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FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1936.

JUST COMMON SENSE

BY ALL rules of political logic the Kerr-Coolidge bill ought to have become law long ago instead of knocking around Congress for two and a half years.

It contains a drastic policy toward criminal aliens, a lenient policy toward aliens of good character, and is designed to save the taxpayers' money.

Yet the bill meets one delay after another and thousands of criminal aliens at present beyond the reach of deportation laws continue to infest American cities and fill American jails; while at the same time some 2800 law-abiding aliens live in terror of a deportation which Federal officials have pronounced unjust but beyond their power to prevent.

If Congress passes the bill in the next few weeks, before deportation proceedings for this last group are actually carried out, it will save the cost of shipping these men and women across the seas and the cost of supporting some 4000 dependents when the family breadwinners are taken away.

At the same time it will make possible the deportation of some 20,000 criminal aliens and reduce the nation's annual crime bill by considerable amount.

It will open the way for leniency toward only those aliens who pass the strictest tests of good character and have families in this country. The number will necessarily be small, not more than a thousand a year judging by experience of the past three years. Those permitted to remain will be aliens who would have a legal right to re-enter the country, anyhow. The bill simply proposes to save the cost of transporting them to Europe and to save them the cost of return tickets. It would seem to be the plainest kind of common sense to take such action.

FASCISM CROSSES THE ATLANTIC

FASCISM has made its bow in the Americas, specifically in Paraguay, which boasts an unhappy population of 850,000. The overthrow of President Ayala by the army in a "liberating revolution" has resulted in the first effort to set up a totalitarian state in the western hemisphere.

It is not surprising, as much as it is to be deplored, Paraguay has barely come through the long, bloody and expensive Chaco War with Bolivia.

All the grief, economic and psychological, that war brings fell upon this tiny population. None escaped. Economic conditions were in such a state that the government was unable to cope with the rising storm of protest, and the demands for action brought the inevitable conclusion—dictatorship.

It was the same in many respects in Germany and before that in Italy. The refusal of a democracy to face facts and eradicate evil is the food upon which Fascism breeds.

Manifestations of Fascism can be found in the major South American countries. Peru has Black Shirts. Chile is said to have 50,000 uniformed Fascists. Brazilian Green Shirts claim a membership of 200,000. Argentina has a half dozen Fascist groups and a brand of German Nazis has also raised its head in several of our sister republics.

Democratic government, above all others, has the capacity for pacific self-reform. It demands, however, conscientious and intelligent expression. Indifference results in an ever-increasing crop of evils which, recognized too late, are summarily met with the mailed fist.

Other American republics with pretensions to democracy may see in Paraguay a lesson and a warning.

HORRIBLE EXAMPLE

LIKE its \$100,000,000 shelterbelt plan, the Administration's reforestation program is being pursued to go by default.

Under the original plan, denuded acres have been bought in various states and placed under the Forest Service.

But after congressmen from these states obtained an amendment to the agriculture appropriation bill calling for \$25,000,000 to continue this policy, the Democratic leadership knocked it out.

All of which is part of the election-year economy move.

The \$25,000,000 was added in Committee of the Whole. But in the House proper, Speaker Byrnes and the majority leadership rallied enough support to remove the amendment, 47 to 113.

Congressmen whose states will suffer most from the halting of such land purchases announced they would seek reinsertion of the amendment in the Senate, but the task appears hopeless.

Rep. Crow (D., Ind.) has appealed to President Roosevelt, Secretary Wallace and Budget Director Bell to get the \$25,000,000 somewhere and carry on.

In letters to the three, he pointed out that \$12,000,000 was appropriated last session to launch the program, and said that "to curtail the work at this time would make the Administration look ridiculous in these communities."

He cited Indiana as a sort of "horrible example." Here a program calling for purchase of 800,000 eroded acres for Federal forests was announced. These forests were to be in four separate areas in the state, and 35,000 acres have been purchased, a few thousand acres in each area.

But the acquired tracts have no continuity, and if the program is abandoned it will mean a patchwork of almost meaningless Federal holdings.

WHEN HITLER SPEAKS PEACE—

SEEMINGLY the entire world today is predicting another great war," Roy W. Howard said last week, interviewing Russia's dictator at the Kremlin in Moscow. "If it proves inevitable, when, Mr. Stalin, do you think it will come?"

"It is impossible to say," replied Mr. Stalin. "It may come very unexpectedly. Nowadays wars are not declared. They simply start."

"Should war come, Mr. Stalin, where is it most likely to break out? Where are the war clouds more menacing, in the East or in the West?"

"In my opinion there are two focal points of danger—one in the Far East in the zone of Japan and the other in Europe in the zone of Germany."

It is difficult to say which is the more menacing war danger. They both exist and both are smoldering. Compared to either of these the Italian-Ethiopian conflict is an episode.

"For the moment, perhaps, the situation in the

Far East is more menacing, but the center of danger may shift to Europe. Evidence of this was Herr Hitler's recent interview in a Paris paper in which his statement, though pacific in terminology, carried with it threats against both France and the Soviet Union. It is symptomatic that even when Hitler speaks peace he can not dispense with threats."

Three days later, the "center of danger" shifted. Herr Hitler, speaking before the Reichstag, offered to Europe a new peace plan at the very moment German troops goose-stepped into the Rhineland in violation of two existing peace treaties.

HOOVER HAS A GOOD IDEA

FORMER President Hoover suggests a good amendment to the VanNus bill. This measure, passed by the Senate and now before the House, would forbid an employer or his agent to use fear or intimidation to influence an employee's vote in a Federal election.

Why not enlarge the bill, asks Mr. Hoover, by applying the same ban to any Federal official or any one on the staff of PWA or WPA who might try to influence the ballot of a subordinate or of a person of relief?

We rise to second the Hoover amendment. If the VanNus bill is to become a law, it should be applicable to all forms of political coercion, whatever the source.

But whether the bill, even so amended, should become a law at all is another question. With the purpose of the bill we are in complete sympathy. It is designed to curb a reprehensible practice which became widespread in the days of Mark Hanna, and has been all too common in every election since—the practice of employers threatening to close their shops and discharge employees if so-and-so is elected or if such-and-such a party comes into power.

This strategy was employed widely in the election of 1932, but not very effectively. If the threats of leaders in the National Association of Manufacturers are to be taken at face value, it will be used again this year. But probably with even less effect. For the employers who heard the same threats in 1932 know that the Democratic victory, on the whole, was followed by more jobs instead of fewer, higher pay instead of less and better working conditions instead of worse.

Yet there is no gainsaying that one intended effect of the bill is to protect one group of voters, believed to be sympathetic toward the Administration, from the coercion of another group, the majority of whom are believed to oppose the New Deal. And if it is wrong for a private employer, in an effort to get Republican votes, to threaten an employee with loss of his job, it is just as wrong for a public official, in an effort to get Democratic votes, similarly to threaten a subordinate or a person on relief.

The difficulty with any such law is in drawing a line where freedom of speech ends and intimidation begins. If, for example, a manufacturer of corsets should make a speech saying that the election of Joe Doakes would mean destruction of the corset business since Joe Doakes is opposed to regimentation of the female figure, would the manufacturer merely be exercising his right of free speech or would he be guilty of intimidating his employees?

The bill as drawn would leave it to a judge to draw the distinction. And the judge's interpretation would in many cases depend upon whether that judge was for or against Joe Doakes.

We believe this bill, while good in purpose, contains as it stands great dangers to a fundamental civil liberty. Those dangers should be studied and eliminated if possible. Otherwise, the bill should be killed.

FRIENDLY SUGGESTION

PENDING in Congress is a bill by Senator Norris to authorize an examination of "the Republican River and its tributaries, with a view to the control of its floods." Loyal Republicans may want to broaden the bill to embrace an examination of "the Republican Party and its tribulations."

BON VOYAGE!

FOUR newlyweds left San Francisco for Tahiti to "get away from alarm clocks and mediocrity." No doubt they were able to leave the alarm clocks behind anyhow.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

A VERY sophisticated young man is thinking seriously about marriage. But he already is at loggerheads with his future wife about the method of doing so. She wants a few months' engagement, publicly announced, time enough to plan and furnish a home. He considers that sort of thing poppycock and would like a ceremony with no trimmings. Marriage, he contends, is merely a civil arrangement between two citizens, so the less fuss made about it the better.

In my opinion he's wrong there. Men usually wish to avoid elaborate weddings, and a good many women can see how foolish some of them are. But a certain amount of preparation is anything but foolish. You do not enter into any other kind of alliance without taking time to plan your future with your partner.

However a man may feel about the enterprise, the girl ought to have her say-so, too. She's the party of the second part, you know. The event changes her life as well as his, and the process of becoming Mrs. Jim Jones is eventful enough to give her the right to dictate a few terms.

Nearly all girls like the fuss that follows a betrothal announcement. For once, they are the most important figures in momentous events. It is the sweetest, most romantic period of their lives and no man who loves a girl deliberately will deprive her of its full satisfaction and thrills.

This does not mean that we should spend more than we can afford on an elaborate wedding. It only means we can bring to the rite of marriage the dignity with which we endow any solemn ceremony.

What is marriage? It is the contract made between a man and a woman in which both promise to live together in love until death. Only the determination behind that promise builds homes. These fly-by-night unions so prevalent nowadays weaken the structure of our society because they discourage permanence.

FROM THE RECORD

SENATOR BLACK (D., Ala.): It is said that about a year ago—a little more than that—when the question came up of a name to be given to a certain widespread organization, some one suggested it should be "The League to Protect Property"; and straightway came back the reply, "That will never do. We must get a title that will deceive the people and lead them into believing that what we are really after is to protect liberty." So they decided to name it the Liberty League.

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SENATOR KING (D., Utah): Mr. President, I have noticed that during the consideration of this important measure (the rural electrification bill) there have not been to exceed six or seven Senators in the chamber most of the time.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Squaring the Circle
With THE HOOISER EDITOR

THIS is Friday the thirteenth, but it could be a lot worse. For instance, it has long been a superstition that it is unlucky to fish on Friday—any Friday, no matter what number.

It's bad luck to kiss your girl on Friday. Never wash your face on Friday. It causes bad luck to sweep the dirt out of a house on Friday, because the house will burn later. Never carry ashes out of a house on Friday after 4 in the afternoon. Wait till Monday morning, else you will lose a dollar.

It is bad luck to move on Friday or Saturday. All these things are contained in a superstition book belonging to the State Library.

Friday is some good, though. It's good to begin anything on Friday, although it's bad luck to end anything, such as to pay a debt. Eggs laid on Friday never decay. And if you cut your toenails on Friday you will never have a toothache.

If you go up to an alert usher in any theater in any downtown theater and say:

"How many seats are there in your aisles?" he will tell you to the seat. He's trained to do that. When he walks down an aisle his head is turned right and he is counting. When he returns his head also is turned right and he still is counting.

Then he reports to the usher in the front of the theater who keeps telling him that the best seats now are available in aisle three.

The first ushers on duty have the additional chore of checking the lights, the screen, the seats and the sound machines. A hair across the lens of a projection machine looks like a snake on the screen.

THEY only work about 40 hours a week at the Indiana theater, but they are alert every minute of the time. If they are not they will lose their jobs. If they are they get better ones.

They know how to handle people who don't know how to handle themselves.

More than a year ago there was a stage fire in another Indianapolis theater. The ushers picked up for the run of the legitimate play were not trained in how to keep the ring orderly.

Three ushers from the Indiana, off duty for the night, were members of the audience. They arose and quickly quieted the panic. Mr. Henry Sommers, Indiana manager, was pretty proud of them.

People lose the silliest things in theaters, such as \$5000 diamond rings. One lady lost one night—one she knew was too large for her and upon which she had no insurance.

WHEN an escort called at 11 at night and told Mr. Sommers of the loss. The man wanted to search the house immediately. Mr. Sommers said no. If the audience knew something was lost, each person might start hunting and find and keep the ring.

After the crowd left, they found the ring, all right, but it was a lone shot.

Ushers are taught politeness, when they don't already know it. Most of them at the Indiana have been there for the last five years. Before that the turnover was pretty big.

People even lose false teeth in the theater, but they always come back right away for them.

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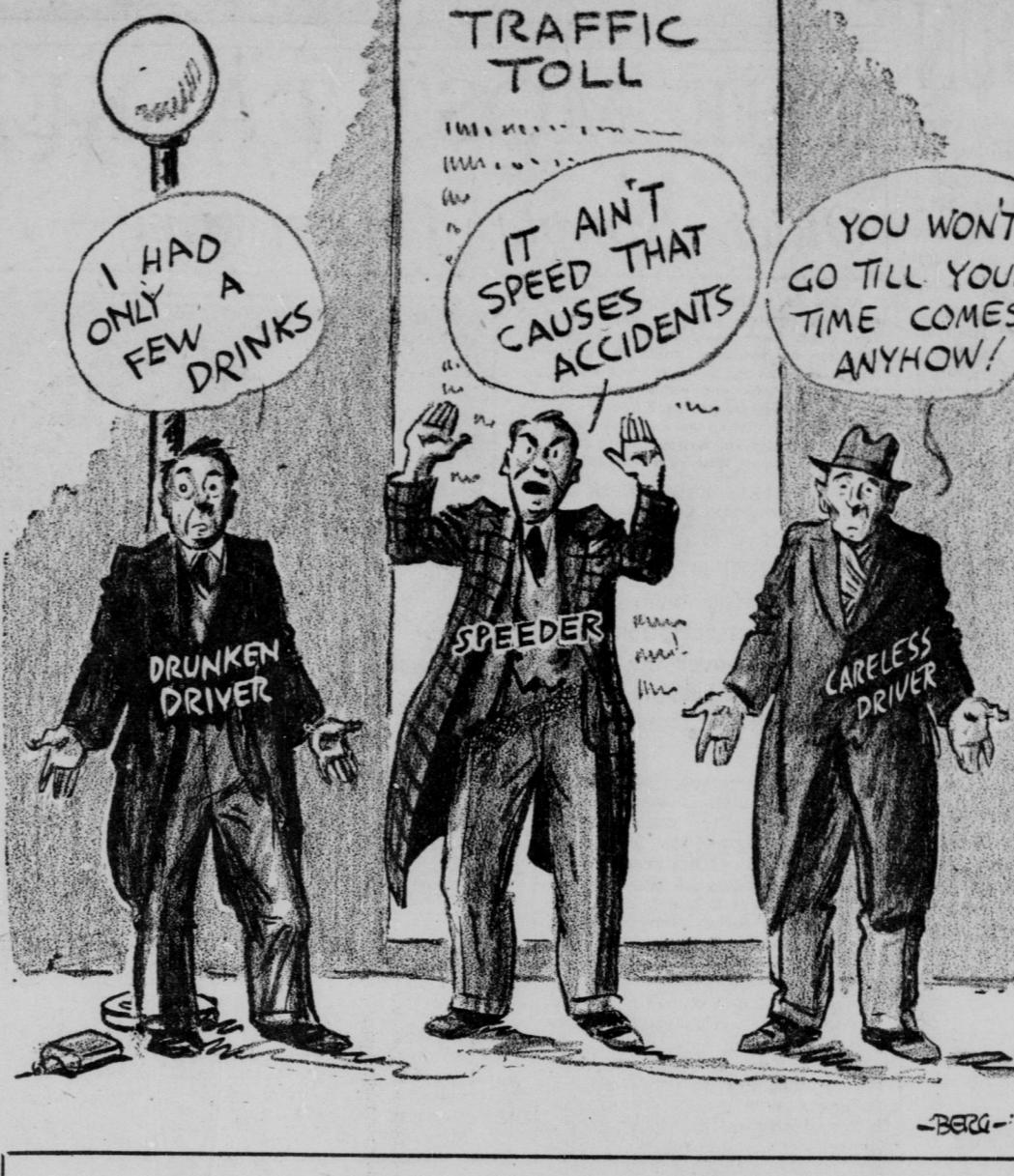
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ALIBIS

RISING TRAFFIC TOLL



The Hoosier Forum

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.