

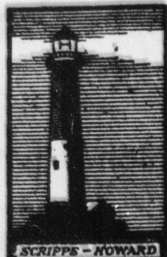
The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

THURSDAY, OCT. 14, 1937

LABOR: PEACE OR FASCISM?

THE A. F. of L., after militantly charging a trick, nevertheless "keeps the bidding open" on the C. I. O.'s beligerently presented peace proposal. So there is yet a trace of hope that the civil war may be ended. But a toning down of temper on both sides must come first, for name-calling and sizzling oratory aren't efficient preliminaries to calm.

We wonder if the leaders of either faction fully envision what they are heading the country for, and then what they are heading themselves for, if they allow this conflict to spread and to get worse.

Already we have seen enough to chart the trend. The jurisdictional strikes here and there throughout the land in recent months are but forerunners of vastly wider trouble if these two armies, each four million strong, fail to sense the damage their continued conflict will cause, and the reprisals from the rest of the public that will be the inevitable result.

It should always be borne in mind that a jurisdictional strike is not a strike in the usual sense. It is not a battle for higher wages and better working conditions. It is a struggle for control—within unionism itself.

In the usual controversy between capital and labor the general public sympathy is with labor for the obvious reason that the rank and file is itself interested in better wages and working conditions. Therefore it wants to see any movement in that direction succeed. But not so when wages and working conditions are not an issue, when the contest is not between employees and employers but between rival unions, with the public in the role of innocent bystander.

HENCE out of a long and far-flung jurisdictional warfare that self-same rank and file will turn on those who are responsible for the tremendous loss such a conflict will cause. Vigilantism in some form will appear. It already has shown its ugly head in certain sections. And the longer the war continues the greater is the invitation to a Fascist counter-movement.

Demands in Congress and state legislatures for drastic limitations on labor unionism will accompany the jurisdictional struggle. And unless peace can be worked out, labor unionism, given through the Wagner act its greatest opportunity in all history, will have wrecked that opportunity by its own actions.

In the meantime the nation, so hopeful that prosperity might be achieved and that higher wages and better working conditions through collective bargaining might contribute to the recovery, will witness industry shut down, unemployed increased, tax revenues falling off sharply, and all the other symptoms of economic paralysis which are the certain results of the strikes, the boycotts and the general disruption.

All that can be prevented—but only by labor.

To the leaders of the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. we commend the words recently spoken by Paul Eliel, head of the Division of Industrial Relations of Stanford University, before the California convention of the League of Women Voters. Forecasting a "revulsion of feeling in the general public so strong that it is likely to lead to Government control of all labor organizations," Mr. Eliel said:

"This is the road that leads to fascism and if the labor struggle sends this country along this dangerous route it will be appalling. Whether those who are responsible for the rift in labor ranks will see their error before this violent public revulsion takes place, only time will tell."

What the two major labor leagues need is a Judge Landis.

THE BRADY GANG

AL BRADY and his lieutenant, Shaffer, died as they and the public expected them to die, except that they didn't have a chance to take any more lives. Covering James Dalhove has confessed four murders by the gang, including the slaying of an Indianapolis policeman, and will be brought back to face that serious charge.

The G-men, Indiana State Police and other authorities who worked long and hard on the case are to be commended. Their work should stand as a warning to every other criminal in the country.

If any other criminal is tempted to surpass Brady, as Brady tried to outdo Dillinger, he should count his days of life and freedom as numbered. The end is sure to come. Many of these self-styled "big time" criminals end up in a penitentiary; others die at the hands of the law they tried to outsmart.

Invariably they are little men, lacking the character to face life's real battles, without the courage to stand up and take it.

A FINE EXAMPLE

YESTERDAY'S headlines told of the deaths of two Indianapolis children in auto accidents. These fatalities did not occur in the city—but the child auto death toll here is too large.

In contrast, a municipality of comparable size, Kansas City, this week completed a year without a child traffic fatality. According to the National Safety Council it is the only large city in the country with such a splendid record. Statistics show that in the average American city of 400,000 a child is killed by motor traffic every 27 days.

Kansas City should be complimented on an achievement that resulted from vigilance by drivers, children, parents, police and school patrols. Its example should be copied.

Maybe those peace talks should be held in this country so the guns won't drown out the speakers.

Aiding France and England must be predicated on that part of the Lord's prayer which says we forgive our debtors.

Walk Right In!—By Talburt



Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Carpenters' Home Employee Writes Same Low Wages Prevail There That Union Deplores Elsewhere in U. S.

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—A man who identifies himself as an employee of the home for aged carpenters, maintained by Mr. Hutcheson's United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, at Lakeland, Fla., has sent your correspondent two communications.

One is a clipping from The Carpenter, official journal of the brotherhood, denouncing the wages paid florists and greenhouse employees in Denver. These people have been receiving from \$10.80 to \$12 for a week of 54 to 72 hours, according to The Carpenter, which says other organized workers in many parts of the country are the victims of similar conditions.

"It would be a good plan," says The Carpenter, "to make a record of these low wages business groups and throw it in the face of the chronic hallyhoosers who insist on unloading on the public the false propaganda that unreasonably low wages do not exist in the United States."

Your correspondent's correspondent places himself in absolute agreement with The Carpenter's contention that such wages do exist, and asks that his identity be kept confidential, because, miserable as the job is which he holds in the employ of a great and prosperous labor union, he needs the money nevertheless.

"I have been told that a dollar a day is starvation wages," your correspondent's correspondent says. "The enclosed article is written by Mr. Duffy, general secretary of the union, and it dwells on the abominably low wages in one section of the country. Let me pause here, however, to state that our wages here at the home come through Mr. Duffy's office, and that, on the whole, we are paid much less, and that our hours are equal to those mentioned in the article which he wrote."

Your correspondent's correspondent then states that in the kitchen department of the national home of this labor union the wages are \$7 for a week of seven days from 6:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.

The hospital staff, he says works in shifts owing to the necessity for a night side, but the working day averages nine and one-half hours and the wages range from \$8 to \$11. The help work from 7:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. on weekdays, he reports, and put in three hours on Sunday mornings for \$9 or \$10 a week.

"ALL overtime is donated," your correspondent's correspondent writes. "Vacations are rare, and there are no set meal hours—half the time you eat and run or run between bites. We tried to organize, led by the initiative of the kitchen help, within the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance, which is affiliated with the A. F. of L., like the Carpenters and Joiners Brotherhood, but we did not get very far. There seems to have been pressure exerted somewhere and our charter was never recognized."

"We are also puzzled by the fact that we are not included in the New Deal's old-age pension plan. Why not? This home is not connected with charity."

Your correspondent does not know why the employees of the national home of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners are excluded from the benefits of the Social Security Act. But probably it goes back to initiation fees and dues exacted by some private and unofficial licensing authorities. Congress may have reckoned that anyone employed in such an organization must be rich.

I DON'T see much difference between the ponderous, pontifical pronouncements of an unnamed editorial writer and the equally opinionated offerings of a guy with his name and mug under the title, except as Peg, himself, once said, the enraged consumer can satisfy his murderous libido on the latter by writing him letters beginning, "Dear Sir, You Cur."

A friend of mine has been conducting an ambitious study with an expert staff which samples public

THINKS LIEF ERICKSON MIGHT AID "QUARANTINE"

By Babson Babitt, Lafayette

Like some of the European states, we elect men to public offices to fix their faces like movie actors and coin phrases. Right now we are advised that the world should keep out of war!

Ho hum! You'll find in the Bible that it won't, also probably in Confucius and Hindu romances. Those old guys back there could write and speak, and what they didn't write and speak was well supplied by King James and his professors.

Now this word "quarantine" is a high roller. We, with our very helpful friends in Europe (whom history, both ancient and modern, proves keep their word impeccably and always), propose, probably "sanctioned" by Secretary Hull and guaranteed by a Roosevelt III or IV, to "quarantine" Japan and probably Italy, Germany and Gen. Franco.

The Lief Erickson Boulevard under construction in Chicago must have rolled over in her grave when she heard what the villains of the Supreme Court were going to the AAA and the rest of the alphabetical exhibit of phonetic spellings! Or maybe old Lief himself was stalking the scenery, wondering what had become of his "First White Child" or why he, a specialist on quarantines, who had properly shut up Columbus and America's years ago, was now being consulted in this current quarantine affair.

But a slight question here might arise. Suppose old Lief should be its "emergency." Same as little Miss Virginia Dare must have rolled over in her grave when she heard what the villains of the Supreme Court were going to the AAA and the rest of the alphabetical exhibit of phonetic spellings! Or maybe old Lief himself was stalking the scenery, wondering what had become of his "First White Child" or why he, a specialist on quarantines, who had properly shut up Columbus and America's years ago, was now being consulted in this current quarantine affair.

URGES ADOPTION OF HOOVER, G. O. P. CONVENTION IDEA

By Ballard Dunn, Los Angeles

Former President Hoover urges a national convention of Republicans. Affirmative leadership of this kind should be met in like spirit. Instead we have inexcusable side-stepping. Only out of the seething debate of a national convention can we Republicans fit ourselves, spiritually and intellectually to meet the New Deal. We have failed in this to date, because we have not yet met the challenge of the du Pont-McNelson smear.

The New Deal was founded on the smear. It continues to harp on it. Out of the smear it has built its scarecrows and on the smear based its "emergencies." The smear was not merely an attack on Mr. Hoover. It went to the very heart of the Republican record. Only after we have met this challenge, therefore, can we reeducate ourselves to Republican principles and refresh ourselves at the fountain of Republican history. Democracies demand clean-cut issues. The New Deal is leading America to the treadmill of forced labor under the collective state. The place for the Republican Party is at the very opposite of such a program. Mr. Farley says the Republican Party is dead, but 17,000,000

opinion on what seems to me the most intelligent plan I have seen. Among other questions which engaged his curiosity was how people reacted on a scale of "badly informed," "well informed," and "very well informed," as among income classes rated "highest," "middle," and "smallest." Three per cent of the rich and 3 per cent of the poor were rated "very well informed," but only 2 per cent of the middle class.

Isn't that the answer to Peg's question? In a country and a pace of life where one man in 48 has time to find out what's going on, another who has nothing else to do but find out, has a double advantage. He can get away with anything. He is bound to rate in information better than 97 per cent of his consumers.

I GET a lot of our letters about a cock-sure columnist who has heated the writers all up by assertions with which they do not agree. I get one satisfaction out of them—"Boy, I certainly relieved you of carking doubts anyway."

Peg is right. It takes a lot of gall to be going around commenting all over everything every day. But if the columnists and editors don't pontificate it would leave the politicians in undisturbed monopoly—and they have a selfishness to serve that might swerve them from the eternal verities far more than the mere cocky complacency of any columnist. If the ukase went out tomorrow to liquidate all columnists, a lot more people would miss Westbrook Pegler than ever missed, say, Huey Long.

The Hoosier Forum

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

(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 to go with them. It is up to the individual. If a man or woman has not the power to overcome the desire to drink or gamble, their soundings should prohibit the two evils.

A strict enforcement of the law is the remedy. Eliminate the beer joints and educate ourselves to the better things in life. If you put your husband or wife at a beer joint, don't expect to get much out of home life. A good time in a saloon or beer joint dulls the happiness in the home and is the main road to the divorce and police courts.

He is a progressive Southerner who plays the top with disregard of the under dog. This Justice brought out by joining the Klan at the time it was at its strongest and could be of social and political benefit. When our President sponsored the Court packing bill, Justice Black as an ardent supporter, received the first court appointment.

In conclusion, let us remember that the Court honor is a permanent position, and any one unwanted by the masses should not receive honor through lack of information received by our honorable President.

BEER-INDUSTRIAL ROMANCES DON'T LAST, WRITER SAYS

By H. V. Allison

As long as boys have a desire to play marbles, men will gamble. As long as farmers raise grain, men will make and drink liquor. Here are two evils long overlooked and steadily gaining ground. Gambling affects only the individual and his family. Liquor, the worst menace to mankind, ruins more homes than all other evils combined. What is the remedy?

LIGHTNING FLASHES

By ROBERT O. LEVELL

I like to see the lightning flash. The bright light it can make; The way it makes a rapid flash. In streaks that often break.

When they go flashing in the air. In day time or the night; When they are seen most anywhere. The lightning shines so bright.

DAITY THOUGHT

The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life; but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.—Proverbs 10:11.

LET us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end, dare to do our duty, as we understand it.—Lincoln.

Labor Problems for the Special Session—By Herblock



It Seems to Me

By Heywood Broun

Broun Makes Belated Resolution: He'll Write No More on Mr. Black Until—(Maybe There's a Joker in It.)

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—There should be a terminal facility for every public problem. Even the most complicated controversy, eventually is talked out to the point where there ought to be a recess or a show of hands.

Specifically, I am thinking of the case of Justice Hugo Black. The complaint has been made that he was confirmed with too brief a discussion period. I agree. But there has been ample debate since. Those who think that the appointment was tragic have a right to their opinion and no amount of argument is likely to change their opinion. In the same way, the partisans who hold that this particular choice was middling good or perfect are by now rattled in their convictions.

Obviously, Republicans and other opponents of the Administration have a perfect right to use the Black issue in those fugitive spots where national issues are pertinent. But I do not think expedient, there is no reason why

the case should not be raised again in 1938 or in 1940. But I doubt very much whether any great proportion of the population of the United States is as much exercised about Mr. Justice Black as a perusal of the newspapers would seem to indicate.

Quite frankly I will admit that, in addition to rather more important persons, your columnist felt that he had been put upon the spot. When the name of the gentleman from Alabama was sent to the Senate I was among the first couple of hundred to say, "This is a swell appointment." Now I would like to take that back. A blunder was made. It was, from my point of view, more a political blunder than an actual one.

MY guess is that Mr. Black will be an extremely useful member of the High Bench. The blemish on his record may even prove to be helpful in the long run, because it is likely that he will be under a special kind of pressure in dealing with issues affecting tolerance and civil rights. Upon such points the minister from Birmingham will have to go the whole hog in espousing the liberal position.

I realize there are sincere people who will not like the appointment even if it turns out well in the long run. They will say that high principles must always outweigh any question of expediency. There could be a long debate on that, and I am interested only in short arguments. Justice Black has been seated. His position is official. At reasonable times the whole issue may be brought up again for sound political purposes. But I do not think that those of us who live with our noses buried in newspapers should be compelled to have Black for breakfast, Black for lunch and Black for dinner time.

IN particular, I am getting weary of the letter to the editor. It is always the same letter. Will anybody join me in a swear-off? This column is going to be dedicated to a no-mention-of-Black program until such time as new evidence comes in or the Justice renders a decision which is properly a subject of new comment.

After reading many editorials I think I have a right to say, "This is where I came in, and I don't want to see all eight reels over again." And lest I break the heart of some pro or anti-Black fan, I will make a concession. The merits of the new Justice should still be subject to debate upon agreement that Mr. Justice Butler's name and fame and antecedents should be thrown into the agenda also.

General Hugh Johnson Says—

Thanks, Peg, for That Wallop at Us Columnists. Now Here's My Reply: If We Don't Do the Talking the Politicians Will. Which Is Worse?

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—Westbrook Pegler did a fine job in his column razing all columnists, including himself, and by an implication as delicate as a kick in the pants—the present writer.

His point is that an undertaking to produce incessantly, from day to day, a cluster of critical comments on as many subjects as are covered in an encyclopedia by an authority whose knowledge of most of them must necessarily be a thin film, takes either the cheek of a brass monkey or the ego of a bug-house Bonaparte. It is plain true, Peg speculates on the question: "Why is a columnist?" He concludes they are just stuck in the paper as vaudeville stars are to the comic strips, although not one-tenth as popular.

I think they are a device to offset editorial comment so that people who don't like the policy of the paper can find a different slant they do like among the columnists and still remain customers. If they don't like one columnist, there are usually others with a different view. It is a scatter-gun shot at public favor.

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

C. I. O. Leaders, Like Their Rivals in A. F. L., Bicker Among Themselves; Auto Workers Union Feud Continues as Martin Makes 'Reds' an Issue.

By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—The C. I. O. meeting in Atlantic City this week, has one or two dents in its armor which indicate that all is not harmonious beneath the surface.

In pulling up its vast membership of 4,000,000 members and outmaneuvering the A. F. of L. in most of the mass-production industries, the C. I. O. has fallen into one of the chief mistakes which ripped open its rival—that of internal bickering.

Chief prima donna row has been between David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers, and Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

Finally they took their case to John L. Lewis. He decided that since Mr. Hillman was organizing the textile industry of 1,000,000 workers, it was only fair that the 75,000 workers in the knit-goods industry should go to Mr. Dubinsky.

CHIEF fly in the United Automobile Workers' ointment is President Homer Martin himself. Mr. Martin is a great haranguer, can whip a crowd into a frenzy. He became head of the union partly because of that, partly because he was a compromise between two rival factions.

Those factions still exist, one of them under the influence of Jay Lovestone, former head of the Communist Party, who was expelled by Moscow some years ago.

Mr. Lovestone today is the bitter foe of communism and has organized the "C. P. O." or Communist Party Opposition. His present complaint against communism is that it is not radical enough.

Homer Martin, under the domination of Mr. Lovestone, simultaneously charges other U. A. W. leaders with being "Reds" and dangerous radicals. Truth is that these "Reds" are some of the old-timers among the automobile workers, the Ruether brothers, Robert Travis and George Edwards, men who did the early organizing, staged the first successful strike at Flint, Mich. Mr. Martin, a newcomer in the industry, served as an automobile worker only two or three months. Now he has been transferring these original organizers to out-of-the-way posts.