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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1936.

A MAJOR FAILURE

AMONG the false and sour notes of that discordant medley that is the Republican platform is one declaration that is in key with a growing American chorus. This is:

"The administration of relief is a major failure of the New Deal."

The critics of Federal relief policies are not confined to any party, class or group. They include many thoughtful students of the subject, most of them friendly to Mr. Roosevelt. Grateful as these are for the President's humane and forthright action in accepting Federal responsibility for feeding the restless, hungry millions whom the Hoover Administration fed with cheerful phrases, they are not satisfied with the costs, the practices and the pliancy of the relief administration during the past three years.

The Republicans' relief program may or may not point to the right solution. They would return administration to the nonpolitical local agencies; continue Federal grants-in-aid with a "fair proportion" of the burden assessed to states and localities; establish the merit system in administration; separate public works from relief and build public works "only on their merits." Finally, they call for "a prompt determination of the facts concerning relief and unemployment."

Whether the Republican Party's relief program should be approved in full depends on how it is interpreted. But certainly the last plank is sound.

We must know more about this new burden, now costing us billions, creating deficits, piling up a dangerous debt. Now we know hardly anything.

President Roosevelt can go far toward taking this question out of partisan politics. Congress is still in session. He can ask Congress before adjournment to create an expert, fact-finding, policy-guiding board, finance it with ample funds and man it with the nation's most distinguished and public-spirited citizens. They can bring a report to the next Congress, shedding light upon and thinking through this baffling problem in all its phases.

A handful of Republicans in a committee room can't settle the relief problem. Neither can Mr. Roosevelt's busy little group of relief administrators.

COLONEL KNOX

AT the end of the third day the Republican delegates in Cleveland were ready to pack their grips and catch the next train home. Then came an afterthought. They had to stay a fourth day and nominate some one for Vice President. It was one of those things that political conventions always do, but somehow never get around to thinking about until the last minute.

The marvel of it is that their afterthinking came to such a fortunate conclusion. After three days of standing around, caucusing, concentrating on putting Landon over for the presidential nomination and getting good bandwagon seats for themselves, there was little sharpness left to their wits. But be that as it may, they muddled through to select an able citizen.

Col. Frank Knox, if he is elected Vice President, will be no Throttlebottom occupying his official days in the park feeding the pigeons as did the famous musical comedy character. He is vigorous, active and positive. True to the creed of Theodore Roosevelt, whom he once followed up San Juan Hill, he lives his life "to the hilt." Soldier, newspaper publisher, politician, a man accustomed to doing his own driving, it is doubtful that he will feel at home in the back seat.

He has never held a public office, and has become a national character only during the 1936 campaign. On the record of his utterances to date he is considerably "to the right" of his running mate.

Only a heart-beat separates the vice presidency from the presidency. The slipshod manner in which the office is considered in our system of national conventions gives one the shivers over what might sometime happen. Any one might be nominated, if the delegates were sufficiently tired.

TAXICAB REGULATION

THE new taxicab ordinance should give Indianapolis a chance to study more thoroughly this important phase of the city's transportation problem. The ordinance, now in effect, was passed after months of delay and argument. It replaces previous ineffective legislation. Sponsors assert the new regulations will help stabilize the industry.

The number of cabs is limited to one for each 1000 population. While theoretically this would permit more taxicabs to operate than under the old law, it is expected to reduce the number from about 380 to 364, because the old restriction was not enforced.

Since taxicabs are a vital factor in city transportation, the question is being studied widely today.

Forty-three of the 93 United States cities over 100,000 in population now require certificates of public convenience and necessity for each cab. In these cities there is an average population of 1423 persons per taxicab. Indianapolis is among the cities which require no such certificate. These cities average 625 persons to each cab, although the Indianapolis average is about 1000.

THE latest figures show about 50,000 taxicabs in the United States. In Washington, D. C., there is one cab for every 141 inhabitants. In Akron, as of Jan. 1, 1935, there was one cab to every 10,202 persons.

A survey by the American Transit Association showed that Portland, Ore., and Seattle limit the number of cabs to one for each 2500 population, while Milwaukee, Denver and San Diego have a ratio of one to 2000.

The A. T. A. concluded that "the average city is 'over-cabbed' when there is more than one cab for each 2500 population and 'under-cabbed' when there is less than one cab for each 2500 inhabitants."

THE new ordinance takes a forward step in fixing minimum rates, thus getting away from a complicated problem which many cities face. The right of cities to establish rates has been upheld in a number of court decisions.

While the rates here are lower than in some cities, the new regulation tends toward a more equit-

able system for both the customer and the owner.

It meets the suggestion of John Bauer, director of the American Public Utilities Bureau and a student of the taxicab problem, who says: "A fixed meter rate should be prescribed which protects patrons from exorbitant and unequal charges."

Another important feature is the requirement that the taxicab companies must carry liability insurance of \$5000 for injury or death of one person and \$10,000 for more than one in any accident.

The new ordinance replaces laws which were not being enforced. It should bring regulation which is as important to the taxicab owners as to the public. No one can say whether the new law will prove adequate. Many problems—such as competition with other mass transportation, proper rates, property damage responsibility, and the proper number of cabs—are involved. If experience under the new setup shows additional changes should be made, there will be tangible information on which to act.

A GOOD BEGINNING

THE National Social Security Board has pointed out repeatedly that intelligent operation of Federal-state unemployment compensation systems and other phases of social security depends a great deal on personnel.

It is gratifying, then, to see the new State Unemployment Compensation Division begin the development of a merit system to govern employees.

The State Unemployment Compensation Board has directed a committee to investigate merit programs for public employees in other states and in the Federal government.

In order to staff this new division with qualified employees, the merit program should be carried through with the aim of divorcing the unemployment compensation division completely from politics.

THEY'RE GOING FISHING

NEIGHBORHOOD kids with a spool of thread and a bent pin will be out on the banks of Bean and Eagle and Lick Creeks

It's the opening of the fishing season and the fishermen, more numerous than the followers of any other outdoor sport, will go by the thousands to Hoosier streams and lakes.

When Burne-Jones finished his job the reign of the sunflower was at hand. Everybody had something beautiful to say about it and nobody more so than Mr. Burne-Jones himself.

"Did you ever draw a sunflower?" Burne-Jones once rhapsodized. "It is a whole school of drawing. Do you know what faces they have, how they peep and peer and look arch and winning, or bold and a little insolent at times? Have you ever noticed their back-hair, how beautifully curled it is?"

Well, nobody ever had.

THOSE who follow the sport say fishing should be better in Indiana this year than usual.

Active work against stream pollution, carried on by civic organizations, is one reason.

The State Conservation Department is rapidly stocking streams under a plan to make fishing better year after year.

The Civilian Conservation Corps has helped by building dams along washed-out streams.

Conservation clubs throughout Indiana whose members abide by rules of sportsmanship in fishing and hunting have greatly improved the sport. Their educational method of accepting youngsters into honorary club membership has been a worthwhile effort.

Conservation efforts of all kinds should be continued to make good fishing available to every one who likes the sport.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

PAY no attention to the psychologists who advise "spanking," writes well-known authority on child training. "Their doctrine is short-lived."

But lady, lady, doesn't that leave the opposition hanging from a limb? I mean if the modern mother, peppered from all sides by contradictory advice, is only going to select the authority with whom she happens to agree, what's the good of all our effort?

As a matter of fact a great deal of child training is carried on in just such a foolish fashion. Those who believe in spanking follow the teachers who advocate it, and contrariwise the anti-spankers follow only the anti-s.

It is the easiest thing in the world to find a doctor who will prescribe the sort of diet you like, and have you ever noticed how plump people run to the Bible to prove right, whatever barbsome beliefs they may hold? Parents do precisely the same thing when it comes to seeking justification for their methods.

Don't get me wrong, however. Nobody admires the psychologist more. The lives of children have been immeasurably benefited and brightened by their researches, while their probings after complexes have contributed much to the happiness and well-being of man. Only occasionally it strikes me some of them act a little balmy, too. They hurt so bad for mental kinks they sometimes overlook the child entirely.

The mother who assumes too much of a psychological attitude in her job may find herself in deep water. There's danger in the intellectual approach to a baby. When little Jimmy is too naughty a spank or two will not set him off on an anarchistic bent, or lessen his affection for his mother. For mama is human, too, and nobody senses it more quickly than Jimmy himself with his alert infant perceptions. It is quite impossible to love a set of rules or a psychology book, which is one reason why we should skim lightly over them as these little battles with our Jimmies occur. Mother instinct tempered by plain common sense can't be beat when it comes to raising children.

HEARD IN CONGRESS

REP. LOUIS LUDLOW (D., Ind.)—The more I see of women in politics and in public activities the more I am pleased to take up their battle. They are making good. They are a great leavening influence in industry and in our public life. As a rule, they stand for better things, and by the use of the suffrage they have obtained they improve the quality of the public service and strengthen the nation's bulwarks.

REP. MONAGHAN (D., Mont.), during the Townsend debate: I rise to a point of personal privilege and the privilege of the House.

The Speaker: The gentleman can not take the gentleman from Missouri off his feet by a question of that kind. The question now pending is one involving the privileges of the House.

Rep. Monaghan: A question of personal privilege plus the privilege of the House is superior to the privilege of the House alone, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The gentleman from Montana will take his seat. (Applause.)

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Our Town
By ANTON SCHERRE

THE fact that a number of Republicans chose the sunflower as a symbol of something or other interested me considerably this week because, if the truth were known, nothing excites me quite as much as the recurrent discovery that a sunflower is good for something.

Apparently, it is good for a number of things. At any rate, it appears to be good enough for pre-Raphaelites and Republicans.

Offhand, I don't know very much about it. I do know, however, that the pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood lived in realms removed from reality and preached a doctrine which, according to certain Democrats, is exactly what the Republicans are doing today. (You don't have to listen to the Democrats, of course, if you don't want to.)

BUT, in the meantime, it can't hurt anybody to learn a little more about the message of the sunflower.

The sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) was first symbolized by Dante Gabriele Rossetti in his Magdalen murals. After which it was celebrated by William Morris in his Oxford frescoes. By that time it was pretty well established, but it really took Edward Coley Burne-Jones to put it across and elevate the sunflower to the apotheosis of an emblem.

When Burne-Jones finished his job the reign of the sunflower was at hand. Everybody had something beautiful to say about it and nobody more so than Mr. Burne-Jones himself.

"Did you ever draw a sunflower?" Burne-Jones once rhapsodized. "It is a whole school of drawing. Do you know what faces they have, how they peep and peer and look arch and winning, or bold and a little insolent at times? Have you ever noticed their back-hair, how beautifully curled it is?"

Well, nobody ever had.

THE death of pre-Raphaelism didn't dispose of the sunflower, however. It takes something.

It kept going as if nothing had happened and when Oscar Wilde appeared on the scene some years later he, too, adopted the sunflower as the symbol of something, although nobody to this day knows what it was.

Ask The Times

Include a 3-cent stamp for reply when addressing any question of fact or information to The Indianapolis Times Washington Service Bureau, 1919 12th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. Legal and medical advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken.

Q—Who is the president pro tempore of the United States Senate?

A—Senator Key Pittman of Nebraska.

Q—What is the source of the sunflower?

A—The book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 11, verse 1, the Bible.

Q—What is the name and address of the United States Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization?

A—Daniel W. MacCormack, United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Q—Does the United States have free trade with any country?

A—The United States does not have free trade with any foreign country. Certain commodities are on the free list and the duty on certain other commodities is lowered to some countries through trade agreements.

Q—How old was Charlie Chaplin when he made his debut on the screen?

A—He was born April 16, 1889, and made his screen debut in 1914.

Q—What is the distance from the earth to the sun, and from the earth to the moon?

A—From the earth to the sun it is approximately 92,900,000 miles; from the earth to the moon it is approximately 238,840 miles.

Q—Give the meaning of the names Mona, Myrna and Moira?

A—Mona (Latin), single; Myrna (Arabic), of myrrh; Moira (Celtic), the great one.

Q—Why are white crosses and circles and other symbols in white put on the glass in windows of buildings under construction?

A—To make the presence of the glass readily apparent, thereby preventing breakage that otherwise would occur through failure of workmen to notice the transparent pane.

Q—Who is the Mexican Ambassador to the United States?

A—Senor Dr. Don Francisco Castillo Najarra.

Q—Who invented safety pins?

A—They were an invention of the bronze age. Among the remains of the lake dwellers of central Europe have been found pins in form exactly like the modern safety pin.

QUESTION

BY HARRIETT SCOTT OLINICK

I do not see, nor shall I ever see, the reason for the ending of all life.

The leaving of all treasured memory.

Will be a slowly turning silver knife.

When April comes again with Je-

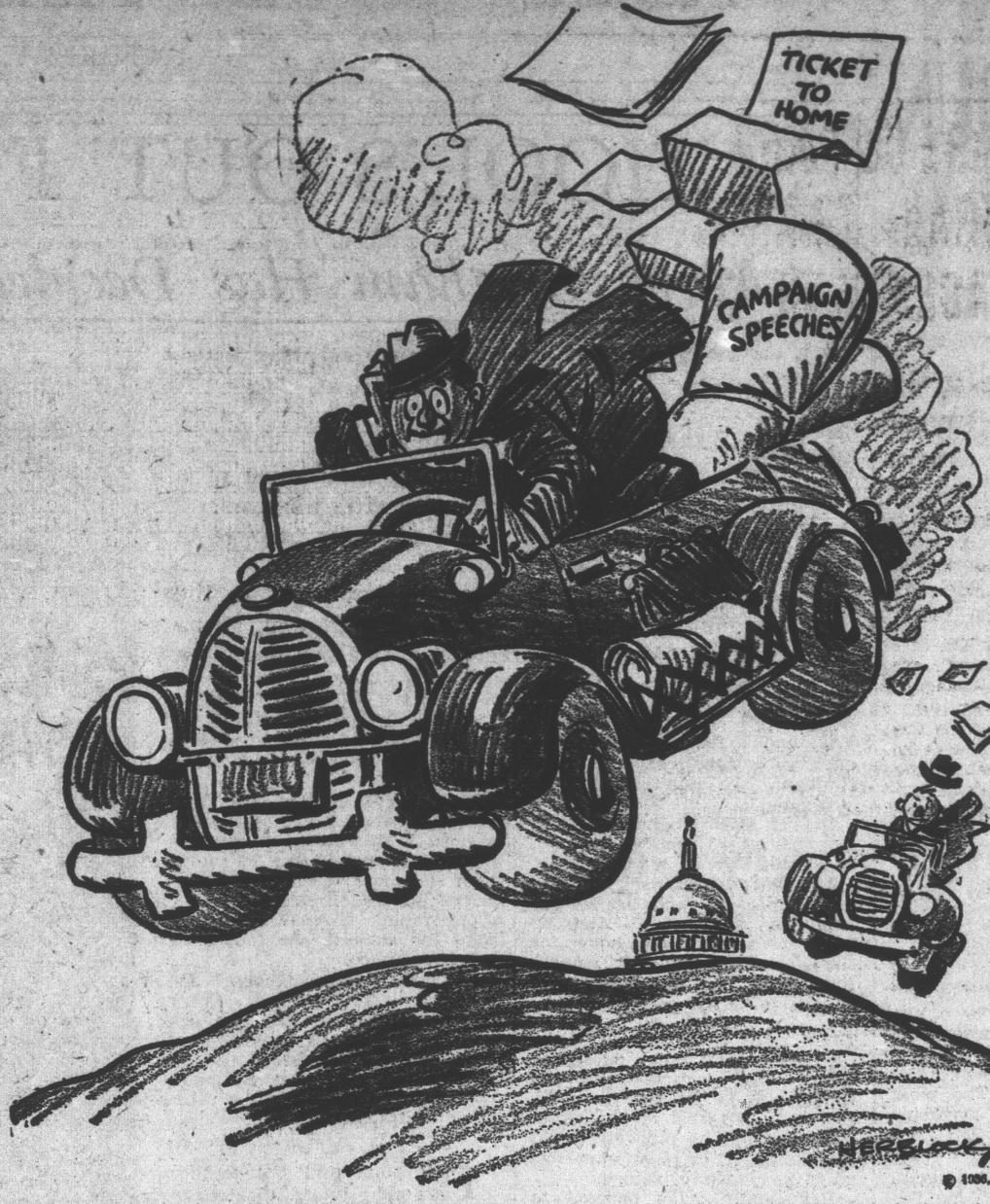
cond birth

In fragrance and in singing and in flame.

Why must a mortal only leave the earth,

And why has God devised this final shame?

NOW THAT THE CONVENTION IS OVER



The Hoosier Forum

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