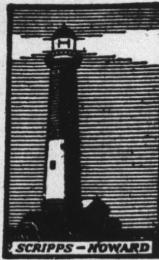


The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

ROY W. HOWARD RALPH BURKHOLDER MARK FERBER
President Editor Business Manager

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214 W. Maryland St.

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard News-Paper Alliance, NEA Service, and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Price in Marion County, 3 cents a copy; delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week.

Mail subscription rates in Indiana, 63 a year; outside of Indiana, 63 cents a month.

RILEY 6551

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 as far gone in such vices as graft and decay by public means, so comfortably adjusted to corruption 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 cafe trolley a glamour girl and nobody's feelings are hurt, but they are what they are just the same, as well we know and they, too. And, similarly, if you just sort of gold-plate our national, popular immorality in civic affairs as an amiable frivolity people don't mind. On the contrary, they think it rather cuts on mischievous, although we know it all amounts to a terrible bunch of graft. It 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 whose people were not so 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 disengaged 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 workers 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 is not a national convention in years. 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 40,000 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.

Whose right of collective bargaining is this anyway? Was it intended to protect the workmen or to provide a graft 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 his hair with a spade and save that \$50 per head plus dues, which would buy considerable mileage for their kids or gin for their inards 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 giveup this stranger will jerk his head 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 beset the big high-speed highway job and took first cut at the pay of the poor, horny-handed sidemen dodgers of the farms and mines, many of them just getting off relief or puttin' don't-standin' when they had muscle to sell and a happy chance to place to sell it.

But Chinese is upset a sheaf of charters like a deck of cards to a dirty blackhand and gunman of the Colosimo-Capone civilization 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 divvy to the international, and the local may be one hoodum, as 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 quail, 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 dollars which she had to settle off her balance 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 rates. She has \$8,800,000,000 in her various dominions and dependencies. She has a lot more in Asia and Europe, which we need not consider since this value may be now extinguished by the war.

Here, then, is \$12,800,000,000 of assets—government bonds, railways, 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 shrinkage 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 convert all converted—only about two billions at the most—to make up her so-called dollar deficit 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 what has become of all the assets of Britain listed by 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.

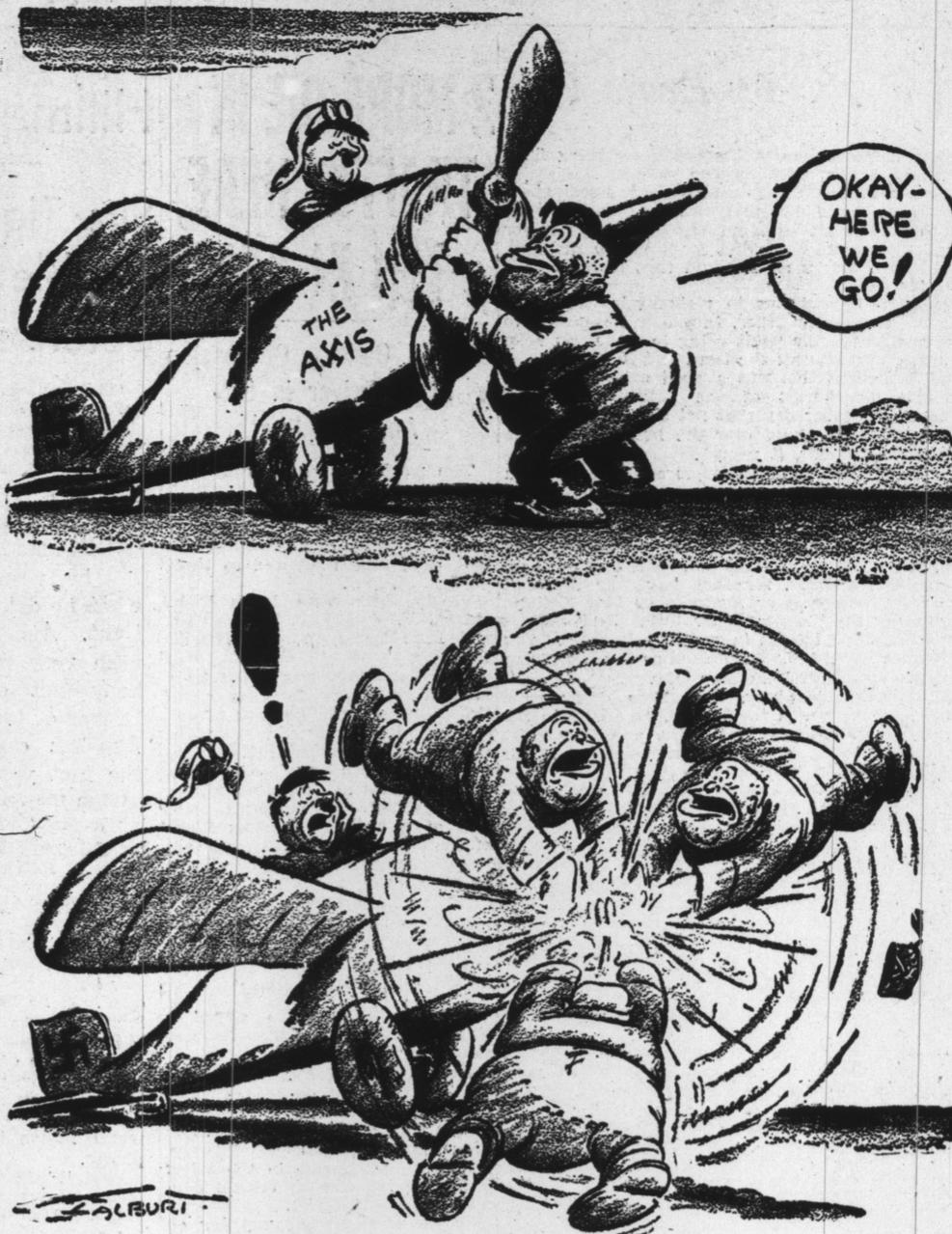
Of course the bill is high. But after all, war is expensive. England began this war without consulting us and, as Mr. Kennedy says, did not and has not stated her war aims. And she still has the money to pay her bills. Why should we pay them when doing so means the risk of war? We should at least know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

ASSAIS STAND TAKEN BY COL LINDBERGH

By H. S.

And so 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 WILLKIE 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 idiotology 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!

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 to pay two poll taxes to pay instead of one. In other words, more taxes.

Willkie has endorsed Roosevelt and wishes to make him the "temperamental 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. Meillinger

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 the great 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 his place...

CONTENDS CIGARET BELONGS TO SATAN

By Bert L. Rodgers

Yes, Miss Cutler, 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 bloodhound facial droop. According to your article it would make one to believe cigarette smoking is a virtue. Still nastier is the fat bobbed-hair woman with a smoking cigarette 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 cigarette 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 he is guilty,
and shall bear his iniquity.—
Leviticus 5:17