

The Indianapolis Times

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ROY W. HOWARD President
LUDWELL DENNY Editor
MARK FERREE Business Manager

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

TUESDAY, OCT. 12, 1937

'WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE'

DEATH sentences should be commuted for the 30 or more persons now doomed to die in Marion County traffic before the year is out.

That is the aim of Accident Prevention Week being observed here this week. Even partial success will not be easy.

In the absence of a comprehensive safety program, the most effective weapon so far has been strict enforcement. Four months ago The Times began a detailed survey of what happened to traffic offenders brought into Municipal Court. When the check for May and June showed fines were low, that costs were suspended in most cases and that a high percentage of convicted persons escaped through judgments withheld or suspended, the public was aroused and the courts began to crack down. At about the same time the accident curve began to decline.

The average traffic fine for September was \$10.03, highest since the campaign began and probably the highest in the city's history. It was more than four times the June figure. Compared with the May figure of costs suspended in 52 per cent of the cases, only 13 per cent escaped court costs in September. And auto fatalities were proportionately lowered.

One tangible result is that the Indianapolis traffic toll stands at 79 for 1937, a decrease of 11 under last year's figure at this time. In the county, 116 have been killed, one less than at this time last year, which means increase in the accident death rate outside the city.

Safety Week is a reminder that we must soon come to grips realistically with the problem of keeping Americans from killing or injuring themselves accidentally at the rate of 11 million a year.

MR. BLACK'S BURDEN OF PROOF

THOSE who believe there is a constitutional cloud on Mr. Justice Black's title to a seat on the Supreme Court bench may remain of the same opinion still. The Court itself, however, has refused to examine that title, and Mr. Justice Black apparently is in his seat to stay.

Therefore, the question of Mr. Black's fitness as a judge is one that can be answered only by the record Mr. Black makes upon the nation's highest bench.

We can only hope that the record may prove so flawless in defense of human rights and civil liberties, and so free from the taint of prejudice with which the Ku-Klux Klan was smeared, that all doubt concerning him will, in the fullness of time, be cleared away.

But this is a case where, all circumstances considered, the burden of proof, as the lawyers say, is distinctly on Mr. Justice Black.

OGDEN MILLS

WE must face the facts and either tax for revenue or confiscate capital and invest it in public enterprises.

"If I were not satisfied with the present order, if I were not convinced that the capitalistic system is the best man can devise, then I'd face the facts and go openly to the other extreme.

"To demobilize capital in a time of economic depression is like demobilizing an army in time of war. Demobilize a thousand men and you have a thousand individuals. But you don't have an army.

"Whatever is to be said of the so-called rich men of the country, they created wealth for themselves and in doing so created wealth for millions of others in developing the resources of this great country."

It was Ogden Livingston Mills speaking—Secretary of the Treasury in the Cabinet of Herbert Hoover—in April, 1932, before the Senate Finance Committee, denouncing proposed upper-bracket tax rates that were mild compared to those in effect today. That was a time when the "capitalistic system" and "rich men" generally were in bad political repute. And it was in the teeth of a Presidential election, when other like-minded public men sang low in their creed of conservatism.

But Ogden Mills didn't object to being called a Tory. He was belligerently and aggressively conservative.

Born wealthy, educated at Harvard, poised for a dignified career at the bar in New York and in the inner financial circles of Wall Street, Ogden Mills ran out on the social tradition of his class. He entered the hurly-burly of public life. In Congress, and later as Undersecretary and Secretary of the Treasury, he won respect for his mastery of fiscal, tax and financial problems. (Incidentally, Ogden Mills was the first outstanding advocate of abolition of tax-exempt Government bonds. Tax-exemption and a graduated income tax, he said, could not exist side by side.)

With few public men has this newspaper disagreed more frequently or more vigorously than with Ogden Mills. Yet for few men did it have greater respect. He was able, intelligent, hard-hitting, honest in his convictions.

Thinking over the whole list of Republican conservatives still alive, we can't off-hand name one of the caliber of Ogden Mills. That there were not more of his capacity goes a long way toward explaining why ours is now a one-party Government, and why a heady Democratic majority in power gets away with so many blunders.

A CURE FOR WAR

AMONG the fine ideas that have come to the world from China is one from Chang I-lin, 72-year-old ex-minister of education for the Chinese Republic.

Chang proposed an army of oldsters, with none of the fighting men under 50 years of age. This, he argued, would conserve the nation's youth. Unfortunately, when he went to Nanking to sell his plan to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek he was turned down.

If those who make wars had to fight them, they would find some way of getting along without wars.

Not Much Change Since Columbus' Time—By Herblock



The Blind Leading the Blind!—By Talbert



Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Unfidelity of Public Buildings Is Common to All Parts of Country; It's 100 Per Cent American Custom.

NEW YORK, Oct. 12.—Anyone having occasional business in public buildings in this country is certain to be impressed by the soiled and frowsy state of these temples of government which are pretty much alike everywhere outside Washington. In the national capital, it must be admitted, they do things much better. But our city halls and county court houses and the public office buildings in our state capitals as well as postoffices and Federal court houses are of a depressing sameness as to dirt, dust, smoke stains and smell. Just as jails, poorhouses and asylums have a distinctive odor, as of misery and disinfectant, those others possess an atmosphere more readily sensed by the spirit than the nose.

The Chicago City Hall and County Building, and the New York Municipal Building are alike in this respect, and the new palace of justice hard by the Tombs, though dedicated it seems but yesterday, already has acquired its layer of grime inside and out. It seems that holders of public office and those having regular business in such structures have somewhat the same feeling about them that little boys have about new football pants. Little boys believe that new football pants should be smeared with mud and grime stains without delay, and a new public building remains new no longer than it takes the occupants and regular frequenters to foul it with the traditional marks of untidiness. That is almost time at all.

A BUILDING owned by private capital, though handling much greater traffic, may be kept in good order for many years, and with no greater and probably much smaller staff. But turn over a court house or city hall to a lot of judges and other politicians, and inside two years it will have deteriorated to the level of all the other buildings of like character. There will be tobacco juice on the tiles and around the feet of the columns, cigarette butts flattened and frayed in all the corridors and greasy dust in the elevator cages and on the walls of the shafts.

Doors will be blocked off, makeshift partitions erected and furniture stowed in the halls. And over all there will be an air of frowsiness difficult to describe but easily perceived and recognized as typical, for it is not to be found in any other buildings. It is the spirit of the public service, the feeling that because the place belongs to the public nobody has any obligations to respect it.

THE architecture has changed, and now runs pretty much to the boxcar simplicity, which is supposed to combine efficiency with charm. Older ideas always called for a billowy female holding a shock of wheat in one hand and a sickle in the other and a big muscular guy holding a sledge hammer and a geared wheel carved out of Indiana limestone. But the difference is only superficial, and you may enter a new edifice or an old one wearing a blindfold and detect no difference, although you will be instantly aware that you are in a public building.

General Hugh Johnson Says—

Columnist Asserts His Criticism Against Administration Will Continue; Denies Opposition to Certain New Deal Policies Has Political Motives.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—I have been increasingly critical of some of the proposals of the Administration since the first of the year. I was critical of some before the last election. But when the quadrennial choice was presented between these proposals, including what had been criticized, and the proposals and the man of the opposition, under our two-party system you had to choose. I chose the former and supported it as hard as I could.

I carefully warned that, as a newspaper critic, I had criticized before and would continue to criticize after the election. This Administration knowing that, accepted that support and it as hard as I could.

Now that the criticisms continue, I am told by some New Dealers that it is partisan, turn-coat, Al Smith, Liberty League disgruntled, sour grapes and intended to reverse all policies I have supported and support all policies I have opposed.

MY faith was well known. I was an ardent supporter of the first New Deal which was:

Labor must have an unhampered right of organization and representation, free from employer domination. It must be protected by real and effective legislation outlawing child labor, sweat shops and controlling maximum hours and minimum wages. In industry and commerce some means must be found to pro-

The Hoosier Forum

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

PRaises Record of New Justice

By John E. James

You and other papers have made much to do about Justice Black having joined the K-K-K, clearing prejudice and bigotry as the reason he should not be seated. You say little about his ability or fitness for the position. I have read a number of editorials in papers all over the country and all are the same trend.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer has belittled his record. It says "The public will not forget it." Is that plain dealing? Why does it tell us who they are and who controls their utterances. Who do they think the public is? Riff-raff, cheap politicians and job holders? They all play up this element of hate. I say shame on them, they are Americans when they say that 60 or 70 million good Christian people are bigots, prejudiced and hate the Negro, Jew and Catholic.

Many Klan leaders did not care about race or religion. Their great aim was to get control of and rule America.

There is no doubt Mr. Black never knew very much of the inner workings of the Klan. He joined it, like many other good people at the time, because it was popular and might get him a few votes. He does not now, and never did, discriminate between race or religion, as shown by the fact that his secretary of many years is a Catholic and in selecting his staff now he has a Negro-Catholic and Jew. Not one Protestant.

I have looked up Mr. Black's record and I firmly believe he will make a fine Justice.

ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION CALLED INSINCERE

By C. W. Smith, Evansville

What's the idea of particularly praising President Roosevelt because he deplores the wastes of the country? These wastes of natural resources, and in other respects, always have been going on. They were in public eyes 40 years ago, to my recollection. All decent people were against them.

Can you find anything in the Roosevelt career, before he was elected President, that sets him above millions of other men in conservation ideas? Can you point one notable instance of activity or his initiation? Can you point one instance in which he went down in his own pocket to do something to stop the waste of humanity and resources?

And where in this hodgepodge

now sailing under the banners of "democracy" in Washington, can

(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.)

you find one item purely Rooseveltian to his credit?

The man is a showman, an actor, that's all, a pretender. Everything he has undertaken in public behalf or so alleged, has the earmarks of impracticality and no indication that he has the mentality to examine but one side of a subject or question.

Those of the public now sick of the Roosevelt myth, are going to be more sick of it unless they succeed in hiring Black and the Ku-Klux Klan to put on the White Robes and scare him out some way.

Is tax and debt equalling more than average income "conservation"?

ARGUES ROOSEVELT STILL IS POPULAR

By William Lemon

Roosevelt's trip West has proved that he is more popular today than ever before. Yet his opponents tried to convince the masses his Supreme Court packing plan and appointment of Senator Black to the bench had ruined his political career.

A man of the people and for the people and not for the special privileged few, he has built himself a foundation like the strength of Gibraltar and is trusted by the people.

Farmers have not forgotten their mortgages, nor Labor the bread and butter. Labor still remembers when it asked for a living wage and was

COURAGE

By TONI

Courage is that inner thing that makes one stand at the danger spring;

That makes one stand, the week with fright;

And face the world with what is right;

It is the faith and trust in God.

Which makes one rise above the sod.

And care not what the others say.

So long as he does his best each day.

DAILY THOUGHT

If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.—St. Mark 3:25.

BY UNITING we stand; by dividing we fall.—John Dickinson.

met with court injunctions. Farmers remember 3-cent hogs fed on 10-cent corn, and we all remember when we asked "for bread and were given stones."

REduced SPEED TRAFFIC RULES ATTACKED

By W. L.

What is the matter with some people? Anybody with an ounce of brains knows you can get more cars through a certain point at 50 miles an hour than at 25 miles an hour. Why is it other cities that would make Indianapolis look like a county fair have speed limits much higher?

If it takes a car longer to stop at a higher rate of speed than at a slow speed, is there no reason to say traffic doesn't move faster. If I'm following 5 feet behind a man moving 50 miles an hour, I'll still be 5 feet behind him when he stops. It doesn't make any difference if it takes him 2 feet or a 1000 feet to stop.

Half the people in town do not know how to drive to start with, or the police don't know how to handle traffic. Why does the Chief of Police have to spend the taxpayers' money to have a traffic expert come from another state to tell him how to do it? There are signs all over town 10, 20 and 30 miles per hour. If that doesn't cause congestion what would? Why is it you can always find traffic jammed up around stop signs?

Here is a tip for the Chief. Make all motorists learn and give proper signals. Stop before crossing through streets. Persons walking should cross at intersections and look before crossing—not afterward. Do not always blame the driver. Speed is a part of the auto for the same reason we are living in 1937 and not in 1837.

BELIEVES VANNUYS CONTRADICTED HIMSELF

By Reader, Frankfort

Almost simultaneously with his arrival from Washington after Congress adjourned, Senator VanNuys made the statement through the press that he thought the President's Court plan; that he judged so from the letters received on the subject.

Later (in his Anderson speech, I believe) he stated that he knew he was committing political suicide when he voted as he did. Certainly the Senator doesn't mean that he thinks it suicide to act in accordance with the wishes of the people. The Senator or some of his followers should reconcile these two statements.

AS Mr. Yates points out, there is no longer any cogency in the old argument that men who are replaced by the machine find re-employment in the making of the machine itself. In the new day it will be a machine which makes the machine. There are robots to the right of us and robots to the left of us. The forces of life can just as easily become the forces of death.

Surely it would be the final tragedy if anybody put into the hands of Hitler or any of his kind that knowledge which would make him the master of the world. Indeed, the power would be too great to belong to any individual or private corporation. Even if the ultimate potentialities of electronic control are a long way off, it is a good bet that the industrial aspect of the world will change more radically in the next 25 years than it has in the last 200. Natural forces belong to all mankind. Before the latent power of the world is loosed we must ourselves be free.

When the forces of death are loosed we must ourselves be free.

Note—American policy toward Japan in the Far East has been reasonably consistent regardless of Democratic or Republican Administration.

A. F. of L. failure to