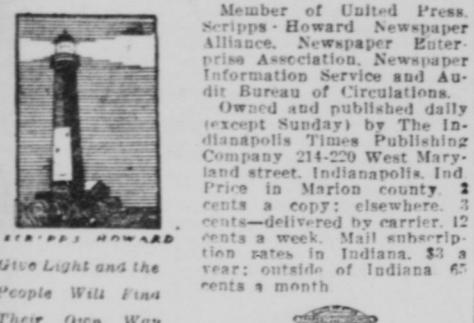


The Indianapolis Times

(A SCHAFFER-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1934.

"WAGES OF DECENT LIVING"

THE federal government is faced with a critical test of the recovery act through the cleaners and dyers attempt to escape from the minimum wage and maximum hour restrictions of their code.

The trade seeks to scrap the code, now that NRA has eliminated the price fixing clauses and other trade practice provisions.

The issue is whether these tradesmen in every city and village are to be permitted to slash wages below the rather pitiful minimum of the code, and to work their men and women employees longer hours, and to employ child labor. The effort to scrap the labor provisions is based on the contention that these tradesmen can not continue their business against price-cutting competitors—without reducing their own prices and labor costs.

NRA officials are firm in their statement that an industry can not drop its code without Presidential consent. They hint they will act against code-breaking business men.

President Roosevelt has answered the question in advance. A year ago, in signing the recovery act, he said:

"It seems to me to be plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By 'business' I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers—the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living."

DILLINGER AGAIN

JOHN DILLINGER, Indiana's bid to notoriety in the nation's criminal annals, found his way to Page one again yesterday.

For several weeks only rumors have kept the Dillinger saga alive. Despite the colorfulness of the outlaw, newspaper readers of the nation found themselves suddenly "filled up" with the daily publicity which Dillinger attained in the weeks following his escape from the Crown Point jail.

Now comes the story that a woman in Ohio received a letter from Dillinger's sister in which the latter is supposed to have written that she heard from Dillinger and the gunman is alive and well.

At her Maywood home, the sister denied having received word from Dillinger.

Buried down in the story is the key to the situation that carries such men as Dillinger along in their continual law violations. The story said that he had received several proposals of marriage.

No wonder the criminal in the United States gets away with crimes. He suddenly finds, after his name has appeared a few times on the front pages, that he is the object of admiration of fawning men and women with apparently moronic tendencies.

There is no question but that Dillinger and his escapades have become tiresome.

The only story that will interest the nation again is when John Dillinger and the law meet face to face. What the outcome of that meeting will be, no one can predict. But it is safe to say that after the months spent in search, the law certainly is determined to win. And it is very doubtful if the Crown Point jail incident ever will be repeated.

ATHEARN'S APPOINTMENT

DR. WALTER SCOTT ATHEARN, former president of Butler university, has been named president of Oklahoma City university at Oklahoma City.

The former Butler president came here some time ago heralded as a great educator. There has been no doubt that Dr. Athearn is an educator of high standing.

Dr. Athearn's withdrawal from the educational field in Indianapolis will be regretted by his many friends, who wish him a successful future in the Oklahoma institution of learning.

TEXAS JACK

JOHN NANCE GARNER pretends to an inferiority complex about his job.

In an American Magazine article the Vice-President weekly accepts the role of Mr. Throttlebottom, and plays a very soft tune on his second fiddle.

"I am conscious of the obscurity and unimportance of my office," he writes. "The vice-presidency is a fifth-wheel job. Nobody gives it a thought save in a tragic contingency. It is the spare tire on the national automobile."

Texas Jack longs for his really important old job of Speaker of the house. There's "no thrill to being elected Vice-President."

The Vice-President is unfair to his office. It has dignity, especially under the present administration in which the Vice-President functions as a cabinet member in fact as well as in name. Mr. Garner is tremendously popular as a presiding officer and was given a rare sort of ovation by the senate on its last day. He has become a sort of liaison officer between the White House and the upper house.

Mr. Garner should buck up. The vice-presidency is as good a job as the Vice-President makes it.

RECREATION

THE international joint commission, composed of three Americans and three Canadians, has decided that nothing shall be done by the hand of man in that 15,000 square miles of wild, gorgeous beauty in northern Minnesota and Ontario which will mar its value as a recreation spot.

It is one of the few regions of primeval forest left for us to explore, when we feel that we must get back to Mother Nature, forgetting the world of complications. It is

so wild that Indian guides usually are hired by tenderfeet to keep them from getting lost. It is beautiful with its thousands of lakes, islands, rapids. If you go there, you must travel by canoe but you can shoot big game and catch bigger fish than you can describe.

Just one sentence in the joint commission's report will give you something to think about: "It is significant of the times we live in that (recreation), which was recognized insufficiently, so far as this particular region is concerned, when the investigation was instituted, has since come to be regarded as an interest of major importance on both sides of the international boundary."

THOSE INDIANS

INDIANAPOLIS is neglecting one of its best entertainment features—the Indianapolis baseball club.

For some reason or other, the Indians went into a slump in batting and attendance. Many of the old baseball fans still believe the team is not hitting, but a trip to Perry stadium will show that many of us have erred.

It has been a long time since we had witnessed a ball game. This week we have attended twice and each time have seen a real game played under the lights.

The Indians are playing good ball and are putting on a performance that will delight any baseball fan. It's worth attending if for no other reason than to prove that you've had the wrong idea about the ball club.

MOTHER LOVE

A BABY boy with a beguiling smile held out chubby fingers, gripped tightly together, toward the judge on the bench in a large middle western city the other day.

The clutching fingers came open slowly, revealing a nickel and a penny. "We got money," the baby said.

Chancellor Chase's answer is characteristic and to the point:

"It is not the business of universities to be instruments of indoctrination and propaganda. It is not their mission, on the one hand, to evolve theoretical utopias and then to condition people for participation in them. Nor is it, on the other hand, their mission to become apologists for the dogma that whatever is, is right."

"Their concern is rather to open and develop the minds of men and women; to give them understanding, knowledge of the truth, appreciation of the processes by which it is arrived at, so that, as open-minded, informed free people, they may look at and take part in life as intelligent, reasonable human beings."

But the mother's appeal was denied. She couldn't, the judge explained, turn her baby over to the institution unless she could contribute to his support or unless she could get a paper relinquishing all claim to him.

"But I want him back!" the mother protested. "I can't give him away!"

It wasn't the judge's fault that nothing could be done about it. The judge and juvenile court authorities had heard the story before, knew of many similar cases. Needy mothers eager to work to support their children if some one would only give them a chance, needy mothers determined, in spite of all hardships, to keep their children.

Mothers' pension laws, which once would have been the answer to the problem, have been abandoned in many communities because there are no funds to pay the pensions.

And the mother who is told she can not put her child in a public home unless she is able to pay something toward his support while, at the same time, she can not earn this money unless she has some place to leave the child to care for, finds herself torn between two impossibilities.

The futile heartbreaks of mothers forced to give up their children to provide for the youngsters' welfare is one of society's oldest and most inexcusable tragedies. There is wide talk of social legislation these days—new schemes and remedies to do away with unemployment, to protect the aged, the sick, and the injured.

Certainly there is no greater injustice than laws which protect the mother who abandons her child and penalizes the mother who refuses to do this.

GOOD WORK DONE

THE record made by the seventy-third congress is one to bring a good deal of encouragement to all Americans who hope to see their democratic institutions perpetuated.

When that congress convened, a year ago last March, our faith in those institutions was probably lower than ever before. There was a widespread feeling that congress could not possibly function efficiently in an emergency; a common belief that nothing could make it unite on a program to do away with unemployment, to protect the aged, the sick, and the injured.

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Capital Capers

Liberal Viewpoint

BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

THERE was much cogent common sense in the brief commencement address of Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase of New York university.

In spite of the menacing development of Fascism abroad, many Americans have created for themselves a sort of fools' paradise on the assumption that what has been happening in Europe can not take place here because this is the United States.

Just one sentence in the joint commission's report will give you something to think about:

"It is significant of the times we live in that (recreation), which was recognized insufficiently, so far as this particular region is concerned, when the investigation was instituted, has since come to be regarded as an interest of major importance on both sides of the international boundary."

Chancellor Chase exploded this benign but dangerous illusion:

"State after state has come to seek efficiency and security through the subordination and regimentation of the individual to centralized and despotic authority. It is no satisfactory answer to say that all of this is happening in Europe and this is America."

"America, after all, has not been guaranteed eternal democracy by divine fiat. There are no international barriers against the contagion of ideas. It is not impossible to regiment the American people. Great sections of them have been regimented more than once in our history. And when we are regimented we can be both violent and cruel."

"The history of what happened to the southern states during reconstruction, the course of the Ku-Klux Klan movement a decade ago, are two reminders of that fact. The problem of regimentation is one of destiny for us as well as for our neighbors."

Chancellor Chase, as a well-known liberal educator, stated very effectively the crucial problem in the relation of education to regimentation and dogmatic instruction:

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"At the heart of the problem lies the significant choice: Shall we set out arbitrarily to create a social order and then indoctrinate and drive individuals into submission to it, or shall we center our efforts on the making of men and women who are themselves competent and disposed, as free agents, to do what should be done?"

Chancellor Chase's answer is characteristic and to the point:

"It is not the business of universities to be instruments of indoctrination and propaganda. It is not their mission, on the one hand, to evolve theoretical utopias and then to condition people for participation in them. Nor is it, on the other hand, their mission to become apologists for the dogma that whatever is, is right."

"Their concern is rather to open and develop the minds of men and women; to give them understanding, knowledge of the truth, appreciation of the processes by which it is arrived at, so that, as open-minded, informed free people, they may look at and take part in life as intelligent, reasonable human beings."

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NO sensible person will be likely to quarrel with this urbane and logical pronouncement by Chancellor Chase, but we may be sure that our American reactionaries will play up the address in sorely distorted fashion. Taking advantage of headlines they will hail it as a timely blast against the menace of the Roosevelt administration and the machinations of the brain trust.

It one has any realism or insight, he must recognize that if the Roosevelt administration is to be criticised in connection with the issue of regimentation, it will have to be condemned because it has not gone far enough with its economic planning. It has attempted more than the minimum believed necessary to save us from the ravages of the rugged individualism that has brought ruin to the American economy.

Any attempt to escape from the very slight and moderate degree of regimentation involved in the New Deal is the surest way to bring about the certainty of much more complete regimentation in the future.

If the Roosevelt administration fails to rehabilitate our economic life, it will be on account of its unwillingness to go far enough in the systematic reordering of our business and financial life. If the New Deal does collapse and we do not push capitalism entirely into the discard, the only immediate alternative is Fascism with all the regimentation that Chancellor Chase eloquently condemned.

Many Americans, including myself, would like to be pretty thoroughly free from governmental restraint. But whether we like it or not, we have come to live in the most critical period of a complex economic system which calls for either planning or perdition. We now have come to a parting of the ways where it is, for the time being, a choice between the New Deal and castor oil.

The futile heartbreaks of mothers forced to give up their children to provide for the youngsters' welfare is one of society's oldest and most inexcusable tragedies. There is wide talk of social legislation these days—new schemes and remedies to do away with unemployment, to protect the aged, the sick, and the injured.

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Half an hour later, the perplexed envoy found himself being graciously received by the Chief Executive at the White House.

Roosvelt held in his hand an old volume bound in blue leather.

"Mr. Minister," he said, "here is a book written by one of my ancestors, which concerns Chile. I should like to present it to the University of Santiago, Chile."

Minister Edwards—amazed and gratified—thanked the President effusively.

THE book was written, he noted by Amasa Delano, an ancestor of Roosevelt's, and published in Boston in 1817. It was entitled: "A Narrative of Voyages and Travels in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, Comprising Three Voyages Around the World, Together With a Voyage of Survey and Discovery in the Pacific Ocean and Oriental Islands."

Envy Edwards took occasion to remind the President that several members of the Delano family still live in Chile. The early Delanos, he said, participated in the wars of liberation against Spain and after the establishment of the Chilean republic engaged in mining and manufacturing. One of them married a Chilean lady and his descendants settled near Santiago.

Note.—Recently a lady from Hawaii, who has been doing research work concerning the President's ancestors in that island, was cordially received at the White House.

In both instances Roosevelt made two warm friends—and probably more. Last night the gratified Chilean envoy highly praised the "initiative and the kindness" of the American President.

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COMPLAINTS OF ROUGHNESS ON WASHINGTON STREET

By West Side Driver

I am back again and am ready to harp again on the old subject with a few added complaints.

A few weeks ago I wrote to the Message Center telling of the condition of the middle of the street on West Washington between Hancock and Tibbs avenue.

The other day an editorial was carried in your paper, written by an aviator, saying that Indianapolis streets had jumping-off places for smooth surfaces to bump over. I wish my aviator friend would try his car in the above-mentioned spot.

Shortly after my last letter to you, the Indiana State Department of Motor Vehicles, Inc., to which the unfavorable spot mentioned is entrusted for keeping in condition in return for the use of the valuable space on Indianapolis' busiest street, made a valiant effort to repair the spot, keeping in mind that it had new equipment to pay for and could not afford to spend any money for the benefit of the city's motorists.

He has written no poems lately. He is reputed popular at the Belgian court, although the king and queen of the Belgians did not attend the wedding recently at Claudel's daughter, Reine,

Another scientist says man can easily outrun a snake. But he won't deny any snake can outrun him.

A survey of 302,000 American girls reveals that blonde and redheads are decreasing in number. In other words, dye-ing out.

Just to keep you from wishing it wouldn't get so hot, record-breaking storms and cold weather are reported from South America.

His ex-excellency is now practicing law, a career in which his friends feel he may attain some success. His Washington days were marred by diplomatic disputes.

From Brussels one learns that Poet-Ambassador Paul Claudel, once the French envoy here,

has grown somewhat stouter and is still composing witty epigrams upon prominent personalities.

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