

The Indianapolis Times

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ROY W. HOWARD
Give Light and the
People Will Find
Their Own Way

PUBLIC WORKS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT and Interior Secretary Harold Ickes are reported considering a request to congress for an additional \$1,700,000,000 for public works. This would bring the federal fund up to the \$5,000,000,000 urged by Progressive senators, the American Federation of Labor, economists and others.

Out of the \$3,300,000,000 voted for public works under the NRA some \$2,112,000,000 has been allotted for federal and non-federal works. At the present rate the entire fund will be apportioned by Jan. 1. Thousands of worthy projects are before the public works administration. Of these there are enough sound enterprises to use of \$2,000,000,000 additional.

While private capital remains timid, public spending should go forward at an increased tempo. It is important, however, that the spending be of the right sort. We are surfeited with pork-barrel federal buildings. We have about reached the saturation point on roads and waterways. We have spent enough for the present on reclamation works.

We have not driven with enough will and wherewithal for that type of building certain to bring back the quickest returns in prosperity and human dividends—rehousing the American masses in decent homes.

Just as the sudden depression of the automobile pulled America out of the last depression so may a nation-wide rehousing movement help bring prosperity now. This means not only razing and rebuilding the 9,000,000 American "homes" in the blighted slum areas of our cities. It also means public parks and playgrounds, wider streets and boulevards and ample city entrances and exits, the decentralization of industry. It means, in short, the remaking of American cities into comfortable and healthful abodes.

This type of construction is unique in that it gives men work and stimulates the heavy industries and at the same time creates new standards, new wants, new markets. Every dollar sown in rehousing brings a crop of many dollars.

That the government proposes to lead this movement is shown by its creation of the new federal housing corporation. Through this the government can build houses just as, for twenty years, it has built reclamation works for its citizens.

NO REVOLUTION

ALTHOUGH it has become the fashion to speak of the recovery program as a kind of revolution, no one who looks into the matter closely can fail to see that basically it really is a conservative proposition.

The truth of this statement can be tested by looking at the very obstacles which are slowing up the progress of recovery.

First among these obstacles, no doubt, is the fact that the owner of capital still is a bit skittish about putting his money to work. His fear of inflation would seem to have been quieted by the forthright manner in which the gold question is being handled; but he still is afraid that he will not be able to make a profit on the employment of his money, and so he is hanging back.

In the past, depression ended when the chance to make money began to reappear in commerce and industry. We are trying to end this one in the reverse order—by putting re-employment and increased wages first and trusting that profit will follow in the natural sequence.

Owners of capital are not yet persuaded fully that the profit actually will appear on schedule. Furthermore, witnessing the vast sums that are being spent, and considering the heavy taxes that will have to be levied ultimately to meet these expenses, they are afraid of what may happen to their profit when it does appear.

Consequently, capital in the main is hesitant, and the recovery program does not make the speed we should like.

Yet all this fear of capital, and the efforts of government to provide reassurance, add up to just one thing: The fact that the new deal is, at bottom, conservative and not revolutionary.

Notice this for example: The entire recovery program still depends on the profit motive—the distinctive feature of the capitalist system as we have known it. There is no hint that the profit motive is to be shelved.

Capital may be hesitant, fearing that the scheme may not work out well; but it isn't running for the storm cellar, as it would if it foresaw any intention to do away with the rules under which profit is possible.

Could there be a better indication that the administration seeks to change our existing order as little as possible? It is staking its entire program on the belief that the confidence of capital investors can be restored.

If its program had a revolutionary tinge, that point would not bother it for a moment.

DECLINING 'PLAGUE'

THE campaign against tuberculosis, carried on with vigor in recent years by public health agencies and the National Tuberculosis Association, is showing some very substantial results.

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, New York statistician, points out that the death rate from the disease in fifty-nine representative American cities was lower last year than ever before. It dropped to a mark of fifty-six for each 100,000—which compares with 174 for each 100,000 in 1910.

To be sure, the fight isn't over. Tuberculosis still takes 75,000 lives a year in America. But the fight is being won, and in the sharp decline in the death rate there is a world of encouragement.

The Case of Dr. Athearn

An Editorial

WHEN a decent employer wishes to discharge his office boy he gives the lad a chance to state his side of the case. Hilton U. Brown, Hugh T. Miller and Emsley W. Johnson, local trustees of Butler university, summarily dismissed Dr. Walter Athearn as president of the institution without even granting him this ordinary justice.

Their conduct is ample proof of Dr. Athearn's charges that these gentlemen have made Butler their vest pocket college. All three trustees are estimable citizens.

The fact is that running a university is a highly specialized job requiring a life-time of preparation. Messrs. Brown, Miller and Johnson have demonstrated fully in the last few days that they are conspicuously inept in administering an educational institution. They evidently have no understanding whatever of the importance of academic freedom or of the liberal viewpoint. A college can not be operated like a steel mill.

Regardless of the merits of Dr. Athearn's case these three men stand convicted before the public of smug insolence and cruelty to a college president who certainly has been devoted to the best interests of Butler whatever mistakes he may have made.

Dr. Athearn any nas set forth thirty achievements which he claims for himself during his brief administration of the university. They are extremely impressive. The three local trustees will make no reply, of course, because there is no adequate answer for them to make. They undoubtedly will stand on the mealy-mouthed statement they issued about severing relations with Dr. Athearn "without bitterness."

The discharged president also had something to say about the fact that Butler actually was operated from a "downtown" office occupied by these three worthies. He pointed out that the institution could not be operated efficiently by such dual control. His complaint gains considerable substance when it is re-

called that Butler has had two presidents in five years and now is about to have another, if a first-class educator can be found who will take the job.

There is only one way to run a college and that is to hire a good president and give him full responsibility. Meddlesome committees of local trustees invariably cause trouble. Their intentions may be of the best, but most of them are made up of successful business men who merely are titillating their personal vanity by their connection with an educational institution.

Not one of them would dare try to operate a locomotive pulling a string of passenger coaches, although this would be simple compared to the administration of a university at a time when the world needs free and untrammelled education above all else.

Unfortunately college presidents are human. Sometimes it is necessary to remove them, but such removal should be only after the most careful weighing of the facts by the entire board of trustees and not by a local committee of three.

Evidently Messrs. Brown, Miller and Johnson regard Butler as some sort of private pad-dock in which their rangings to and fro are none of the public's business. The public interest is distinctly involved in their controversy with Dr. Athearn.

Butler has a considerable property which is exempt from local taxes. Therefore every taxpayer is involved directly because he is helping support the university. His taxes are higher by reason of Butler's exemption. Any taxpayer may, with complete propriety, inquire concerning the administration of an institution which is costing him money.

If Messrs. Brown, Miller and Johnson have a real case against Dr. Athearn they should promptly and fully state it. Their explanations thus far have been most inadequate. If they remain silent or give vent to further vague remarks along the "good-of-the-service" line they are placing Butler in a sorry position before the judgment seat of public opinion.

A CHARTER FOR CAPITAL

IT has been our American custom to concern ourselves, at intervals, over corruption in politics, but to ignore entirely the abuses in business which touch our personal lives much more closely.

Today NRA is undertaking the economic housecleaning task which has been neglected for so long, and the public is beginning to realize how much unnecessary hardship it has endured. Before the job is finished it may prove of far more significance than the spectacular emergency work of the recovery program.

The six classes of unfair trade practice just condemned by NRA hint at what has been going on in business to the detriment both of business and its customers. The first rule prohibits inaccurate advertising and other misrepresentations of commodities, credit terms, values, policies and services. It condemns misbranding and "baiting" of customers with misleading sales methods. Under other headings NRA attacks secret rebates, commercial bribery, including the rendering of inaccurate bills, and forced purchase of one article by purchase of another.

Business, itself, has suffered from these abuses almost as much as the public, but in the past has found it impossible to correct them. Led to the brink of ruin by cut-throat competition, business began years ago to demand that it be given a chance to clean up itself without having to fear the operation of anti-trust laws.

The industrial recovery act gave business the opportunity it wanted and it has set about the task. To the credit of business the practices listed by NRA are forbidden in most codes of fair competition thus far drafted. NRA is watching to see that important points are not overlooked and that the rules are lived up to after they once are made.

Having classified and made uniform unfair trade practices, NRA probably will do the same thing for cost accounting, so that customers and competitors both may be protected against loading up cost accounts with excessive charges.

The two things should mean billions of dollars saved each year to the American public, when it is able to distinguish for itself what products are worth the price charged and what ones are not.

The probable benefits to business are not limited to freedom from unfair competition. It will find that if confidence replaces justified cynicism on the part of the customer its ledgers will record the change in substantial rows of black figures.

Anarchy in business is as destructive as anarchy in government would be. American economic life may find in NRA a new chapter of integrity on which to build sound future prosperity.

AN EXPERT'S ADVICE

WHEN Spike O'Donnell, Chicago gangster, buttonholled Senator Royal S. Copeland to tell him what ought to be done "about this crime business," he at least spoke with the knowledge of an expert.

And although his recipe was brief, it sounds very good. What the gangster told the senator was simply this:

"All you need is honest cops and a little co-operation from the courts."

That, really, is all there is to it. Follow that formula and you can clean up almost any crime situation—provided, of course, a little intelligence and energy are available in suitable quantity.

The one trouble is that figuring out why cops aren't always honest and why the courts don't always co-operate leads you to the very heart of the most difficult and complicated problems our democracy faces.

The Oakland (Cal.) girl who's becoming masculine doesn't like it at all. She dreads listening to those smoking car jokes.

University of Chicago professor suggests more subjects be taught in public schools. Result—the children would learn less and less about more and more.

Adolph Zukor received more than a million dollars in salaries and bonuses in the last five years. Then how could the company have gone bankrupt?

A BOOMERANG

A STORY from Chicago says that authorities in the ten Western conference universities are growing disgusted over the way in which alumni are yelling for the scalps of football coaches whose teams are not doing as well as was expected this fall.

It is implied that these universities will take drastic steps to "de-emphasize" football unless this clamor lets up.

"It's all right to have enthusiasm for football," one faculty representative is quoted as saying, "but to let it run away with you is something else again. . . . After all, you know, football is just a sport, not a college education."

Right here the dilemma of the big university in connection with football is apparent. That football enthusiasm does run away with alumni each year is obvious; so, too, is the fact that many alumni make spectacles of themselves in their demands for an unbroken string of victories.

But when you build an enormous stadium, hire a big coaching staff, and conduct your football program in major league style, you are asking for that kind of enthusiasm. You can't make your investment pay if you don't get it.

Rabid alumni are an inseparable part of "big time" college football.

Memphis woman refused to prosecute her husband after her had stabbed her with an ice pick fourteen times. Once more and she would have got mad.

M.E. Tracy Says:

THERE is, I think, no such animal as stabilized consumption, wherefore there can't be any such animal as stabilized production. Even the amount of water we drink shows a tendency to fluctuate.

At one time you find people drinking a quart or so each day on the theory that it is desirable to "wash out the kidneys." At another time you find them getting along with a single glass, or none at all, save what goes with tea, coffee, or soda pop, on the theory that water is fattening.

Inventions, fads, the itch to try substitutes and the tyrannical rule of that curious abstraction which we call style are forever playing havoc with our economic structure. As a congressman said last winter, the cotton problem would be solved if every Chinaman could be persuaded to add one inch to his shirt tail.

You can't boom the wheat market on a reducing diet or build up the textile industry with short, light-weight dresses.

The real catch in the problem is that by the time we have brought production down to fit such conditions, bread and long shirts may have come into fashion once more.

A LOT of men are going without hats these days. I leave it to the brain trust whether this is due to low finances or a popular whim. A rise in the cigaret trade has diverted a certain amount of business from candy kitchens. Who saw it coming, and who can tell how long it will last?

Emotionalism plays a big part in determining not only our cultural and recreational wants, but our existence wants. We used to classify bananas as a luxury, but just now we regard them as a necessity. It is conceivable that a well-directed advertising campaign might turn us against wheat in favor of rye or barley.

The first linen mill in this country has just been opened at Chicago. Who knows what they may mean to the cotton crop? Back in Babylon, linen furnished cloth for the common herd, while cotton was the aristocrat wearing apparel.

FIFTY years ago horse raising and the lively stable constituted one of our great industries. Suppose we had tried to stabilize conditions on the assumption that it would continue.

Thirty years ago we looked upon the railroads as threatening our political and economic liberties. We were all het up over the idea of curbing them, lest they run away with our banks, legislatures and courts. Now we are wondering how to protect them from trucks, pipelines and waterways.

At the moment we are embarking on a great adventure to show power companies how cheaply electricity can be produced. Before we get through some genius may have discovered a contraption that will make our efforts look like 30 cents.

Asserting that this is a mechanical age, we are stubborn about admitting that most of its problems are mechanical, preferring to trust a statute rather than a new gadget. Above all else we are stubborn about admitting the variability in consumption and production which arises from nothing except the unexplained whims and vagaries of human nature.

Read 'Em and Weep!



:: The Message Center ::

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

No Retreat

By H. L. Seeger.

John F. White expresses the thought of many of your readers in the article of Friday, Oct. 27. It seems remarkable that after four years of agony through which our people have passed, there still should be harping to return to the days that created economic despair.

Your editorials breathe human interest rather than sordid selfishness.

Special privilege in our economic system will have to be displaced with equal rights.

Economic rights must rest upon economic social justice, and have concurrent duties to society.

There can be no retreat; social irresponsibility in industry is as repugnant to liberty as human slavery was. We hail the new Horace Greeley. Forward to a new day, a square deal, a new social order.

run out of the spot I first tried. I went down on the walk and found out that the police department had assigned two motorcycle police to escort a dancer to her hotel.

I saw the dancer and her party being escorted to a car under the protection of our police. I saw the two motorcycles head up Illinois street with their horns wide open and as much noise as goes with the escort of a presidential party, the car with the dancer and her party following. Not a person along the line of noise and racket knew what it was all about or whether the police were on a call to a fire or another hold up.

We had hard working school teachers in our city the last few days and I have not heard of any motorcycle police escorting them to their hotels. With these two police assigned to escort a dancing girl from the depot to her hotel, it was just that many police power short

at headquarters had the occasion come for quick action in a daring hold up or any other like incident or calamity in our city. Again: For what purpose is the police force of Indianapolis organized?

By Newspaper Man.

It seems to me the pother raised in some parts of the country over the threat to the so-called "freedom of the press" by the NRA is putting quite a strain on the credulity of some of us who are members of the newspaper profession. The liberty of the press does not mean newspaper publishers have the right not to submit a code as to the hours of labor and wages of employees. In this respect the publishing business is no different from any other business, despite the hullabaloo in some quarters.

R. R. McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, seems to be leading the pack as a bitter foe of the NRA and the Roosevelt administration, his newspaper being notoriously "open shop" and against the recognition of Russia. McCormick wrote the "freedom of the press" paragraph in the newspaper code, and the insinuation in it is an affront to any intelligent American.

Nobody wants the freedom of the press restricted or abridged, and no one has done this or even attempted to do so. The charge is made by International Labor News Service that the fulminations of McCormick are merely a prelude to a concerted political attack on the NRA and the Roosevelt administration because it has overturned many of the sacrosanct theories so lovingly tended by the bankrupt G. O. P. and big business, and has indicated likelihood of recognizing the present Russian government. However that may be, the people are not going to get excited about the rights of free speech being abridged, because the people won't have it. And they know saffron-colored politics, too, when they meet it in the road.

Lung Removal Amazes Surgeons

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

PEOPLE the world over are awed by one of the most remarkable cases of surgery, in which an entire lung was removed and the patient lives to tell the tale.

Just as striking as this unique operation is the fact that the patient was a 3-year-old child, Doris Yost of Keyser, W. Va. Dr. William F. Rienhoff, Jr., of Johns Hopkins hospital, at Baltimore, found that a cancer in the passage to the girl's left lung was growing so large that it would block off her windpipe and strangle her.

A few months previous, another surgeon had removed a lung successfully from an older person, and so Dr. Rienhoff decided this was the only way to save the life of Doris. The child is back home, living apparently normal life, with use of only her right lung.

Until recently, surgeons have been able to remove one lobe of a lung or even two lobes of the right lung, which has three. But this is only the second time an entire lung has been removed, and the first time the removal was attempted in a child.

other parts of the body. Such operations obviously are difficult and can be performed only by surgeons of wide experience and those who have access to the necessary apparatus to sustain breathing during the operation and to protect the patient against shock and bleeding.

It shows also the great safety of modern surgery as compared with the dangers to patients under conditions in the past.

As scientific medicine has advanced, surgeons have been able to delve deeper and deeper into the human body. Once upon a time it was considered invariably fatal to open the abdomen. For awhile the brain never could be touched.

Gradually, with the development of anesthesia and clean surgery and with development of new instruments to sustain breathing and blood pressure during operations, with development of blood transfusion and electrical methods of coagulation, surgery has been able to go farther and farther, so that today there is no portion of the human body that the surgeon does not reach.

:: A Woman's Viewpoint ::

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

NOT in many a long day have American women enjoyed such a thrill as they had when the first issue of Esquire, the man's magazine, made its appearance. At my favorite news stand I was told the ladies had gazed upon the cover, especially if she wishes to preserve a reputation for understanding modern woman. And if it kills her, modern woman will read every word of every issue of any publication that puts "For men only" or words to that effect upon its cover.

The literary editors already have written hundreds of paragraphs about the fledgling—and a husky looking baby it is—but none I have seen has put a finger upon the one flaw in the project, if that project is to produce a magazine for masculine readers only. Esquire is not sentimental enough to suit the average Beau Brummel, bachelor of paterfamilias.

YOU may philosophize if you like, but the American man likes his romance, even if he prefers it dressed in shirts of mail or top-boots. In most respects he is far more sentimental than his women, and that, we must agree, is saying a good deal.

But the truth may as well be faced. So far as the sanctity of his literature goes, the great American male is sunk. The Police Gazette

carried on a sickly existence after the passing of the saloon and the old-time barber shop, but it finally had to give up the ghost. Even the sport pages and the market reports are no longer sacred to the roving male eye.

The cold fact is that twice as many women as men read Ernest Hemingway and John Dos Passos. This is one field in which we have the gentlemen completely subdued. They may not be able to swallow all the sugary stuff we relish but there'll never by anything written, too stern, too virile, too deep, too raw, too tough for the women to masticate. We've put the Saturday Evening Post into petticoats, and inched our way into Collier's. We'll crash the gates of Esquire within the year or meet our first defeat.

It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

NEW YORK, Nov. 1.—I have just been reading one of the most recent cheer-up books, and it depresses me just about 11,267 per cent. Pardon my pointing in figures and in fractions, but Walter B. Pitkin has adopted a flamboyantly scientific method in "More Power to You!" I find, for instance, that hand sewing consumes 111 calories an hour for 70 kilograms. Type-writing rapidly consumes 140. And I have left it to understand Mr. Pitkin's figures, only about 22,840,800 calories.

The question then arises whether I should take up sitting at rest (100 c. an h. for 70 kil.) or go in for sawing wood (480 c.). Or I might decide to shoot the works and start out "walking very fast (53 miles an hour) (650 c. for 70 kil. an h.)."

An Old Adrenalin Miser

HOWEVER, I might accept these statistics with a fair degree of calm. According to the Pitkin tabulations, I work harder than a tailor (when I work, of course) and only slightly less than one "ironing with a 5-lb. iron."

The thing that troubles me is the professor's revelation that "for years I have been living in a fool's paradise in the matter of keeping my temper. I don't mean, of course, than I am 100 per cent guilty in maintaining an even disposition. Once every five years I get in a fist fight in some public place. But it has been my custom never to send the chops back or fly into a tumult if there's a fly in the highball."

My point of view has been: "What does it matter? One fly or a couple of burnt chops won't kill me. There is no use in making a fuss. But now it seems that this failure to get excited is doing things to my glands. Let Mr. Pitkin tell his own story, with a few cuts here and there:

"Trivial rages tone me up absurdly. I owe much to them. Last spring I had a series of debilitating colds, accompanied with an annoying bronchial tightness. . . . So there was nothing to do but treat the nostrils with a certain brand of ephedrine which has worked best with me. So I sent a messenger to the nearest drug store for a bottle of it.

"The messenger soon returned with a package. I opened it only to find a strange preparation the name of whose maker I never had heard.

"Why didn't you get the kind I ordered?" I demanded.

"The druggist said this was just as good."

"I seized the bottle and started for the store myself, mad as a bull. And now, please! Before I had taken twenty steps my nasal passages cleared for the first time in two or three days. My entire tone was high and pleasant. Within another minute or two my energies had risen in an overwhelming high tide. After a quarter-hour I was almost at peak, and had it been desirable I could have worked hard all evening at anything.

A Threatening Note

ICAN not say that I am altogether convinced. On the contrary, I am somewhat terrified by this vivid account of what happens to Mr. Pitkin's adrenal glands under the stimulus of sudden anger. If the mere thought of bawling out a druggist could lift the author to such heights, what would happen if somebody quipped unjustifiably punched Mr. Pitkin in the nose?

The problem has been written four books within the last seven or eight months. I trust that chemists will please pay proper attention the next time and give him real pre-war ephedrine or every reader and reviewer in the country will be swamped under a flood of Pitkin. Here, at least, is a man who may, with full right, assume the motto, "Don't tread on me!" Not unless you want to have twenty books bounced off your head.

Exception to the Rule

BUT I doubt that the rule laid down by the author can be applied generally without qualification. When the druggist tells me that something is just as good I accept the substitution quite calmly because I never thought much of the original nostrum which I ordered. It's ten to one I'll leave it in the taxicab, anyhow.

If there is anything in animation through anger I can do it much more quickly than Mr. Pitkin. I won't have to walk to the drug store. I'll simply read an anti-NRA editorial in the Herald Tribune, the Hearst papers or the Daily Worker. (Copyright, 1933, by The Times)

The Old Stool

BY AUSTIN JAMES

They say that I'm crazy and hazy in mind,
They laugh at me, scoff at me, call me a fool,
'Cause I sing to it, talk to it, call it a friend,
'Tis a queer little, dear little, funny old stool.

Is a man such a fool when in sentiment's grip,
He may choke up a bit and a tear he may drop,
Remembering when he would sit on the stool,
With its funny old legs and its needle-point top.

It was there that I sat while a very small boy,
As I listened to mother's sweet voice give the rule
Of right living—and how I could grow to a man,
Am I foolish for loving a little old stool?

O, it stood in the corner by grandfather's clock,
Till the time mother sat in the old Morris chair,
Then my privilege was to bring out the old stool,
And I'd place it beside her and list to her there.

'Twas an ancient, a sage with a legend of age,
'Twas my life and my home and my church and my school,
And I'm proud to say that I know not my love,
For the dear little, queer little, funny old stool.