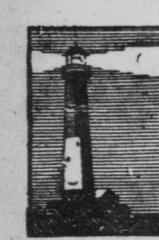


The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1934.

FOR THE AGED

INCREASE in the maximum old age pension from \$15 to \$25 and reduction of the eligible age limit from 70 to 65 are to be considered this week by the Indiana arm of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, meeting in Evansville.

Members of the Eagles lodges have blazed a trail across the nation in their successful battle to provide for the needy and destitute aged. No section of the long route to success was rougher than the road traveled in Indiana. For years Indiana members of the lodge attempted passage of the pension law in many sessions of the legislature. And for many years each effort was met with rebuff.

The maximum pension, as provided in the law finally enacted by the 1933 Democratic legislature, is now \$15. That, remember, is the top figure. Some persons will receive as little as \$2 a month, depending on the amounts appropriated by county councilmen and commissioners.

A campaign for an increased maximum figure would be well founded. The day must come in Indiana and other states when money will not be so hard to get and old people of that new era will stand to benefit.

The Times always has supported the old age pension law, believing it is the inherent right of every worthy citizen to be able to look forward to old age without the haunting fear of the poorhouse or poverty on the streets of a great city.

We heard a story the other day that went like this:

An old couple, during the height of the prosperity era, invested capital in an internationally-known firm. The firm collapsed, leaving them without funds.

When the husband became ill, he and his wife went west, hoping to remain indefinitely with relatives and hoping regained health might answer their problem of poverty.

But they did not figure that the relatives, too, might be in dire straits. The man's illness became worse and physicians said he would die in a short time.

He wanted to stay with his wife, but lack of finances brought him back to Indiana, 2,000 miles away from her. He found that his relatives neither could afford to bury him nor to send his body back to Indiana.

So, to save them the increased debt and to remove himself as a burden to his aged wife, he made his way back to Indiana where a family burial plot will receive him soon.

He has told his friends:

"I am going to die. I couldn't afford to die away from home so I came back to Indiana."

That is a pitiful story. Some may not be as extreme but there are many with the same tragic basis.

In cases like these, old age pensions probably would save lives. At least the guarantee of funds would give any person who had served his or her community properly, the hope of peace in later years.

That the nation needs a guarantee for the aged was stressed last week by President Roosevelt in his outline for a greater new deal.

" . . . I am looking for a sound means which I can recommend to provide at once for security against several of the great disturbing factors of life—especially those which relate to unemployment and old age," he said.

Coming from the man who has battled with his people through a period of terrific stress, this surely is an approval that can not be ignored.

It will be well for Indiana legislators to think now about better provisions for the aged. The Eagles will demand additional aid and their pleas should be heeded carefully by the legislature of 1935.

PROBATION'S GAINS

REDUCTION of inmates in Indiana penal institutions and reduction of the cost of penal affairs administration are forecast under the new state probation department's functions by no less an authority than Charles L. Chute, New York executive director of the National Probation Association.

If those forecasts prove true, no greater advancement ever has been made in Indiana penal activities.

Probation found one of its earliest followers in James A. Collins, former judge of the Marion county criminal court. Mr. Collins, in his many years on the bench, was convinced that probation served chiefly to preserve the citizenry from the stigma of prison life and also saved the state money.

Naturally with the reduction of inmates, the cost of prison and reformatory administration will drop. There can be no other answer.

But far more important than that is the possibility that many young men and women, who might spend years in prison for a first and minor offense, may have the opportunity to make something of themselves.

The community suffers when a first offender is given a long term for a minor crime and finds that his mind is occupied more seriously with continuing to thumb his nose at the law than in attempting to become a decent, law-abiding citizen.

Former Judge Collins found some cases which turned out badly. The majority, however, were successful, he discovered.

Probation always has been a great theory. If, when it operates in Indiana, it will save people and money, no greater reward can be reaped from any social measure.

HONORING JEFFERSON

WASHINGTON is full of statues and monuments, some animate, some inanimate.

Now Representative John J. Boylan is pretty excited about something that every Washingtonian has known for years—that

Mr. Minton's Nomination

AN EDITORIAL

THE selection of Sherman Minton as the Democratic candidate for the United States senate is thoroughly sound. He is the strongest man his party could have selected to defeat Arthur Robinson. He is in thorough sympathy with the new deal. He will be a credit to Indiana.

Mr. Minton goes before the voters with an intensely practical record of accomplishment. Even the worst enemies of Governor McNutt's administration admit that his policies on public utilities have been excellent.

During Republican administrations the cost of electricity steadily went up. During the brief period in which Governor McNutt has been in office they have come down. The Republican state platform tacitly endorses the McNutt utility policies by its failure to include any mention of them in its platform.

To put it baldly—the users of electricity in this state have been saved about \$4,000,000 in annual rates during the last eighteen months.

As public counsellor before the public service commission Mr. Minton has been largely responsible for those savings. On this basis alone he earned the senatorial nomination from his party.

But Mr. Minton's qualifications go beyond this. He is not a man of great wealth. He knows what it is to have to scratch for a living. Yet, clever lawyer that he is, he never has permitted himself to become entangled with the forces of special privilege.

Unlike many other members of his profession he has not sold out his legal talents to the highest bidder. He may be depended upon by the people of this state to look out for their interests at large rather than the interests of any small, self-seeking groups.

The choice for Indiana is obvious.

AMONGST all this welter of memorials, there isn't a single one to Thomas Jefferson.

Boylan wants the federal government to spend \$100,000 for a pedestal on which some private association may later want to build a memorial to the sage of Monticello.

Now you might think \$100,000 is small change these days, the way the government is tossing billions about. And yet you might paraphrase Poor Richard, and say that if you watch the hundred thousands of dollars the billions will take care of themselves. There are lots of things we need more today than \$100,000 pedestals.

The best memorial we could build for Jefferson today would be for a few million of us to devote just one-tenth the thought, work and zeal to democracy that Jefferson gave to it.

TOO DUMB TO SELL

MORE than six months ago the United States recognized Russia. More than three months ago, the government's export-import bank was organized to facilitate Russian trade. Yet trade has not started to flow.

It is time for the millions of jobless Americans to know the reason.

It is not the fault of the Soviet Union. The Russians are anxious to buy American machinery, automobiles, farm implements and cotton. But they can trade elsewhere, and the Germans, the English, the French and Italians are filling Russian orders.

It is not the fault of congress. When congress passed the ill-advised Johnson bill, it recognized a distinct difference between the so-called Russian debt to the United States and the debts owed by the other European countries. It therefore specifically exempted government corporations from operation of the "no credit to debtors" rule.

The blame lies with the directors of the export-import bank, who, contrary to the implied instructions of congress, take the position that the bank should not deal with the Soviets until the old Kerensky debt is settled.

This ridiculous placing of the Kerensky debt in the same pot with other European debts is an old deal trick of diplomacy. It is an obligation of an entirely different character. Negotiations in regard to this debt will be for many months.

Whatever the final solution, the total Kerensky debt is but a trifling sum, compared to the advantages we would gain by healthy trade relations with Russia.

Other countries, with more realistic diplomacy, are gaining the jobs and orders that America is losing. Russia is not hurt. The fact that Russia now is equipping her industrial plant with German, English and Italian machinery means that she will continue to buy from those countries, unless we can step in quickly.

In normal times, the American people would pay little attention to such diplomatic card shuffling.

But; here in the fifteenth month of the new deal, with the business curve headed downward with millions out of jobs, with factories rusting and warehouses bulging, this is very expensive stupidity.

BIG—AND MOVING FAST

(From the Memphis Press-Seminar)

BIG objects generally move slowly.

This is not true, however, of Tennessee Valley Authority, one of the biggest things in the nation today. The second was his genitalia.

He answered all questions. What is his favorite sport? Golf, of course. His teeth flashed in responsive smile. He loves golf and has played it everywhere. He hopes to be able to play some of the events in his honor.

The prince has had small opportunity to wear anything except formal clothes since his arrival. A big dinner Thursday evening at the embassy—a luncheon Friday—more dinners—and a reception at the embassy yesterday . . . these are a few of the events in his honor.

His grace appeared at the White House luncheon smilingly radiant and towering above Japanese Ambassador Saito in a silk hat which added eight inches to his height.

It was a star luncheon, with Prince Konoye in the place of honor, beaming at President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull, amid array of pink roses, pink delphinium and ferns.

PRINCE KONOYE brought his "brain trust" with him to Washington.

In his wake as he stepped off the train came a little, round gentleman (as diminutive as the prince is tall). He was introduced as Professor Royama, instructor at the Imperial university in Tokyo, a student of American politics and a close friend of Konoye.

There is also an interpreter, Mr. Tomohiko Ushiba, but sometimes Prince Konoye manages to answer questions in English without help either from Professor Royama or Ushiba. He speaks English—not fluently, but sufficiently well.

Two more friends and a valet complete the retinue.

At the station to meet his grace were American Ambassador Saito, the Japanese embassy staff, newspaper men, and photographers. The first thing one noted was his surprising height. The second was his genitalia.

He answered all questions. What is his favorite sport? Golf, of course. His teeth flashed in responsive smile. He loves golf and has played it everywhere. He hopes to be able to play some of the events in his honor.

Konoye's son is even a better player than his father. He's so good in fact that this summer he enters the intercollegiate tournament at Greenwich. In the fall he enters Princeton.

"Why are you here?" was the first question fired at Konoye as he detrained.

His teeth flashed. He replied (speaking very slowly and precisely):

"I am here to make a few official friends

officially."

Editor's Note.—The home referred to is operated by the transient bureau. These men, transients, are given food and lodgings with 50 cents a week for spending money, and are given light work to keep them occupied, state officials said. They explained that the work done by the transients is work for which the sum of 50 cents a week. That is worse than the old slave days.

It is about time that the people of this city know about it. I never have seen a write-up about it yet in any paper. Do you, or the public, think that this is fair to the working men of this city, or is it even fair to the men at these homes who do this work for the small sum that they receive? I would like to see some comment on this in your paper in the near future.

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