

The Indianapolis Times

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RILEY 5551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1939

THEN AND NOW

IN the mail today came a bulletin from the National Recreation Association devoted exclusively to an address given last fall by A. C. Sallee, Indianapolis Parks superintendent, before the Indiana Association of Park Superintendents. The bulletin quotes Mr. Sallee as saying:

"The American attitude toward government is changing. The people have a right to demand, and are demanding, the same standards of efficiency in government as Americans have always insisted for the professions and all important walks of life. Why not discard the antiquated slogan, 'To the victor belongs the spoils,' and substitute the more modern idea, 'To the victor belongs the responsibility for more efficiency in government?' Men and women should be appointed to public office on the basis of ability, training and experience. Public opinion has demanded and is securing higher standards in the administration of its affairs through the merit system."

But this isn't what the Indianapolis Parks Board has been practicing. And only recently we learned that the Park Board decided to select summer park employees from lists provided by the Democratic County organization—in the face of Mr. Sallee's own admissions that the old, political grabbag method had led to some shocking incidents. Mayor Sullivan says, however, that the park jobs should go to the people who voted for him—the loyal party workers.

"Public opinion has demanded," said Mr. Sallee, "higher standards."

It still is.

EUROPA'S SAMSONS

LESS than 24 hours after the speech of France's Premier Daladier, Premier Mussolini has come back with a warning that Italy does not intend to remain "a prisoner in the Mediterranean."

And Virginio Gayda, foremost editorial spokesman of the Fascist regime, followed this with the assertion that Premier Daladier wanted to "shut tight the half-closed door" to Franco-Italian negotiations.

This is not exactly the sort of get-away that the rest of the world had hoped for the beginning of a new attempt at rapprochement between the two countries. It was to be expected that both sides would make a show of firmness, but if peace is to be preserved firmness must be tempered with reason.

Italy, France and Great Britain have but two alternatives: They must find a way to share the Mediterranean peacefully as partners, or fight. If they can't talk it out, they will have to shoot it out.

If they go to war, they will do so in the certain knowledge that there will be no winners. All three will be licked. For as Roy W. Howard reports in his series of cables now appearing in this newspaper, every informed statesman abroad as well as at home is convinced that war now "would probably wreck every existent government in Europe."

We hope the Samsons now roaming the halls of Europa's temple will have brains commensurate with their power.

HE LEADS FROM THE REAR

SENATOR BARKLEY of Kentucky, who holds the title of Senate Majority Leader, has outlined a program for the remainder of the Congress session. As is to be expected from the source, it is an expansive program—ranging all the way from national defense to cotton export appropriations.

Notably absent from his list of 10 measures to be enacted are the two which probably could do most good to stimulate business recovery—simplification of corporate taxes and perfection of the National Labor Relations Act.

But businessmen need not be disheartened. They can comfort themselves with the reflection that at no time in the past has leader Barkley ever known what the program was. And there is no reason to believe he is any better informed now. Only a few days ago, "Dear Alben" stood on the floor of the Senate and ridiculed suggestions that the Administration was contemplating a cotton export subsidy plan. But 24 hours later President Roosevelt announced the plan.

On the matter of revising corporate taxes, Senator Barkley said several weeks ago that nothing would be done about that. But quickly word was passed out from the White House that work on tax revision was continuing—as indeed it was, and still is, in the Treasury Department and the Senate Finance and the House Ways and Means Committees.

So we should say that, long before Mr. Barkley can depart from the Capitol to his home in the Bluegrass, the probabilities are that both the Tax Revision Bill and the Wagner Act amendments will be considered and acted upon in the Senate. We think this because both public opinion and economic necessity demand these to promote recovery and provide more jobs for the unemployed and more revenue for the Government. And when the time comes, Leader Barkley doubtless will do as he has always done. He will follow along.

8900 LIVES SAVED

THE country has reason to be very proud of the definite progress in street safety. February was the 16th consecutive month to show an improvement over the same month of a year before.

The February death toll was 1810, or 250 less than the 2060 lives lost in February, 1938. The National Safety Council estimates that 8900 lives have thus been saved since the period of unbroken traffic improvement began in November, 1937.

This record must not be spoiled. Are you annoyed sometimes at what seems over-regulation of traffic?

Don't be, for it is this continual drumming away that is maintaining the improvement of which we are all proud.

Surely the saving of 8900 lives is worth little occasional inconvenience.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

DIES NOW CHARGES SOME REPORTERS JEERED INQUIRY, but He Should Have Ousted Hecklers Then and There.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—For the first time in the long and sometimes acrimonious attempt of the present Government to discredit, if not destroy, the American press, the conduct of reporters has been called into question, the accused being Martin Dies, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Hitherto only the publishers have been accused, generally on a charge of distortion, suppression or false emphasis in the interests of their political beliefs and of the advertisers from whom they receive part of their income.

Rep. Dies distinctly says that not all the reporters who covered his committee were guilty of the conduct of attorney of which he complains in some. But he frankly resents jeers, sneers and audible contemptuous comments on the part of individuals from whom newspaper readers received accounts and impressions of the hearings.

He says some reporters revealed hostility in a manner that amounted to heckling of witnesses who testified as to activities of Communists and "fellow travelers," and even of the committee itself.

THE Washington reporters are not united on any political front or even as a craft, and if Mr. Dies had rebuked unseemly conduct he doubtless would have found objective reporters to state the facts of the case for the public to judge. In the absence of any positive move on his part, however, the heckling by some journalists escaped mention in the papers because by tradition the side comments and conduct of reporters are not news.

The volume of straight news in Washington is so great that descriptive or atmospheric reporting seldom finds room, and reporters never regard their own kind as figures in the picture. In this case apparently tradition rather than a purpose to conceal was responsible for failure to report an important phase of the hearings. By courageous action, Rep. Dies could have jogged the press table out of this tradition, and he has himself to blame for not doing so. This failure is the more important because of Rep. Dies' resentful feelings that his committee did get a very bad and unfair press in some respects.

The Shirley Temple distortion still rankles, although in the end, the committee emerged with the victory and those who took liberties with the true meaning of the testimony only smeared themselves.

THE main fault of the press seems to have been that some executives and reporters, both, misjudged the public interest in the Dies Committee and in some cases preconceived everything that the committee might do on the basis of low opinion of Rep. Dies' ability. Some approached the story with the conviction that it was farce and were embarrassed to discover that the country thought otherwise and wouldn't be satisfied with light or heavy attempts at humor, which, incidentally, is not a specialty of Washington journalism.

Rep. Dies, however, studied his subject and his mistakes of procedure and is now more confident of himself and more determined than ever.

If next time he should find the nerve to eject disturbers who abuse their press privileges to hamper the work of a Congressional committee, objective reporters among the many will have no choice but to give honest accounts of the incidents.

Business

By John T. Flynn

Congress Not Likely to Accept Eccles' Dare on Strict Economy.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Maybe we are going to have what might be called "Mr. Eccles' experiment." Mr. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve System, has been one of the leading exponents of the spending of borrowed money by the Government.

Now the germ of economy has infected not only Washington politicians but the country as well, or so we are told, and critics of the Administration are demanding that we cut down spending. Mr. Eccles, recognizing the depth and breadth of the demand for this, suggests to Congress and the economists that they try their medicine. It is difficult to escape the feeling that the suggestion is a little impish, but certainly it offends the gentlemen in Washington an opportunity to test out their principles.

To be sure, it tends to treat the population as guinea pigs and it implies the suggestion that the guinea pigs be put for a space into a particular sort of atmosphere—the atmosphere of economy—and see what happens.

This debate about the effect of Government spending has been going on for a long time. It may well be that for a certain type of pragmatic mind, nothing will settle this debate but an outright experiment and here is a grand chance to do it. All Congress has to do is to stop the spending and then sit around and see what happens. Of course, I am quite sure what will happen. The sound of the falling pieces will be so loud that it will be heard around the world. Of course, Congress is not going to do this. And therefore this experiment is out, but it might try a milder one. It might try, let us say, cutting surplus expenditures in half. If it does, I am equally sure that this will be followed by a crash.

People Being Fooled

But I am also equally sure that the Government cannot go on spending as it has in excess of its revenues. And therefore I am sure it must do two things. It must increase its revenues by taxation and reduce its spending of borrowed money, which means in return the politicians must stop fooling the people by talking about tax reductions they have no intention of making.

But I am also sure of another thing and that is before it can do any of these things without inviting a great crisis, the Government must take certain other dispositions which will make private investment possible. There must be a Congress and a President with the courage to say with absolute definiteness that there is going to be no monkeying with money. Second, it must deal with the serious problems which are found in the great areas of investment such as building and the railroads.

A Woman's Viewpoint

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

GARDEN CLUB members all over the country are neck deep in a campaign to banish billboards from the highways. In this effort, our state president tells me, they are joined by the Safety Councils, the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Parent-Teacher Association.

I suppose there is bound to be a certain amount of opposition, since a good many people must make money from this form of advertising. And one is reluctant to ruin the livelihood of another these days. Nevertheless, it can scarcely be denied that most of our highways are an affront to any lover of beauty. More than 600 billboards shut off the view on one of the main arteries into our city—we counted them.

Some of the sights the billboards shut out are not particularly lovely, which makes me feel more than ever that if they could come down we might be moved to do something to improve our suburbs.

Our Garden Club president also says that if these signs are removed they constitute a highway menace, since motorists have no business taking their eyes off the road; and if they are not removed they serve no good purpose anyway—which sounds like a pretty good argument any way you look at it.

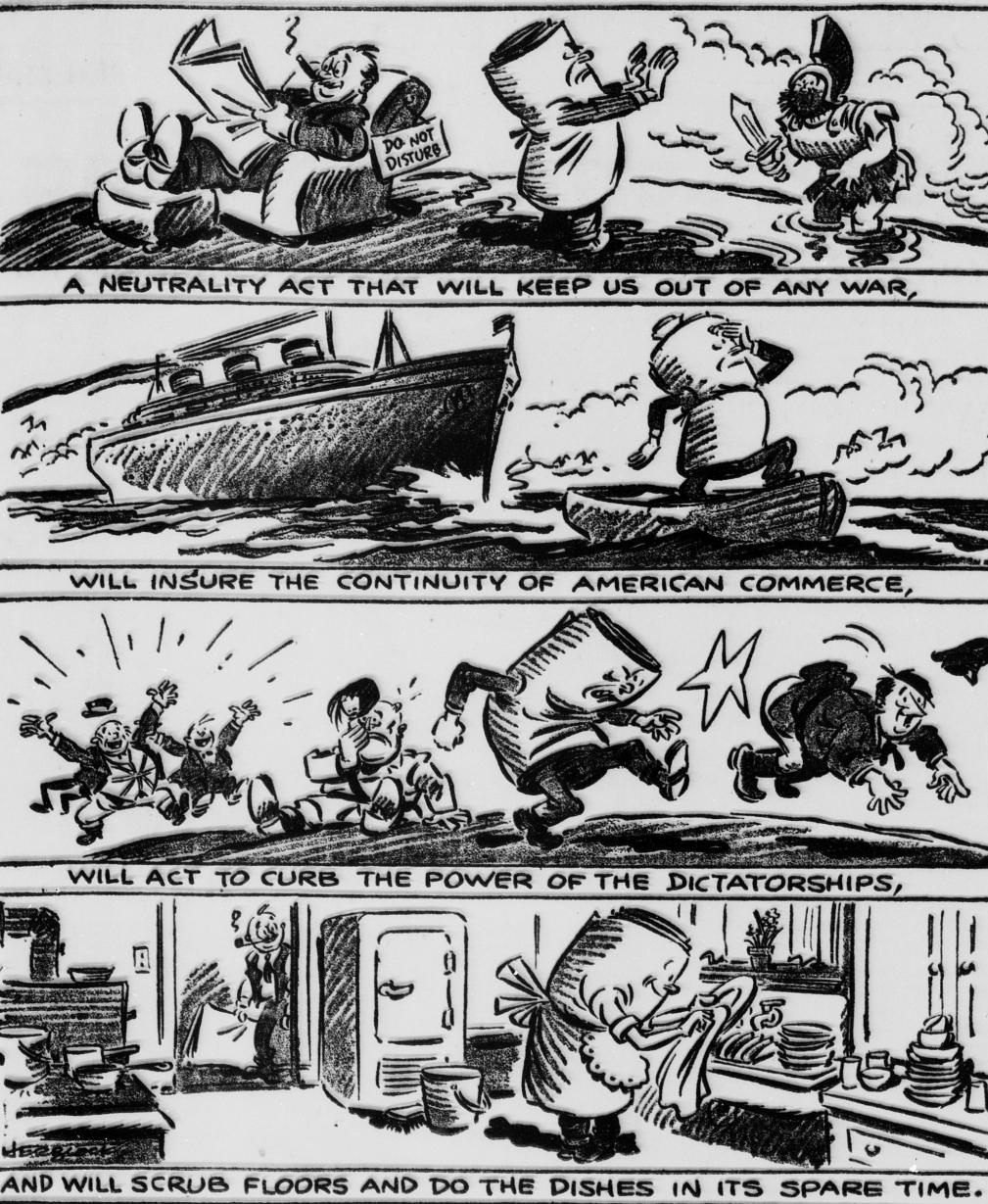
Whatever happens, the ladies are within their rights. It cannot be consistently charged that this is none of their concern, since cleaning up is a sort of passion with women. Certainly we have plenty of unfinished business in that line in all parts of the country.

A little effort and co-operation would make it possible for all our highways to be beautiful and every city suburb appear less like a slum district.

If our City Fathers would join our City Mothers in a clean-up campaign, we might get the whole countryside looking decent.

1 CERTAINLY. Every normal man likes gay colors. If he delights in colors and delights to see his female strut in them, then

Isn't This What We Want?—By Herblock



WILL INSURE THE CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN COMMERCE,

WILL ACT TO CURB THE POWER OF THE DICTATORSHIPS,

AND WILL SCRUB FLOORS AND DO THE DISHES IN ITS SPARE TIME.

The Hoosier Forum

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

FLOWERS RUINED, BLAMES ROLLER DERBY FANS

By I. F. H.

I for one would like to go on record as strenuously objecting to the Roller Derby.

I can't sleep for it and after last year, when my flowers in the front yard were ruined by people driving right up to the front door to park, I really am rabid on the subject.

It's a shame that these events can't have some restrictions placed on them.

2 UNCLE MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

By W. T.

Once there was a king in Thrace called Midas. He loved gold, not because of what it would buy, or for the good he could do with it, but for itself.

Dionysius, spirit of spring and gladness granted him a wish—the power that would cause everything he touched to turn to gold. As Dionysius vanished, Midas sank into a chair. It turned at once to gold. Enraptured, he walked through his halls, turning every object to gold, golden to golden.

In short, we can use it, which is the only way to prevent our Golden Touch from becoming the curse of Midas.

3 AMERICAN EMIGRANTS NOW A POSSIBILITY

By Ralph Weber

The whole history of the United States has been a history of immigration.

The gradual filling of the vast spaces of the country by streams of people coming from all the world has made up America's story.

Now it is possible that another chapter will be added which will be quite different. Brazil may open

(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.)

a medium of exchange is monetary gold valuable.

We can see that some of it gets to friendly countries which will use it to keep trade and money tied to gold.

In short, we can use it, which is the only way to prevent our Golden Touch from becoming the curse of Midas.

4 HOPES WE HAVE SEEN THE LAST OF BINGO

By Mrs. B. L.

I am quite happy about the closing of the bingo games. I believe they encourage widespread gambling. I admit that those who are inclined to gamble will find other ways of gambling, not that bingo is unavailable, but many people who hated gambling went to bingo games and thought nothing of it. With bingo in practice many mothers, who would never think of gambling in any other form, attended bingo games and took their children.

I have known many hard-working people who went regularly, not for the fun of it, but on the chance that they might double their money. There is not so much happiness afterward as some people would like to believe. People in this city took their bingo games seriously. Many of them did not go just to play for a while; they made a job of it, going early in the morning and staying all day.

Contrary to what some people believe, they will not be much "bootleg" bingo. Bootlegging has to be on the quiet and it takes a lot of suckers to make a good bingo game for the promoters.

There are enough ways to gamble now without permitting bingo to be legalized. So I hope this is the end of bingo.

5 PREFERENCES WAR TO CONCENTRATION CAMP

By Ruth

Hitler has definitely proved his imperialistic ambitions in these last few days. We should prepare for any eventuality in spite of certain orators preying on our fears of "sending our youth to be killed."

Chamberlain hoped Hitler would stop at Sudetenland. If Chamberlain doesn't try to frustrate Hitler after knowing his true character, we must suspect Chamberlain of ulterior motives. Personally, I would rather fight than be in a concentration camp.

6 DAILY THOUGHT

And he said unto her, Daugh-ter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.—Mark 5:34.

7 FAITH is the eye that sees Him, the hand that clings to Him, the receiving power that appropriates Him.—Woodbridge.

8 SENDING OUR YOUTH TO BE KILLED

As he sat in raiment white as snow and cried aloud, 'Tis not a vision. Behold, the Crucified is risen.

9 DAILY THOUGHT