

The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Fair and somewhat warmer tonight and Saturday.

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TOWNSEND TAUNTS OARP PROBERS ON DELAY IN CITATION

Committee Lacks Courage to Press Charge, Says Defiant Doctor.

INVITES TRIAL IN HOUSE

Hurls New Challenge When Bell Group Decides to Hold Up Action.

By United Press WASHINGTON, May 22.

—Dr. Francis E. Townsend announced today through his attorney, Sheridan Downey, that he had notified all officers of the Townsend pension movement now under subpoena to refuse to testify before the House old-age pension inquiry.

I did not believe those reports. My faith in the United States Congress and my belief in the democratic processes of government told me that this sort of thing did not exist in America. I have had a rude awakening, for the Bell committee—with the exception of two members—is a sad representation of this democratic government in which I have so much faith.

I told the committee under oath that I did not personally profit from the movement; I told them that I have no money with the exception of about \$500. For two and one-half days, I patiently answered—as best I could—all the questions they put to me.

Treated as 'Criminal'

They did not seem interested, however, in the philosophy behind the pension plan. Instead, they asked me a series of stupid, vicious questions filled with innuendo and intended to besmirch my character.

In my efforts to answer them, I was confined to a laconic "yes" or "no." They denied me any chance to explain my answers.

I have had in my pocket all this time a carefully prepared statement on my economic philosophy and ideas about the pension plan. I did not seek to convert the committee to my beliefs. I did believe, however, that an orderly legislative group would be interested in knowing something about the plan they were investigating.

However, they refused to let me read the statement. They wanted to confine the committee testimony to petty matters of personalities.

Therefore, I did what any upright American citizen would have done.

No Offense to Congress

The committee's action just before I left the hearing room is typical. I asked permission to read a one-paragraph statement. I understand witnesses before committees are generally allowed to read statements. But they denied me even this.

I Will Rot in Jail Before I Will Go Back

The committee had planned originally to meet at 9:30 a.m., vote an immediate recommendation to the House for a contempt citation, and take up the matter on the House floor at 11 a.m.

Overnight, however, the members appeared to have changed their attitude toward swift and drastic action against the 70-year-old physician whose dramatic exit from the committee room precipitated the crisis yesterday afternoon.

New Inquiry to Start

The suggestion for sending the case to District Court would probably delay any final ruling on the question for months. It would mean that the House would vote a formal certification of charges which then would be prosecuted by the district attorney rather than by the House itself, sitting as a court of inquiry.

None of the committee members, however, was willing to indicate what course of action would actually be followed.

Meantime the inquiry was adjourned until later today when it was announced Townsend affairs would be dropped entirely and Dr. James A. Pope, head of another old age pension organization placed on the stand.

Dr. Townsend's withdrawal came yesterday after he had been subjected to three days of relentless questioning about his pension organization.

Before he reached the door he was joined by the Rev. Gerald K. Smith, organizer for the late Huey Long's "share our wealth" movement, who cleared a path for the doctor through a crowd of spectators and newspaper reporters. The incident gave further impetus to rumors of a third party alliance between the two organizations and the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin's National Union for Social Justice.

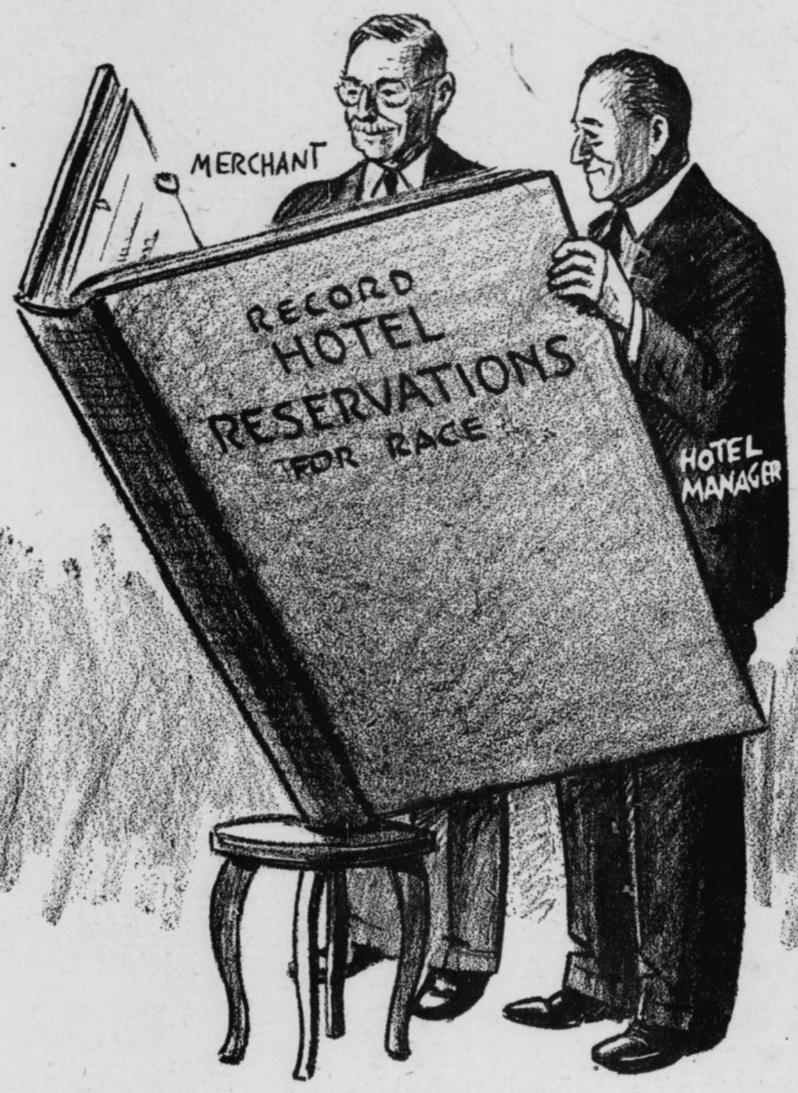
MARKETS AT A GLANCE
By United Press

Stocks fractions to 2 points higher in dull trading. Bonds quiet and mixed; French bonds weak.

Curb stocks fractions to more than a point higher. Chicago stocks higher, quiet. Call money 1 per cent.

Foreign exchange, sterling firm, francs easier. Cotton 1 to 5 points higher. Grains, wheat up 1/2 to 1/4 cent, corn and oats easier, rye mixed.

PLEASANT READING



—BERG—

PATROLS GUARD COUNTY CREEKS

Drive Launched to Protect Swimmers From Death and Disease.

More than 100 men today patrolled the danger spots of Fall Creek, White River and Eagle Creek to protect swimmers from drowning and serious disease.

Working under the recreation department of the Marion County Works Progress Administration, young men cover more than 20 miles of river and stream along stretches which have claimed the lives of many children in Marion County in past years.

During the summer these sources of danger are to be patrolled every day and plans are being made to project the program through the winter to avoid drowning caused by ice breaks.

Watchmen are instructed to prevent swimming in places where drowning or infection might occur.

They are to warn children of the danger and send them to the nearest of the estimated 25 supervised swimming pools or beaches.

Several months of study in collaboration with the city Board of Health and the police department provided a survey of danger spots as a basis for patrol.

All young men employed on this project are under the National Youth Administration. Unable to finish high school, they are employed during these months and money earned is to be spent on further education.

The patrols work from 11 each morning until 7 at night.

The first rescue was reported May 11, when the patrolman on Eagle Creek pulled Charles Fitzgerald, 10, from deep water when went beyond his depth.

Health officials have stressed the danger, not only of drowning in these spots, but the possibility of disease coming from stream pollution. Eye, ear and throat infections and dysentery are said to result from polluted water.

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