

The Indianapolis Times

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People Will Find
Their Own Way

MONDAY, NOV. 20, 1933.

PLEAS GREENLEE

PLEAS GREENLEE must go. He has had an extremely difficult task to do as the Governor's patronage secretary. Perhaps he has performed it as well as any one not an archangel could. Yet his want of tact, his brusqueness and his lack of diplomacy have brought more criticism upon Governor McNutt than any other one thing except the beer law.

No one can deny that Mr. Greenlee is straightforward. He is so forthright that he is naive. His mental processes are perfectly simple: If a man is a Democrat—a McNutt Democrat—he should receive every benefit from the state administration; if he is not, he is not even entitled to ordinary courtesy.

Governor McNutt has a modern, liberal, constructive program for the state of Indiana. There is no place in it for such primitive political thinking as that of Mr. Greenlee. Indiana wants no Tammany, will tolerate nothing that smells of Tammany methods.

The patronage secretary's latest blunder was to lay the administration open to the charge of playing politics with the unemployment relief program in Shelbyville. That is a serious accusation. It was precisely this sort of conduct that caused the voters to dump the 100-year-old Democratic organization in New York City a few weeks ago.

A Republican stomach gets just as empty as a Democratic one, Mr. Greenlee. The children of a Socialist suffer precisely as much from cold and hunger as those of a McNutt adherent. Money for poor relief comes equally from the pockets of all taxpayers.

This complex for political organization has become a dangerous obsession in Mr. Greenlee's mind. He must go.

EDUCATION AND THE LEGION

NEVER in the history of the world has the need for public education been so great as it is today. America is confronted with the most complex economic problems, which are difficult of understanding even to experts. The people of this country have never been wanting in ingenuity and courage, but they can not use these valuable qualities unless they also have understanding.

When the depression began pinching tax budgets politicians foolishly slashed teachers' salaries and made other heavy cuts in education costs. This was silly and dangerous. The two principal functions of government are protection and public schools. Officials should have economized in the nonessential features of government instead of tinkering with the very fundamentals of society.

It is extremely encouraging to thinking people that the powerful American Legion is keenly aware of this dangerous situation. The organization's Americanization committee is going to roll up its sleeves and go to work to save the schools from further crippling.

The public should give this work of the legion every co-operation. If the United States is to recover from the depression without going over to some "ism" it must have more, not less, public education.

NRA, OR—

IN his Savannah speech the President answered the modern Tories who object to experiment in government today just as the Tories of 1776 attacked the changes out of which our nation grew. He proudly pleaded guilty to the charge of the doubting Thomases that he is an experimenter who has faith in the pioneering spirit.

Admitting that there are no easy and quick remedies for our economic ills, he added:

"My friends, we are on the way to recovery."

It is understandable that the business man who continues to believe in "rugged individualism" finds it hard to adjust himself to the new philosophy embodied in NRA for instance. Permit us to suggest, however, that before he devotes himself to the task of wrecking the President's program he consider these facts:

The electorate smashed the powerful Vare machine in Philadelphia the other day. It beat the Mellon-Coyne machine in Pittsburgh. It cracked Tammany in New York.

And while this was going on, prohibition started its funeral march.

All of this means that a spirit of change is abroad in this country.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is a keen politician and particularly is apt in reading the public mind. Sensing public sentiment, it is altogether likely that if he swerves from the path he now is treading, his course will be to the left.

So it seems to us that the "rugged individualist" is called upon to decide whether he will accept NRA, a thing which he does not like, or whether he prefers to accept something which he likes less.

THE FOUR MILLION

THE government's splendid project for transferring 4,000,000 American heads of families from charity rolls to quick public works jobs will succeed or fail in proportion to the enterprise and selfishness of the men and women who administer the civil works fund.

The principles laid down by President Roosevelt and Relief Administrator Hopkins are sound. Some 2,000,000 family heads, both men and women, are to be taken from relief at once and 1,000,000 others are to be hired from public employment bureaus as soon as possible. The remaining 1,000,000 are to be put to work as they are capable of holding.

All are to work as federal employees at prevailing wages for thirty hours a week until mid-February, when new plans will be formed. Workmen's compensation will care for those injured. No creditor may garnish a GWA worker's wages. The work must start

at once, and should be of the sort that requires little equipment, uses white collar men and women, as well as day laborers, and adds the greatest social benefits to the community. Wherever possible localities must chip in to help finance the projects.

Speed is the first criterion. The Ickes public works program has moved too slowly. This one should get under way at once. Communities which daily run the risk of being left out of the \$400,000,000 benefit.

"When people are on the dole something happens to them mentally," President Roosevelt said. "The sooner we can take them off the dole the better off we will be."

Public-spiritedness is the other test of the administrators.

"We would like to have a rule," said the President, "that every one associated with relief work will never ask whether persons needing assistance are Democrats, Republicans, Socialists or anything else."

Governors, supervisors, mayors and relief administrators who spend this money for selfish or political ends defraud the taxpayers and commit treason against helpless and suffering humanity.

The task ahead is not easy, particularly in the winter-bound states of the north. It will take courage, initiative and resourcefulness, qualities that we like to call American. But, in this fourth winter of misery, it comes as a challenge that no public official worthy the name will treat lightly.

The federal government is furnishing the money, the standards and the leadership. But job-making, like the charity it supplants, must begin at home.

BALANCING THE FORCES

FRANCES PERKINS tells the New York Merchants' Association that the NRA provides "a good technique for balance" among finance, industry, agriculture and labor, and that, she adds, is perhaps the most significant fact in the whole recovery program.

This remark, while it says nothing that has not been said before, nevertheless helps to clear up one of the most common reasons for criticism of NRA activity.

Getting a proper balance among the forces mentioned by Miss Perkins simply means fixing things so that each shall get its fair share of whatever degree of prosperity happens to be available, and devising a method whereby no one group can throw the whole works out of line by taking a greater profit proportionately than the economic setup can stand.

Now we get into of such a balance might not necessarily, of itself, restore full prosperity. What it would do would make it certain that such prosperity, when it did return, would be a self-accelerating thing, that it would be distributed evenly, and that it would not, as in the past, create the contradictions that lead to new depressions.

The NRA framework, in other words, is not so much a measure to restore prosperity as a conduit through which returning prosperity can flow more smoothly and rapidly.

It is just as well that we keep that fact in mind. Otherwise we are apt to gaze about us, see that the depression is lingering, and conclude that the NRA is worthless and should be junked.

Restoration of good business, as Miss Perkins points out, depends on the interlocking of a number of factors. The NRA is one of them, the agricultural adjustment act is another, the public works program is another, the present manipulation of the currency seems to be still another. And Miss Perkins properly warns us:

"Restoration will be a comparatively slow process, with possible checks from time to time. No great co-operative effort such as this has ever been carried to a successful conclusion without some setbacks."

We can stand the setbacks, so long as we don't let them persuade us that the NRA is a flop because it isn't doing something it never was designed to do.

CHEAPER RATES PAY

THE Atlanta speech of Director Lillenthal of the Tennessee Valley Authority should encourage the great electrical equipment industry to join in the campaign for generally cheaper electric rates. That industry has been regarded by the public as more or less allied with the private utilities. But as a matter of fact its interest should point in a diametrically opposite direction from the position taken by those utilities which constantly fight to retain existent rates or to raise them.

Every substantial rate reduction should show up in increased sales of electrical equipment.

If the surplus of electricity to which Director Lillenthal refers—"the pool of electricity lying idle"—could be tapped, the possibilities for equipment sales in terms both of equipment now commonly used, such as electric lights, fans, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, and the like, and of equipment not commonly used, such as heaters and cooking stoves and cooling systems, would be enormously increased.

If the equipment industry could be added to those forces which are pressing for lower rates, the influence would be tremendous.

Furthermore, Director Lillenthal's speech suggests an argument that should appeal to the selfish interests of the utilities themselves. He emphasizes that the electric industry, both privately and publicly owned, is running into a financial blind alley unless the use of electricity can be increased very substantially, and he adds that a drastic revision downward of electric rates would not result in a decrease in either gross or net revenue.

Some of the more far-sighted of the private utility interests have been leaning toward that thought for some time.

The surplus pool to which Director Lillenthal refers, representing as it does a conservatively estimated 25 per cent idle investment in powerhouses and transmission lines, constitutes a powerful appeal to go out and find a market.

One way to find it, of course, is to lower rates.

Probably the 5 per cent who voted "no" in the Hitler plebiscite were "yes men" who meant it this time.

The Ku-Klux officials who failed to launder their nightshirts now are organizing as black shirts.

Keep your mouth shut, says Dr. Shirley W. Wynne, New York health commissioner, if you want to avoid a cold—also if you want to avoid trouble of any kind.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

THE POOLER'S SNAP

ARTHUR W. CUTTEN, among the most famous of exchange operators and classiest of Wall Street's pool manipulators, speaking:

"When the market goes off a little bit we buy and then the market goes up and the public comes in. Then, we sell."

Very simple and easy. The wonder of it is that, in a civilized country advanced beyond the status of the anthropoids, tens of thousands of the population hurry into the "come in" and get stripped by the manipulation. However, as Poet Lowell advises:

The right to be a cussed fool
Is safe from all devils human,
It's common (ez a g'rn rule)
To every critter born of woman.

ATTRIBUTES OF AN EDITOR

THE editor in Mansfield, O., whose plant was bombed after he had carried on a spirited crusade against his city's underworld has joined the honorable list of editors who have braved danger and violence to serve their subscribers.

The list is a long one, and in the telling of it there are some bright stories of human integrity and courage. The Mansfield incident emphasizes anew the fact that those two qualities—integrity and courage—are, in the last analysis, the most important ones an editor can possess.

To be sure, he has to be a good craftsman. He has to be enough of a business man to keep his paper from going bankrupt. He has to be a diplomat; sometimes he has to be a sort of detective; he has to be a salesman and a counselor and a historian.

But, first of all, he must be straight and he must have nerve—so that he can perform his duty to his town, like this Mansfield man, even in the face of violence and personal danger.

IN THE LABORATORY

ONE of the advantages of turning the liquor problem over to the states for solution is the fact that a number of different ways of handling the traffic will be tried. We thus shall have a sort of laboratory in which many experiments are being attempted simultaneously.

As a result, in a couple of years or so, we shall be able to get a pretty good line on the methods of liquor control which work out the best in actual practice.

At present our discussion of the different courses that have been suggested is purely theoretical. We think we know how such and such a plan would work out, but we can't be sure.

After half a dozen different states actually have tried out a half dozen different liquor control systems, we shall be in a much better position to judge the comparative effectiveness of the various schemes that have been suggested.

VICTORY IN DEFEAT

FERNANDIN PECORA has won the admiration of his fellow citizens in the last half dozen months, and they share in his disappointment over his failure to win election to the job of district attorney in Manhattan. But there's a bright side to his defeat, after all.

If he had been elected district attorney, he would have had to stop acting as counsel for the senate stock market committee; and it is a little bit hard, off-hand, to think of any other man who could do as good a job in that position as he has been doing.

As it is, he can remain in that post, where there is a great deal of very valuable and important work for him to do. His loss, in this particular instance, looks very much like the nation's gain.

Manhattan may have failed to get a first-rate prosecutor, but the senate committee can keep an unusually able investigator.

If your doctor tells you you're as sound as a dollar these days, it might be a good idea to start looking for another doctor.

Sleeping sickness has attacked horses in Texas. That must have been the trouble with the last one we bet on.

M. E. Tracy Says:

ECONOMIC skies have brightened measurably during the last few days. For one thing, repeal of the eighteenth amendment promises more revenue for the government and more jobs for the people. For another the prospect of increased Russian trade means a brighter outlook and improved business. For still another, the substitution of work for charity represents a needed change in our attitude toward relief.

This is going to be a tough winter for many people, but not so tough as last winter in one vital respect. We entered last winter with every reason to believe that spring would find us worse off. We enter this winter with every reason to believe that spring will find us better off.

One year ago we saw no way out except through breadlines. Now we recognize the necessity of providing jobs. That in itself is a great step forward.

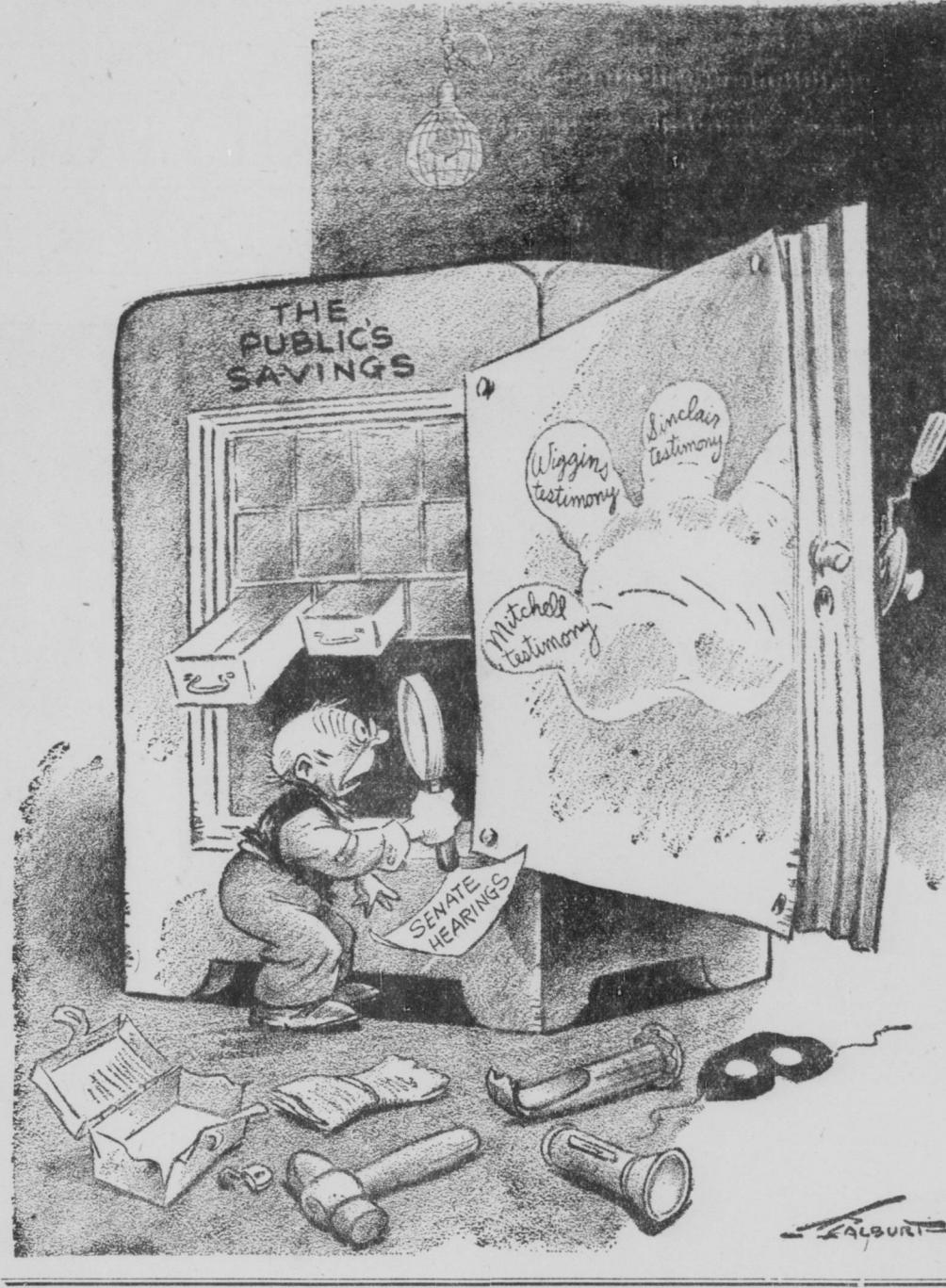
Investigators have found that when neutral foods, that is, foods having no acid or alkaline reaction, are cooked in aluminum utensils, hardly any of the metal is removed or dissolved in the food.

The use of the word "moderately" is, I believe, an exaggeration. American men really are not interested in women at all. That is, they are not interested in us as women.

We appeal to them as "buyers" for their tremendous productive endeavors; as mothers to bring up their children; as stenographers, who look after the details of their business; or as sweethearts with whom they can indulge their emotional and amorous fancies, but as mere human beings, the other half of themselves, they do not see them.

The worst fo it is that the \$10 appropriated for this so-called charity, except as it may have been made necessary by sickness or accident leaves little hope. In the end there is nothing left to show for it save a bunch of reports and statistics. In the end society would be better off if it spent \$1,000 to provide jobs, than if it spent only \$100 for handouts.

It Doesn't Call for a Fingerprint Expert!



The Message Center

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

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

By Guy L. Woodruff.

By V. D. Vincent.

It is human to criticize. Without criticism we would not advance our civilization—that is, constructive criticism.

To me, and I am sure to others, George Stephens' letter is a masterpiece, not of constructive but inane criticism. Universities dictate

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