

The Indianapolis Times

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1934.

DILLINGER'S RECORD

THE Indianapolis Times has received scores of letters from readers in connection with John Dillinger's break from the Crown Point Jail, March 3.

Many of the readers have lauded Dillinger for this daring. Many have asserted they think he is brave because he is "one man against a nation."

Others have expressed disgust for Dillinger, his gang and his activities. They see him as the nation's worst criminal, who should be imprisoned for life, shot in a gun battle or executed after a trial by a jury.

The Times takes only one stand. That is, that John Dillinger should pay for the crimes he has committed. His ability to sidestep the law is not praiseworthy; rather it is the weak link in the chain of Indiana law enforcement.

For those interested in Dillinger's case, The Times presents the outlaw's record. Part of it is from the statehouse files, which are open to any citizen who desires to obtain first-hand information on the man who has proven the terror of this state and the middle west.

John Dillinger was sentenced to the state reformatory in September, 1924. His sentence was ten to twenty-one years for assault and battery with intent to rob, following his admitted attack on a Mooresville grocer. He also was serving a concurrent two-to-fourteen-year sentence.

Within ninety days after Dillinger was confined to the reformatory he was caught "hiding out" and attempting to escape.

The remainder of his reformatory record follows:

Jan. 31, 1925—Disorderly conduct.

Feb. 26, 1926—Gambling

May 28, 1926—Crockedness.

Aug. 16 and Dec. 27, 1926—Disorderly conduct.

Dec. 31, 1926—Fighting.

Oct. 17, 1928—Destroying property.

He was transferred to the state prison on July 12, 1929.

State prison records show:

1929—Found in another inmate's cell; making a shirt for another inmate, and talking while marching in line.

1931—Razors found in cell; found with cigarette papers and home-made lighter.

He was paroled in 1932.

Sept. 25, 1933—Dillinger suspected in \$25,000 Massachusetts avenue bank robbery.

October, 1933—Arrested in Dayton, O., after ten convicts escaped from the Indiana state prison. Dillinger was believed to have been "outside man" on the escape.

Oct. 12—Sheriff Jess Sarber of Lima slain when terror mob friends of Dillinger freed him.

Dec. 14—William Shanley, police sergeant of Chicago, slain by members of Dillinger's gang.

Jan. 15, 1934—Patrick O'Malley, East Chicago policeman, killed in \$20,000 bank holdup. Dillinger was charged with murder.

Jan. 26—Dillinger, Charles Makley, Russell Clark and Harry Pierpont captured in Tucson, Ariz.

Several days later Dillinger was returned to the Crown Point (Ind.) jail, and held there awaiting trial on the murder charge.

March 3—Dillinger escaped from the Crown Point jail, using a wooden gun to force his way to liberty.

TODAY—Dillinger still is sought by every law enforcement officer of the nation.

ANOTHER PROMISE

THE epitome and synthesis of America's aim and purpose in the Philippines—it is the fulfillment of her pledge and the glorious crowning of her humanitarian task." Thus Senor Guevara, the resident commissioner, describes the Tydings-McDuffie independence bill which is about to become law.

Senor Guevara exaggerates. This bill, which provides for independence in from twelve to fourteen years under certain conditions, is not a fulfillment. It merely crowns several old pledges with another pledge.

But the enthusiasm of the Filipinos for this bill is understandable. For it represents a sincere desire on the President's part and a changed attitude on the part of congressional leaders. After the Philippine legislature rejected the Hawes-Cutting law, some congressional leaders were so angry they assumed a take-it-or-leave-it attitude. That was the spirit of the recent resolution of the senate committee on territories, which threatened to destroy friendly relations between the United States and the Philippines.

But, thanks to the belated intervention of the President, and to the good sense of Senor Quezon and of Senator Tydings, a satisfactory temporary compromise was worked out. That is the Tydings-McDuffie bill.

It eliminates only one of the three major Philippine objections to the rejected Hawes-Cutting measure of which it is largely a verbatim replica: That is, it provides for American military withdrawal upon independence. But the bill rests on the definite pledge of the President and the congressional leaders to Philippine officials that the United States later will negotiate a fair settlement of the other objectionable features of the bill, especially regarding American naval bases and the unequal trade provisions which would virtually destroy the economic life of the islands.

Theoretically, that seems rather an absurd and involved postponement of justice—if the administration is sincere in desiring to correct the injustices why doesn't it do so in the new bill instead of re-enacting injustices for later modification? That is a pertinent question.

But there are two good answers: One is that the present congress will not pass a com-

pletely just independence law, especially on the trade side. The other reason is that conditions in the Pacific are dangerously unsettled, and that results of the 1935 conference at which our far eastern and naval treaties may expire are completely in doubt.

Under the circumstances, a postponed settlement with American and Philippine officials working harmoniously together in the interim as they now are, is the only practical temporary solution.

SPEEDING DEATH

IN their haste to get places Americans are killing and crippling an appalling number of their fellows.

The Travelers Insurance Company announces data on the automobile death and accident rate that should give pause to speeders. Last year such accidents in this country resulted in the death of 29,900 persons and the injury of 850,700. This brings the death record for the past four years up to nearly 125,000 and the injury toll to around 4,000,000.

An alarming aspect of this is that in the last ten years the automobile death rate has increased by 49 per cent, and that of last year by 22 per cent over the year before. Last year 1,630 children under 4 and 3,220 children under 14 were killed.

Such deaths are preventable. Speed is subject to regulation and excessive speed accounts for one-fourth of all automobile mishaps, one-third of the deaths. In the last ten years there has been a general increase of from 35 to 55 miles an hour in rated driving speed. Also too many young drivers are at the wheel. The ratio of young drivers in fatal accidents is 62 per cent greater than the average.

Strict enforcement of speed regulations will do more than anything to cut down these deaths. The elimination of grade crossings and swift punishment for drunken driving also will help.

CONSERVATIVE CONTROL

THE much modified bill for stock market regulation meets the effective criticisms of the original bill. In almost every vital provision, the tendency of the new measure is to err, if at all, on the side of leniency. When it has seemed difficult to curb speculative excesses completely without injuring legitimate investment, the authors of the bill have given way to banks and to business.

We are not competent to pass on all the technicalities of the bill, and we have no doubt that it contains imperfections.

But as a general measure we believe it makes the maximum of concessions which should be made to the powerful though discredited Wall Street group, opposing effective government regulation. With industry and the entire nation the victims of an unregulated stock market, as demonstrated by recent disasters, the public need for effective federal regulation in our judgment is conclusive and final. Credit dominates America, and Wall street dominates credit.

Until a few weeks ago the Wall Street crowd insisted that there be no outside regulation, that they were capable of self-reform and self-regulation. This subterfuge blew up in their faces when the senate investigation showed that some of the worst market manipulation occurred in recent months after self-reform and self-regulation were supposed to be in effect. Now that some kind of federal regulation has become inevitable, they are making a last-ditch fight to control or emasculate the regulating agency. Naturally, they object to an independent public agency such as the federal trade commission. To the proposal that they be represented on the regulating body, Representative Samuel Rayburn has given the adequate reply, as follows:

"If the American people should permit the stock exchanges in substance to name the government commission set to regulate the stock exchanges, the regulated business would soon be regulating their regulators. Insofar as the federal trade commission will need expert advice or the benefit of special pleading, the American people can better afford to let the commission hire and pay for it than have Wall Street supply the regulatory body with a gift of a couple of dollar-a-year men of its own."

American business can not survive many more manipulated markets. The very conservative object of this administration bill is to salvage a part of the capitalist system which has almost destroyed itself.

OLD TRAIL CALLS TRAVELER

CONGRESSMEN from three southern states are trying to get Uncle Sam to spend \$25,000,000 to put a modern paved highway along the route of the famous old Natchez Trace; and any motorist who has any feeling at all for one of the most colorful of all our pioneer trails will hope that Uncle Sam can see his way clear to oblige them.

RAISING taxes on personal incomes ran contrary to the Coolidge-Mellon policy, and in the five years preceding the crash of 1929 less than a third of the total federal revenue came from the personal income and estate taxes.

The first step to be taken is to stop up the gaps in the income tax fence: "They need to as to fall especially heavily upon the higher brackets. Indeed surtaxes might well be slapped on which would automatically absorb and turn back to the government all income over \$100,000 a year. Under the conditions in which we now live a greater income than this can not be socially justified."

Next, the income tax law should be revised so as to fall especially heavily upon the higher brackets. Indeed surtaxes might well be slapped on which would automatically absorb and turn back to the government all income over \$100,000 a year. Under the conditions in which we now live a greater income than this can not be socially justified.

Next, the inheritance and estate taxes also should be stiffened up and tightened, so as to bring about the public appropriation of all inheritances, monetary and in real property, in excess of two to three million dollars. Almost any "poor little rich child" should be able to stagger along through life with such a bequest from his parents or rich relatives.

In short, a rational taxation scheme would not only be a fiscal expedient. It would be an instrument for achieving social justice. It would serve the cause of equity. It would end the insane and disastrous struggle for fabulous individual riches. It would lead to a more sensible and effective distribution of purchasing power, thus increasing the market effectiveness of American consumers and stimulating a revival of capitalistic business endeavor.

It was easy to get one of those heavy and unwieldy flatboats down the river, but exceedingly difficult to get it back upstream. So the boatmen—rough, tough-chaps who boasted that they were "half horse and half alligator"—would leave the Mississippi at Natchez, on their way back home, and strike out overland for Nashville, and the wilderness road they followed was the great Natchez Trace.

Because it was used by so many travelers who carried large quantities of cash, the result of their sales in the New Orleans market, the Trace before long became a favored spot for highwaymen.

The country was thinly settled, law enforcement was a thing almost unknown, opportunities for ambush were innumerable.

So the Natchez Trace became a great scene of violence. Robbery and murder were

common. Great bands of outlaws infested the region.

For years this wilderness road was the most dangerous segment of the whole frontier. If there are ghosts, the old Trace must be haunted by whole platoons.

To put a federal highway along the whole route would open to motorists a romantic and tradition-laden trail to America's past.

IN PRAISE OF OUR SCHOOLS

AMERICAN schools, says Professor Albert Einstein, have one great virtue—they preserve the initiative and independence of pupils far more successfully than do the schools of Europe.

"What one must demand from the school in the first place is something negative," says the great mathematician. "It should not suppress in the young a feeling of independence, a joy of living, personal initiative and the urge for knowledge."

"This most important demand the schools of the United States fill in most satisfactory manner, in contrast to the schools of the greater part of Europe."

Usually, when American schools are compared with European schools, the comparison is not in the least flattering to the American institutions.

It is exceedingly interesting—and encouraging—to find that as great an authority on such matters as Dr. Einstein feels that they are doing their job so well.

A STRIKE TO BE AVOIDED

THOSE rumblings of labor trouble in the Detroit automobile manufacturing area have an ominous sound. The ordinary citizen, more or less unfamiliar with the exact ins and outs of the argument, will be interested chiefly in hoping that the strike which is threatened does not come off.

He has a right to hope that there is enough good sense, forbearance and public spirit among employers and labor leaders, and enough leadership in the administration, to avert this strike in some way, and he probably doesn't care greatly who has to make concessions to do it.

The reviving motor industry is keying our whole industrial pickup. A major strike that interrupted production would be little less than a calamity. In one way or another, it must be prevented.

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A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS



The Message Center

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

By P. S. Aid Stricken Man, Plea

The remnants of his family God left with him.

How many readers of your paper who read the sad story of the misfortune that befell Ernest Finch when his little, humble home and his wife and three children were all taken from him, will stop for a few moments to consider how that poor man must have felt when he realized what had happened?

Suppose it had happened to you, dear reader! God in His goodness and mercy, for some reason, placed this burden upon the shoulders of this laboring man. Without any pain, grief or hardship to any of us, there is in Indianapolis, notwithstanding the