

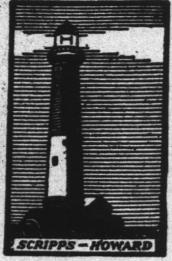
The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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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 unemployed 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 hummed.

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 cloth 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 around \$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 Indomitable 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 denied that the Germans 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 Indomitable had the initiative against a third-rate power.

To compare the German army with the Greek army is to belittle the Germans to an insulting degree and flatter the Greeks outlandishly. And even if it is 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, puffing 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 lisp that they were killers. Long before Hitler came to power Mussolini's Italy glorified war in song and story and in its public schools, and their aviation, which was their special boast, had fattened its vanity by shooting barnyard birds 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.

If you can, help cloth a child.

YET, when war finally came, Mussolini fainted 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 canceled 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 through preparations for the conquest of a small, poor and ill-armed enemy, and their sideshow 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 Indomitable 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 after so many years of pot-vanishing 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 shows him last year's statement. What?

Mr. Jones: Your town already owes \$3 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 anything? The mayor 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 much insulted at being asked to pay. In fact, he said that you, Mr. Jones, were just an old Shylock 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 admires 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 48 million people—or 37 per cent of our population—show over \$3 billion dollars—or rather owed as of March 31, 1939. She went into the red \$9,070,000,000 last year. She expects to go into 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 on in 1933 in spite of the fact that she boasted 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 bank. 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. Getrude N. Shuster, president, Hunter College.

Speaking of Preparedness



THE TROUBLE IS THAT SO MANY PEOPLE LACK FORESIGHT! THEY



FAIL TO REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME, THE DANGERS OF DELAY,



THE FUTILITY OF GIVING TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE!



EXCUSE ME—I'M GOING OUT TO DO MY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

The Hoosier Forum

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

BOO FOR NEW DEAL'S STAND ON VETERANS

By Mrs. D. E. Kokemo, 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

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

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 a 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 E. E. Hui

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 not voted by absent 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 absent 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.

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

WANTS ISLANDS BOUGHT TO GIVE BRITISH CASE

By K. J. T.

William Philip Sims performed a useful public service when he pointed out that our relations with Britain may not always be pleasant and that some day misunderstandings and disputes 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 red and mighty friend.

To cheer the hearts of all.

DAILY THOUGHT