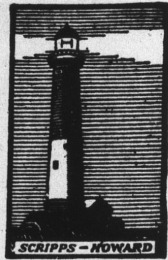


# The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1941

\$65,000,000,000

SO now a bill is introduced to hike the legal limit on the national debt by another 16 billion dollars, and leaders of Congress and the Administration see no reason why it shouldn't be put through in a hurry.

A few voices, here and there, suggest that first it might be a good idea to survey the country's whole fiscal problem. For example, they say, a joint committee of the ranking members on the appropriations and taxing committees of the two houses of Congress ought to get together and study out a consistent policy, so that a legal debt limit would have some meaning. These cautious souls think plans should be made to head off a disastrous inflation of prices, and to insure continued full value for the defense bonds and savings stamps the people will be urged to buy.

But Congress is mighty busy, and \$65,000,000,000 as a new legal debt limit sounds like a good round sum. After all, aren't we planning to spend so much money that the national income will shoot up to a hundred billions pretty soon? And why waste time worrying about what the debt limit should be? Hasn't Mr. Roosevelt told us that it's only a "monitor," anyway?

## HOW'S THAT, MR. GREEN?

WILLIAM GREEN, on the radio Sunday afternoon, proclaimed in ringing tones: "The American Federation of Labor has enlisted for the duration of the emergency."

Okay, Mr. Green; that sounds very fine. And now will you put some heat on your A. F. of L. building-trades unions to cut out their rotten practice of extorting unreasonable "initiation fees" from men who want to work on defense projects?

Candidly, Mr. Green, we don't believe you will. You'll take the tack taken by George Masterson, vice president of your building-trades department, who had the crust to say, on that same radio program, that "the stories about exorbitant fees are exaggerated." Or you'll mumble about how the unions are "autonomous," and how you can't give them orders—the same alibi you dodge behind when it's proved that some of your unions are lousy with racketeering.

You must know, Mr. Green, that this fee-extortion thing is the biggest racket yet. The unions have collected millions of dollars from men who, in many cases, aren't even admitted to membership. A great many of these men get fired, for no good reason, as soon as their fee installments are paid, and the men who replace them also have to fork over. The unions have talked about scaling down the fees, but they don't act. Pretty soon the emergency defense projects will be finished, the poor victims of the racket will be back on the street, and the union treasuries will be full of dirty money.

Congress is beginning to get mad about this thing, and many members are for a law requiring strict open-shop on all defense jobs. We don't like that idea. But if this and other anti-labor legislation gets enacted, you can take a lot of the credit, Mr. Green—you and other great labor leaders who aren't leading.

One thing, though, you could do, Mr. Green. So long as your building-trades unions continue to demand this price for "co-operating" in the defense program—this price squeezed out of needy men, many of them getting their first chance in years to earn decent wages—you could stay off the radio with speeches about how the A. F. of L. has "enlisted for the duration."

We wish you would. We hate to get sick at the stomach on a Sunday afternoon.

## THE BUREAUCRACY REPORT

NEARLY two years ago the Attorney General, at the President's suggestion, appointed a committee of lawyers and experts to study the administrative procedure of Federal departments and bureaus and recommend improvements. The fact that this committee was on the job was used as an argument against passage of the Logan-Walter Bill and later, by Mr. Roosevelt, as an argument for that bill's veto.

Well, the committee finally has crashed through with a report, and its chairman, Dean Acheson, is now ready to move on to a new job as Assistant Secretary of State.

The body of the report fills about 1000 typewritten pages. There are more than 400 pages of appendices, "describing important phases of administrative procedure." There are 130 more pages of detailed recommendations for changes in the 33 Federal agencies—out of some 130—which were studied specifically. (It may be assumed that the committee found plenty wrong with present methods.)

We won't pretend to have given this enormous document a thorough examination. We've read, so far, just enough of it to gain the impression that it is in general a good piece of work which should become the basis for prompt action.

## SING, BOYS, SING!

THE WAR DEPARTMENT is getting out a new official song book, designed to help "maintain a high morale in the Army." It omits the celebrated "Mademoiselle From Armentiers," but will include, among some 60 others, the old favorite beginning with, "Oh, the minstrels sing of an English king—"

We won't be surprised to find that the War Department, being nothing if not pure-minded, has done a little revising and expurgating on the balance of that ballad.

## NOT BRONX CHEERS, EITHER

MAYBE a Congressional Medal of Honor wouldn't be the right decoration, but a grateful country must not fail to recognize John Shea, 23, of New York's Bronx.

To get in shape to leave for camp with his National Guard company, he spent 10½ straight hours in a dentist's chair, getting three teeth extracted, four others filled, five crowns cemented and repaired and two new removable bridges installed. Three cheers for Hero Shea!

# Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

 Public Indifference to Rakeoff  
 By Unions From Defense Workers  
 A Grave Reflection on Our Morals

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Some months ago I remarked that the American people were so far gone in such vices as graft and deceit by public men so comfortably adjusted to profiteering on public offices by relatives of high officials, that, in words of one syllable, they just don't give a damn. Some of my fellow citizens were wounded sore by that observation, but not as much, I think, by the fact itself as by the open recognition of it.

You call a con-man a speculator or a café trollop a glamour girl and nobody's feelings are hurt, but they are what they are and they, too, as well we know and they, too, similarly, if you just sort of gold-plate our national, popular immorality in civic affairs as an amiable frivolity. On the contrary, they think it rather cute or mischievous, although we know it all amounts to a terrible burden of graft that comes out of the work and earnings of the citizens and a cynical condonation and encouragement of wrong.

This sales talk is by way of introducing a discussion of a condition that could not exist in any land where people were not too sloppy in their morals to care. I refer to the extortion of millions of dollars from American citizens by labor unions, mostly unions of the A. F. of L. in return for permission to work on camps, arsenals and other works having to do with the national defense.

At the base we have the fact that workers are allowed to organize for collective bargaining, which is an honest enactment in that respect. But these A. F. of L. unions have been forcing men to join up at extortionate rates, and the American people and the Congress, which knows their mind, are so tired of studying out things, so discouraged in the matter of insisting on their rights and protesting, that nobody is doing anything about it. So a few private and, in some cases, very exclusive organizations are carting off tons of money which the people pay into the Treasury as taxes and the Treasury pays out to the workmen as wages.

The so-called hod-carriers' union is a spectacular example, although, of course, the carpenters and electricians and all are getting theirs, too.

The hod-carriers' is the common laborers' union. It has not held a national convention in 30 years, but it has been charging common pick-and-shovel workers \$50 initiation fee plus dues. If we assume for a figure—and not an extravagant figure, by any means—that \$50,000 such men have been put to work that would mean a rakeoff of \$2,500,000 for that union alone, without reckoning in the dues at all.

Where right of collective bargaining is this, anyway? Was it intended to protect the workmen or to provide a gift for a private organization? The workmen don't want to join. They don't rally round the union collector and implore him to be their bargaining agent. Personally, they would much prefer to part with their hard-earned money and get their head plus dues, which would buy considerable shoe mileage for their kids or gin for their innards come Saturday night.

BUT they have to give up to this stranger who shows up on work of the United States Government, and if the contractor puts them to work without the given, this stranger will kick his hat at the strangers representing the carpenters and electricians' union and they jerk the job, and the soldiers can sleep under the stars.

This common laborers' union is one of our pretties. Over in Pennsylvania it bestrode the big high-speed highway job and took first cut at the pay of the poor, horny-handed, hardy doggers of the farms and mines, many of them just getting off relief or public dole—around jobs who had muscle to sell and, by happy chance, a place to sell it.

But in Chicago it issued a sheaf of charters like a deck of cards to a dirty blackmailer named Mike Carozzo, who was such a low and notorious gorilla that even in Chicago he couldn't get naturalized until his third attempt.

The locals, be it remembered, get most of the graft, paying only a small dole to the international, and in the case of Carozzo, who was in himself about 30 locals, accountable to nobody, and one of the richest men in town in ready cash.

But what's the use? The Americans don't mind. It is the quality, corrupt American way.

## Business

By John T. Flynn

 Britain Has Billions of Other  
 Assets Besides Those in U. S.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—I have tried to point out that, according to our Federal Reserve Board reports, Great Britain ought to have in this country to pay for her purchases here more than eight billion dollars of assets, less about a billion and a half billion dollars which she used to settle her balances last year.

This is what she should have if our Reserve Board has not made an amazing statistical blunder.

But Britain should have available to pay her bills a great deal more than this. According to her own figures she has something over four billion dollars of assets at present sterling exchange rate. She has \$8,000,000,000 in her various dominions and dependencies. She has a lot more in Asia and Europe, which we need not consider since their value may be now extinguished by the war.

Here, then, is \$12,800,000,000 of assets—government bonds, railroads, oil wells, mines, stocks and corporate bonds—which can be converted into dollars. It is entirely possible that any attempt to convert these into dollars quickly would result in shrinkages in value. But they do not have to be converted quickly. The British can have a year or two to do this. And they do not have to be converted—only about two billions at the most to make up her so-called dollar deficits here this year.

Congress will certainly want to know why an empire which has such vast liquid and semi-liquid resources should tell this Government that she will order nothing more after Jan. 1 because she can pay for nothing more. If she can pay for nothing more, it is because she refuses to use the resources she has to pay.

WHAT Congress should insist on having is more complete data. I am satisfied that the total convertible resources of Britain are not as large as these figures indicate. There is some duplication. There are shrinkages in value. But there are still many billions available.

Congress should ask the Federal Reserve Board to furnish the data on which its figures are based and should then seek to learn why the Reserve Board if Mr. Morgenthau's estimates are right.

This is no small matter. It means that the United States, which cannot pay its own bills, which is forced to borrow nine or 10 billions of dollars this year, and which has no funds to pay these bills of Britain and must borrow the money to pay them, should do this while Britain has so many billions available to pay her own bills to fight her own war.

Of course the bill is high. But after all, war is expensive. England began this war without consulting us and, as Mr. Kennedy says, did not and has not stated her war aims. And she still has the money to pay her bills. Why should we pay them when doing so means the risk of war? We should at least know all the facts.

## So They Say—

I HAVE NEVER liked democracy for I am temperamentally hostile to the heavy taxation visited on the well-to-do.—The Very Rev. William Ralph Inge, retired "Gloomy Dean" of St. Paul's, London.

FOR ALL I CARE about this desert, you can have it! I myself am a poet.—Gen. Francesco Saverio, captured Italian general in Libya.

# Here We Go, Is Right!



## The Hoosier Forum

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

### ASSAULTS STAND TAKEN

BY COL. LINDBERGH

BY H. S. S. And Lindbergh wants neither side to win the war and wants peace as soon as possible. That would of course mean that the Nazis are to keep everything they have grabbed so far. Or does he think they would give up their loot unless they are licked? No wonder that the Nazi press praises him and that not a few people call him a Nazi.

And he wants Uncle Sam to stay out. I assume that he is a Christian. But I wonder if he ever heard the story of the man who fell among the robbers and was rescued by a man from Samaria? Is it Christian not to help people attacked by cut-throats?

### TERMS WILLIE REALIST,

GENTLEMAN AND GOOD LOSER

By Vox Populi

Hats off to Wendell Willkie! He can see that if we are to stop Hitler and his ideology from spreading to this hemisphere, we shall have to grant the President powers similar to those he would have in waging war. Stopping Hitler by measures short of war requires executive authority even greater than that exercised by Wilson without question.

It was for this that Roosevelt was elected to a third term by the American people. Willkie is a realist, a gentleman and a good loser. Hats off to him!

### A SLAM AT EVANS

FOR POLL TAX STAND

By Warren A. Benedict, Jr.

The loquacious representative from New Castle is now arguing for a poll tax on women as well as men. Part of the "mandate for the people," I presume. He claims men have transferred certificates of title to their cars to their wives in order to get their license plates without paying their poll taxes. Since these men must show their poll tax receipts in order to get their drivers' licenses, I am afraid that argument does not hold water.

The bill is preposterous. It simply means, in the overwhelming majority of cases, that husbands would have two poll taxes to pay instead of one. In other words, more taxes.

(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.)

Is that a "mandate of the people"? Or a ruse to collect more taxes to provide more jobs for "deserving" ward-healers?

The veteran representative should acquaint himself with the facts relative to the poll tax. It is on its way out throughout the nation, being retained for the most part by ward states. In all likelihood this added tax on the women will not pass; but should it, it would prove a terrible boomerang to some politicians who imagine they are being guided by a mythical "mandate of the citizens."

### WILLIE A 'TURN-COAT'

PASTOR CONTENTS

By the Rev. Daniel H. Carрик

Wendell L. Willkie is the greatest turn-coat and political sleight-of-hand performer and underhand worker ever known in American politics. It is clear to the public that Willkie and Roosevelt had an agreement before the election which turned out to be a third term for Roosevelt, the most atrocious thing that ever took place in the United States. It is very clear to the American people that Willkie is representing the war gods of America and is working in the interest of Great Britain and has never had a patriotic heart.

Roosevelt never was a Democrat, for it is impossible for a New Dealer to be either a Democrat or a Republican, for the New Deal setup is a borrowed setup from European politics.

Willkie has endorsed Roosevelt and wishes to make him the "temporary dictator" of America at the expense of our American liberties, yet there is no war declared. Suppose Roosevelt does declare war after he is made dictator for a definite time, what will happen to we American people if he should surround himself with an Asiatic army from

Russia and wish to continue forever a dictator, arranging for his family to follow in his footsteps?

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the President's wife, recently said that "we should be willing to give up our liberties, for we could always get them back when we want them."

### CITES DECAY OF ROME

AS WARNING TO U. S.

By Arthur S. Melling

I would like to add a few lines to Ed F. Maddox's "Lend-Lease Bill." This is just a clever way which England will tell us after it is over that she doesn't owe us anything. She leased the bases and fought our battles so she will say she doesn't owe us anything. How long is our memory, "New Dealer?" Can't you remember five years back?

Every time I hear about an indispensable man, I think back about 2000 years when there was a great republic known as Rome. This republic began to get into difficulties in many ways. But the worst was that men began to decay. The man who could give the biggest feed got the job. Now this continued until a man by the name of Julius Caesar came along. He saw the situation and did something about it. His work was so effective that he became a real indispensable man.

The people began leaning upon him so much that his life was the only thing between the Roman nation and collapse. Brutus, in a wild fit of rage, killed Caesar, the indispensable man in that far off day. Rome crumbled rapidly into oblivion.

Can't you see the fallacy of depending upon one man to think and act for all? When he gives out there is danger, for no one can take his place.

### CONTENDS CIGARET

BELONGS TO SATAN

By Bert L. Rodgers

Yes, Miss Cutter, it concerns thousands of clean thinking people, their rights and liberties are denied them to inhale pure fresh air into their lungs when everywhere they are compelled to breathe the poisonous fumes of cigarettes.

Mr. Stark has stated real facts when he mentioned cigarette smoking is giving women a bloodshot facial droop. According to your article it would make one to believe cigarette smoking is a virtue. Still nastier is a fat bobbed-haired woman with a reeking cigaret between her lips, it gives her a cat-fish facial look ("beautiful").

The smoker's brain is harmed when the thousands of nerves controlling the brain are being narcotized. The cigaret is a Satanic thing and belongs to the devil. . . .

### THE SILVER HEART

By FREE LANCE

O, little dime with a silver heart—Swing gaily on, to play your part With millions of others, wending their way To the great White House this very day!

March with these shining silver dimes Until their music rings like chimes Into the hearts that are sad and ill, March and sing with a bright good will—

On, on, little dime of the silver heart! Help this grand cause, for you are a part!

### DAILY THOUGHT

And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity.—Leviticus 5:17.

BUT HE WHO never sins can little boast compared to him who goes and sins no more!—N. P. Willis.

# Gen. Johnson

Says—

 Agitation for Confederation of  
 English Speaking Peoples Evidence  
 Of Flabby Thinking in This Crisis

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—On the face of it, war is a form of madness as all the ages have said since the beginning, or as Emerson put it, "an epidemic insanity, breaking out here and there like cholera or influenza, infecting men's brains instead of their bowels."

That can't be helped by talking about it, but its secondary infection of people who are not yet in the affected area and who have never fought and never will, passeth understanding—and the female of the species seems more deadly than the male. Miss Dorothy Thompson is leading a new crusade for "Union Now," trotting out a lot of expatriates to argue for a new nation of "English-speaking peoples." The idea is to copy the union of the American colonies under the Articles of Confederation, which attempted to bind together the American colonies in and after their revolution against precisely such a "union then" before our Constitution was adopted.

It is not beside the point to suggest that the distinguishing feature of the Articles of Confederation was their utter futility and inadequacy.

It was a "league of friendship." As Max Farrand has written, "Congress might declare war but the states might decline to participate in it; Congress might enter into treaties but it could not make the states live up to them! Congress might borrow money but it could not be sure of repaying it; and Congress might decide disputes without being able to make the parties accept the decision. The pressure of necessity might keep the states together for a time, yet there is no disguising the fact that the Articles of Confederation formed nothing more than a gentlemen's agreement."

Exactly the same remarks might have been made about the League of Nations. In this country, the great laboratory of experience, it was proved beyond peradventure, not only that such Articles of Confederation will not work but also, by the Constitution, what changes are necessary to make them work. Why then from this country should have proceeded such a repetition of proved error as the League of Nations and, to a greater astonishment, why now should proceed a suggestion of repetition of the Articles of Confederation for the "English-speaking peoples?"

FURTHERMORE, what community of economic, military or political interest necessarily follows the language that nations speak? What is to become of our "good neighbors" and all-American defense when we leave out of this "union now" the Spanish and Portuguese speaking peoples of North, Central and South America? Where do the hundreds of Asian, Malaysian and African tongues of the British Empire fit in and our own Tagalog, Moro Ilocano and Ilinggo dialects?

It is about the craziest pipe-dream yet advanced, but as this war mania spreads we can expect more and more proposals. People who have the nerve to number "1776" a new bill practically authorizing our naval and military re-union with the British Empire, can't be expected to know nor care that they propose to cancel out the Declaration of Independence, repudiate the American Revolution, dilute our strength with the world's weakness, finance a new world war even to the bankrupted United States, and pave the way for bolshevik revolution and the triumphs of communism—everywhere in the world.

With every week that passes, events more plainly suggest that the old fox of the world's mad shindy is sitting cannily in the Kremlin waiting for the defenders of every other form of government to destroy themselves as a prelude to his own effortless triumph.

## A Woman's Viewpoint

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

"IN times of war prepare for peace," cautions Elizabeth Parkhill Jordan, in a recently published booklet called "War's End."

It deals with large affairs, but do we not live in a time when large affairs affect each individual destiny? None can deny it. Nor does destiny withhold its heavy hand from the helpless heads of women. Therefore the most powerful chapters in Mrs. Jordan's book is addressed directly to us.

"Good women of the United States," she begins, "see you sitting in church every Sunday morning, millions of you, faithful and dependable. You keep the churches going. Things are not right in your world and all of us realize it, but what are we doing about it? Are you a good woman? Then take an interest in politics. Begin in a small way, right in your own district. Find out for yourself the faults of the system. And when you get into politics don't be tarred with the same stick of greed and selfishness that sneers too many people there, but if you are a good woman think of government as a place for absolute honesty."

From many sources comes the same challenge. Even the wisest men of our time are saying that the fate of our nation may depend upon the behavior of its women. Over and over again they point to an obvious fact. The middle and upper class housewife has more time to study political issues and influence voters than her husband who uses every ounce of strength to earn a living.

Certainly we cannot escape the thought that we have moved far from the security in which our fathers lived. One of the most tremendous hazards. And we shall betray our children, indeed, if we refuse to look at these hazards.

However, there is also hope, for we have the power to better conditions in our country and in the world. We can learn to vote intelligently if we set our minds to it. And something even more important—we can refuse to accept the mandates of men when our hearts tell us those mandates are evil.

Women in the United States have had the vote for 20 years, but the majority have lacked belief in their own convictions. Thus they have continually repudiated their best instincts and so lost what slight influence they might have possessed. There's no use in being good, Sisters, unless we can make that goodness a strong force in society. And, of course, the same thing goes for upright men everywhere.

## Questions and Answers

(The Indianapolis Times Service Bureau will answer any question of fact or information, not involving extensive research. Write your questions clearly, give name and address, inclose a three-cent postage stamp. Medical or legal advice cannot be given. Address: The Times Washington Service Bureau, 1615 Thirteenth St., Washington, D. C.)

Q—What causes the various pictures that appear to be on the moon?

A—A vivid imagination can turn the mountain and crater shadows on the moon into the face of the "Man in the Moon," the "Woman in the Moon," another woman in the moon apparently reading a book, or a rabbit standing on its hind. Numerous other popular myths have arisen from the positions of the moon's shadows that are visible to the naked eye. With a telescope, however, most of the shadow markings disappear and mountain ranges, canyons and immense craters appear. Many of the craters are 50 to 60 miles across, and some are more than 100 miles in diameter.

Q—What poem contains the line, "When you were a king in Babylon, and I was a Christian slave?"

A—"To W. A." by William Ernest Henley. It is included in his "Poems" under "Echoes," No. XXVII.

Q—I have seen hunters leave their firearms out-of-doors when they retire for the night during sub-zero weather. Why?

A—The only reason that we can surmise is that the guns used have telescopic sights, and if brought inside a heated building the sight lenses would become foggy and sight would be impaired.

Q—Who established the first Sunday School in the American colonies?

A—John Wesley, at Savannah, Ga., in 1736. It was left under the leadership of Charles Delamotte.