

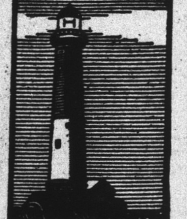
# The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1940

## WE'RE NOT ALL FORTUNATE

IT is unfortunate, but nevertheless true, that in the best of times there are many individuals who need help. Some may be temporarily unemployed. Some may be unemployable for one reason or another. Widows may need assistance. Orphaned children constitute another part of the problem. The list is long and the need is ever-present, no matter how well the city's industrial machine may be humming.

We believe that fact needs to be emphasized as this year's Cloth-A-Child campaign moves into the final two weeks of its activity.

Some of us may have the feeling that with defense industries booming, there is little need for Christmas charity giving. The truth is that the need is greater than ever. There are thousands of men in Indianapolis who cannot find work in our expanding industrial plants because they lack training. It is in this group that much of the need centers.

The Indianapolis Times started the Cloth-A-Child movement because it believed (and we still believe) that youngsters must not be kept down because their families are unable to provide all that they need. Warm, new clothing means more to these little children than just plain Christmas. It means an increase in morale so that they no longer feel ashamed of tattered clothes in their schoolrooms and so that they may concentrate on their schoolwork.

Cloth-A-Child is actually a Christmas gift that reaches beyond Christmas. You can see it in the eyes of orphans and those youngsters from families which "have never had a break."

If you can, help clothe a child.

## LABOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

A PLEDGE to co-operate in "uninterrupted production in defense industries" is made by the Labor Advisory Committee to the National Defense Commission.

Serving on the committee which enunciated this sane and patriotic policy are representatives of six A. F. of L. unions, six C. I. O. unions and the four railway brotherhoods—spokesmen for workers in such key industries as steel, coal, aircraft, automobiles, textiles, building construction, machine tools and the railroads.

The specific pledge is: No strikes in defense industries until all of the Government's conciliation facilities have been exhausted. In a statement elaborating on the great importance of continuous production for defense needs, the committee appeared to range itself on the side of the suggestions made often lately that the Government expand its mediation facilities. One proposal is that all defense industries be brought under a mediatory system modeled after the Railway Mediation Act, which has been so successful in keeping the trains continuously running for many years. This system—with its cooling-off periods for negotiation, mediation, fact-finding reports, and access to arbitration—is one which should succeed in other industries as well as it has on the railroads. Under such a system labor does not surrender its right to strike, yet seldom does it resort to a walkout.

Labor's great stake in keeping the defense wheels turning was eloquently expressed by the trade-union advisory group.

"Labor recognizes fully that if the democratic way of life is to be preserved and enlarged our country must prepare itself for total defense—morally and materially," said this committee.

"Labor knows that it is the first to be trampled under the march of dictatorship. Labor knows that if workers are to remain free men, and keep their free choices, democracy—as a living faith, as a living reality—must be equipped to meet the threat of totalitarianism, within and without."

## ELECTION POST MORTEM

A FEDERAL Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., is trying to find out whether there were any violations of the Corrupt Practices Act or the Hatch Act in the recent Presidential campaign.

A Senate Committee is reported to be engaged in a similar inquiry. Its chairman, Senator Gillette, recently estimated that about \$20,000,000 was spent in the campaign. If true, that's about \$14,000,000 more than the law allows—or, perhaps it would be more precise to say it is that much more than Congress intended to allow. For in passing the last Hatch Act Congress stipulated that \$3,000,000 should be the top-limit expenditure of a committee handling a Presidential candidate's campaign. But in the recent contest there were several committees and organizations, not very closely tied in with the regular Republican and Democratic organizations, and they operated independently in raising and spending campaign funds. Was the law thus violated, or merely avoided? That is something for the Grand Jury and the Courts to determine.

Should the laws be revised? For instance, should the loopholes of the Hatch Act be closed to forbid in future elections the functioning of multiple political committees with multiple campaign chests? Should the limit for each Presidential candidate be fixed at \$3,000,000, or is more money required for an adequate national campaign? Those are questions of policy for Congress to decide.

Anyhow, let both the Grand Jury and the Senatorial inquiries be pressed relentlessly—so the public may learn all the facts. How much was spent by the Democratic and Republican Committees, by their state committees, by the Democrats for Willkie, by the Republicans for Roosevelt, by the Associated Willkie Clubs, by the Independent Voters for Roosevelt?

Let the laws of the statute book be enforced, and improved. The people want clean elections.

## REVERSED

FOLKS used to make their own clothing on spinning wheels. Now they lose their shirts on 'em.

## Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Fascist Defenders, in Pointing to British Retreats, Only Dishonor The Feats of Their Pals in Berlin

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The comparison between the conduct of the Duce's dashing indomitables in Albania and that of the British in France is not very complimentary to the Italian nation under fascism, but it has been offered by some loyal followers of Mussolini in this country and therefore may be examined out loud. They may be sorry they brought it up.

To start with the British disaster, it will be conceded surely that the British nation was caught flat-footed even after a year of borrowed time, and that the force was a bow-and-arrow army by comparison with the great German machine. The British were attacked by methods and weapons never before encountered, and any Italian who denies that the German fought superbly dishonors his comrades at the other end of the Axis.

Nevertheless, after a hopeless stand against the greatest military force on earth the British reached the beach and, thanks in part to their luck, most of them were rescued. In any case they were under attack by the best army in the world, which is the important point to remember in turning now to Albania, where the indomitables had the initiative against a third-rate power.

To compare the German army with the Greek army is to belittlize the German to an insulting degree and flatter the Greeks outlandishly. And even if it be conceded that, as it has been said, some of those Greeks speak with an Australian or cockney accent, that doesn't improve the case for fascism, because the Fascists already have said that the British fled contemptibly in France. Such reasoning is unwise, because it argues that the Fascists were doing all right until a small force of cowards joined their enemy and put them to flight.

It should be remembered also that the Italians under Mussolini had been arming, marching, shooting, putting out their cheeks, beating their chests and leaping through circles of fire and over hurdles of bayonets for 15 years. Even babies were dressed in uniforms and taught to lip that they were killers. Long before Hitler came to power Mussolini's Italy gloried in song and story and in the public schools, and their aviation, which was their special boast, had fattened its vanity by shooting barnyard ducks in Ethiopia and Barcelona.

If any nation ever prepared for conquest, subordinating all else to thought and talk of war and preparation for victory over weaker people, that nation was Fascist Italy.

YET, when war finally came, Mussolini feinted until the death rattle of France could be heard all over the world and then stabbed the fallen neighbor—a blow which should have hurt the Italian people as much as it hurt the French. If that stroke did not fill the Italians with a sense of remorse and shame, then that cancels all their boasts of superior civilization and military valor.

The Fascists had been in Albania for two years. They had had time to make the most thorough preparations for the conquest of a small, poor and ill-armed enemy, and their side-shows wars had given them an opportunity to acquaint their soldiers with war under comparatively safe conditions. They did not have to start cold.

But, when it happened, the indomitables were chased out of a country in which they had every advantage, even abandoning the seaport which the Duce, in his fatuous vanity, had named for his daughter, the wife of the boastful Count Ciano.

This was not the German war machine which disgraced fascism for so many years of pot-valiant boasting. It was the army of the Little Greek nation. It was not the British who fled, but the dashing invincibles of Benito Mussolini.

## Business

By John T. Flynn

What Mr. Jones Would Say if Town In Default to His Bank Asked Loan

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Jesse Jones says England is a good risk.

Mr. Jones controls a great bank in Texas. Now let us suppose a Texas city's mayor comes to him as a banker and asks a loan of two million dollars. Mr. Jones, being a private banker, is interested in risks. So he asks the mayor some questions. First he wants to know if the town owes anybody else. The mayor shrugs. He says he doesn't know. Mr. Jones says, "What? You don't know? Your town already owes 33 million dollars. That's an enormous debt. That means around \$700 for every man, woman and child in the town of 48,000. Dear me! mutters Mr. Jones, that isn't very good."

By the way, he asks, do you owe us anything? The mayor stutters a little and admits the town does. But of course, suggests Banker Jones, you have been paying your interest right along. The mayor concedes he hasn't. Well, says Banker Jones, let me see how we stand. He calls the bookkeeper and asks what the town owes the bank. The bookkeeper says it is about four million dollars and that it hasn't paid any interest since 1933.

Well, says Mr. Jones, who is a good deal aroused by this time, did you get after them? And what did they say? The bookkeeper replies that the bank's lawyers did get after the town but that the mayor got very hot insulted at being asked to pay. In fact, he said that you, Mr. Jones, were just an old shlyok for wanting your money.

At this Mr. Jones does not say "dear me!" but uses words which they have in Texas that are a good deal more expressive.

He informs the mayor in very strong terms that he scorns his brass but that the bank—Private Banker Jones' private bank—cannot consider such a town a good risk.

THESE figures for the town, the population, the debt are in proportion to Britain's finances. With 44 million people or 37 per cent of our population—she owes 33 billion dollars—she owes that as of March 31, 1939. She went into the red \$3,070,000,000 last year. She expects to go in the red \$5,732,000,000 this year. It will be worse next year. This would be comparable to our going into the red 16 billion dollars in a single year. Britain owes us more than four billion dollars which she quit paying in 1933 in spite of the fact that she hoisted after 1933 that she was recovering faster than we were. She has literally repudiated that debt. Many financial authorities insist that Britain could not possibly pay. If she couldn't pay that how can she take one another two billion on top of two or three billions which she has added since she repudiated our debt?

She has a tax rate now of 35 per cent on all companies and individuals and next year this is to increase to 37 1/2 per cent. You may sympathize with Britain. You may hate Hitler. But whether Britain is a good financial risk or not is a plain matter of fact. She is not. Mr. Jones wouldn't touch a risk like that with a 10-foot pole in his hand. But he seems willing to do it with Uncle Sam's money. If his bank made such a loan it would certainly lose its money. But that is all. But if we make this loan, we will not only lose the money but countless billions besides, because we will be practically at war and nothing after that can save us from war.

## So They Say—

WAR PRISONERS are the "forgotten men" of today.—Tracy Strong, general secretary, World Alliance, Y. M. C. A.

THE CYNICISM which puts aside as naive and outworn the impulse to be righteous and unselfish is the really dangerous fifth column.—Dr. George N. Shuster, president, Hunter College.

## Speaking of Preparedness—



## The Hoosier Forum

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

### A BOO FOR NEW DEAL'S STAND ON VETERANS

By Mrs. D. B. Kokomo, Ind.

I never miss reading the Forum and must say that I enjoy these articles, but this is my first letter and what I want to say is everyone that I have read sure sounds as though the people are doing much more mud slinging than anyone on either political party did.

I am an ex-service man's wife and I think that the way the Democratic party has treated our boys is a shame.

My husband served 18 months overseas and is disabled. He was refused WPA work, but the Government claims he isn't disabled enough to draw a pension. He is a nervous case and has a bad heart.

Now the outcome is that he has to go out and beg for a living. Go to any big affair and I'll bet you will see some overseas boys trying to sell a button or some kind of novelty to make a living for his family. Is this justice?

### CREDITS FOREIGN POLICY WITH F. D. R.'S VICTORY

By Claude Braddock, Kokomo, Ind.

The theory that Mr. Roosevelt owes his election almost entirely to relievers and other incompetents is doubtless a soothing one to the vanity of Willkie supporters. Unfortunately, however, the size and distribution of Mr. Roosevelt's plurality give unmistakable evidence that although these groups indisputably played a part, their part was not a decisive one.

Most impartial observers credit the President's re-election to the Roosevelt-Hull foreign policy. People of all walks admire its firmness and decision—especially so since each of its decisions, to date, has seemingly proved the right one. No better example of this could be cited than that of a few weeks ago when Japan signed the tri-party pact, obviously directed at the United States. Its dire implication fell upon the world like a bomb-shell. This country answered that threat, not with indecision or retraction, but with an ominous withdrawal of her national flag from the Far East.

Japan countered with an instant withdrawal of her claws. What else could she do, under the circumstances? Moreover, our step had been taken without inflammatory threat and bluster, thus allowing

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns, religious controversies excluded. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.)

Japan to back down without losing face.

### DOUBTING THE MERIT OF POST-ELECTION UNITY

By Ben Wright, Clayton, Ind.

How should we regard those whom we have elected to public office? A popular conception is expressed in this quotation from "DEMANDS RESPECT FOR PRESIDENTY" in last Tuesday's Forum. "Respect is always accorded those chosen to public office by a free and intelligent people regardless of their opinion or policies."

I listened to numerous speakers for both major parties and I got the impression that none of them had much respect for the opposing candidate. If Al Smith had any respect for Mr. Roosevelt or Harold Ickes for Mr. Willkie, they were able to conceal it. Now if you give the hundreds of campaign workers all over the country credit for honestly expressing their sincere convictions, we must give them credit for being sufficiently human to retain the same convictions after election as before.

If a political leader, after careful consideration and investigation, considers an opposing candidate to be incompetent, unfit, a foe of labor, business, the underprivileged, and the aged, and also a menace to our form of government; and so advises the nation on Nov. 4th, I don't expect him to say on Nov. 6th, "Now that Blank has been elected forget all the things I told you about him. We must no longer think or say those things or we won't be good Americans."

No sir—if what we have been told is true, we can have no respect for our office holders. If it is not true, then our leaders have lied to us and we therefore can give them no respect. Remember, this would be true regardless of the election outcome. Our system is not conducive of respect for the seekers or winners of public office.

I do not approve of rabid, partisan hatred among voters but I think it is more unforgivable among those

who shape our opinions by word and pen.

### A SLAM AT HOOVER ON THE FOOD ISSUE

By Harry C. Martin

Here of late I have been reading of a man whom we all know well, and whose name takes me back about nine or ten years ago when things were really black for the biggest majority of us, and looking for revolution on every hand due to a good majority of real Americans going hungry, losing their life savings and what little property they called home.

Just because this great humanitarian and good samaritan that he is trying to make himself out to be—in the eyes of a few countries dominated by Hitler and his clique—would not do anything to ease their situation then, but now he makes a lot of noise about getting food through the English blockade to the starving Europeans, or, we will say, to Hitler's army, because, if any food got into those countries, that's right where it would finally land—in the dirty German soldiers' mess kit.

Being a World War Veteran, with two years overseas, through that last big fracas, makes me laugh every time I think of Hoover being a humanitarian to anything but himself. If he is so kind, why didn't he take the opportunity in 1931 and 1932 to do something for the real and loyal Americans that so needed it then.

### PROTEST REGISTERED BY ABSENTEE VOTER

By R. E. Hill

I am one of the many railroad workers that do not agree with the New Deal, and I have never voted for it regardless of evidence to the contrary.

I am away from home in my work so I have to vote by absentee ballot. I voted in 1936 against the New Deal, but my ballot was never sent out to my voting place to be counted. I never complained about it, but this year I voted by absentee ballot also; my ballot had been taken out of the envelope and replaced by a straight Democrat vote. Now I think the Election Board here at Castleton (which is my voting place) are all honorable gentlemen, but I think it is about time to clean house down at the Marion County Court House, for I think there is a law against tampering with a taxpayer's ballot.

### WANTS ISLANDS BOUGHT TO GIVE BRITISH CASE

By K. J. T.

William Philip Simms performed a useful public service when he pointed out that our relations with Britain may not always be pleasant and that some day misunderstandings may arise which would jeopardize our lease on those recently acquired islands in the Atlantic.

There is no question that we need these bases to protect our coast cities and the Panama Canal. We should own them outright. Your editorial offers the solution. Britain needs cash. We need the bases. Let the two governments get together and decide on a price. The proceeds should give Britain plenty of cash to fight Hitler, and should give us added security on this side.

### THE RED CROSS

By ROBERT O. LEVELL

The Red Cross stands with a glad hand Ready for some good deed In sympathy throughout the land To serve the human need.

In bringing peace and joy again Wherever be the call It proves a real and mighty friend To cheer the hearts of all.

### DAILY THOUGHT

Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death.—Numbers 35:31.

BY TAKING revenge, a man is but even with his enemy; but in passing over it, he is superior.—Bacon.

## Gen. Johnson Says—

War Department, Which Has Been Perfecting a Plan for 20 Years, Can't Be Blamed for Defense Delays

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The rearmament program is dawdling for two reasons. Government is not organized for industrial mobilization, and neither is industry.

This is not the fault of the War Department. This country made two starting contributions to the art and science of major modern war in 1917 and 1918. One was the selective service idea for the mobilization of man power. The other was the War Industries Board method for mobilizing industry.

Neither was fished out of a hat. Both were perfected through a painful period of trial and error—mistake and correction—until, at the end, they were working well. Almost as soon as the war was over, the War Department began a careful study of both. Few regular officers had been included in earlier efforts, but nearly all the principal actors were living and the records and reports were copious.

Year after year, these experienced men were brought back to lecture class after class of officers in the War College and Army Industrial College on all these experiences—the underlying principles, the blunders and triumphs, the blind alleys explored and all the stone walls against which these pioneers had butted their heads.

As a result of all these studies and stories, the War Department drew up plans for both mobilizations for major war—men and materials. Year after year, these plans were revised and carefully checked with the veterans of the earlier effort.

On the principle of industrial mobilization, of which he had directed the 1918 effort, Bernard M. Baruch devoted much of his time and energy, patiently helping the War Department to perfect an adaptation of his original plan to every changing circumstance.

When this emergency arrived, the War Department was ready with plans complete almost to the last comma for both selective service and the industrial effort.

The War Department's draft plan was permitted to be put into effect with very few changes, but, for some reason, its equally well constructed and war tested plan for industrial mobilization was ditched.

The result is before your eyes. The draft machinery is running as well as any such great effort could be expected to run. In industrial mobilization we are repeating by page and number and almost by date every single blunder of 1917 and 1918. These all had been plotted and provided against in the War Department plan.

It is impossible to carry on without confusion, waste and delay an armament program running into billions by simply flinging it to a peace-raged industry as a bone to be tossed to a dog. It requires careful organization of both demand and supply, organization of the many and sometimes conflicting Government procurement agencies, as well as organization of the myriad producing agencies of industry. That has not been done and that is what is the matter with things.

As this column has repeatedly insisted, control of price inflation is an absolute necessity. It can't be done. It hasn't been done. Already, it has been estimated that such inflation since this program began will cost our country at least an additional \$2,250,000,000. That is just a beginning.

I don't know how long we are going to continue fumbling with this thing. I am not one of those who favor beating everything on Britain, but whether for our own or Britain's sake we must provide some organization and controls to get the production of which America is capable and to get it without extravagant inflation.

The art of war has changed so far that, regardless of military background, I declined having this column touted as "war and military comment." But from intense and peculiar experience I do regard myself as an expert on this subject and what is said here is not conjecture.

## A Woman's Viewpoint

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

I'M tired of hearing the young insulted. They're soft; they're weak; they're "frisky cats." So goes the wall.

I don't believe it. The person who takes the trouble to become acquainted with a number of high-school and college students, and who is willing to listen to their opinions, doesn't feel that civilization will fall into a heap with the passing of the mature generation. On the contrary, he may suffer from the taunting notion that the quicker it gets out the better.

A surprising number of these students are nonconformists. This is probably the one fact most frightening to their elders, who forget that every progressive movement has been led by rebels. Most of these youngsters will accept no idea until it has been well examined. Even junior-high school pupils are prepared to stand up in meeting and speak their minds. They have clear-cut opinions. And college men and women, although they often present a frivolous front, are thinking seriously about the strange world they are about to enter. Beneath their carefree, sophisticated, and sometimes graceless exterior exists a hard core of common sense and a burning desire to get to the bottom of these grave questions which bother us all.

I believe, moreover, that the man who accuses them of cowardice doesn't understand the meaning of bravery. Put to the test, the majority would show true valor just as they have already shown a surprising amount of independence in thinking. Naturally, life will tone down their enthusiasms. They will soon learn, as every generation has had to learn, that compromises are necessary, and that not all good men and women are too frail of spirit to lead crusades. The struggle to exist often depletes the energies of the most idealistic—and yet their ideals do not die.

If our sort of world passes away—as they say it will—I am convinced that the boys and girls of America will not make a worse one than we did. I am not afraid to trust the country's defense to their hands, or the rehabilitation of society to their intelligence.

## Watching Your Health

By Jane Stafford

SURGERY is no longer limited to the young and strong. Older people, even frail ones, can receive its benefits, thanks to modern developments in both surgery and anesthesia. In fact, the situation has now reached the point where one surgeon, Dr. Barney Brooks, of Vanderbilt University, believes it is "fair to say that any one now in a middle-age group possesses a greater security in realizing at 70 a safe and satisfactory relief from a disease remediable by operation than he has of receiving at the same age benefits now anticipated from any of his capital investments."

Broken hips give a striking example of the progress in surgery for elderly persons. This injury, technically described as fracture of the neck of the femur, as short a time as 10 years ago meant, for an old person, consignment to "a remainder of life of suffering almost complete disability." Dr. Brooks pointed out at a recent conference:

"In the Vanderbilt University Hospital, during the past five years," he reported, "all instances of fracture of the neck of the femur during old age have been treated by immediate operation. There has not been a single death, and every patient has recovered ability to walk without pain."

The operation involves a nailing together of the broken fragments of bone by any of several similar methods. While Dr. Brooks was reporting specifically the results from his institution, the same good results are also now being achieved by surgeons in other places.

## Side Glances—By Galbraith



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