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Give Light and the
People Will Find
Their Own Way

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1934.

PAGE DR. WIRT

FOR fear Dr. Wirt and the Bulwinkle com-
mittee tomorrow will overlook some of
the really dangerous influences in Washington
we propose a thoroughgoing probe into the brain
trusters, not only of this but of past new deal
administrations.

The patriots will find less to shock them in
the modest reformers of the Roosevelt re-
gime than in the subversive utterances of
American revolutionists that have slipped into
history books and even now are being read by
our youth in schools and libraries. For in-
stance:

"Labor is superior to capital, and deserves
much higher consideration."—Lincoln.

"None shall ride but the humble, and none
but toil shall have!"—Webster.

"Thunder on! Strike on democracy! Strike
with vengeful stroke!"—Whitman.

"Labor in this country is independent and
proud. It has not to ask the patronage of
capital!"—Webster.

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be
purchased at the price of chains and slavery?
Forbid it, Almighty God!"—Patrick Henry.

"They are slaves who fear to speak for the
fallen and the weak!"—Lowell.

"Little rebellion now and then is a good
thing. It is a medicine necessary for the
sound health of government."—Jefferson.

SLUM CLEARANCE

ONE of the ways in which we are going to
try to prime the industrial pump, ap-
parently, is through a large-scale housing pro-
gram.

Before it begins, it's worth while to have
a look at the dollars-and-cents value which
such a program might have.

Federal housing authorities have just fin-
ished a survey in the city of Cleveland, study-
ing one particular "blighted area" to see how
the present costs of the slums which this area
bears would compare with the cost of replacing
them. Its figures are illuminating.

This area houses 2.5 per cent of the city's
population. Over a ten-year period it has had
21 per cent of the city's murders, 2.5 per cent
of its houses of ill-fame, 7 per cent of its
juvenile delinquents, and 10 per cent of its
cases of illegitimacy.

Twelve per cent of the city's cases of tu-
berculosis occurred in this area, and 8 per
cent of its relief families live there.

In 1932 taxes totaling \$225,000 were col-
lected from this area. In that same year
the city, the county and the board of education
spent \$1,357,000 in the area. On top of
that, charitable and social service agencies sup-
ported by the Community Fund spent \$615,000
there in that one year.

Figures like these speak for themselves,
and it is impossible to misunderstand them.

Clearly, the existence of this slum is a tre-
mendous drain—speaking solely in terms of
finances—on the city as a whole. It does not
even come close to paying for its cost.

Every year of its existence it literally takes
dollars from the pockets of citizens in more
principals parts of the city.

What would be the cheaper—to let this
slum area go on as it has in the past, or to
spend the money that would transform it into
an asset instead of a liability?

This case, of course, is only a sample.
Every American city of every size has com-
parable situations. Every American city is
paying, and paying through the nose, for the
luxury of its slums.

A large-scale housing program would not
only help stimulate the capital goods indus-
tries; it would prove the best kind of invest-
ment that the American people could make.

LACKING LEADERS

IT is not a wholesome spectacle that house
Democratic leaders are making of them-
selves on the tax bill.

They demonstrated a deplorable lack of
leadership when the house, 3 to 1 Democratic,
voted 5 to 1 to override President Roose-
velt's veto of the independent offices approp-
riations bill, which loaded new burdens on
the federal treasury by increasing veterans'
benefits.

They now seem to be mindful that this is
an election year, and reluctant to break the news
to the taxpayers that the bill will not be
paid. The taxpayers will not be deceived.

The test will come in the vote on the pro-
posed Couzens amendment increasing income
rates 10 per cent.

A better plan for getting more revenue
from income taxes was Senator La Follette's
proposal of a graduated increase, which was
voted down by the senate. Senator Couzens' horizontal
increase is at least an alternative
that will raise some revenue. And more
money, raised by taxation instead of by bor-
rowing, is what the treasury needs to insure
success of the recovery program.

Still more important, in regard both to
revenue and social reform, is Senator La
Follette's higher estate tax schedule, which
the senate is expected to approve.

On this amendment also there should be
a record vote in the house, where it probably
will receive just as enthusiastic support. If
there is a roll-call in both houses it will be
impossible for the conferees of the two houses
to drop the amendment from the bill. Other-
wise it may occur. Stranger things have hap-
pened behind the closed doors of a congressional
conference room.

WORSE THAN WAR

THE people of England are beginning to
grow alarmed about automobile traffic
fatalities. Last year autos killed 7,202 people
and injured 216,329 more in the United Kingdom;
and some one has discovered that this
is a casualty list definitely greater than that

rolled up in any single year of the Boer war
—which was, as wars go, a pretty bloody and
expensive affair.

Figures like that show how alarming the
traffic toll really is under modern conditions.
Like the United States, England has been
complacent under a drain on life and health
that would cause an overwhelming outcry
if it were due to anything on earth but the
automobile.

England's situation parallels our own. In
both cases, it is becoming inescapably clear
that some drastic new method of handling
automobile traffic must be evolved.

COMMUNISTS OBJECT!

IF you're worried about the so-called "Com-
munist" policies of the national adminis-
tration, it might comfort you to read what the
real Communists of the United States have
to say about them.

The eighth national convention of the
Communist party in the United States was
held the other day. And the assembled Reds
devoted a good share of their time to de-
nouncing the new deal and all its works in
no uncertain terms.

Party members were called on to fight
against the rise of Fascism, "as exemplified
by the national recovery administration," and
were warned that the NRA is under the real
control of the big industrialists.

If there are government officials at Wash-
ington who want to make this a Communist
nation, the Communists themselves don't seem
to have heard about them yet.

THE NEXT STEP

JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN, former Unit-
ed States minister to China, returns from
a trip to the far east with the comment that
the only important friction between Japan
and America comes from our immigration
policy that excludes the Japanese as racial
inferiors. We doubt that this is the only
point of friction, but certainly it is a major
one.

In a Paris speech Mr. Schurman urged that
this friction be removed by putting orientals
under a quota.

"From the diplomatic viewpoint," he said,
"whatever our oriental relations in the future
they will not grow out of our position and
territories there, but out of our trade and
social relations in Eastern Asia."

This is true. Our prospective withdrawal
from the Philippines under the Tydings inde-
pendence law is conclusive evidence that we
have no territorial imperialistic designs in the
far east. There remain for us the far more
civilizing relationships of commerce, travel
and general international intercourse. It is
trite to say that this relationship must be
founded on good manners and mutual respect.
Our present exclusion policy is neither good
diplomacy nor good manners.

The quota alternative does not mean an
influx of alien cheap labor. It means just
the opposite. Under a quota only 185 Jap-
anese and 105 Chinese would enter annually,
and none of these would be laborers.

In a survey of the Japanese situation in
California recently Professor Edward K.
Strong Jr. of Stanford university, found that
3.4 times the quota allotment of Japanese
have come into continental ports each year
since the 1924 exclusion act was passed. The
average between 1925 and 1932 was 632 a year.
We really worked infernally hard, and, I
recall, we worked with a very decided enthusiasm,
not simply on my uncle's part but mine.
It was a game, an absurd but absurdly interesting
game, and the points were scored in cases
of bottles.

"My special and distinctive duty was to give
Tono-Bungay substance and an outward and
visible bottle, to translate my uncle's great
imaginings into the creation of case after case
of labeled bottles of nonsense, and the punctual
discharge of them by railway, road and steamer
towards their ultimate goal in the great stomach
of the people."

"By all modern standards the business was,
as my uncle would say, 'absolutely bona fide.'
We sold our stuff and got the money, and spent
the money honestly in lies and clamor to sell
more stuff.

"My uncle had in his inner office a big map
of England, and as we took up fresh sections of
the local press and our consignments invaded
news areas, flags for advertisements and pink
underlines for orders showed our progress.

"The romance of modern commerce, George,
my uncle would say, rubbing his hands together
and drawing in air through his teeth, 'The romance
of modern commerce, eh? Conquest.
Province by province. Like sogers.'

"We subjugated England and Wales, we
rolled over the Cheviots with a special
adaptation containing 11 per cent of the
special alcohol, 'Tono-Bungay Thistle Brand.' We
also had the Fog poster adapted to a killed
Briton in a misty Highland scene.

"Under the shadow of our great leading line
we were presently taking subsidiary specialties
into action. 'Tono-Bungay Hair Stimulant' was
into action."

"In improving our relations with Japan an
intelligent immigration policy is the next
step.

"HOME RULE!"

MAYOR LA GUARDIA of New York picks
up his mangled economy measure with
characteristic cheerfulness as the "best that
could be obtained out of a bad legislative
jam," and prepares to make the most he can
of it when it becomes law.

At the same time he points to other city
bills still pending at Albany, among them
bills the city must "have a levy emergency
taxes and to finance carrying charges on its
municipal subway investment, and says:

"AND we also did admirable things with our
next subsidiaries, 'Tono-Bungay lozenges,
and 'Tono-Bungay chocolate.' These were urged
upon the public for their extraordinary nutritive
and recuperative value in cases of fatigue and
strain. We gave them posters and illustrated
advertisements showing climbers, hanging from
marvelously vertical cliffs, cyclist champions
upon the track, mounted messengers engaged in
Aix-to-Ghent rides, soldiers lying out in
action under a hot sun. 'You can GO for twenty-
four hours,' we declared, 'on Tono-Bungay
chocolate.' We didn't say whether you could
have it in the same commodity."

"We also showed a dreadfully barristerish
barister, with side whiskers, teeth, a horribly
lifelike portrait of all existing barristers, talking
at a table, and beneath, this legend: 'A four
hours' speech on Tono-Bungay lozenges, and
as fresh as when he began.' That brought in
one of scientific attainments that in neat's foot
oil derived from the hoofs and horns of beasts,
we must necessarily have natural skin and
hair lubricant."

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"Despite its successful effort at home must
New York still find a step after step of its
progress hampered, if not actually barred, by
the ruthless obstruction of its own Democratic
representatives in the state legislature?

Must he be humbly thankful to get a tenth
of what he asks, even though he asks only
what the city, from any but a machine politi-
cian's point of view, urgently requires?

There is something wrong in a situation
which permits Tammany, though defeated in
Greater New York, to retain its grip on the
city from Albany.

The present legislative session is registering
sharp reminders of the hollowness of home
rule that is not home rule where many vital
city matters are in the balance.

The power of the legislature may, under
certain circumstances, mitigate the conse-
quences of misrule in New York City.

But we are having sorry demonstrations
of how that same power of the legislature
can be used to handicap a good city govern-
ment.

Charter revision should go deep into this
problem.

Richard Joshua Reynolds, tobacco heir,
takes over a \$25,000,000 trust estate on his
twenty-eighth birthday. What we can't un-
derstand is how he kept from starving until
now.

The government, some one has discovered,
has been spending much less than President
Roosevelt thought it would. But now that
the politicians know about it, look out!

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