

# The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1934

## DEATH CARS

**M**ONTH after month, death rides harder on American streets and highways. Last year 29,900 lives were sacrificed and 850,700 human beings were injured in automobile accidents. Through the first months of this year accidents have been constantly increasing. At the present rate, automobiles in a decade will kill 315,000 and injure ten million—six times the number of American soldiers killed and fifty times the number of American soldiers injured in the World war.

The explanation is found partially in the construction of our highways, which are not suitable to the high-speed traffic of today, and in the millions of worn-out cars that multiplied through the years of the depression. But still more is this ghastly record of manslaughter and maiming due to the American habit of trying to get nowhere in a hurry.

Thomas P. Henry, president of the American Automobile Association, recommends: Uniform motor legislation in all states, including a strong drivers' license law and a safety responsibility law; improvement of highways to accommodate high-speed machines; more vigorous enforcement of existing laws; and systematic education of motorists and pedestrians.

"The only bright spot on the horizon," says Mr. Henry, "is the decrease in the ratio of accidents to children of school age, due, of course to the proved efficacy of safety education in the schools and the schoolboy patrol movement."

Last year automobile-pedestrian collisions comprised 37 per cent of all accidents, resulted in 45 per cent of all deaths. Adults, it seems, need the same kind of training as has been given to school children, who have learned not to depend upon the sanity of the motorists.

## AMERICA'S CAPACITY

**P**UBLICATION a few days hence of the Brookings Institution study, "America's Capacity to Produce," should give pause to our laissez faire doctrinaires.

We can produce, the Brookings analysis finds, about twice as much as we are producing today, and about 20 per cent more than we turned out at the 1929 prosperity peak. This is no "if" analysis, but one which involves our present productive equipment and our present available labor, and makes a factual finding of what would be the output of our producing plant if it were free to function normally. The finding does not contemplate any improvement whatever in our productive efficiency.

This study, conducted by six recognized authorities in the fields of mining, manufacturing, transportation, agriculture, labor and finance, gets to the core of our economic problem. It shows that underconsumption is at the root of our industrial disruption. Industry has been so intent on profits that it has failed to see that its health depends upon orders for goods.

What we failed to produce in 1929, because of lack of orders, was equivalent to fifteen billion dollars of national incomes—enough to have brought up to \$20,000 a year the income of sixteen and one-half million families that were living below that level, or enough to have increased all family incomes below \$3,500 a year by 42 per cent. Had production continued at its practical capacity, the national income would have been twice what it was during the depression years.

Portions of the study yet unfinished will deal with the part our top-sided distribution of income and wealth has played in causing the failure of the economic system to function at capacity.

"If," says the Brookings report, "such a betterment in material conditions lay within our grasp in the prosperous years of the late twenties, every alert mind must be driven to ask: What was there in the organization or functioning of our economic system which caused us even in those favorable years to fail to attain it, to say nothing of the margin four times as wide which we are failing today to make available to the satisfying of human wants."

## THE GREAT UNWASHED

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE** investigators have learned that approximately a third of the families in fourteen small American cities aren't taking baths. They haven't any bathtubs.

If you apply this percentage to the whole nation you get the idea that for some 40,000,000 of us Saturday nights, not to mention other nights, come and go with no particular reference to soap and water.

Our figuring probably is wrong, but at best it looks like a dirty deal for the soap and towel makers. Robert J. Barrett, head of the National Association of Plumbers, calls the bathtub shortage as revealed from the partial figures a "challenge to the nation." Certainly it's a blow to esthetic sensibilities and olfactories. Worst of all it hurts the national pride.

What will the neighbors say? Here in the great United States of America, where tariff-protected living standards are supposed to be the highest ever achieved by man, a land of garages and penthouses, of milk and money, do nearly a third of the families lack sanitary bathtubs?

The story of the great American unwashed may make good reading in underprivileged countries of the earth. But here it should provide another potent argument for the administration's rehousing measure.

## SADDER, BUDWEISER

**E**VER since Mark Twain gave the world a ringside account of the great annual sporting event of California's mother lode country, the jumping frog contest in Angels Camp has been tricky for favorites.

In 1849, according to Sports Writer Twain, a couple of slickers slipped into town, filled the champion full of buckshot and bet heavily against him. Instead of jumping he just grunted, and the slickers cleaned up—and out.

Last Sunday 20,000 spectators saw Champion Budweiser go down to an equally sad defeat. Budweiser had held the world's broad jump record for his class by clearing thirteen feet three inches, in three jumps. That was in 1931 and since his namesake has much more kick today he was touted to win easily.

But, like most champions, he got careless, developed a cold and showed up with a charlie-horse. General Grant proved himself more worthy of his namesake by out-jumping Budweiser by a yard.

## THIS BRAIN TRUST

**I**N some way it is too bad that the expression "brain trust" was ever invented.

It sets up a handy straw man for attack, to be sure; but it tends to blind the people of the country to the real source of most of that mass of legislation and policy which makes up the new deal.

As was pointed out in a recent dispatch from Washington, nearly all the really radical proposals for legislation come out of congress, not from the brain trust.

The Connery 30-hour week bill, the compulsory cotton control scheme, the bonus measure, the silver measure, the unemployment and old age insurance plans, the McLeod bank deposits bill, and the Johnson utilities act—all these came straight from congress.

The stock exchange and truth-in-securities bills are generally looked upon as the work of the brain trusters. But these, also, came from congress; what the brain trusters did was to whip them into shape at the request of congressmen who planned to introduce them.

It is right there that you get an interesting little angle on the brain trust.

The truth-in-securities bill has one distinction from few pieces of legislation have ever rivaled; it is airtight.

Congress has passed laws before this to curb activities of the moneyed powers. Usually these laws look well on paper, but develop flaws, loopholes and whatnot in actual practice, so that high-powered lawyers have little trouble guiding their clients straight through them.

Not so with the securities bill. There isn't a loophole in it. It means what it says, and the best lawyers of Wall Street have, so far, been unable to find so much as a broken thread in its fabric.

It's one law that can't be dodged or side-stepped.

That part was the brain trust's work; and perhaps it explains some of the antagonism.

For the rest, it is important to remember that congress has not lost any of its powers. If it uses this brain trust to make its wishes stick, that may be too bad—but the remedy lies in an attack on congress, not in an attack on the brain trusters.

## KILLING AN OLD ALIBI

**O**FFICIALS of fraternal lodges at Athens, Ga., have thought up a little stunt to increase attendance at lodge meetings, and it looks good enough to pass on for the benefit of such other lodge officials as may need it.

Briefly, it is this: Through the Athens Banner-Herald, they announced that unless attendance picks up very soon, reporters will be invited to attend all meetings and publish the names of those who are present.

This, of course, would mean that husbands who use that old gag about "going to the lodge meeting" would have to make good on the statement, or listen to some choice remarks from the little woman.

It's probably a dreadful invasion of the rights and privileges of the male, but the Banner-Herald reports that Athens wives are commending it heartily. And it ought to stimulate lodge attendance greatly!

## OUT OF POLITICS

**J**USTICE HARLAN F. STONE of the United States supreme court lets it be known that he is "out of politics" and is not interested in reports naming him as a possible contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 1936.

Although Justice Stone is unquestionably a man of presidential caliber, his attitude is one to be applauded; for the tradition which places the supreme court outside of politics is a good one, which deserves to be kept alive.

To be sure, Charles Evans Hughes resigned from the court in 1916 to run for the presidency, and after the Civil war, Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase accepted support for the presidency.

But in the main the tradition has held; a supreme court justice is out of politics and takes no interest in political campaigns and stratagems.

Justice Stone does his country a service by emphasizing that the tradition is still in operation.

## THE SNOOPERS ARE COMING

**T**HERE is one item in the pending emergency relief appropriation bill that congress should scrutinize with special care.

It is a ten million dollar addition to the international revenue bureau's budget, to be used in building a liquor tax enforcement agency up to the size of the late and unlamented prohibition bureau.

Before turning loose on the country another army of snoopers to wage war on a still larger army of bootleggers, congress should consider more obvious methods of destroying the illicit liquor industry.

A slight reduction in liquor tariffs would, by lowering legal liquor prices, eliminate more bootleggers in a month's time than an army of snoopers could round up in years. Moreover, such a reduction in taxes and tariffs probably would increase instead of decrease governmental revenue.

And the ten million can be diverted into some useful government activity.

Tennessee has voted in favor of retaining state prohibition—figuring the low-price bootleg liquor is plenty good enough.

## Liberal Viewpoint

By DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

**T**HE depression and certain other contemporary developments have upset the economic status of the average American doctor. Over a third of our American physicians realize less than \$1,500 in annual income.

Hence it is no wonder that many physicians who once shunned the idea of social medicine are now eagerly listening to such proposals.

The essential facts about the situation are set forth very lucidly by an eminent New York surgeon who writes an article on "The Plight of Doctor," under the pen name of George W. Aspinwall in the American Mercury. He epitomizes the growing desperation of many doctors in the following paragraphs:

"The practice of medicine is no longer lucrative. The average family (or neighborhood) doctor is not earning a living. Some have abandoned their profession for other fields. Others, more determined or more hopeful, have been accepting \$15 weekly from the unemployment relief funds."

The following are among the more important reasons for such a deplorable condition:

In the first place the number of physicians has increased rapidly at a time when the population growth of the country has been slowing down. Between 1909 and 1931, 22,000 licensed physicians entered the practice of medicine, approximately 7,000 of them between 1927 and 1931. It is estimated that about 4,500 new doctors began practice in the year 1933 alone.

In spite of the progress of medical science and public information, healers of the shyster and cultist variety have increased in numbers and have fleeced from the public over a hundred million dollars a year.

Then the government stepped in and supplied free treatment for veterans, and those entitled to industrial compensation. This has benefited the doctors who receive payment for such service, but has cut in on the practice and income of the remainder.

Most striking and important of all, however, is the great increase in the number of those who are receiving free treatment from competent physicians.

It is estimated that there are about 1,230,000 persons daily in need of medical attention in the United States. Approximately 500,000 of these are treated in free clinics. Of the 730,000 who are treated by private doctors some 225,000 do not pay their bills.

In short, about two-thirds of the nation's sick are on the free list. It is estimated that American doctors donate over \$1,500,000 daily in free medical attention.

This is only one side of the picture. If doctors are starving at a time when their preparation for practice is yearly becoming more and more expensive and exacting, there are many middle class Americans who are bitterly oppressed by their doctors' bills. They are reluctant to seek free clinical treatment, but at the same time the fees they are charged, especially in hospital treatment, are far greater than they can pay.

The technical matter of treating a sick person is exclusively the problem of a doctor. But sickness as a whole is a social problem and must be handled by society. Everybody must receive adequate medical treatment and physicians must be able to earn a truly decent living.

It is probable that no other profession imposes so heavy a drain upon money and energy in preparing for practice. It is absurd that a man should have to spend eight years between high school and medical practice and then earn, in many cases, less than \$1,500 yearly.

Socialized medicine would seem to be the only solution of the problem from the standpoint of physician and patient alike.

Group—or chain store—medicine, industrial medicine and health insurance are certainly to be preferred to the present combination of anarchy and poverty which prevails in the medical practice of the United States.

But they are all most decidedly inferior to frank and honest socialized medicine under a system which would insure medical control and public support.

So long as the doctors resist this same solution of their problem they will deserve to stew in their own juice.

## Capital Capers

By GEORGE ABELL

**S**ECRETARY OF STATE CORDELL HULL is a gracious personality who goes out of his way in order to avoid offending people.

The other afternoon at a garden party, Mr. Hull, accompanied by his young secretary, Hugh Cummings, was walking across the lawn.

Suddenly one of the famous Patten sisters (elderly spinsters who live in a large brick mansion known for years as the "Irish embassy") loomed up in front of him.

"Oh, Mr. Secretary," she gushed, and thereupon began a long conversation.

Minutes passed. Still Miss Patten talked and talked. Amiable Mr. Hull continued to smile pleasantly and nod his head during pauses in the conversation.

Hugh Cummings glanced at his watch. It is his job to keep the secretary moving. There were other people ahead, waiting to shake the secretary's hand. Hugh gently prodded his chief in the ribs. Miss Patten talked on. Hugh again jogged the secretary's elbow.

Then Miss Patten became aware that Hugh was urging the secretary forward.

"Who, in God's name, is that?" she inquired, pointing a finger at him.

With Hugh thus disposed of she continued her interrupted tete-a-tete.

**T**HE international influence of the Negro footman who wears a shiny silk topper and a bottle green coat and hails waiting chauffeurs at Washington's best parties was strikingly shown yesterday.

This footman was on duty at the attractive party given by the James Clement Duns. He stood at the door, hailing autos.

There was a slight tangle of motors as the car of the South African minister, Mr. Close, snaked its way down the drive.

The footman raised his megaphone and shouted:

"Move on, South Africa, and let this lady get in!"

South Africa moved.

**M**RS. CUMMINGS, wife of the attorney-general, has probably shaken hands with more persons than any cabinet officer—including her husband. She's so popular that, once people have shaken hands with her, they come back for a second handshake.

At Mrs. Roosevelt's garden party at the White House, Mrs. Cummings, dressed in a pale sea-green gown and wearing furs, stood on the south lawn shaking hands.

Guests filed by endlessly.

Shake! Shake! Shake! Smile! Smile! Smile!

How do you do? How do you do? How do you do?

"Well," some one inquired later, "How many people did you shake hands with?"

"Fourteen hundred!" replied Mrs. Cummings, without a falter.

**S**IGNOR MIGONE, secretary of the royal Italian embassy, yesterday departed for New York to be an usher at the smart Oyster Bay wedding of Leonardo Vitelli to the heiress of the Cio-Milux Klan.

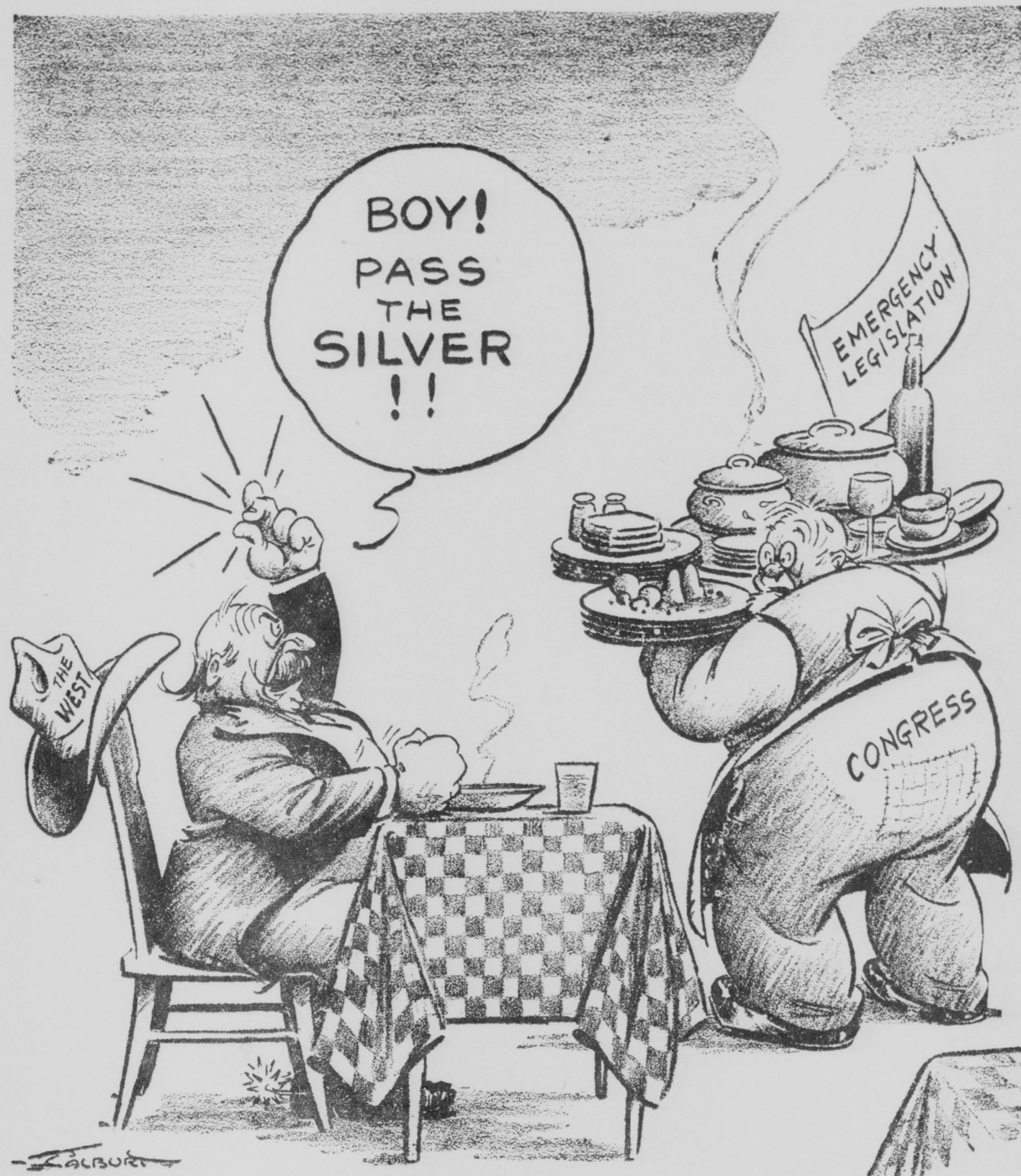
Migone had a terrific job getting started. Reason: His luggage would not fit in the rumble seat of his car.

The hat box went in. Then a suitcase was placed on top of it. Then another suitcase. Then another.

"My dear fellow," remarked a friend, "Couldn't you get along at the wedding with just one less piece of luggage?"

"Impossible," replied Migone. "You see, I must have all my medals. I'm wearing my full dress uniform at the ceremony."

## 'BUT MISTER, WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL'



## The Message Center

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

### Praise for Tabernacle and Dr. Gouthey

By T. W. P.

As a visitor to your city after an absence of twenty years, I was gratified to note many commendable improvements, showing a real spirit of progress, civic and otherwise. One of the most important I consider the great auditorium known as Cadle tabernacle and its dedication to such a worthy cause as a place of prayer and spiritual inspiration.

I do not believe in spectacular methods of salvation or Sam Jones antics, but neither am I impressed by the cold formality and smug hypocrisy that prevails in many ritualistic churches—I had an overdose of that as a boy. After many years of worldly experience I can appreciate real sincerity.

It required real faith and laud-

able purpose to build such a tabernacle in this sin-infested city. I have not forgotten the rotten dives and cess pools of iniquity that flourished here under several weak-kneed mayors. I have listened to Dr. Gouthey six times and carried away much good food for thought.

He is clean, sincere, dynamic and a militant champion of righteousness and should have the support and encouragement of the local press and churches—but, to my surprise, you have studiously ignored him.

His truths seem to offend thin-skinned Hoosiers, but as a progressive and fearless editor I hope you give him the belated recognition and encouragement that should have been accorded from the start.

him, he learned from his white brother.

Are you a perfect man? I say not, because you are prejudiced.

Let us change our disposition toward human thoughts and acts with our fellowmen and see if this depression doesn't pass.

Read your Bible and your Constitution.

### OTHERS ON STRIKE WITH KNITTERS

By a Striker.

I am a Real Silk striker and I can not understand why most of the public thinks this is a strike of the knitters only.

With the knitters are between 300 and 350 transfer operators or top-ops, whose pay envelopes show from \$13 to \$20 a week. This is \$8 to \$10 below the wage scale of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

Mr. Hougland said there isn't a knitter at Real Silk who can not make \$35 a week. I do not know where he got his information, but I am a knitter and I have not averaged more than \$28 a week for a year. I have had penalties taken from my pay ranging from \$1.50 to \$4 every week. I had no control over the penalty, and I could not remedy it. It is a "bonus penalty" plan which is enforced for good or bad work. I know of very few knitters on my floor who got a bonus for good work.

These men are not striking for higher wages alone. They want the right to collective bargaining by representatives of their own choosing given every working man by Section 7A of the NRA code.

REPLIES TO CRITIC OF TRAFFIC PLAN

By F. T. G.

Why doesn't the chief of police remove the policeman at Fourteenth and Pennsylvania street, to the alley between Meridian and Illinois streets on Twenty-first street. Every once in a while a car comes out of the alley and at Fourteenth and Pennsylvania there are only a few thousand automobiles, several thousand pedestrians and several street cars between 7:30 a. m. and 9 a. m. at noon and between 2 p. m. and 3 p. m.

If there was an officer at the alley he would be within talking distance of two more, one at Twenty-first and Meridian and another at Twenty-first and Illinois.

Whoever accused Chief Morissey of unfairness for having an officer at the Fourteenth street crossing should get around a little more. There are more dangerous corners within two blocks of the Cathedral schools than there are within six of any other, yet there is only one policeman in this district.

### DECLARES UNION WILL BENEFIT INDIANAPOLIS

By a Times Reader.

I have taken this Scripps-Howard paper for more than nine years because of its sincere efforts to help Indianapolis. Any red blooded American who will listen to William Smith, secretary and treasurer of the American Federation of Hosiery workers will learn that the seamer, statement in The Message Center to the effect that he is growing wealthy from his work has no basis in fact.

The expansion of Real Silk has been accomplished by faithful, intelligent and painstaking effort by the men and women on parade. Nothing less than the American Federation of Labor can maintain the peace and sanity of our no mean city.

There is no living man whose blood still circulates who can give any excuse for not joining this bona fide American labor union. Hundreds of men at Real Silk are held down to underpaid jobs simply because they are bluffed by the company union.

The viewpoint of the employee is the most neglected asset in Real Silk. When you find a man in Indianapolis who has had no advancement in ten years investigate before you blame him.

The greatest of all obstacles to social progress at Real Silk is lack in management. If you wish successful results you can best gain it by unselfish partnership in the A. F. of L. Today, if ever, a discouraged, disillusioned and confused city needs to be shown that the way out of its present tragic situation is the way indicated by William Smith. The great state of Indiana is being shown that the growth of the A. F. of L. is the guarantee of a better social order.

### ABOUT PAY CHECKS OF REAL SILK

By a Times Reader.

Just a word or two for the loyal and satisfied workers of Real Silk. You must be easy to please in both salary and working conditions. I am not connected with Real Silk in any way nor do I belong to any union, but I happened to be in a position during 1932 and 1933 to cash some of the checks for Real Silk employees and they were from \$6.50 to around \$12 and the girls who cashed them looked like they were about ready to faint.

So, if you are satisfied with such conditions and wages, stay with your job and work and also used to hard work and plenty of it. All I want is a chance to make good. As I have three persons to support and certainly can't do it on a half-time job at the wages I am now getting. If some one would only give me a trial, I would stay on the job early and late and on my word of honor, do my best to make good.

Here's to the young man's success in finding work, and thanks to The Times for printing this.

### SUPPORT OF THREE SEEKS WORK

By M. L.

Having read a young man's letter in The Times I want to let you know contact a job in this manner. He certainly has my sympathy, for I have been trying for a year to get something more than running ads in all three of the daily papers, answering ads and am registered at an employment office, and all to no avail. Have had eighteen years experience in office work, and until last summer had been with the same firm for seventeen years. I am a stenographer, assistant bookkeeper and cashier. I am neat and accurate in my work and also used to hard work and plenty of it. All I want is a chance to make good. As I have three persons to support and certainly can't do it on a half-time job at the wages I am now getting. If some one would only give me a trial, I would stay on the job early and late and on my word of honor, do my best to make good.

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