

## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1940

## MR. WALLACE ACCEPTS

ROOSEVELT was mentioned 28 times in the Wallace acceptance speech and Hitler 23. Wendell Willkie, who is running for President, wasn't mentioned once.

The Wallace address was an ardent reiteration of the doctrine of Rooseveltian indispensability. It took (or attempted to take) the 1940 campaign completely away from the home grounds and planted it squarely in Europe. Hitler was made the issue and Roosevelt, of all the 130 million of our population, the sole salvation.

All opponents of Roosevelt were classified as nothing less than "reason for rejoicing in Berlin." Only Roosevelt understands what it's all about, what the rise of Hitler has meant. All attacks on him have provided aid and comfort to Adolf.

As for democracy, on that Roosevelt holds the patent rights. It is strongly hinted that though democracy is commonly assumed to tolerate opposition to the party in power, opposition in this particular case—opposition that dares raise its voice against Roosevelt—falls little short of treason. For, in the words of Wallace, "whatever the motive, the effect was the same—these attacks on Roosevelt and his program played into the hands of Hitler."

Only Roosevelt has the knowledge, the experience and the wisdom to be President. He is indispensability personified—the one and only. Without him, Hitler would rejoice and we shall assuredly walk the "path of destruction and lost freedom." That is the theme. Who is me?

Accepted, there would be but one thing to do. Close the campaign now and elect by acclamation for a third term in one ringing shout—Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

How many agree will be determined, however, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1940.

## WALTER C. MARMON

THE death of Walter C. Marmon has taken from Indianapolis one of its most distinguished and most useful citizens. Walter Marmon served both his country and his city in war and in peace with unflagging energy.

More than two decades ago when the United States was plunged into the first World War, the name of Marmon was almost synonymous with Indianapolis. It was the Marmon plant which was turning out the Liberty and Hall-Scott airplane motors. The war over, Walter Marmon gave his time and his efforts to community work. Twice he served as chairman of the Indianapolis Community Fund. He was president of the Boy Scout Council. He served in every worth-while civic project to which he could give the time.

America is pressing for defense machinery. And today Walter Marmon's plant—Marmon-Herrington—is turning out tanks as fast as it can.

Marmon-Herrington has lost its board chairman. Indianapolis has lost an outstanding citizen.

## THERE NEVER WAS A PERFECT TAX BILL

TO our desk the other day came a routine Treasury Department announcement that a certain corporation had been overassessed for taxes in the amounts of \$11,778.55 in 1917, and \$284,513.82 in 1919. Refunds were ordered and suits pending in the U. S. Court of Claims were dismissed.

The overassessments were on the last wartime excess profits tax.

Yesterday the House of Representatives, after only two hours debate, passed a new excess profits tax—a measure comprising 104 pages of legislative language even more complicated than that of the old war tax.

Critics of the new bill call it the "tax lawyers' delight." But how could the bill be otherwise than complex? The industrial, commercial and financial system against which it undertakes to lay a tax is itself an infinitely complex mechanism.

The bill's objectives are as simple as they are laudable—to stimulate plant expansion and the production of armaments, and at the same time siphon off excessive profits to the end that there shall be no new crop of "war millionaires" created by the nation's huge defense program.

The Ways and Means Committee tried to draft a simple rule for amortization and a clear-cut profits tax schedule. But the committee could find no easy formula. It had to make exemptions and compromises and provide credits and alternative rates. And even after all the painstaking effort to make the tax as fair and as equitable as possible, resulting in 104 pages of language which only tax lawyers understand, the bill admittedly will still lay an "excess profits tax" against some corporations whose profits will be less than before the defense program, while other corporations making greater profits will escape additional levies.

Yet the committee did the best it could. If there is anyone in the country smart enough to write a perfect tax bill in an imperfect world, Congress would like to hire him.

## MAN OF MANY JOBS

JESSE JONES, according to the latest White House plan, will become Secretary of Commerce and at the same time hold on to his present position as Administrator of the Federal Loan Agency.

Mr. Jones will be responsible for the execution of countless laws and policies formulated by Congress since the beginning of the republic. He will remain the custodian of billions of dollars which the Government has borrowed from and then loaned back to its citizens. He will supervise the activities of 18 assorted Government bureaus and corporations, sit as a member of the President's Cabinet, and serve on eight sundry boards and commissions.

In a land where many are unemployed, here is one man who has good steady work. And it must be said that Jesse Jones is one New Deal administrator who knows how to administer. He'll be able to handle all these jobs and handle them well. Where did the New Deal ever find such a man? Perish the recollection—it was Herbert Hoover who found Jesse Jones and brought him into the Government service!

## Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

## French Casting Around Now for a Scapegoat But the Fact Is Their Own Follies Contributed to Fall

NEW YORK, Aug. 30.—The instinct to kick a Jew for every broken shoelace or hair in the soup is now taking command of the French Government, and the turn prompts some reflections on the sake of honesty in the record. The Germans under Hitler were told that the Jew was the cause of their disaster, when the fact was that they had come apart politically, had quit cold in the field the minute the war finally turned against them and had been deserted by the most German German of them all, Kaiser Wilhelm, who ran away.

Their trouble was mostly humiliation, and finally they took it out on their half-million Jews on Hitler's promise that once these people were eliminated, the rest of German life all would be well. The Jews were eliminated, but Hitler, nevertheless, led the Germans on to war, and for the war, which began with a German invasion of a Catholic country, he now blamed Jewish capitalism and the plutocratic countries.

The French will have to work out their own problem, but they insult the facts and the intelligence of all who saw anything of France in the last 20 years if they attempt to ignore their own dishonesty and corruption among the causes of the fall.

THIS dishonesty and corruption was a native French trait. There was no other institution on earth in which graft had become such a robust institution, although Americans, in gloomy moments, may think that our own country deserves at least a draw in the comparison.

In France, roughly speaking, everybody grafted. Their journalism was a mixture of hooligan and treason in the front office, and their reporters were weboys and muckers. Their servants received a graft—which was condoned, perform—on every article of food that came into a Frenchman's house, and the concierge, or janitor, was a privileged brigand or racketeer and a stool-pigeon for the police.

To do any business in a straightforward or honest manner was to be naive and a sucker, and every Frenchman who put his chalkmark on a deal on its way through the works felt that he was entitled to a commission or kickback, and usually got it. Even in their biggest and best hotel, the traveler had to check his possessions against pilferage and examine the bill with care, lest the French multiply the items instead of adding them. Chiseling was a national custom.

Paris during this time achieved a world-wide reputation as one great honky-tonk or joint to which the people of other nations flocked to get drunk and otherwise misbehave, secure in the knowledge that, because the French were so broadminded, everything they would be off the record. Americans far outnumbered all the others during most of this period, and in the boom years of prohibition the trans-Atlantic ferries wore grooves in the sea taking them over for the drinking and back for fresh money!

What were the wares that Paris offered the tourist but night life, divorces, liquor, perfume and styles, and what opinion did the French expect to establish abroad, and what regard for their own capital at home by their obsession with frivolous and sordid things? Not only was good faith lacking in most of their dealings with suckers who soon would be poured on the boat trains and probably wouldn't return, but to the detriment of French life the people didn't mind. They seemed to think they were being quaintly French.

It is true that France has paid terribly for her carelessness and generosity in offering asylum to political refugees of all political hues who abused her hospitality by promoting their selfish little conspiracies and dumping their dead weight on a people with problems of their own.

But the French themselves are chiefly to blame for the decay so thoughtlessly, but accurately summed up in the drunken yelp of the tourist: "So this is Paris! Where are the naked women?"

## Business

By John T. Flynn

## Military Hysteria Sure to Harm U. S. Whether or Not Hitler Comes.

NEW YORK, Aug. 30.—There is no argument—or very little—between groups in Congress as to whether America should provide national defense. The whole argument turns on whether the Government should rush off pell-mell in a terror raid, changing its plans almost daily, and hurling the nation into an orgy of militarism.

The Government which has been described as a war Government—makes this argument. Hitler will turn on America as soon as he disposes of England. Therefore the preparations must be swift.

The opposition says that Hitler may come here but that, when this war is over, he will be confronted with the problem of a Europe torn by famine and disease, a vast wintry ocean between a hostile Russia on Germany's frontier and appalling problems of finance and organization.

Hitler may one day attack America but the time is distant—certainly sufficiently distant to justify this country proceeding with calm and intelligent deliberation.

To this the Government makes this reply: Either you are right or we are right. If we are right and Hitler comes and we are unprepared the disaster will be terrible. If you are right and he does not come, at least we will have done the wise thing and—in the end—no harm will have been done.

The fallacy of this argument lies in the assumption that we can turn this nation from its democratic traditions and its settled economic methods to a military economy "without doing any harm."

THESE are men who believe that, no matter what we do, if Hitler comes here he will be doomed to defeat. The better we are prepared the quicker he will be repelled. The less we are prepared the longer it will take. (My own view is that the terror being spread that Hitler is coming is a preposterous fiction.) But in any case he would be repelled.

But if we should plunge the nation into the present plans (1) to saddle it with militarism, (2) to add another 15 billions or more to the debt, (3) to break down the restraints on the power of the executive inching toward dictatorship, (4) and, by all these devices, to put our whole economic system on a Government-supported armament industry, then nothing—no power on earth, whether Hitler comes here or not—can save this nation from dropping swiftly into a Fascist economic system or some American pattern, with all that that implies.

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## Words of Gold

PRINTING the Congressional Record costs the taxpayers about \$50 a page. On most days of late, many pages have been filled with purely political material having nothing to do with any business before Congress. On Saturday, Aug. 24, the following member of Congress put into the Record the material described below at a cost approximately as stated:

Rep. Robison (R. Ky.), a newspaper column against a third term, with two pages of introductory remarks by Mr. Robison.

Cost to taxpayers, \$187.50—enough to pay Mr. Robison's salary for five days.

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## Oh—oh!



## The Hoosier Forum

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

## REGRETS TAFT FAILED TO GET NOMINATION

By William Lemon

I firmly believe that Senator Taft should have been the Republican Presidential nominee. First, he is an old line party man, second his knowledge of national and international affairs makes him fit for the job, for you cannot put a truck driver in a plane pilot's seat, and the average voter thinks money turned the trick.

Since the Republicans copied the Democratic platform and destroyed the party lines we are left only a choice of candidates, the experienced Roosevelt and the inexperienced Willkie with a war-mad Europe and a complication of scrambled international affairs.

Third term criticism means nothing. Some of our major industries keep an able executive all of his active life and the same thing applies to our Government, especially when the two major parties have the same ideas.

CONTENDS OUR PERIL DUE TO LACK OF NEUTRALITY

By George H. Beale

Most people have some time or other found themselves in discordant environments. Altercations occur in fraternal, social, business and church organizations. Calm is generally restored by neutral elements without recourse to drastic action. Sensible persons identified with these organizations maintain a poised neutrality and point the way to peace. These neutrals rarely get into trouble. This is righteous neutrality. It would have been a great thing if America could have adopted this policy.

We have not been honestly neutral. . . . We have receded from the neutrality the last war proved so necessary. And it has been accomplished not because the great majority of our people believed it to be right but because the Administration in Washington has committed itself far beyond the point made known to the American public.

President Wilson repeatedly committed himself to a program of "open diplomacy" and covenants openly and at all times we have seen that this program is a pretense for grabbing unjustified profits.

War inflation should be headed off the moment it raises its ugly head. Otherwise it spreads by example at the expense of wages and salaries.

An example of this has appeared in Indianapolis. Certain low-priced motion picture theaters who were not affected by the increased

amusement tax raised their prices from 15 to 20 cents immediately after Congress passed the law affecting the high-priced houses. Ticket sellers explained that the increase was due to the increased tax. This statement is false.

The theater owners will, of course, deny that the ticket sellers knew what they were talking about. Nevertheless, the fact that the prices were raised immediately after the law was passed is sufficient to create a presumption of intent to violate the statute against obtaining money by pretense of tax increases.

RIGHTEOUSLY BE NEUTRAL THERE WOULD BE NO CAUSE FOR FEAR OF ATTACK.

FINDS NO REASON FOR DESERTING F. D. R.

By A Roosevelt Democrat

I believe the Republicans are going to have to bring forth much stronger argument than they have offered to date to convince us of the lower income classes that Mr. Willkie will do more for us than our President Roosevelt.

Mr. Willkie condemns F. D. R. for burdening the businessman with taxes thereby discouraging him from expanding, and then speaks of sacrifice and economy to come, with harder work for our men and more careful management from the housewives of our country. We, the women of the low and middle income class, constitute the majority of the housewives, and from us comes the question: Does Mr. Willkie propose to lower the tax from business and levy it on us, the taxpayers?

Mr. Willkie says he approves of the terms that were enacted to help him, but he proposes to do it with less cost to the Government, but how, he doesn't say.

WARNS AGAINST PERIL OF WAR INFLATION

By W. Scott Taylor

The newspapers could perform a great public service by exposing a small-time war profiteers who use national defense taxes as a pretext for grabbing unjustified profits.

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TERMS VOTE SELLING MENACE TO DEMOCRACY

By Forrest Morehead

"G" men have convinced most of the people that major crime does not pay. If we can find some outfit to prove that petty crime is unprofitable democracy may still be saved.

By petty crime I do not mean drug store cowboy stuff . . . I am talking about this common pattern of crime buying and selling votes and not only the sordid kind of peddling for filthy lucre, but also the more widespread variety of trading for a beer, a job, a patronage, or just what you want.

The trouble is I cannot figure which is the biggest fool criminal, the buyer or the seller. We would not care if they hurt no one but themselves, but when they start sniping at us innocent bystanders by talking about buying votes with farm loans and compulsory military training it is time for all Americans to convince this world, and this includes politicians, that their vote is not for sale for either money, chalk, or marbles . . .

DAILY PRAYER

By JAMES D. ROTH

Lord, give me bread today; And yes—the chance to win. Grant sufficient potion—aye Enough for kith and kin.

I ask Lord—give me strength To stem the tide today;

Ah yes—through each day's length I've comfort on my way.

DAILY THOUGHT

Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee; go and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be disengaged.

Deuteronomy 1:21

Obedience is not truly performed by the body, if the heart is dissatisfied.—Saad.

## Gen. Johnson Says—