge are kept in existence.

AMERICAN TRAVELERS

AMERICANS don't know how to travel. They travel only to scoff and be scoffed at, in effect said Dr. W. Beran Wolfe, psychiatrist, returning with 489 Americans who rounded a good part of the world in the liner Volendam.

Said Dr. Wolfe: "Almost exclusively each passenger carried into Europe his own home town environment."

The coffee they drank was not like the coffee back home; the Oriental dancers couldn't hold a candle in grace to the troupe at the old Rialto; St. Peter's—"We wouldn't have anything so old fashioned in Jersey City;" the natives "wore funny clothes," and that stuff couldn't compare with the booze Joe Smith makes.

They didn't see anything, said Dr. Wolfe. Oh, they saw plenty, Doctor. Wait till they get back home. The old home town will pale and the home towners with them before the tall tale-telling is over!

ANOTHER WALL STREET ALIBI

WITH President Roosevelt and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation appealing to the American Bankers' Association for better co-operation in extending private credit for industrial recovery, some bankers seem more intent on destroying the new deal's mild banking reforms.

Among other things, they have started a drive to modify the new truth-in-securities law. Modify in this case means to destroy, because the banking group succeeded in modifying the original bill to the point where the law as passed represented the bare minimum of practicable federal blue sky regulation.

The argument against the securities law parades in the cloth of patriotism. It is said that the law has prevented much-needed financing, retarded the flotation of securities, and thus jeopardized national recovery. That is not true.

The chief business need obviously is short term credit. That is not affected by the securities law. Still the bankers refrain from lending, despite the pleas of the White House, the R. F. C. and the NRA. Whether the bankers are justified in this policy or not, the situation has nothing whatever to do with the securities act.

Railroad securities also are exempt from the securities act, and yet new rail issues are not being floated. The railroads are not even taking advantage of the credit facilities for maintenance and equipment available under the NRA.

Municipal issues are another class exempted from the securities law. But defaults continue, because cities are unable to refinance.

Apparently the capital markets can be revived only through larger government financing of capital expenditures for public works. While bankers hesitate to extend even short term credits, it obviously is absurd to argue that the mild securities law is to blame for the absence of long term issues.

We believe with the administration which enacted the securities law that it is helpful to real business recovery. If corporate securities can not be sold in the light of facts regarding their value, as required by the law, then it is better that they remain unsold. Unsold stock issues can not speed business recovery.

M. E. Tracy Says:

NOTHING of consequence works smoothly. Vigor means friction, especially if exerted in the direction of change. Instead of being discouraged by the commotion that has arisen, we should accept it as proving the vitality of NRA.

Such a revolutionary program was bound to involve differences of opinion, even among those selected to carry it out. Don't forget that confusion and bewilderment made it necessary, that it was conceived to save an industrial system threatened with disaster for lack of leadership.

Don't forget that it had to be formulated quickly and that there was no time to work out every little detail.

It is easy enough to find fault with details or envision obstacles which appear difficult to hurdle, but we must not get too excited about that. The important things is to get a dation back on its feet, psychologically as well as financially, to bring the application of age-old principles up to date, to square machine age with democratic standards, to rescue personal liberty from a spider web of private and unofficial tyrannies.

IT is quite true that the new deal visualizes a greater degree of governmental supervision, but only as a substitute for the more malicious forms of commercial and social supervision which have grown up as a by-product of massed wealth and massed credulity on a voluntary basis.

Modern industry has led up up to a new kind of feudalism, in which great business enterprises play the same part with reference to government that great nobles of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries formerly played.

The average citizen of these United States has not been free for a generation and more to express his opinion. He constantly has been confronted with the choice of supporting some kind of organization, or the state has been torn by a ceaseless conflict of loyalties.

More often than not his job and his duty have pulled in opposite directions. More often than not he has found it necessary to obey some private interest or obligation because it meant bread and meat.

Republican government could not long survive under such conditions, nor the industrial system which they made possible.

AS far as this country is concerned, the trouble in which we find ourselves was due largely to perpetuation of power by private interests, organized minorities, and voluntary associations devoted to the idea of putting something over, regardless of whether it was good from the standpoint of public policy.

The great objective of the new deal is to restore the government to its rightful place of supremacy and to emancipate the average citizen from those obligations and associations by which he could be and has been coerced.

The so-called laissez-faire regime had developed enterprises, activities, and organizations which dominated great blocs of citizens and which, in many instances, represented a more dreaded power than that of the state.

We are not going to rectify such a condition overnight or without disagreeable experiences.

Blood and Storm



:: The Message Center ::

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire

Working Wives

By B. K.

JUST a word in answer to "Fair Play" about married women working and keeping single girls from jobs. Much is written on that subject, but one never sees anything about families of three, four or even five with all members working but the mother. Most children who do work and live at home pay board, so why is it any worse for a man and his wife to work than a father and two or three children, who help at home?

No doubt "Fair Play" is a married man whose wife can not get a job and he thinks that no other married woman is entitled to work.

I am a married woman who works and at the end of the week we do not have any more than most families with only one member working and I don't doubt that we spend just as much as any one family can afford to.

So why not let the subject rest for a while and find something else to "crab" about?

one else can take advantage of the buy now slogan when we scarcely can buy that we need each week. Unless we soon get more for what we sell, we will not be able to even buy necessities.

Besides bare necessities, we still enjoy a good show now and then. Congratulations on your article, "Get It Circulating," that appeared in the Aug. 28 issue of your paper. You hit the nail right on the head.

Since your paper has taken the stand for a fair and square deal for every one, how about putting your shoulder to the wheel and helping

the cause of the depositors who lost their savings in the Belmont State bank?

A good strong article published in your paper might go a long way to help us secure our money.

So They Say

The time is past for jailbirds being treated to lectures, games and the cinema, making them better off than jobless or laborers.—Hans Kerri, Prussian cabinet member.

In the long run those in authority in a democracy are best off when their acts are subjected to constant and impartial analysis and criticism.—Alfred E. Smith.

If there must be economic war, let the nations across the seas take heed. The American nations will be ready.—Plutarco Elias Calles of Mexico.

State borders must to an extent be disregarded and the United States must be taken as one economic area.—Secretary of War Dern.

The present crime situation is an irresistible growth produced by the laxity of officials.—Judge Kavanagh of Chicago.

It is very difficult to determine what is the limit or where the beautiful ends and the vulgar begins.—Rufus C. Dawes, president of the Century of Progress Exposition.

History will show that my work has been good.—Ex-President Machado of Cuba.

The national recovery act is more than a war on the depression; it starts us on a course which, if followed wisely, will guard us against a tragic recurrence of what has happened to us in the last few years.—Secretary of War Dern.

Geography Has Effect on Health

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN

Editorial Board of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

THE geography of the places in which we live constitutes a part of our environment. Not only is the topography of the land concerned, but also the character of the soil, the climate, the kind and varieties of plants and animals that grow.

Man seldom is satisfied with his environment and always is trying to change it to approximate it more closely to what he believes to be best.

Most of the experience of man has been successful thus far, since the life expectancy at birth has been advanced steadily. Nevertheless, men occasionally change their environment to conditions unsatisfactory for health and growth.

Our civilization has been responsible for a considerable number of our illnesses. When mechanical refrigerators first were introduced, men did not count the possibility of poisoning through release of the refrigerating gases.

When, however, a sufficient number of cases had occurred to demand scientific consideration, steps were taken to eliminate the use of dangerous gases and to substitute safer ones.

To avoid drafts, people occasionally sit in crowded apartments, but in the avoidance of the draft they

also bring about greater possibility of transmission of germs from one person to another, and also various aches and pains due to unaccustomed postures.

Dr. Edgar Sydenstricker has pointed out that differences in the racial composition of a population, the question as to how many live rural lives and how many city lives, and the distance from the city are all important factors in determining sickness and death rates.

Every one knows that sickness and death rates vary greatly in different parts of the country at different times.

For example, at one time one city may have a death rate of two to 100,000 from typhoid fever, whereas another city may have a death rate from typhoid fever as high as six to 100,000.

Dr. Sydenstricker points out that people in New York died from Bright's disease and nephritis at the rate of 314, whereas in Wisconsin they died from these cases only at the rate of 114.

One of the most interesting ways in which geography affects sickness rates is in relationship to occurrence of goiter.

It has been well established that simple goiter is associated with a deficiency in the intake of iodine for the human body. The chief natural source of iodine is water.

A goiter map of the United States shows the greatest incidence of goiter in the northwest and in the Great Lakes region, with a relatively small incidence (indeed practically none by comparison) in all southern states.

The taking of a sufficient amount of iodine in the food will prevent occurrence of simple goiter in any of these areas.

The common cold is practically uniform in its spread throughout the United States. Then again, venereal disorders are found frequently in certain southern areas and in certain large cities and less frequently in rural districts.

These are the reasons why the physician finds it so necessary to determine the derivation of his patient, the length of time the patient may have been in the city, and other factors about his environment before making a final decision as to cause of illness.

It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—Americans are in danger in Cuba. That is too bad. I would not have the lives of any of our citizens sacrificed in a cause in which we have no direct concern.

And yet it seems to me that the most important point to remember is that this is a private fight in which we have not been invited to participate. If it is Cuba's whim to swing to the right or left, or north, south, west, I can not see that this is properly a subject for our soldiers or sailors.

Many preposterous and evil things may be done in this new dawn. We may not approve. But who asked us to assume sovereignty over this elliptical empire? We came in first of all to rid the islands of the rule of Spain. In 1898 we announced that there was a people capable of self-rule. I think that nothing has happened which reasonably should change our mind.

Aren't We All?

PERFECTLY ridiculous people have been elevated into office and even so I do not think that we are in a position to say, "Such things must not be." The land of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover can not afford to be peculiarly snooty concerning the island of Machado.

Let us grant that the late and unlamented dictator of the Pearl of the Antilles was a little worse than our pick of the puppies, and still it is true that on an average Cuba has kept abreast of us.

Surely it would be a little silly for a country bearing around its shoulders the depression of 1929 and all its attendant consequences to bob up beyond its borders and announce, "Just watch us and notice how we prosper short of our aid."

It is obvious that many of Cuba's difficulties are of our own making. It is nonsense for us to beat this people on the head with a tariff club and then inquire, "Why is it that you seem so restless?"

But a problem more broad than Cuba's concerns our comfort. Here is an opportunity for the United States to display to all Central and South America the New Deal and the new diplomacy. The time has come to demonstrate that Mr. Monroe, once President of the United States and now dead for many years, did not precisely recognize the future of our neighbors down toward the equator and farther south.

Mr. Monroe being dead, I think he meant to say that we would not tolerate land grabs or infiltration by foreign powers. But we have gone far beyond the original intent of any presidential proclamation. We have constituted ourselves the cop of Latin-America. No body loves a policeman. Still less does anybody like a roundsman who serves the self-interest of some alien group.

Covering Too Much Area

THERE can no question that in the past North America has endeavored to control the destinies of the other hemisphere as if it were some vast state. We have tried to reap in places where we have not even sown the seed to sow dragon's teeth.

And in such places as the marines have landed to restore tranquility we have complained that after our efforts departed no great amount of good will remained upon our ledger. Why can't we understand that all Americans, Latin or otherwise, are proud peoples hoping and wishing to go along on their own?

Whether we approve or disapprove is a minor matter. Even if our nudge or suggestion is conceived in wisdom and wholly disinterested, the person tapped upon the shoulder is not going to like it.

And in spite of the brave and florid words used by American orators upon auspicious occasions, it would be ridiculous for us to pretend that no self-interest had entered into our policies regarding those nations which lie below the belt.

I think, in spite of everything, that a certain amount of romantic idealism was incorporated in our wholly unjustified and half insane expedition into Cuba. It was after the event that the money changers mixed in and decided that possibly dividends might be found in the blood and toil of the young men who volunteered.

I would not have again any such sentimental and crazy adventure. But isn't it possible to keep the best and throw away the rest?

I was not very old during the days of Richard Harding Davis, "A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" and "Remember the Maine," but I am convinced that all Americans of American advantage and added dividends for the United States. It is undoubtedly true that if Cuba goes into a complete and thoroughgoing upheaval, American business interests will not get along so well.

Let us remember that we are the people who originally started the match. Perhaps it was a slow fuse. All kinds of things may happen, Socialistic, Communistic, nationalistic, and even so we should sit back and say, "Ah" or "Oh," according to our own political philosophy.

Remember the Maine

WE said in the beginning, "Here is a people capable of ruling on its own," and now we ought to make up our mind whether we meant precisely that or whether it was a sham and lie.

It may be that the Cubans, unimpeded, may produce a government which seems to us poorly founded and disastrous in its consequences. And still I think that all we have a right to say is, "That is a poor thing, but their own."

If we had any other idea, then somebody should have shouted to Theodore Roosevelt, half-way up Kettle Hill, "Whoa, Theodore, come back down again and let Butcher Weyler rule the country."

Cuba never wanted any alien meat chopper to control its destinies and I think there is small reason why it should applaud the substitution of some soft-spoken pawnbroker as a substitute.

(Copyright, 1933, by The Times)

Daily Thought
Pray that ye enter