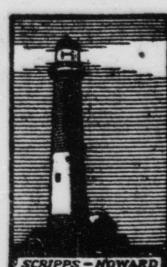


# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

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

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1941

## THE TIDE AGAINST LABOR

ORGANIZED labor in America is in its most precarious position since the depression of the early '30s decimated its ranks of employed and dues-paying members.

Great strides in the last eight years have made our unions today numerically the strongest in history and given them many strong pro-union laws. The boom in defense industries, adding millions to industrial payrolls and challenging organized labor to do its part in building national security, would seem to offer unions a marvelous opportunity further to expand their membership and win absolute public acceptance.

However, the mistakes of a few labor leaders, their failure to sense the temper of the times, threatens not only to stall union progress but to wipe out the spectacular gains of nearly a decade.

In the last few weeks there has been an alarming shift of public opinion against unions. Rather, it is against present union leadership—but organized labor as a whole suffers. We say "alarming," for this newspaper has fought hard to establish the union principle; to legalize the right of collective bargaining, as represented in the Wagner Act; to give protection to that group of American workers who need the most protection, through a law fixing minimum wages and maximum hours.

We have long believed, and still do, that in our industrial civilization strong and responsible unions are absolutely essential for safeguarding human rights and assuring an equitable division of the fruits of mass-production. We can have no free society unless all men are free; no real prosperity unless all prosper according to their deserts.

The shift in public sentiment is manifesting itself in many ways. State legislatures, notorious barometers of popular opinion, are acting upon some extreme and dangerous measures:

The Texas House of Representatives, by 7 to 1, voted a measure making strike violence a felony if committed by a union picket, a misdemeanor if committed by a strikebreaker. The Oklahoma Senate, by 3 to 1, voted to make it a felony for anyone to try to persuade a worker on a defense project to join a union. The Georgia legislature passed a measure forbidding initiation fees on defense projects, and it failed to become law only because the Governor vetoed it after Georgia unions had promised to maintain an open-shop rule.

Public opinion polls indicate an overwhelming majority of American citizens would require unions to submit their complaints to a National Mediation Board before striking, and even forbid strikes entirely in defense industries. And, rightly or wrongly, preponderant public opinion blames union leaders more than management for the slowdown in defense production. All this is substantiated by the flood of mail Congressmen in Washington are getting from their constituents back home.

This newspaper still believes that the unions' right to strike should be maintained, that a prohibition against strikes would be a great mistake. But we are in a minority that is growing smaller. And with even some rank-and-file union members swinging to the other side, we recognize that there is a real danger of violently restrictive legislation, despite all the pro-labor Roosevelt Administration can do to forestall it, unless somehow, some way, responsible labor leaders find a means of settling disputes while keeping the defense production lines open.

Very clearly the American public is in no mood to tolerate much more stoppage in the manufacture of the vital weapons of defense.

## GIVE US MORE AND BETTER DEMOCRACY!

AMERICA was profoundly affected by the French Revolution with its teachings of liberty, equality and fraternity, its destruction of ancient feudalism. The effect was a deepening and broadening of our democracy under Jefferson.

We shall be affected also by the totalitarian revolution which has overrun Europe and is hammering at the gates of England. What shall this effect be?

Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler say that democracy is old and rotten, doomed to pass. They say freedom such as Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France enjoyed is weakness, doomed to be overcome by nations under dictators.

There are those in this country—fortunately only a few—who say that maybe the dictators are right, and that America should become a dictatorship.

Our need is not to get rid of democracy, but of those things which keep democracy from functioning efficiently.

"Politics," in the bad sense in which we usually use it, is not democracy. We do not need the politics which distorts and exploits issues for the selfish advantage of parties or men. We do not need the politics that makes public jobs the reward of the political hacks rather than the persons competent to fill them.

That you can have democracy, and a better democracy, by getting rid of politics and political machines has been proved by the 500 cities which have adopted non-political city manager government in the United States. The government is centralized in the hands of one man, the city manager. That makes for efficiency, for the people know where to place responsibility. But that man is under the control of a council elected by a free people, so there is no dictatorship.

Who shall say that it takes longer for the people to consult with each other about their national policies than it takes a dictator to commune with himself?

It is not true that despots and dictators can arrive at wiser decisions or act more decisively than the responsible heads of democracies.

We need not less liberty, but a more responsible liberty. We need not less democracy, but better control by the people of their own destiny.

## Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Mr. Spelvin's Loose Jaws Get Him Into a Jam With the Courts but Chances Are the Lesson Was Lost

NEW YORK, March 31—George Spelvin, American, wears his chin on loose hinges and his ever-loving War Department has warned him for years to keep a still tongue in his face unless he is sure of his knowledge. But he won't take a very long lead off base for some time to come, after an experience that befell him last week. Nothing will ever make a sure-footed fact man of George Spelvin, American, but he got a good scare, and he won't prattle out of turn for awhile.

It came about in the most innocent way.

One afternoon recently word went out that a friend of Mr. Spelvin was fixing to pour some drams for the beauty and chivalry from 5 o'clock on, so he gave his tie a jerk along about quitting time, phoned the mamma that he wouldn't be home for dinner and went over for the rejoicing. And after, maybe, six of these he finds himself talking to a stranger and, after touching up a couple of topics of the day, the stranger mentioned a trial that was going on in Federal Court.

Well, at that, our friend gives a wise laugh and says, "Oh, but that's a waste of time and the taxpayers' dough, because if there ever was a fix this is it."

"No kidding?" the stranger said.

"Oh, sure," Mr. Spelvin said. "It is a dead fix. Why, the mug is as good as out of it now, with that crooked lawyer and those connections and all the monkey business that has been going on. Sure, it is a dead sure fix, all right."

Mr. Spelvin thought no more about it until a couple of days later he got a call from Judge Fuss, down at Federal Court, who said he wanted to see him. And when George got to the judge's chambers, well, how do you do, and who do you think was in there with Judge Fuss but the guy Mr. Spelvin had shot off his face to at the drumming that afternoon. Also present was a sour, mean-looking sort of little guy, and Judge Fuss introduced Mr. Spelvin around very politely.

"Of course, you have met Mr. Klink here," the judge said. "He is an assistant to the District Attorney, and he felt that it was his duty to inform me that you had information that this case was fixed."

"And this gentleman here," turning to the nasty looking little squirt, "is Mr. Haggie, counsel for the defense, whose standing before the bar has been jeopardized. And, of course, as a judge I have to investigate this matter, and I know that you will be glad to help."

"Well, now, judge," Mr. Spelvin said, weakly. "You see, judge, I mean, I was just talking informally, and you know how you hear things around town, and anyway, I didn't know this man was the law, so I just said it was all over town like common knowledge, you might say, so I made a difference."

At this the nasty little guy lets go a snarl at our George that nearly sent him out the window.

"Facts! Facts! I demand the facts," he yelled. "Did you or did you not say this case was fixed?"

"Well, what I said was I mean . . . you know how you hear things around town, and anyway, I didn't know this man was the law, so I just said it was all over town like common knowledge, you might say, so I made a difference."

"You said it was a dead fix," Mr. Klink put in. "I wrote down your exact words."

"This is a serious matter," old Judge Fuss said. "The court takes a very serious view."

"But, judge," Mr. Spelvin said, "it is all over town, and that is all I know, because you take yourself and you hear this and that around town and—"

"Facts! Facts!" the nasty little guy screamed, and our George was thinking of contempt and a long spell in the old boob and the job kicked away and the old lady saying she told him so, when the judge piped up again.

"Spelvin," he says, "I ain't going to slough you for this because you are just a dope and a loud face, but you better put a zipper on that bazzoo of yours, because otherwise you might talk yourself into the can for six months. Now, get out of here!"

Boy, you should have seen our George lam out of that courthouse. But it won't last.

Six months from now you mention some movie queen that he never even saw and George will say positively that she is the worst tramp in Hollywood, drunk all the time and an absolute, rank bum.

You can't cure George Spelvin, American.

## Business

By John T. Flynn

Rumania Rich Oil Source for Nazis; Sea War Imperils British Supplies

NEW YORK, March 31—After food the next greatest problem for both Britain and Germany on the economic front is oil. Oil is the fundamental necessity for ships, planes, military equipment of every sort, but above all for the ships for England and the planes for both

England and Germany.

Neither of these countries has within its borders an adequate supply of oil. Germany, of course, has far more than England, but not in any sense enough.

Germany can produce from within the Reich about 750,000 barrels of oil a month. She can also manufacture about three times as much synthetic oil about 3,000,000 barrels a month. The remainder of her supplies she must get from Rumania.

She has been getting an average of 1,200,000 barrels a month. But she needs more than that. Rumania can supply her with from two to three times as much and maybe more if necessary.

But the means of transportation are inadequate—by the Danube, which is frozen for several months of the year. This difficulty will be presently overcome when pipe lines from Rumania to Germany have been completed, perhaps in four or five weeks. Then Germany will be able to get about 2,500,000 barrels a month.

Rumors have been printed that Russia has cut off Germany's oil supply since March 1 because of Germany's entrance into Bulgaria. But Russia has not been a very large contributor to Germany's oil resources.

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MODERN marriage is handicapped at the outset by modern living.—Judge Joseph Sabath of Chicago, hearing his 52,679th divorce case.

## So They Say—

FOR all of us, the democrats of the world, you are our country.—Mark Aldanov, refugee who has seen five revolutions.

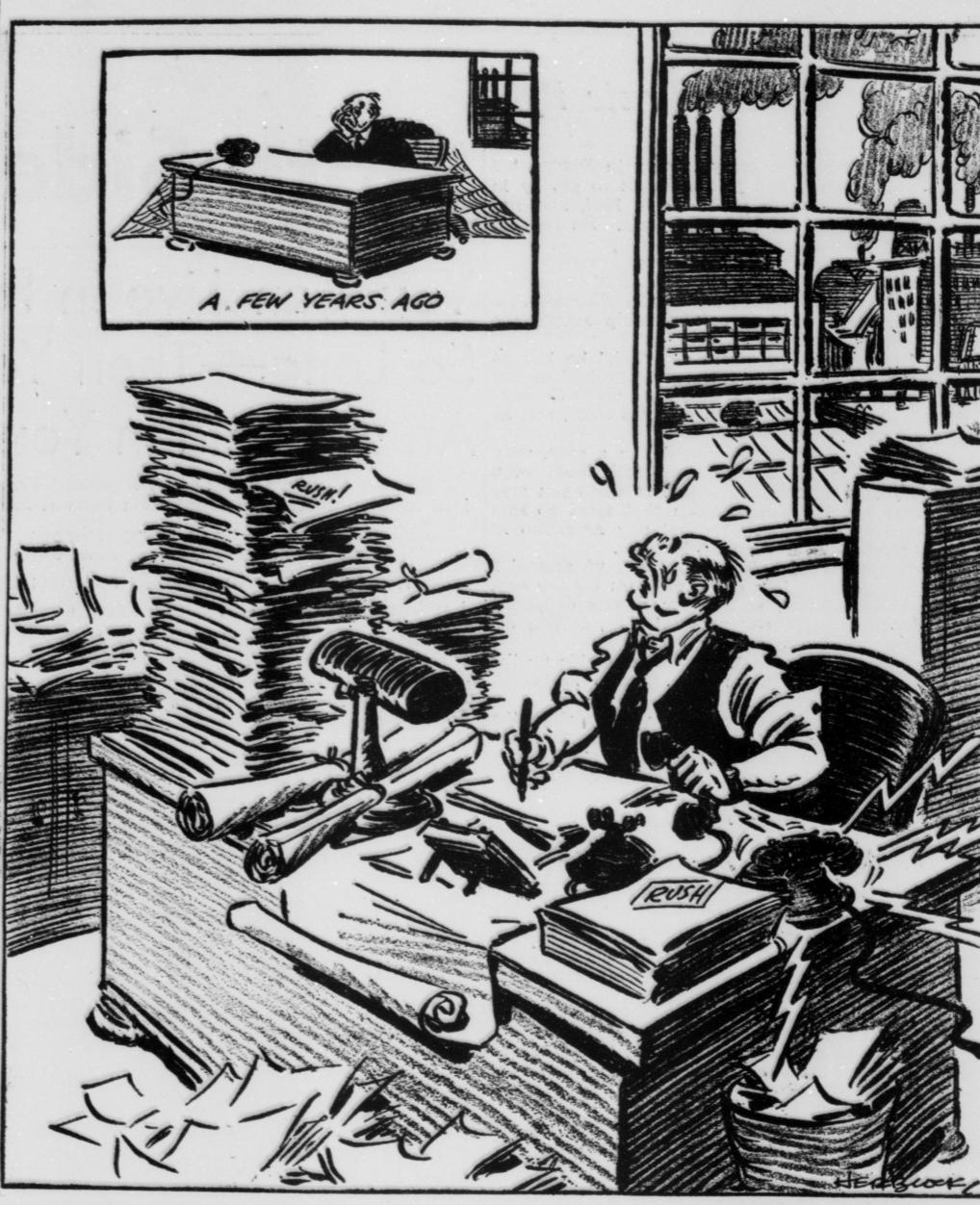
MODERN marriage is handicapped at the outset by modern living.—Judge Joseph Sabath of Chicago, hearing his 52,679th divorce case.

## 'Gosh! Was That Me?'

By Westbrook Pegler

Mr. Spelvin's Loose Jaws Get Him Into a Jam With the Courts but Chances Are the Lesson Was Lost

A FEW YEARS AGO



## The Hoosier Forum

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

### EARLY RISER BALKS AT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

By James J. Cullings, 20 E. 9th St.

I am opposed to daylight saving time. I must get up at 5:15 to get to work. I do not care to get up in the middle of the night to go to work, especially when the nights are hot and sultry. It is against a person's health and well-being.

I think the only reason some organizations want daylight saving is to have an hour more of daylight to try to sell their over-high-priced real estate that the realty companies have on hand. The Chamber of Commerce wants to play golf after sitting on a chair all day resting at the expense of the defense workers who work hard and sweat and toil.

UPHOLDS WORKERS IN ALLIS-CHALMERS STRIKE

By William M. Taylor, Box 109, Morgan-Town, Ind.

It was a pleasure to read your paper of Thursday. For the first time (to my knowledge) you have printed some facts regarding labor's side of the story. Pray tell me why you did not inform your readers that the Allis-Chalmers strikers accepted the proposal of Mr. Knudsen on March 7 and the Corporation said no, the Government can go jump in the lake.

Union labor as a whole would be most grateful, if the press would investigate all strikes thoroughly and inform the public of the actual truth, both pro and con. Of all strikers that I have had the privilege to talk with, I get the same answer which is, we will gladly lay the cards on the public's table.

We are told how Hitler does the union members in Germany. It is done here in Indiana, too. Times headlines in feature column, 100 strikers taken from union hall and put in jail. The blood that is shed by strikers (caused by police clubs) will never be a blot on history pages. Why? Because unscrupulous manufacturers are trying to force the workers to be like Chinese coolies. Enforcement by State Police whose wages come from taxes paid by these same workers. All under a false cry of patriotism.

Many people are hoping the Government will take over industry. My reasoning says it would be violating private enterprise. However, labor would prefer working for the Government than to work under such conditions as imposed by Ford, Bethlehem Steel and some others.

Labor wants decent wages in line with the cost of living. Decent working conditions and fair bargaining

salaries \$439,000,000 as compared with \$420,000,000 in 1929, and paid out \$30,000,000 more in taxes.

Apparently the wage and salary increase paid during the year in salaries of \$10,000 and over was less than 1.5 per cent of the total payroll.

If these figures, taken from the annual report of U. S. Steel, are correctly interpreted, it means that a greater percentage of the income of this giant concern is going to those who actually do the work, for the amount paid out in dividends to holders of common stock was roughly cut in half.

This tendency is a rising one throughout industry—to afford actual producers a larger share in the business income, and further, to make reports which clearly and simply show what is being done. Employers who understand these things are the most likely to be content.

### ARGENTINE DEPLORES SENATE ACTION

By Carlos F. Milberg

An Argentine I cannot hide my disappointment and sorrow for the action taken by the Senate in connection with the canned beef for the American Navy.

Our situation is getting to be terrible, and we certainly need the help of the Americans if we do not want to get into one of the most tremendous crises we have ever known. I wish something could be done, and I do hope it is soon.

### URGES LABOR LEADERS TO VISIT BRITAIN

By T. K. J.

The British Trade Union Congress is extending an invitation to American labor leaders to visit London and study at first hand the working arrangements between British labor and the Government in the crisis.

We hope they will go, and wish that with them would go a delegation of American manufacturers to study similar problems as they affect employers. Britain, fighting a back-to-the-wall fight, has managed to carry it on thus far without infringing on fundamental freedoms.

It should not be necessary to learn every lesson from bitter experience, though too often that seems the most effective way. We have military observers in all European war zones, striving to learn vital lessons in the least costly way. Ought we not to take as much trouble to learn all we can in every other field?

### NOTES STEEL WORKERS GETTING LARGER SHARE

By Frank Lee

The vast U. S. Steel Corporation had almost the same number of employees in 1940 that it had in 1929. It sold goods and services which brought in about \$13,000,000 less. But it paid out in wages and

salaries \$439,000,000 as compared