

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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Members 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 Company, 214-220 West Maryland street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion county, 2 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier, 15 cents a week. Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$3 a year; outside of Indiana, \$5 a year; outside of Indiana, \$5 a year.

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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—Crookedness.
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—Gambling, and cooking with fire away from kitchens.

1930—Found in another inmate's cell; making a shirt for another inmate, and talking while marching in line.

1931—Razor 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—the fulfillment of her pledge and the glorious crowning of her humanitarian task. Thus Senator Guevara, the resident commissioner, describes the Tydings-McDuffie independence bill which is about to become law.

Senator 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 Senator 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 2.2 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 leeway 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 enslave 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.

The Natchez Trace was what passed for a road, a century and more ago, running for some 500 miles through the woods and swamps from Nashville, Tenn., to Natchez, Miss., crossing what now are Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

It probably was the scene of more plain and fancy violence, bloodshed and murder than any other road in America.

In the old days when the country west of the Alleghenies and south of the Ohio just was being opened—when the famous "Burr conspiracy" was in the air, and Andrew Jackson was being talked of, and steamboats still were in the future—the produce of the rich Tennessee and Kentucky farm lands went to market at New Orleans by flatboat, down the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, over the Ohio, and down the Mississippi.

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.

Liberal Viewpoint

By DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

IT is an old adage that "no chain is stronger than its weakest link." It seems agreed pretty generally, even among friends of the new deal, that the weakest link in the Roosevelt program to date has been its taxation policy. Here there has been only a very slight modification indeed of the indefensible policies of Harding, Coolidge, Mellon, Hoover and Mills.

This is made very clear in an excellent brochure by Professor Harold M. Groves, published by the New Republic. Professor Groves' services as tax consultant for the government were rejected by Mr. Morganthau, who replaced him by a more conservatively minded adviser.

The Roosevelt administration has been bold and adventurous enough in its proposals to spend money, even though there may be some criticism of its distribution of funds. Sooner or later the fiddler will have to be paid. There are a number of ways in which it can be done.

The government today can print between twelve and fifteen billion dollars of paper money and still reserve the legal backing in gold. This would pay the bill for the first couple of years of the new deal, but it would allow those who have "scooped up" most of our national income to escape without making their just contribution to the financing of our efforts to escape from economic collapse.

GOVERNMENT bonds could be sold to the tune of many billions of dollars. But this only would postpone the evil day of settlement. It would add to the already topheavy debt structure of the country, which many competent economists believe is already so great as to make impossible any successful rehabilitation of the capitalist system.

There is only one sensible way in which to meet the majority of the burden imposed by the financing of recovery. This is taxation, literally on the basis of capacity to pay.

The very wealthy did not divide up fairly from 1921 to 1929. By thus reducing purchasing power they brought about a collapse of our business in 1929. Today, restoration of prosperity, if possible at all, only can be achieved by taking this unfairly appropriated money away from its holders and devoting it to the national weal. The essentials of a rational program of taxation for the administration are clearly presented by Professor Henry R. Mussey, in the Nation.

So far as possible, the desirable increase of taxation should fall upon personal income. Taxes on business are, to a great degree, shifted to consumers by raising the prices of products. They do this to a slight extent, discourage business initiative.

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 rebuild it out of concrete," to crown it with barbed wire charged with a million volts of electricity, and to prepare all the cells in federal prisons vacated by prohibition violators for the reception of income tax lawbreakers, who teach their clients how to break through."

Next, the income tax law should be revised so as to fall especially heavily upon the higher brackets. Indeed surplusage might well be dropped on which was automatically absorbed and turned 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 benefaction 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 capitalist business endeavor.

As Dr. Mussey well summarizes the issue: "What we need now is to apply to the taxation of wealth something of the same daring and imagination that the President has displayed in other fields. Taxation can be made an enormously powerful machine to help effect the profound economic changes on which we are clearly embarked, and which we must all hope to attain peacefully."

Mrs. Roosevelt has brought the President a straw-crated bottle of forty-year-old rum from Puerto Rico. She must want the bottle.

Don't let the first robin fool you—he, himself, might be fooled by the Bock beer signs.

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.]

(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.)

THE LIGHT CO. OFFICIALS SHOULD ANSWER THIS

By a Times Reader.

I have been a Times reader for twenty years. I have been out of work three years and keep my light bill within my reach. We do not burn much light for there is only my wife and me. Now the light company has instructed me to move the meter and, above all, on my own hook. Can they force me to do this because we are saving? This meter has been in this house twenty years. Please have Mr. Minton investigate this botched up affair. As far as I am concerned they can put it in the tree or on the pole or on top of the house. I am 70 years old and unable to move meters for them. Please print this and I also will watch for answer for this in my paper.

LIL ARTHUR SCORED FOR HIS TWO GREAT "GAINS."

By M. L. Lloyd.

I will have to take issue with "A Reader," he calls himself in your Message Center, as to our congress man. He says we have too many and they don't know what it is all about. Anyway he mentions one who has a head of his own who could do the trick. Now let's take a look at this gentleman. His name is Arthur. He took a firm stand on the invisible empire and on the eighteenth amendment. They were two of the most damnable issues this country ever tolerated, so it very easy to see why he has a head of his own, and not much in it.

Publish this, if you please.

ANOTHER READER PROTESTS RAISES IN BREAD PRICES

By a Times Reader.

In view of the fact that wheat prices are practically the same as they have been for some time, if not lower, why is it that the price of bread has jumped from 10 cents for a 1½ pound or 8 cents for a one-pound loaf? Isn't there some way to stop this?

Please print this in your Message Center and advise who would be the proper authority to report this for investigation.

The Times will attempt to obtain the answer to the question.

CHARGES REGULAR WORKERS HAVE BEEN FIRED

By a Times Reader.

Will the editor of this column or some CWA official please explain why some employees on the school board and other departments, driving trucks and other equipments have been fired and replaced by CWA men? I thought CWA men were to be used on special projects and not maintenance work.

CWA SCHOOLS COME IN FOR ATTACK

By a Times Reader.

I wish to answer Charles S. Davis on his article "Urges Attendance at CWA education classes."

Maybe he doesn't know that these classes are to be attended only by unemployed people. I tried to join. I was working and was told I could not attend.

Some towns are getting around that. My cousin, who lives in a small town not far from here, goes to a typing class and she comes into Indianapolis every day and works at a bank. She says that the superintendent of her school turned in only two names of the ones who were not employed and said if an in-

Aid Stricken Man, Plea

By P. S.

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 financial and industrial conditions now, enough liberal hearted men and women to donate to a fund to help this poor man and

the remnants of his family God left with him.

It could just as well be you, dear reader, but God selected this unfortunate man to carry this cross. Let us contribute to a fund to help him along and at the same time ask God to spare us from any such calamity and heartaches as that which befell Ernest Finch. I have no children. If you be a parent look at your children and then think how you would feel if God had taken them from you as He did this poor man.

Let us all contribute to a fund to be cared for and distributed in such manner as The Times may so determine.

Herewith is my \$1 to start the fund.

The contribution will be forwarded to Mr. Finch by The Times.

both preceding years, and when our bills came due we could pay them.

When the NRA was started, a jeweler succeeded in organizing enough of the cleaners so they could get this price and also a salary for scoring the little cleaner out of business.

The organization gave the rest of the cleaners a choice—the 75-cent price or \$500 fine for violation of the code. The result shows that not many cleaners have \$500.

MEN IN THE KITCHENS; WOMEN IN POLITICS

By Miss A. L. Chandler.

In reading over the Message Center I read M. Q.'s letter pertaining to married women working.

I want to say I would like to pat him or her on the back. What I have to say is about married women working who have husbands at home who could work if they had too. But why should they? Their wives are the bread-winners. Why don't these firms which employ women bakers investigate? There are single girls who depend entirely on their work who have mothers and sisters and brothers depending on them.

People "gripe" about women being in politics and, at the same time, think it is all right for a woman to work and support a man who is too lazy to work as long as his wife is employed. If a man had any sense at all he wouldn't want his wife to work. I've heard men say women should be above politics.

The old saying is, "a woman's place is in the home," but I know of many cases which are vice versa. I say a woman has as much right in politics as a man has in the kitchen.

If a man is willing to stay at home and permit his wife to "bring in the bacon," then let him keep his mouth shut if the next President is a woman!

ENFORCE ARMY REGULATIONS ON PEACE OFFICERS, PLEA

By a Veteran of the 48th F. H. M. D.

I have been reading your editorial page and think some of the suggestions sent in by your readers are fine. I am sending in my suggestion hoping to see it in print.

I don't think Dillinger's escape was from the lack of experienced men but just neglect of duty. When I went in the army in 1917 I was put in charge of prisoners. I was without previous experience in such work. I came in contact with deserters and prisoners of all kinds and I can say that none ever escaped from me because under one article of war, the laws of which we served under read: "Any one found guilty of neglecting his duty or deserting in time of war shall be shot or

whatever a court-martial shall direct."

I think that if our sheriffs and police officers were sworn in under such laws there wouldn't be so many escaped convicts running at large today, and if the state enforced these penalties instead of having them resign for neglect of duty our prisons would be a safer place to keep convicts.

PAGE ONE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT HERE IT IS.

By An Ex-soldier.

Keep the good work up, Arthur. I have been reading The Indianapolis Times the last two weeks, and it surely looks as though you have some of the old boys thinking. Let them keep throwing the mud and stepping on the soldiers' toes with the same old line the good old Democratic party always puts out.

They claim you are the lone wolf of the senate. Well, the lone wolf nearly always gets what he wants while the wolves fight and fight hard for what they get.

I happen to be an ex-soldier, and I have talked to several in the last few days, and they are for you 100 per cent. Let them do their joking and jabbering. The election is not so far away. Then you can do a little yourself. The boys brought everything out all right in November, 1919, and they can do it again at the next election. Keep up the good work.

Put this on the front page so some of our joking Democrats can find something to laugh at.

So They Say

We do not prove the quality of our genius by detraction, but doing something worthy and doing it handsomely—President Clarence A. Barbour of Brown university.

Any intelligent conception of modern governmental functions must embrace the idea of effective conservation—Rexford G. Tugwell, assistant secretary of agriculture.

America has made its last billion—Joel E. Curtis, economist.

They have a lot of pyramids down at that fair. I bet no one ever stopped to see how they were dressed.—Judge Joseph B. David of Chicago.

The good life for the multitude, not for the superior minority living in a land of illusion of the sweat of the "ignoble"—this is the kernel germinating in the heart of the concept of progress.—Dr. Charles A. Beard, economist.

Substance farming is not possible unless we are willing to destroy practically everything that we now call desirable in our present civilization.—Leonard J. Fletcher, engineer.

Dream

BY HAROLD FRENCH

A million stars were out last night, And so was I. I wandered where the crocus blossoms Moved as my shadow passed by.

The night was quiet. There was no sound Even of growing things. The moon hung in the rigidity That such silence brings.

Last night I dreamed a curious dream— Of white wonder upon the lawn. I dreamed that you had come to me And found me gone.