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SHORT CUTS

WE may need a modern Joseph to smash the great American paradox of destitution in a land of plenty. We need only men of commonsense to achieve temporary relief.

President Roosevelt's order for the purchase of \$75,000,000 worth of surplus beef, milk, cotton and other products to be distributed to the states for supplementary relief is a stroke that loses none of its force because of its simplicity. In the cities are 3,500,000 families on totally inadequate relief doles. On farms the distress is so great that the A. A. A. is trying to retire 9,000,000 acres of wheat, 15,000,000 acres of cotton and 5,000,000 hogs. The President's order will help both.

Such short cuts have characterized the federal emergency relief administration under President Roosevelt and his youthful agent, Harry Hopkins, since its organization last May. Finding the A. A. A. with a lot of pork on its hands, Mr. Hopkins arranged to send 100 million pounds to the states for families lacking meat.

Finding families being evicted for non-payment of rent, he ruled that federal funds could be used to save their humble shelters, but warned that he was not pensioning any landlords. Finding 30,000 teacherless jobless and facing the breadlines, he called a conference to arrange for putting them on pay rolls to teach illiterate adults in night schools. Finding Mississippi children going to school without books, he announced this week that he sees no reason why the government should not supply text books in communities too poor to buy them. Finding family relief doles in the south running as low as \$4 a month and less, he set \$5 as the absolute minimum.

"There's no use letting people starve to death slowly," he said.

Stubborn in denying federal aid to slacker states and communities, he seems just as determined to carry out President Roosevelt's will that no American shall go hungry this winter. The winter's relief tasks are so staggering that no time or effort can be wasted. The President and Mr. Hopkins' commonsense methods should inspire states, cities, private charity and social workers to cut through red tape entanglements and drive toward the nation's goal without cavil or delay.

TO FOLLOW REPEAL

NO organization deserves more credit for the repeal now impending than the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment.

Under the leadership of Jouett Shouse it was furnished the facts which within a year have turned the tide of public opinion against national prohibition and all of its attendant evils.

This has been possible because Shouse and his association have not been wet fanatically. They have pursued a common sense attitude toward the whole problem, shunning at every turn the tactics of the Anti-Saloon League.

Now that repeal definitely is in sight, the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment is working just as hard for liquor control by the individual states; and it is meeting this problem with a reasonable mind, a commonsense point of view.

"Repeal of the eighteenth amendment," said Shouse in an article written for The Times, "will not constitute panacea for all the ills to which mankind is heir. The control of liquor has constituted a serious problem since history began. It will continue to constitute a serious problem. But brought into the open where it can be dealt with as an important economic question, where it is subject to the most stringent inspection and regulation, it will embody far less of menace to social institutions and to the body of our citizenship than in the hands of the underworld which has reaped from it during these trying years of the immediate past such enormous profit."

On this intelligent basis, the liquor question, after repeal, can be met successfully.

ECONOMICAL PARADOX

UNCLE SAM'S effort to help the farmer by plowing under cotton, limiting wheat acreage and killing several million hogs is economically unsound and morally wrong. That at any rate, is the verdict reached in a resolution adopted by the Ohio Methodists' recent state conference.

It is a verdict that a whole lot of people will accept. No part of the recovery program seems more contradictory than this destruction of the raw materials for food and clothing at a time when millions of people have neither enough to eat nor enough to wear.

Yet it is a contradiction that is not peculiar to the farm program. It lies at the very heart of the capitalist system, and it involves the fundamental conflict between production for use and production for profit. The whole recovery program is simply an attempt to settle that conflict.

It does not take much thought to enable one to see that destroying cotton, wheat and pork when millions are in need of clothing and food is precisely similar to letting great factories lie idle when millions need the things that those factories can make. If it is absurd to reduce agricultural production, it is equally absurd to reduce industrial production.

The farmer is as much a capitalist as the factory owner. If the factory owner can not be expected to produce more than people will buy at a price which yields a profit, neither can the farmer.

But stating the parallel in this way does not really get us anywhere. It simply shows how fundamental these objections to the farm program are; how far they reach into the very essence of the structure of capitalism.

For if the farmer ought to keep on raising wheat and cotton and corn and pork even though he can not do it profitably, so long as

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

PLACING THE PROFIT

"ANY intelligent conception of modern governmental functions," said Dr. Tugwell, the assistant secretary of agriculture, "must embrace the idea of effective consumer protection."

This is the basis upon which Dr. Howe, consumers' counsel with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, has begun the issuance of his bimonthly bulletins called The Consumers' Guide. In this, to assist retail purchasers and make them aware of the fluctuations in the prices of processed farm products, he is listing average costs of fourteen leading articles of food over the nation and in some fifty individual cities.

The best thing about the whole farm program, perhaps, is that it makes this moral clear to us. It may work or it may not; while we are finding out we are going to get an education, and our future steps may well be taken in the light of the lessons we are learning right now.

ANOTHER 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 mile 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 new law has prevented much-needed financing, retarded the flotation of securities and thus jeopardized national recovery. That is not true.

The chief business need is obviously 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 RFC and the NRA.

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 NIRA.

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 is obviously absurd to argue that the mild securities law is to blame for the absence of long-term issues.

Secondly, there is the possibility of graft and extravagance. Haste makes waste nowhere so much as in government spending. This tremendous spending program could easily develop the most monstrous governmental scandal in all our history, if extreme care were not taken. We want it kept free from graft, and graft is apt to slip in if the absence is done too fast.

HASTE MAKES WASTE

WHEN you are considering the apparent slowness of the administration in getting its vast public works program under way, there are one or two little subsidiary points that ought to be taken into account.

First of all, jobs of this kind are, in the very nature of things, slow in getting started.

You can't begin a big construction job overnight. The mere physical work of getting set on blueprints and designs, getting estimates and contracts, arranging for supplies of material, and so on, takes time—lots of it. A certain amount of delay is inevitable under even the most ideal conditions.

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INIMICAL FRIENDS

HERBERT HOOVER must have a deep-felt low feeling for the man who remarked that he could take care of his enemies if only some one would protect him from his friends.

There is, for example, that friendly Boston hotel man who says that Mr. Hoover, while President, privately favored repeal of the eighteenth amendment, although publicly he did not.

The Bostonian evidently said this with the knowledge that he was coming to Mr. Hoover's defense. Actually he was doing just the thing done.

The politician who goes counter to his private convictions because he believes he will get votes that way is not a pretty creature. It is ironical that this accusation should be laid against Mr. Hoover, not by an enemy, but by a friend. And the mass of Americans will probably want something more in the way of proof before they believe it.

Aimee Semple McPherson Hutton is getting \$5,000 a week to save souls in New York. She ought to save some money at least.

WRONG BALLYHOO

CIVIC boosters often have a way of objecting to the publication of unpleasant facts on the ground that such publication does more harm than good. The issue arose in Philadelphia the other day, and ended in such a way as to justify those who believe that telling the unvarnished truth is the more wholesome policy.

The Chamber of Commerce issued a report boasting that all business houses on two main downtown streets had enrolled in the NRA.

The editor of the Philadelphia Record suspected that this boast was sheer ballyhoo. Had reporters investigate, found that sixteen business firms in the district cited had not enrolled, and published a story telling of the findings.

The result was that the sixteen dilatory firms immediately got into line. And the Record pertinently remarked that whereas the empty ballyhoo of the civic boosters had stopped progress, the active criticism of the newspaper had led directly to some much-needed action.

REPEAL WHISKY

A GENERATION which regards the kitchen sink as a gin factory and has realized the utter falsity of even the most eminent labels stands today upon the threshold of a new era—repeal.

To innocent modern ears there is no sacrifice in Dr. James M. Doran's suggestion that the surviving seventeen-year-old whisky be used merely as a base for blends, to constitute less than 20 per cent by volume of a new concoction consisting largely of grain alcohol and pure juice.

The great tradition of American rye and bourbon whisky was not built upon—call it what you will—blended, rectified or cut stock.

Those were the things which formerly were supposed to make a jackrabbit spit in the bulldog's face. Old Dr. Harvey Wiley, a chemist himself, always contended that the chemist's place was in his laboratory, not in the distillery. And certainly the Kentucky colonels and other authorities on sound drinking stuck to their principles that nothing was too good for a gentleman's stomach.

Yes, this is old-fashioned talk. But synthetic hooch is going to be old-fashioned almost before one can say "Bottoms up!" The good name of repeal should be protected; it was fought for hard enough. The repeal era should not be the ersatz era.

Congress, the bureau of industrial alcohol, the state liquor commissions and, most of all, the distillers and consumers should get busy to take our patronizing policy toward them as genuinely disinterested, and we would do the same if conditions were reversed.

GRADUAL modification of the Monroe doctrine has led us into a very undesirable role. What was designed originally to block the interference of Old World powers with New World politics has been the basis of an arbitrary claim to superior rights on our part.

The Monroe doctrine is obsolete, because the conditions out of which it sprung have disappeared. There is no longer a Holy Alliance to threaten the independence of Latin American countries, or upset the balance of power desired by England.

We can admit that Channing gave Adams good advice without assuming that the international structure of 1825 still exists. We can claim that the Monroe doctrine served an excellent purpose when it was made use of to drive Maximilian out of Mexico without imagining that it confers on us the eternal right to threaten intervention every time Cuba, Nicaragua, Santo Domingo or some other Latin American country runs contrary to our approved methods.

STARTING RIGHT

THE brewers' board of trade of New York Inc., took a three-quarter page advertisement in the newspapers the other day to appeal to the public for co-operation to check the operations of the beer racketeers.

It pointed out that the racketeers were trying to keep their control over the beer distribution business in New York, and cited an instance in which a beer garden proprietor had been beaten up for refusing to handle exclusively the products of a certain brewery.

In no other way can we believe the Latin-American mind from the suspicions which now beset it and which make whole-hearted confidence well-nigh impossible.

We are justified in demanding security for our nationals and their interests. We are warranted in acting for their full protection, if convinced that action is needed. All of that is our legitimate business and comes well within the usage of international law. But it is not our legitimate business to tell other people what kind of a government they shall have or how they shall change if they want another kind. We can not make it our business without inviting their distrust and resentment.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

NOT only the Monroe doctrine but every

treaty born of its more recent interpretation

should be scrapped.

This so-called right on our part to super-

vise elections, collect customs and preserve con-

stitutional government as we understand the

meaning of that phrase should be abandoned,

whether it is specified by agreement, or come

to use as the by-product of tradition.

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assume proper importance in the public mind, thinks Dr. Beran Wolfe, well-known psychiatrist, if more houseswives could manage a

trip or two to Europe.

This is an obvious truth. Indeed I would go further and say that the American business man and his wife would profit immeasurably and the nation with them, if they did more traveling in their own country. Provincialism is not altogether a rural shortcoming. The city man is as full of it as his country cousin, and Americans of all classes are infected with the virus.

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