

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1937

IL CENSOR

Suppose we were to pick up our newspapers one day and find buried on an inside page along with the gout ads a formal decree signed by Franklin Roosevelt alleging that the British press had been unfair to American armed forces and summarily recalling all American news correspondents from London.

Suppose on the next day, and the next, and the next, we were to look through our newspapers and find nowhere in all the columns a single British news item or picture—not even anything about the coronation or David Windsor and Wallis Simpson. Suppose, also, that we twisted the dials of our radios but heard no mention of anything occurring in the greatest empire on earth, and went to movie theaters and saw newsreels from which all British scenes had been expunged.

If you can stretch your imagination that far, you probably also can stretch it far enough to imagine what would soon become the American state of mind. And how by word of mouth the most fantastic gossip would spread among us about the doings of the British Empire—from one person that the Canadian armed forces were massing on our northern border, from another that British men-of-war were anchored off Bermuda, preparing to attack our Atlantic shores, and from another the whisper that Hindu regiments had been landed in Mexico and were moving north toward the Rio Grande.

WEIRD, isn't it? Yet censorship such as that described above actually has been put into effect in Italy, by order of Dictator Mussolini. In Italy today in so far as the customary channels of information are concerned, the empire on which the sun never sets has ceased to exist. Il Duce did this because he got mad about what British newspapers were saying regarding Ethiopia and Italian meddling in the Spanish war.

But there is one thing which even the mighty Benito cannot control, and that is word-of-mouth gossip. And we doubt not that fantastic rumors of the sort we imagined above are even now gaining currency among the people of Italy. Ours is a continent far removed from the British sphere of influence, but Italy's is a peninsula jutting athwart the British life-line, confined in an inland sea guarded by British Gibraltar at one end and British Suez at the other.

And be they Americans or Italians, when people cannot get news they create rumors, manufacture suspicions and spread fears.

We in America have every reason to be thankful that this is something which certainly "can't happen here." Some of his enemies call Franklin Roosevelt a dictator. But any President who would undertake what Mussolini has done would be laughed at. Newspapers would send more correspondents to London, and print more instead of less British news. And if he persisted in any effort to carry out a censorship, courts would enjoin his agents and put them in jail. Congress would impeach him, and courts then probably would commit him to an insane asylum.

It has been said that democratic government is not as efficient as Fascist government. But it is certainly more comfortable.

MUDDLING THROUGH 1000 YEARS

WRITING of the beauty of English scenery Mark Twain said:

"After all, in the matter of certain physical patent rights there is only one England. Now that I have sampled the globe, I am not in doubt. There is a beauty of Switzerland, and it is repeated in the glaciers and snowy ranges of many parts of the earth; there is a beauty of the fjord, and it is repeated in New England and Alaska; there is a beauty of Hawaii, and it is repeated in 10,000 islands of the southern seas; there is a beauty of the prairie and the plain, and it is repeated here and there in the earth; each of these is worshipful, each is perfect in its way, yet holds no monopoly of its beauty; but that beauty which is England is alone—it has no duplicate. It is made up of very simple details—just grass, and trees, and shrubs, and roads, and hedges, and gardens, and houses, and vines, and churches, and castles, and here and there a ruin—and over it all a mellow dream-haze of history. But its beauty is incomparable, and all its own."

And as with the countryside, so with the Coronation; over it all that haze of history. The anointing oil, the sword, the robe, the ring, the scepters, the crown, the book, the trumpets—each an emblem in a ceremony precisely the same as was the ceremony of a coronation a thousand years ago. For 10 centuries England has been a going concern. Why?

While attempting a simple answer may seem presumptuous, we venture one nevertheless. It's that thing which is ingrained in the English temperament—compromise.

Ability to rock with the punch, to avoid lost causes, to stay in the middle of the road, and muddle through, to yield when yielding is called for, though face is lost—those qualities are as much a part of the typical Englishman as are the hedges typical of English scenery. And we believe they explain why through all the stress and strain and strife that have beset her and the world she is still doing business at the same old stand.

Y. W. C. A. MORTGAGE-LIFTING DRIVE

A CAMPAIGN to raise \$70,000 to lift the mortgage on the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A. branch and to replace interest payments taken from the endowment fund was opened formally with a dinner last night.

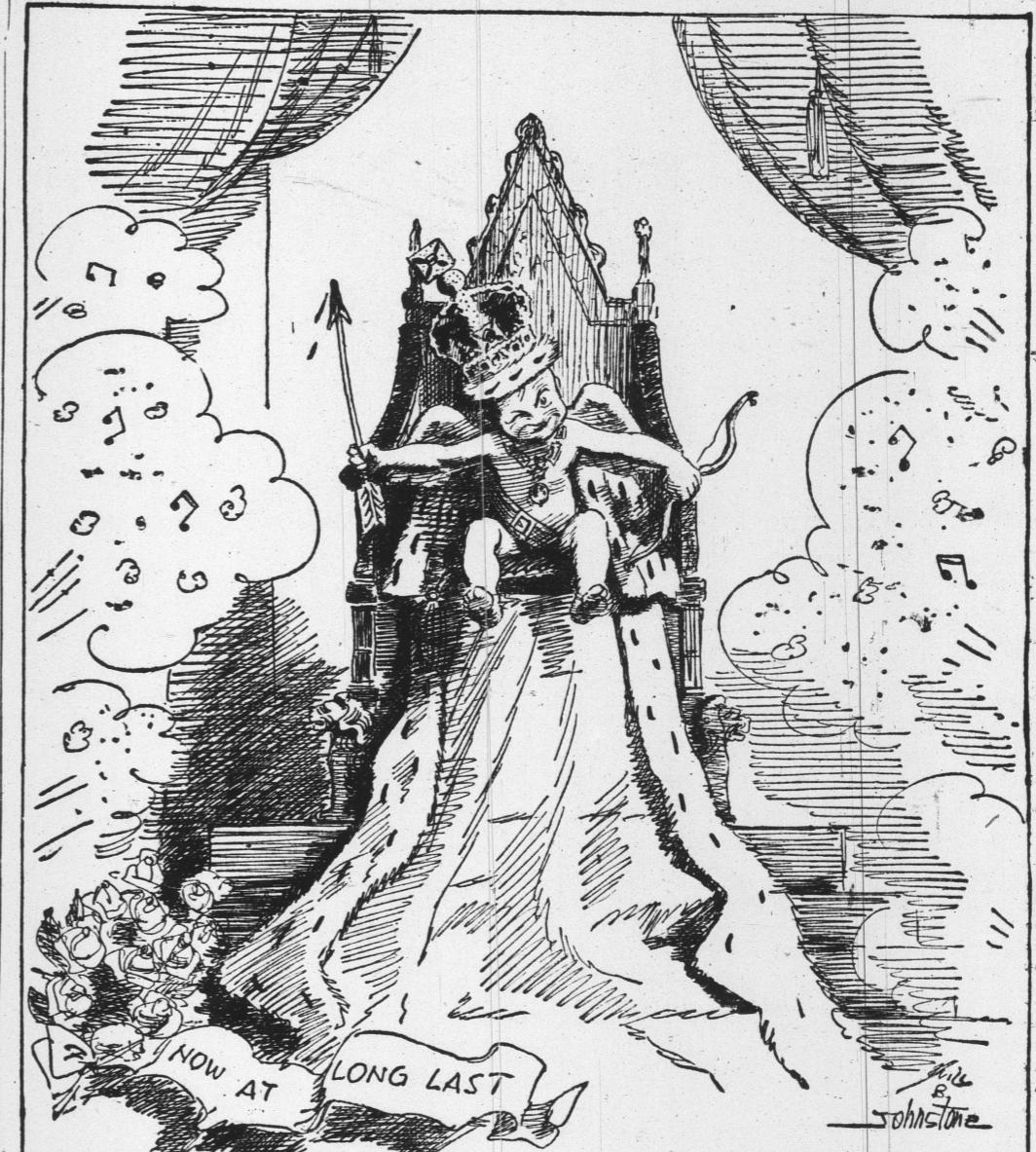
The Y. W. C. A. has been a force for social good in Indianapolis for 42 years. It offers guidance, shelter and companionship to women and girls often not reached by any other group. Last year 5322 girls away from home were taken care of at a nominal fee at the three branches here.

All Indianapolis wishes the fund-raising drive success so that the Y. W. C. A.'s efforts may continue unimpaired.

Ain't We Got Fun!—By Talbert



The Real Coronation—By Johnstone



Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Mussolini Is Angry at British Journalists for Telling How Italian Troops in Spain Flew Before Ladies

NEW YORK, May 11.—These dispatches have no desire to cause international complications and therefore will ignore the interesting conduct of Benito Mussolini's invincible legions in the Spanish war. The British journalists have been less discreet, for they gave stirring descriptions of the invincible legions in their dashing advance to the rear pursued by the Communist rabble and followed that incident with word-pictures of the Duce's heroes in flight before a platoon of Spanish ladies.

It appears that the conquering hosts of the new Italian empire took one look at the Spanish ladies, threw away their rifles—punctured with gold from their mothers' wedding rings—and jumped into the sea.

They did not wait to ascertain the ladies' intentions.

In retaliation for this publicity and for frequent publication of the words Caporetto and Adowa in the British press, the Duce has withdrawn all the Italian journalists from England, a sad blow to the British race. The words Caporetto and Adowa strike an unpleasant note in the Duce's soul. They are not fighting words, exactly.

British journalists are orneriness about some things, however, and whenever the Duce threatens to unleash his invincible legions against Great Britain they inquire whether he means the same sort of invincibles who wrote the names of Caporetto and Adowa in large, if not exactly lustrious, letters in Italian history, and who dashed rapidly to the rear in Spain.

In the way they mention feats of the invincible legions there is more than a faint suggestion that the British are unimpressed. Their sales-resistance may be due to the recollection of the time when they themselves pulled out of the war in France and rushed down to Italy to turn the Italian's life-stock and equipment and lose that, to become croppers and hired hands.

One suggestion is a special capital-gains tax on profits derived from land speculation—to check one of the forces that bring on mortgages, and to help stabilize land prices at a level that will make profitable farming possible.

Another is to provide modest loans and expert guidance in farm practices and management in order to help prevent small owners from slipping into tenancy, and to help the masses of tenants, croppers and laborers to improve their living standards and earning power and to begin their climb up the ladder.

Submarginal Lands A third is to buy up and retire from cultivation submarginal lands that cannot be farmed at a profit. These there are millions of acres, unfit for the plow but well-suited for return to forests and grass range.

A fourth is to improve the leasing system, through co-operation with state and local agencies, with a view to giving tenants greater security of tenure and encouraging them to take better care of the land.

Unless these, or similar steps to accomplish the same ends, are carried out, the most advertised part



Mr. Pegler

The Hoosier Forum

I wholly disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

MODEST LOANS HELD CHECK ON TENANCY EVIL

By "Independent Farmer"

The most hopeful and constructive phases of the report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy are those which propose ways to check the spread of tenancy.

Ours is a young republic. Yet in the comparatively few years of its history, our rural population has been changed from one that was predominantly of the freeholder class to one that is fast becoming preponderantly of the tenancy class.

We never worried much about conditions responsible for that change, and we had free lands in the West and the nonowners could move on to it and stake out homesteads

But there are reasons for becoming alarmed today about the causes which are forcing 40,000 farm-owners a year to sink into tenancy. The Government has to provide something more than an equivalent of the homestead.

Would Solve Nothing

For merely to arrest the present trend by buying up 40,000 farms annually and turning them over to tenants free—which would be a modern-day version of the homestead method—cost, at \$4000 a farm, would be \$160,000,000 a year. And it would solve nothing and get us nowhere.

The President's committee therefore quite properly turned its attention first to remedies for the conditions that have caused so many freeholders to mortgage their land and then lose it, becoming tenants, and then to mortgage their livestock and equipment and lose that, to become croppers and hired hands.

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Another is to provide modest loans and expert guidance in farm practices and management in order to help prevent small owners from slipping into tenancy, and to help the masses of tenants, croppers and laborers to improve their living standards and earning power and to begin their climb up the ladder.

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

URGES CAREFUL DRAFTING OF LAWS

By W. Stone

The purpose of the first Frazier-Lemire Mortgage Moratorium Law was the same as the purpose of the second. But the first law was cut down and the second was upheld, in both instances by unanimous vote of the Supreme Court.

It was the weakness of the old Bankhead tenant bill, which almost passed last year, that it provided credit and nothing more.

The intention of Congress was to cope with a real emergency that had arisen in the farm belt, where a long period of bankrupting prices had brought on a rash of foreclosures, which in turn had aroused resentment and mass resistance.

Congress undertook to set up an orderly, court-supervised bankruptcy procedure, to enable farmers to compose their debts and hold onto their farms. The first law was hurriedly drafted and rushed through Congress by the threat of filibuster. But when the law was applied, it was found that its loose language denied substantial rights to mortgage holders, depriving them of property without due process. So the Court ruled it was unconstitutional.

To meet the Court's criticisms, Congress redrafted the law, writing in provisions that safeguarded the mortgagee's rights and at the same time extended more liberal terms for debt composition and retirement to the mortgagor. And to this second law the Court has given its blessing.

In all this, of course, is an object lesson which should make Congress pass a resolution calling the attention of the judge to the First Amendment to the Constitution, and to the following provision of the Wagner act—"Nothing in this act shall be construed so as to interfere with or encroach in any way the right of the people to assemble, petition the Government for redress of grievances, or to petition the Court for a writ of habeas corpus."

Also should be brought to the judge's attention that fascism has not yet been established in the United States.

SUGGESTS ACTION AGAINST PRIVILEGED

By Bill Mooser, Crawfordsville

During the past months we have heard much about that inordinately radical group of propagandists in our midst, the privileged interests. It seems to me that now there is opportunity to do something about it.

This month most of the privileged interests will be in London honoring the coronation of their King and doing obeisance to traditional lords of the Bank of England over all high places. While they are gone, my, not pass a law declaring them to be emigrés and requiring that before they re-enter the country they take an oath of allegiance to the Constitution?

Then we would have the schoolteachers, the privileged interests, and the political office holders sworn to protect the Constitution. With that, the Constitution ought to be pretty safe.

DAILY THOUGHT

By Dora Allen

Put your heart into my hands

Always for me to hold,

Until 'death do us part'

Let me cling to that heart of gold.

Place your lips upon mine own

Ardently and yet discreet,

Until all life has left me,

Let me cling to those lips so sweet.

I DON'T know the total cost of these 10 dams, but it is prodigious. No such project for navigation alone would ever be recommended by any engineer outside of an insane asylum.

The installation at Muscle Shoals was a crazy product of war hysteria—to produce nitrogen from the air. It is also now advanced to bolster TVA constitutionality as necessary for national defense.

For power production and river control, TVA is magnificent. But like the St. Lawrence seaway, it is not primarily a navigation project, but a power project. Why? The TVA literature says: (1) For navigation, (2) for

national defense, (3) for flood control and (4) incidentally, secondarily for power.

Part of that is hokey. The Supreme Court has thus far authorized the Federal Government to spend public funds only to improve navigation and defense—not solely to create power. But it has said that when, in this case, power is created "incidentally" as a by-product, and presumably then only, can it go into the power and the business.

Accordingly, TVA is primarily a "navigation" project, only incidentally for power. It would have been attempted at all, according to this, except that it, as when all the proposed and constructed 10 dams are built—and only then—there will be a nine-foot slack water channel from the mouth of the Tennessee to Knoxville—700 miles with a lift of 700 feet.

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But up until the time of his departure, the President was adamantly against any modification of his demands.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Question of Compromise on Court Bill Up to President; Insiders Believe He Will Stand Pat on Measure Until Court Rules on Social Security

By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Whether there is a compromise on the Supreme Court issue now rests with one man—President Roosevelt.

Administration leaders in Congress are ready to make concessions on the proposal for six new justices. Several even believe, privately, that a compromise is necessary to pass any kind of a judicial bill, and what to them is more important, in order to avoid a dangerous rift in Democratic ranks.

However, if the President insists on standing pat, the leaders, like good soldiers, will go down the line for him.

If the President would agree to reduce his demand to two additional justices, making a Supreme Court of 11, he could cut the ground from under his foes and his bill would skyrocket through the Senate by an overwhelming majority.

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