

# THE HOOSIER FORUM

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns, religious controversies excluded. Make your letter short, so all can have a chance. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.)

## CHARGES SPANISH FASCISTS EXECUTED PRIESTS

By Agapito Rey, Bloomington

There has been a determined attempt to prejudice the cause of the legitimate Spanish Government on the charge that it persecuted religion. We cannot find any Government acts or measures to justify this accusation. The fact that long before the rebellion broke out some churches had been converted into Fascist arsenals and that the first shots were fired from them brought some intense feeling against the churches and some were attacked by irresponsible individuals.

But at no time do we find the Spanish Government antagonistic to religion or the Church.

The Basques are the most ardent Catholic people in Spain. Nevertheless, they remained loyal to the government of the republic.

They are fighting to preserve the autonomy or state rights which they obtained from the republic and which a dictator would take away from them. The Basque clergy, while not taking an active part in the war, remained faithful to its people. When some Basque towns were taken by the rebels the clergy suffered the same fate as many other noncombatant Basque patriots. They were arrested by the hundred and a good many were executed without the formality of a trial.

On Dec. 2, 1936, the autonomous Basque government presented to a delegation of French Catholics a list of 31 priests executed by the Fascists. This list was reported in the London Times Dec. 3 and published with other details in the international magazine "Esprit." Let me extract from the official record the names of some of those martyrs of fascism.

Alejandro Mendicute, 45, priest of Hernani, executed without trial Oct. 23; Jose de Gurea, priest of Mandragon, and Jose Marquiegu and Leonardo de Guri, both vicars of Mandragon, all three executed Oct. 24; Jose Sagorna, young vicar of Berriatua, executed last day of October; Father Otano, the last of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Aldosa, executed early in November; Jose Iturri Castillo, priest of Marin, executed on Nov. 6; Jose Penagaricano, 63, vicar of Marquina, executed Oct. 28; Jose de Ariztimuno, 39, prominent priest and writer, executed early in November, and Jose Adarraga, priest very advanced in age, executed about Nov. 18.

In addition to the details of the above executions, the official report of the Basque Government gives many other cases of persecution endured by the Basque priests at the hands of the Fascists. The military has no use for religion unless it can prostitute it to serve its aims.

## SUPPORTS HOME RULE BILL IN LEGISLATURE

By C. R. Fitzpatrick

The proposed County Home Rule Amendment to the Indiana Constitution, introduced in the General Assembly by Senator Arnold, follows almost the exact wording of a similar provision in the Ohio Constitution, adopted by the voters of that state in 1934.

A county home rule provision was incorporated into the Constitution of California more than 25 years ago and county home rule has now become a well-established fact in that state.

In the meantime, several other counties have adopted the principle. The amendment is in accordance with the 1936 platform of the Indiana Democratic Party, which reads: "The Democratic Party reaffirms its belief in home rule and self-government." It is in line with the recommendations of former Governor McNutt. . . . It is also in line with the recommendations of the Indiana State Committee on Governmental Economy and the National Municipal League.

## Salutary Effect on Officials

In states where the plan has been adopted only a small percentage of the counties have found it necessary to change their form of government, because of the salutary effect which such an amendment has on county officials.

Another benefit to be derived from home rule is that local experimentation with different forms of government is possible. Under home rule a new type of county government is possible and probable and the county of the future may develop as a strong urban and rural municipality, bringing to the citizens enormously increasing functions with relatively smaller expenditures. Another percentage of home rule is that it will promote

civic pride, responsibility and interest in local affairs.

Our present machinery of county government was not planned to meet the needs and conditions of our day and age, but was an historical accident of the days of the stage coach, the oxcart and the covered wagon, and was predicated on the principles and conditions of that

## DEMANDS ON OFFICIALS HELD TOO GREAT

By Hiram Lackey

The Times realize the significance of the demands which it makes upon Mayor Kern and Governor Townsend? In effect, you urge these officials to ignore the obligations of political friendships and to live ahead of their own times to make decisions independent of their friends—all to make the merit system real and practical for the common good.

It is interesting to study the lack of courage of The Times when faced with a similar problem in its own field of journalism.

The Times editor has professional fellow-editors whose misrepresentations and deceptions should be exposed for the public good. But The Times, as a rule, deletes all criticism that is written by readers to expose other newspapers.

## COURT PLAN ENDANGERS LIBERTY, WRITER SAYS

By Carl Humble

I want to compliment The Times on its recent editorial expressing disapproval of the President's plan to reorganize the Supreme Court. To approach this grave question without political bias is a public service.

As this is a matter involving the continuance of the constitutional plan of our Government, it should be considered by all, without regard to politics or personalities. The experience of all history shows there can be no safety or human liberty unless we keep all three departments of our government separate and independent. It must not be a government of laws, not a personal government.

The amendment does not make the error of attempting to prescribe the county manager or the county mayor plan.

## SUPPORTS PRESIDENT'S COURT REFORM PLAN

By Charles M. Flagg, Richmond

We stand on the threshold of a great political struggle. It will decide whether this nation is to have a democratic government, or whether it will continue to permit certain groups to rule through the reactionary wing of the Supreme Court.

## TARKINGTON'S "DICTIONARY" HELD CONTRADICTORY

By Alden R. Bracewell, Shirley

Booth Tarkington opposes the President's Court proposal on the ground that it would destroy the dictionary of the Constitution. In his view, the justices are not concerned with the desirability of acts

Uncurbed power in the hands of one man eventually creates the tyranny of monarchy, in the hands of any group the tyranny of oligarchy. Even if we had a man who was all-wise and had the virtues of a god, such man would soon come to the end of administration and be replaced by another who might be neither wise nor good.

Thus, eventually, selfishness and greed would enslave all. It is necessary to keep each department of government entirely separate and independent, each a check on the other, as provided by the founders of this republic.

In reality the President's message lays siege to a citadel of special privilege, in which our courts seem to be. Its enactment, if the President's appointments are wisely made, will transform the Supreme Court from an ultra conservative to a liberal body. It will make a New Deal possible.

The greatest depression in our history, in which our nation almost collapsed, saw a great people attempting to solve by democratic means the problems of modern economic life. The Court struck down one recovery measure after another.

Lincoln was faced with the same kind of a Court and he said: "The candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the Government upon which vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably filed by the decisions of the Supreme Court, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having, to that extent, practically resigned their Government into the hands of that eminent tribunal."

Faces set stubbornly to the past, despite the mandate of the people, the Court decided that industry, agriculture and labor were still in

one man's hands.

Our income now is \$12 a week and if we are forced to pay more rent I don't know what we shall do.

There are many people in a similar position.

It is decidedly unfair and unjust.

Wages do not increase universally, especially not enough to warrant the

fact that rents are too high already. If a house rents cheaply, it is a "dump."

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