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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1941

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



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THE FEARFUL FUSILLADE

STRANGE that in the thunderous din of the tremendous assault on Moscow, the crackle of the guns of a few squads of riflemen should be so clearly heard!

In Czechoslovakia, in Yugoslavia, in France, in Holland and Norway, the repeated dull crashes of the firing-squads come clearly to the ear with sickening repetition, heard all too plainly above the din of the Russian battle. At least 1641 people have been slaughtered by this fearful fusillade in conquered countries, according to a compilation of official German reports.

The echoes of those shots, cutting down helpless men whose only crime was that they loved their native land, will be ringing in the world's ears long after the storm of battle has subsided.

"NOTORIOUS AND VICIOUS"

THERE is nothing novel about the "practicing of influence" in Washington by former Government employees who, though out of office, are still chummy with their one-time colleagues in strategic Federal positions.

Here is what was said six years ago by George Henry Payne, a member of the Federal Communications Commission:

"Washington is overrun with legalistic lobbyists and legislative agents and so-called 'fixers'—and everybody knows it."

"Everybody also knows that there are cliques who have entered the Government service for a short time with the intention of resigning and of making scandalous use of the information they have obtained from the inside of the Government."

"These people shortly bob up as counsel or agents for private interests to whom they have sold the experience and information they gleaned from the Government or to whom they have sold their alleged influence with the department in which they had served."

"This is a notorious and vicious abuse of which the Government ought to be purged."

AT Mr. Payne's instance, the FCC adopted a rule forbidding former employees of that agency from practicing before it within two years after their retirement.

But that doesn't prevent them from "practicing" before other Government agencies. And it doesn't prevent ex-employees of other agencies from "practicing" before the FCC or elsewhere in the Government where they may have complacent friends.

Lately the defense boom has produced an unusual amount of activity by alums of the Government servicemen who when in office basked in an aura of altruism and simo-purity, but who on leaving the public pay roll have suddenly found it O. K. to peddle their influence wherever the fees are fat.

Senator Carl Hatch (D. N. M.) has put in a bill to bar ex-employees of the Government from appearing before any Government agency whatsoever until two years after leaving the service. Rep. Joseph Gavagan (D. N. Y.) has offered the same bill in the House.

It ought to be passed.

AN UNMOURNED SHORTAGE

THE Government press agent, or information specialist as he is more pompously called on the payroll records, is often a useful creature, even though at other times he is a special pleader for an appropriation-hungry bureaucracy.

Nobody, in the Government or out, knows how many publicity men there are on the Federal rolls. A few years ago the Civil Service Commission estimated their number at 2600, but since then they have multiplied like mosquitoes. So has their output. A Washington correspondent's office is apt to be knee-deep in the fruit of the mimeograph machine—speeches, statistics, brochures, announcements, reports, orders, and what not. Most of it dull as ditchwater, and much of it trivial.

But at last a measure of relief is in sight. Although the Government has been buying up all the mimeograph paper available, still there isn't enough to keep the machines going at their accustomed consumption—in Washington alone—of 800,000 pounds of paper a month.

We wish the conservative measure would go further. Both the taxpayers and the word-jaded correspondents would benefit if the press agents were required to be more concise—if they were told, as an old boss used to tell us, that "every word must work or fight."

BIOFF AND BUY-OFF

ONE of the big film producers testified in New York that he considered it "good business" to pay \$100,000 in tribute to Willie Bioff, boss of the A. F. of L. union of stage employees and movie operators.

He feared to displease Bioff, he said, because Bioff had power to call strikes and "close up the business."

It is not good business to pay blackmail. Yielding to extortion only encourages the extorter to demand more. It is a confession of timidity, unworthy of a great industry—and how much more unworthy of the Government of the United States!

Yet Sidney Hillman, co-director of the Office of Production Management, has testified in Washington that it was considered good Government policy to deny a defense-housing contract to an employer of C. I. O. labor whose bid was at least \$200,000 lower than any other. And why?

Because of fear that displeasing the powerful A. F. of L. unions of building workers and teamsters might, in Mr. Hillman's words, "provoke union warfare" and give "irresponsible elements" opportunity to "blow up part of the defense program."

The defense program that was undertaken because we began appeasement of bullies—in Europe and Asia.

So They Say—

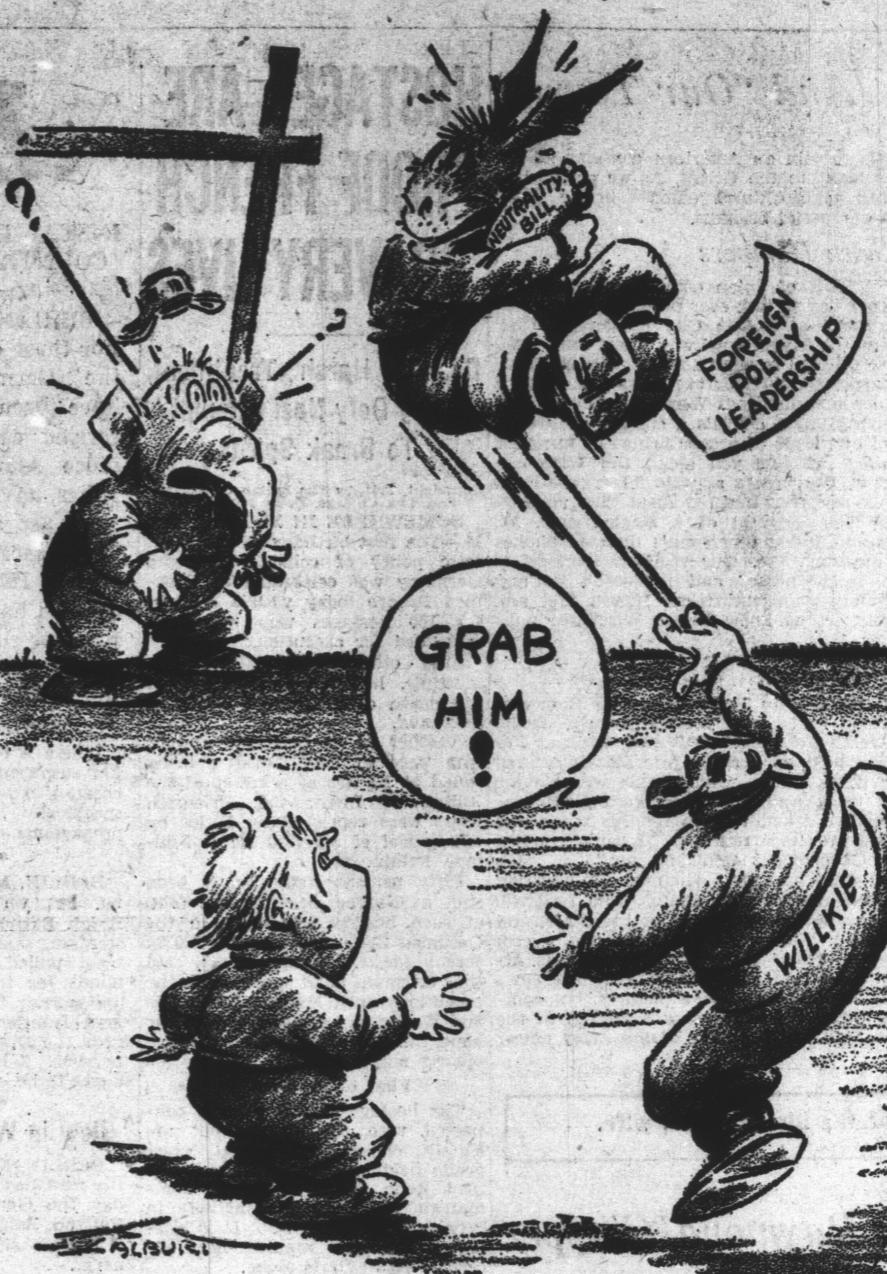
If we eradicate from our system that immoral principle of national responsibility which the sovereign system now sanctifies, we will have achieved the fundamentals of a peaceful world order.—Rev. John P. Dulles, chairman, Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace.

It's time for Alaska to be less a mining and canary camp from which non-residents extract wealth and leave nothing.—Ernest Gruening, Governor of Alaska.

We barbers are called gabbler because we are in a measure like newspapers—we gather up news and also give it out.—M. B. Dodd, Los Angeles, at Associated Master Barbers of America convention.

I am for what Hitler did and I am not squeamish about the methods he employed.—Robert Noble, West Coast organizer for Friends of Progress.

Mr. Willkie Throws a Very Forward Pass!



The Hoosier Forum

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

TIRED OF TRYING TO CHANGE ELECTION DATES?

By Luther McShane, 430 Massachusetts Ave.

Your paper recently carried an article stating that Judge Earl R. Cox stated he believed the "Skip Election" law to be unconstitutional. I believe the Judge is right and so does every other taxpayer and citizen whom I have talked with.

Both Democrats and Republicans want a City election next year. I don't understand why anyone should want to foist the added expense of an election in 1943 upon the backs of the taxpayers.

The general public is sick and tired of elected officials trying to change election dates, especially when it means more expense to them in the way of extra taxes for a needless election.

I hope this question is quickly settled.

STATE TRADE BARRIERS HARM ENTIRE COUNTRY?

By Carl J. Kuhn, 1806 S. Talbot St.

The introduction and extension of trade barriers between the states of the country and a continued maintenance of such interstate tariff walls will harm the entire country. The practice violates the Constitution and should therefore be eliminated.

Profiting from the experience especially of European countries, where dissension, strife, even wars were provoked by trade barriers, the framers of our Constitution wisely incorporated in the fundamental law of the land the provision forbidding a state to levy import or duty on the products of any other state seeking entry into its domain. The rapid economic development of our country is due in no small part to the wisdom of this prescription.

However, within the past several years many states have surrounded their domains with trade walls intended to keep out the products of their sister states. Some states have even established "ports of entry" one commonwealth having 60 of these posts situated at as many entrances as its boundaries.

In certain instances automobile

travelers are compelled to pay a tax on the gasoline in their tanks, and also upon such items as tobacco already in their possession. Other states impose a "use tax" on all commodities "imported" from another state, or collect a sales tax upon entry.

States employing such tactics, in violation of the Constitution, are of course blind to their own real interests.

In the first place, no single state is even remotely self-sufficient.

Moreover, the prosperity of all the citizens of our country is dependent upon the unfettered trade between the states. To turn back the clock 150 years and divide the country into 48 small nations instead of 48 members of a united nation would work irreparable harm.

In calling attention to this condition, steps should be taken to enforce the provisions of the Constitution affecting interstate relations.

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