

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1938

"THIRTY MINUTES TOO LATE!"

THE British are always 30 minutes too late!" That was the favorite saying of the late Franklin-Bouillon, for many years head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the French Chamber of Deputies. What he meant was that always, in times of crisis, the Government of Great Britain refuses to commit itself until the die is cast.

Then, the French statesman observed, she usually comes in, and on the right side, but to late to head off an otherwise avoidable war.

There is a good deal in what he said. Despite reports of sweeping concessions on the part of Czechoslovakia, discharge and punishment of those implicated in the frontier incidents, and so on, the news from central Europe becomes more and more ominous every day. And still London hesitates.

President Roosevelt has said that we are prepared to defend Canada. And Secretary of State Hull has repeatedly called for the solidarity of the democratic nations against "international anarchy." But the British Government has yet to give either France or Czechoslovakia the definite pledge which, as Franklin-Bouillon suggested, might stave off conflict.

We do not for a moment pretend to say that Great Britain should tell Paris or Praha that, right or wrong, she would come into a war on their side. That would be both stupid and dangerous. But Britain should tell Praha that, all possible, honorable concessions having been made, and Germany having attacked her just the same, she would spring to her defense. And she should tell Herr Hitler of this decision in no uncertain terms.

NOW, if ever, a diplomatic stitch in time would likely save nine of a military nature, in short the peace of the world. Lord Grey, in his "Twenty-Five Years" (in the British Foreign Office), tells dramatically of the division in the Cabinet in July, 1914. He says, "We still thought we were an island." So the Government was split wide open for and against war. A word of warning at Berlin at that moment might have saved 35,000,000 World War victims, but it was not spoken until too late.

Today there is every reason to believe there is a similar split. One faction believes, with Lord Baldwin, that Britain's frontiers are no longer the chalk cliffs of Dover, but the Rhine. The truth of the matter is that today, just as it was in the days of Napoleon, Britain's frontiers are wherever Herr Hitler's ambitions may place them—along the Vistula and the Danube, on the shores of the Adriatic and the Black Seas, on the Bosphorus or even the banks of the Euphrates. For if the Fuehrer can destroy Czechoslovakia the way to eastern Europe and the Mediterranean will be wide open and so will the road from Berlin to Bagdad and British India.

The former German corporal, no less than Bonaparte, sees big. And just as the sun of Austerlitz in Czechoslovakia became the dawn of the little Corsican's day as master of Europe, so Czechoslovakia may open up the way for his Nazi imitator. Unless he is stopped somewhere along the line, and soon, it requires no violent stretch of the imagination to see him—five or 10 years hence—dictating to puppet states all the way from Gibraltar to the Urals. Czechoslovakia, occupying as it does the most strategic position across central Europe, would almost certainly become a corridor leading Hitler to far wider horizons.

That is the larger issue which Britain today has to face—not merely whether or not the Sudeten Germans are granted the privilege of doing the goosestep for Der Fuehrer.

MR. MORGENTHAU AND MR. MICAWBER

YOUR Government in Washington has just borrowed some more money—\$700,000,000 this time.

So maybe it's time to look again at the Government's financial affairs. And for the facts we turn to the Treasury's statement at the close of Sept. 7, the latest one available.

It shows that as of that date the Government's gross debt was, in round numbers, \$37,634,000,000. A year ago on the same date the gross debt was \$37,160,000,000. So we're deeper in debt than a year ago.

It shows that so far this fiscal year expenditures have been, again in round numbers, \$1,628,000,000. Last fiscal year at the same time expenditures totaled \$1,419,000,000. So we're spending more.

It shows that total revenue receipts for the fiscal year through Sept. 7 were, in round numbers, \$874,000,000, as compared with \$967,000,000 in the same period last year. So we're taking in less.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau floated his new \$700,000,000 issue with ease, at low interest, because your Government's credit is still A-No. 1.

But even in the face of that fortunate fact, we hope Mr. Morgenthau, remembering that we're deeper in debt, that we're spending more and that we're taking in less, will pay heed to a report which is said to be on his desk.

The report, press dispatches have said, suggests that he recommend to the next Congress a rejiggering of the income taxes so that the Government can get more money and so that persons in the so-called middle classes will be required to pay their rightful share of the cost of Government in direct, visible, and therefore painful, taxes—the type of taxing that makes citizens conscious of how the Government spends their money.

As a good financial administrator, we also hope Mr. Morgenthau remembers his Dickens, and especially Mr. Dickens' "David Copperfield," wherein is given a prescription for individual happiness or misery which applies as well to governments. Said Mr. Dickens' Mr. Micawber:

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen-six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Hines Trial Proves That Policy Racket Isn't the Million-Dollar Business It Was Supposed to Be.

NEW YORK, Sept. 10.—Whatever the outcome of the Jimmy Hines trial there will be a deflation of the tablecloth estimates of the amount of money involved in the nickel and dime policy racket. It takes a hundred one-cent plays, 20 nickel plays or 10 dime plays to make a dollar's worth of business, and still the turnover in New York City alone was reckoned at \$100,000,000 and even as high as half a billion dollars a year.

The testimony, however, has dealt with mere hundreds and thousands, and in the first serious presentation of actual evidence there has been no confirmation of the fantastic guesses which in the past were repeated so often that the public weakly half accepted them as truth.

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Please, Little Girl, Go Away!—By Herblock



SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 1938

Gen. Johnson Says—

Hitler Deceives His Own People When He Declares No War Blockade Could Starve Germany Into Defeat.

BETHANY BEACH, Del., Sept. 10.—A striking part of Mr. Hitler's first Nuremberg speech told the German people that, if war comes, they need not fear being starved into defeat by any blockade shutting off their supplies of food and military material.

That is exactly how Germany was beaten in 1918. That was not merely because her routes were blocked by hostile armies and navies. There were a few gaps left but even these were closed by an almost world-wide Allied economic strategy. She was denied vital Chilean nitrates by several clever enemy financial moves which cornered the whole supply. Similar action beat her at the sources of her Swedish iron, Spanish mules and elsewhere hides, leather, rubber, oil and various rare metals necessary for indispensable alloys. For lack of wealth and credit, Germany is now far less able than she was then to counter and resist this kind of financial blockade.

Germany entered the World War with vital supplies of iron ore in Alsace-Lorraine, which she no longer has. She started with a greater reserve supply of equipment than any of her enemies. She is not in such great advantage today and what advantage she has is fast disappearing through rapid preparation by potential enemies.

HER conquests in Rumania and on her eastern front saved her from an earlier starvation in oil and bread-stuffs in the World War. She is a long way from being able to count on any such break now.

Such figures as have been estimated on her reserves of materials of all kinds, allowing for even grotesque margins of error, indicate that, if Hitler's assurance to the Germans means that he has enough reserves and domestic sources to make blockade an "ineffective weapon," he is trying to bluff the world and cruelly to deceive his own people.

There is only one other thing that the first Nuremberg speech could mean, but the text indicates that it doesn't. That is that Germany would have access to outside sources for strategic items.

In the first place, she has neither sufficient cash nor credit to buy. In the second, if the alliance against her should be, as now appears likely, her only clear physical opening is through Italy, which is itself lacking in what Germany needs.

TO what extent could sea-borne commerce be landed in Italy and forwarded to Germany? To the precise extent that the combined British and French Navies would permit it and on the precedent of the World War, they would blockade not only the high seas but the ports of origin of any supplies destined to Mr. Hitler.

Of course, there is the remote possibility of a great Italian naval victory in the Mediterranean, but even an Italian alliance is too thin a chance for Hitler—much less an alliance plus an Italian sea triumph.

Mr. Hitler's boast of military self-sufficiency is bunk and bluff except on one assumption—a swift and successful invasion of Czechoslovakia plus French and British inaction. That is a long chance and, if Hitler intended to take it, why didn't he strike when he had the immense advantage of 10 days' mobilization? A German attack seems incredible now. But how can you tell what a desperate madman may do?

The Hoosier Forum

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

30-A WEEK PLAN DRAWS READER'S FIRE

By J. D.

According to Raymond Clapper, California is about to vote on an amendment to its Constitution which will pay to each unemployed person over \$50 \$30 in a new California state money every Thursday. It is this which is the acme of insanity. These dollars must have a two-cent stamp affixed every Thursday, for they will be worthless Friday morning unless the stamp for yesterday has been stuck on them.

Persons receiving these dollars will hasten to spend them before the stamp is affixed; those who will have to spend them and who pay their bills monthly, knowing that they must have to stick three to five stamps on them, must raise the price on goods to make up the loss. Very soon will wholesale and retail prices will be fixed at so much in state money with possibly 50 per cent discount if paid in U. S. money to

(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.)

But even if not, the Chamber of Commerce will soon induce every merchant to refuse to accept such money in spite of state law.

SUPPORT IS SOUGHT FOR TOWNSEND PLAN CANDIDATES

By C. F. R.

From now on let our watchword be "concentrate." We must, in order to accomplish victory, vote for the candidates recommended by the Townsend National Headquarters. Unless we vote for those candidates, we need not expect prosperity.

The Townsend Plan is the best solution yet offered to relieve the nation from depression. It is sane, sensible and fair. It will not add any extra cost to government because it is a pay-as-you-go plan.

It is the duty of every citizen to vote for the Congressional candidates who stand for the Townsend Plan. We must concentrate for victory.

TAKE PROPS FROM UNDER PRICES, READER URGES

By Middleman

All of us want prosperity to return and it is interesting and sometimes amusing to read of the various schemes which are being advanced to bring it about.

One group wants a large part of

WELCOME RAIN

By MAUD COURTEEN WADDELL

When rain comes softly down like silver threads to earth, it lends life renewed birth.

When rain comes softly down in silver threads to earth, this crystal nourishment holds glowing wonderment.