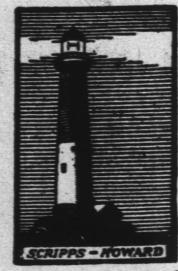


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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1939

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

COMMISSAR MOLOTOV'S revelation of Russia's proposition to Finland reminds us of the story of the darkly named Mose. A fellow with ideas met Mose on the river bank.

"See that rowboat, Mose? Borrow it. Then borrow a saw. And now you see that driftwood out there? You snake it ashore, cut it up and cord it, and I'll give you half."

Finland, "invited" to send missions to Moscow, is "asked" to shift a few borders and to make way for a Russian naval base on some strategic Finnish soil.

This, to Molotov's way of thinking, is very magnanimous. He describes the plan as meeting Finland half-way.

The scheme includes certain other "exchanges" by which Russia would acquire some islands in the Gulf of Finland, and shake down to this:

That Russia would end up with complete control of the Baltic, would be in a position to take over Finland without having to fight, and would have a pistol pointed at all of the rest of Scandinavia.

This is called mutual assistance, and is offered by the same Russia whose custom it is to protest sanctimoniously against imperialism.

Not the least unpleasant of the by-products of war and power politics is the way your intelligence is insulted.

THE DRESSING ISSUE

FOR once, President Roosevelt has failed to get at the heart of a question. The real Thanksgiving problem is not the date but the dressing.

Unless something is done pretty soon about the subversive activities to which the stuffing of the bird has been subjected in recent years, blood is likely to flow in the streets.

A hasty survey by our men, operating at full Gallup, shows that public sentiment is afire over the foreignisms introduced into turkey dressing by saboteurs disguised as cooks—all definitely un-American. Instead of sticking to the stale bread and simple seasonings of our founding grandmothers, they have introduced fancy fertilizers, chopped inner-tube and Venetian blinds.

The American public, Mr. Roosevelt, may stand for an occasional oyster—although those of oldest stock feel that oysters should be served separately at Thanksgiving time as escalloped oysters. It may even accept, at other times, the German "wurst" under the not-debts-but-investments terminology of "hot-dog." But, sir, it will not much longer stand for infiltration into American kitchens of fellow-travelers with the Syrian shallot, the Sicilian garlic and the alien aniseed.

American dressing for Americans, Mr. Roosevelt, should be as dry as a speech by Calvin Coolidge. Its condiments are few and homely. Its essential flavor comes from the turkey. Yet—unsatisfied with introducing figs, raspberries, liverwurst, whipped-cream and occasionally the caboose of an abandoned freight train—these no-good bummers from afar have made dressing a soggy mess unfit for anything but launching a ship—if you have a ship.

Things have gone too far, and advancing the date may only shorten the time before the people take something into their own hands besides a drumstick. And, oh yes, Mr. President—to heck with chestnuts.

NEEDED ON THE JOB'

CONGRESSMAN MARTIN of Massachusetts, Republican leader of the House, announces that he will oppose any motion to adjourn the special session of Congress. He says:

"In my judgment, the people of the United States want Congress to remain in session, to devote itself to the difficult task of keeping this country out of war and improving our domestic situation. There are still nearly nine million unemployed people who must be given consideration; our farmers in many sections are in real distress; we are experiencing a tinsel war boom, without real prosperity or solid business recovery; the railroads are in need of long-term legislation; serious problems of national defense demand immediate attention."

Another Republican, Alfred M. Landon, says:

"The Congress in session is our greatest safeguard for peace. It is far more important than any automatic legislation... In session it keeps its hands upon the reins of Government. Furthermore, it is in line with our constitutional conception that the chief executive is not alone in his responsibility for foreign affairs. If the nation is in peril, as the President's proclamation of 'limited emergency' indicated, our Congress is needed on the job in Washington."

We'd like to hear Democrats speaking up to the same effect. Republicans Landon and Martin have a real issue here, a good issue—too good to be monopolized by one party.

THE FLAW IN PETITIONS

MORE than 400,000 Ohio voters signed the petitions which have forced onto the state's ballot, for Nov. 7, the mathematically unworkable Bigelow pension plan.

Many of the petitioners no doubt believed sincerely that the plan would work. Others probably signed just to oblige a canvasser. And perhaps some of them were like the University of Michigan upperclassmen who signed, without reading, a petition circulated by freshmen. It read, in part:

"We furthermore declare that the freshmen are our superiors in wit and wisdom, and that our stupidity is surpassed only by the mental lethargy of the overpaid faculty that teaches us."

We hope all the Ohio petitioners, and likewise the California ham-and-eggers, know just what they're voting on, come Tuesday.

MAKING MONEY

TWO men were arrested in a WPA printshop at Milwaukee, the other day, after they had printed \$12,600 worth of counterfeit \$5 and \$10 bills on a power press.

Counterfeiting, of course, is very, very wrong. But this, at least, can be said for the two Milwaukee men: They were trying to operate one sure enough self-liquidating WPA project.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Ham-and-Eggs Is Not a Pension Plan, but an Absurd Scheme to Turn California Over to a Dictator.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 2.—The incompetents, failures, half-wits and thieves who rule the emotions of this city have got something at least in the issue known as ham-and-eggs, which goes to the voters of California on Nov. 7 in the form of an amendment to the State Constitution.

This is a proposal to create an absolute dictatorship. It is the most audacious, the most absurd and, at the same time, the most horrifying suggestion ever presented to the voters of any American community. Disguised as an old-age pension plan whereby all persons who are rising 50 years and who are, with variations, citizens of California, would receive \$30 every Thursday, this incredible fraud is no pension plan at all but an invitation to the voters to elect either of two designated individuals to a position to be known as that of "administrator."

The promoters have had the effrontery to name, in a proposed constitutional amendment, two men, one of whom must be selected by the Governor. These two individuals are Roy G. Owens and Will H. Kindig, both of Los Angeles. Neither, by previous achievement, would deserve better than alarm, even though they were running as nominee and alternate for the post of boxing commissioner.

THIS is the most astonishing proposal ever conceived in this or, for all my knowing on the subject, any other country, not excluding Germany or Russia. It is proposed that the people deliver the whole life, freedom and property of the state into the hands of either of two individuals who nominated themselves. Huey Long was a prime and modest constitutional statesman by comparison.

The amendment itself runs up a score of about 1500 words. It backtracks, contradicts itself and the American Constitution and gets lost in such fog as even the most earnest bankers and economists have been unable to penetrate. But it doesn't fail to provide that either Roy G. Owens or Will H. Kindig must be named administrator, with power to suppress strikes, forfeit property and money, suspend the debts of favored individuals, discredit the credit of the state and its counties, cities and towns and spend money at will.

THIS is not the simple, screw-ball dream-book proposal which was voted down once before. The \$30-every-Thursday lure has been retained only as a lure, by agreement even of those who saw some phantom of possibility in the previous plan, a fake. Nevertheless, the C. I. O. element of the labor front has indorsed the fraud, even though the membership and most of the American leaders know it to be a fraud, as an act of gratitude. Ham-and-eggs voted against a reactionary anti-picketing law last time, and the C. I. O. and much of the A. F. of L. element have now given aid and comfort to a plain Nazi, anti-labor movement as a return favor.

The C. I. O. influence was delivered by the Communist leaders dominating the subsidiary C. I. O. units against the will of the rank and file. Many of the rank and file probably will vote against the dictator.

But if ham-and-eggs should win, the Communists of the C. I. O. would expect to move in and help administer the amendment in the expectation of bankruptcy and rioting.

Business

By John T. Flynn

Overburdened Cities May Be Unable To Finance Further PWA Work.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—In the last seven years every city in the country has received large grants from the Federal Government for all sorts of improvements.

Cities have fought to get these grants, which have enabled them to provide employment for their idle people. But the PWA grants have not been all just grants. An immense sum has been loaned by the Federal Government to the cities or the cities have been compelled to put up a substantial percentage of the cost of the improvements.

The obvious result of this, of course, has been to plunge the cities deeper into debt. Perhaps this was unavoidable. But at least the people who live in cities should understand what they have done.

In selecting public improvements, the cities usually do so with some discrimination—weighing the needs, the cost of upkeep, etc. But in these last seven years the idea foremost in their minds was not the character of the improvement, but the necessity of getting Federal money to come to town.

The great objective was to get as much as possible and as quickly as possible. The haste precluded good planning. It resulted in great costs.

The Taxes Must Be Paid

Now this was well enough from one point of view because it gave work to men. It was delightful from another point of view, that it brought Federal grants to the town. But it was quite serious from another angle. It forced the cities to borrow from the Government in some cases and from private lenders in other cases. And cities which began the depression desperately in debt are now more deeply in debt than ever.

Therefore we have added two burdens to the cities. We have added the burden of servicing these new debt—paying interest and amortization, which means increased local taxation. It means also servicing and maintaining the projects themselves, which also means increased taxes.

And this increased taxation does not mean taxes upon the rich, but taxes on the middle class and the poor since it is they who, through sales taxes and rents, pay all the taxes of the town.

And as we seem to be about where we were on recovery, the great question arises—can the cities in their present financial conditions afford to make any more loans, to enter into any more projects and assume the upkeep of any more construction?

A Woman's Viewpoint

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

THE evil influence of war has never been better exemplified than in the battle over Col. Lindbergh and his brand of patriotism.

Even war on the other side of the world can arouse our cruel and insane instincts—as witness the mud slinging that goes on between certain groups, who shout that their only desire is to right the wrongs of suffering humanity.

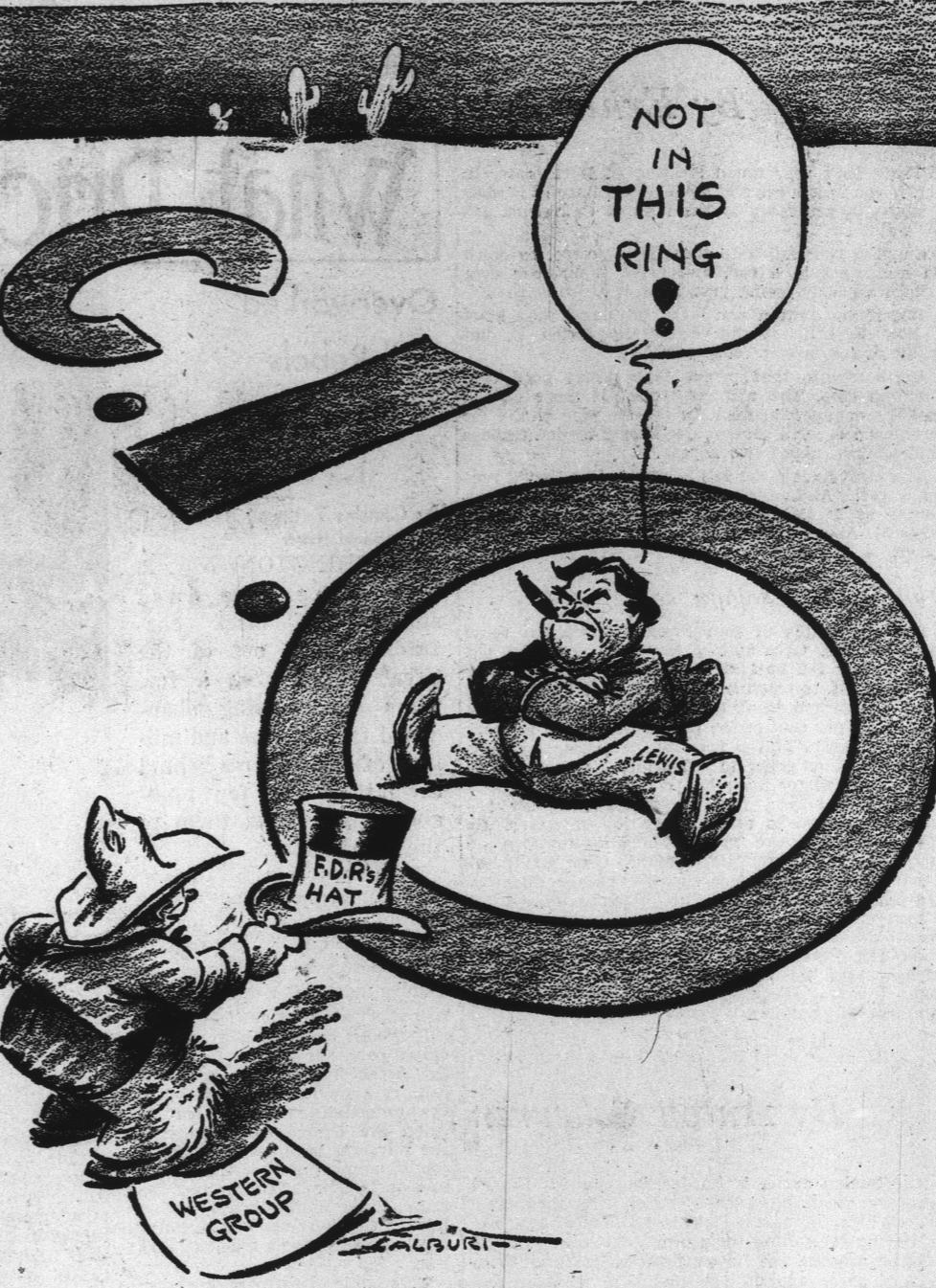
In order to do that, they resort to the mean device of traducing a national hero. Can it be forgotten that a German-born citizen named Hauptmann was electrocuted not many years ago for the kidnapping and the murder of Lindbergh's first born son? But that, you may say, has nothing to do with the case—yet how could it possibly be otherwise?

History is merely repeating itself, it seems. It was to be expected that Col. Lindbergh should endure the cursings of his countrymen for daring to speak his convictions. He walks in the footsteps of a great father, for Charles Lindbergh Sr. quite literally died of the abuse he brought upon his head in trying to prevent his country from dashing off to save the world in the last war.

To be sure his story is not frequently told. It blackens too many fair names of patriots who in that day served America with lips instead of heart. But from the record one fact stands clear and shining. The Lindberghs are Americans worthy to live in legends, like all our patriots who were brave enough to suffer persecution for their opinions and stand up to defy mobs.

It seem to me that men by the name of Charles Lindbergh have suffered enough at our hands, and that it's time to call off our hounds of hate from their heels, especially when they seem never to have done anything more dreadful than exercise their rights as citizens by speaking their minds about matters which seem to them important.

Not Yet Anyhow!



The Hoosier Forum

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

FAVORS ROOSEVELT'S NEUTRALITY BILL

By J. P. Glendy, Scottsburg, Ind.

The arms embargo is un-neutral as it affects one side only. I hope President Roosevelt's plan of cash and carry will be adopted.

While Germany has Russia with its inexhaustible supplies to draw upon, we shouldn't place an embargo on arms that would keep the Allies from obtaining them here.

I view this fight to a finish over there as the Armageddon, the final struggle between civilization and barbarism.

Now you say that the Government insures the bank deposits. Well, you are right, but again who is the Government? And who will make good that insurance if it must be paid?

Your first answer should be "all of the people," and your second, "all of the people who have saved something to pay with."

Once again, if you believe that the capitalistic system is one of scarcity, where did all of our automobiles and beer bottles come from?

THINKS WE ARE UNDULY EXCITED OVER WAR

By E. J. C., Crawfordsville, Ind.

Aren't we unduly excited about the "danger of getting into the European war"? Who is going to "get us in"?

When the prevailing intelligence of almost every community favors

our entering the present conflict; when the press, following suit, is 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.

Do you like the way it is handled? Well, neither does anyone else; but it is a sample of how things are handled when politics are supreme.

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centuries the rich suffered during famine as intensely as the poor; acorns and tree bark were often the only foods that could give.

Food and freedom, progress and culture, food and its economic connection with population, the fascinating subject of "Hunger and History" (Harper) by E. Parmenter Prentiss. It is difficult for us to imagine a world meagerly fed and clothed by hand labor, with a scanty bit of grain a farmer's entire crop yield; white bread a great and costly luxury, and eggs, milk and butter practically unknown.

It is significant that the great progress in agriculture has been made since 1800; prior to that, the unsatisfactory farming methods for centuries past had made the immensity of starvation an ever present factor in human history. "Commercial developments and scientific progress" says the author, "have rescued man from a world of want so quickly that sons do not know how their fathers lived. They are unable to value abundance at its true worth."

But, the author warns, if we may judge by past history, this happy condition is but transitory. The world's population is at present comparatively small, and we are reaping all the benefits of the machine age. Should the population increase too much he prophesies the world two centuries hence may experience again "a period of vast disorder, an age of strife, the relentless grip of growing scarcity and rising prices—and then, inevitably the static of famine and pestilence."

And the encouraging fact is that nature is the answer to the question. The world's population is increasing, but the food supply is also increasing. The world's population is increasing, but the food supply is also increasing.

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