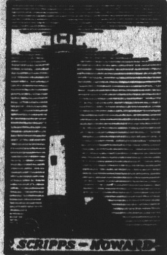


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RILEY 5551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1941

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 alumni of the Government service—men 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 Gavan (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 extortioner 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 were appalled at bulges in Europe and Asia.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—Lest it be said again, when this war is over, that the stories of German atrocities were inventions of the British propaganda machine and were spread abroad to inflame the gullible Americans against a proud but kindly people, the day-to-day record of the slaughter of hostages in France and other conquered lands should be preserved with special care.

It will be remembered that after the first war, a counter-propaganda was circulated for the purpose of cleansing the Germans of their sins against innocent and helpless captives. It was scolded that the Germans had crucified a Canadian soldier on a barn door and that they had even women or skinned Belgian children on their bayonets. But it had never been seriously alleged that they had committed any of these horrors and rumors that they had done so had been investigated and repudiated long before.

Nevertheless, the real atrocities remained in the record, but were forgotten in the confusion regarding crimes that never took place.

It was as though a man guilty of beating a cripple to death with a bat were to set up a hullabaloo that he had never thrown a bat into a furnace and thus completely divert attention from the fact that he had actually did slaughter the cripple as charged.

A Horrible Method of Reprisal

IN FRANCE, IN ONE DAY, 50 Frenchmen have died for the shooting of a German officer, although it was not even alleged that any of these victims had the remotest connection with the crime. This is a horrible method of reprisal which the Germans, under the Kaiser then and now under the Fuehrer, have resorted to instinctively.

It is promised at the present writing that 50 more Frenchmen will be selected at random from the pens and shot unless the assassins of another German officer are turned in.

Obviously the assassins cannot be turned up by the French people or their groveling government and Marshal Petain, in a speech that must humiliate all Frenchmen, has even said that the killers were the agents of foreign powers, presumably Britain and Russia, in which case certainly there would be no shadow of an excuse for these shocking reprisals on his innocent countrymen. Yet Petain absolves the Germans of blame in his cry to Frenchmen to "find the culprits" and save further victims from execution.

He could more reasonably, if he had the character, demand that the Germans, with their secret police and other means, discover and, by credible proof, convict the guilty men and spare the innocent.

No Need to Invent Atrocities

AFTER THIS WAR certainly there can be no belief in the German denial of their atrocities, nor may it be allowed that the horrors inflicted on the Jews not only in Germany but wherever else the Germans have found them are civilized conduct. The Nazis would have it that by decree of the Fuehrer the Jews have become sub-human and that atrocities on them do not count, but if that contention is sustained then any man will have a moral right to declare that anyone whom he dislikes is sub-human and subject to death at his hands or any other cruelty that his nature decrees.

This war, it will be remembered, was touched off finally after many years of winning and self-pity on the part of the Germans as a protest against the iniquitous cruelties of the Versailles Treaty which, itself, was a gentle and forgiving peace by comparison with the plan which the Kaiser had in mind.

Now the nation which yowled so loud and long over the loss of some African colonies which, as Hitler has admitted, were of much practical value, and a few mild repressions, has abolished a number of continental nations and has decreed that the Catholic Poles, like the Jews in Poland and everywhere else, are of a low order and scarcely human.

Hundreds of helpless hostages have been shot for crimes which, having been committed at the time, they could not have committed and so there is no need to invent atrocities to make the record against the German nation.

Editor's Note: The views expressed by columnists in this newspaper are their own. They are not necessarily those of The Indianapolis Times.

Indiana Politics

By Vern Boxell



RANDOM NOTES FROM the political arena: Victor Jose, who handled the recent suits for the Republicans in the 1940 county election, is reported in line for the County Attorney job when the Republicans gain control of the County Commissioners Jan. 1.

Another change in Hoosier Republican leadership may be made soon. Noland Wright of Anderson, president of Indiana Young Republicans, will be ousted, according to reports, by Robert Loring, Deputy Secretary of State James Tucker's office, who is Young Republican regional director for four states, probably will be asked to serve out Mr. Wright's unexpired term. Mr. Wright, who was twice clerk of the Indiana House, reportedly still is a candidate for Mr. Tucker's job next year.

The current report is that such a move may mean a union of the Jenner-Tucker groups. Both of them come from the same district, which means that State Senator Jenner could not get the gubernatorial nomination and Mr. Tucker the senatorial spot at the same time in 1944. And they both have their sights set on these spots.

So those who said that Ewing Emerson, the Seventh District chairman, deserted Mr. Jenner, his 1940 gubernatorial choice, when he got on Mr. Tucker's band wagon in ousting State Chairman Arch Bobbitt and collecting the auto license branch patronage, may be forced to revise their claims.

Incidentally, although many of his friends are urging Bobbitt to seek the Attorney-General nomination in the 1942 convention, the former G. O. P. chairman is said to have told them that he is not a candidate for any office.

So They Say—

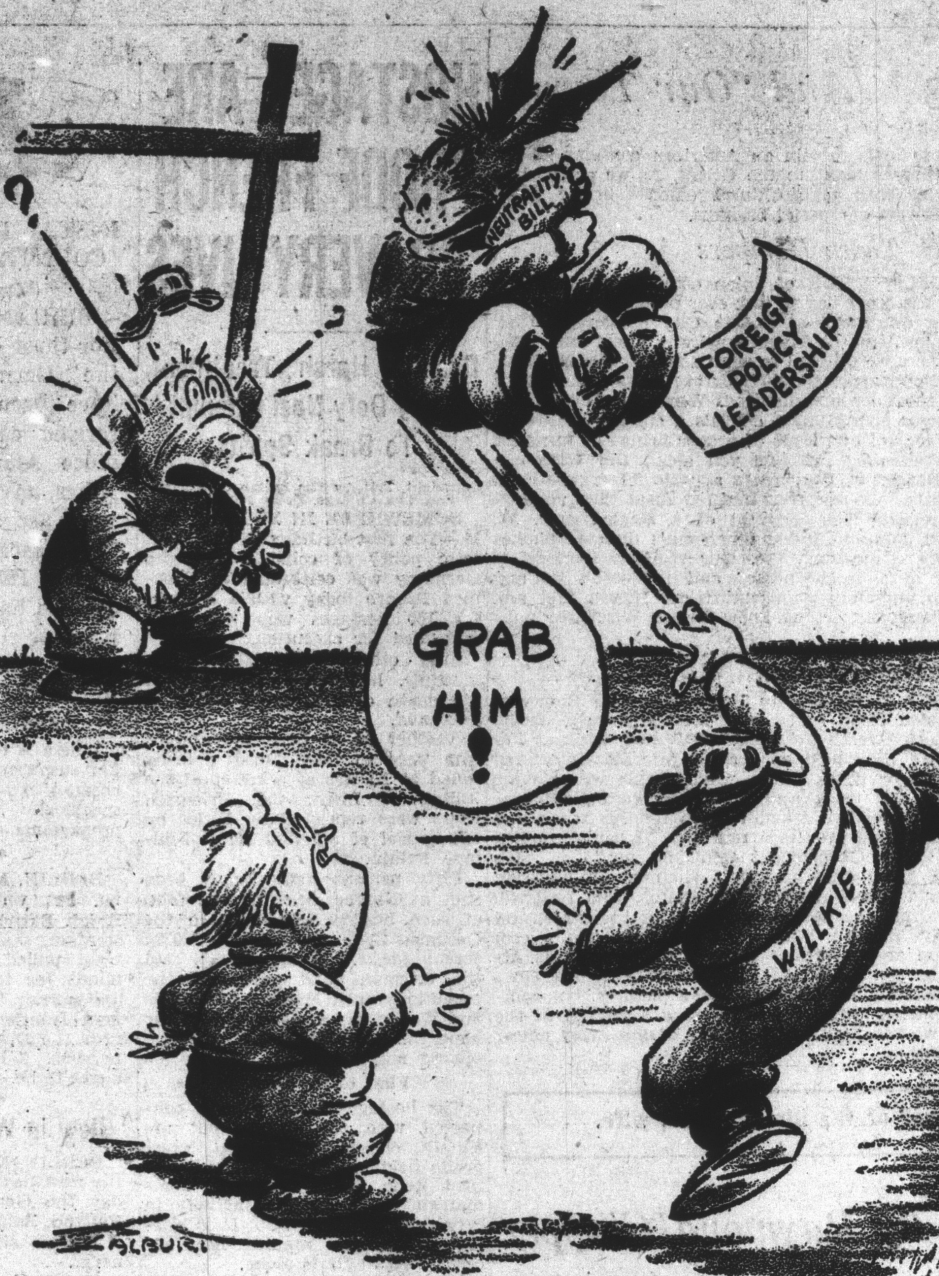
If we eradicate from our system that immoral principle of national responsibility which the sovereign system now sanctions, we will have achieved the fundamentals of a peaceful world order.—Rev. John P. Dulles, chairman, Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace.

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

We barbers are called babblers 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. Wilkie 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

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. Kuntz, 2330 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

(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.)

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.

'SUPPRESSING FREE SPEECH MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL'

By Orval Peate, 2330 Southeastern Ave.

I have read many items in the Hoosier Forum, but never before have I read any such as J. V. K. sent in and was printed Oct. 18, 1941. I presume J. V. K. claims to be a good American. Before I would write such an article, I would first go back a few years in American history and find out just what made America what it is, the greatest land on earth.

Unless my memory fails me, this great land of ours was founded on free speech, free press and the right to worship according to the dictates of one's own conscience. J. V. K. according to his own words, is in favor of a radical change in the form of government under which we live.

Suppressing free speech is the

most dangerous thing the American people could imagine. I don't say I believe all the things these men you mentioned has to say, but neither do I agree with Charles Lindbergh or Senator Wheeler.

All these gentlemen have their views on the various happenings in this troubled world of ours, even as you and I, but to advocate suppression of their right to make public their views is absolutely un-American.

U. A. W. MAN ATTACKS AUTO INDUSTRY AS 'SABOTEURS'

By William Taylor, Morgantown

The membership of the United Auto Workers in the General Motors plants agreed to accept the recommendations of the mediation board last June. The only gain was increase in pay. We could have, if we so desired, forced a closed shop, and many other concessions. Realizing that a strike would have interrupted the defense program, we waived aside our golden opportunity for organizational gain in order that the machinery and manpower would be utilized to help defeat mad Hitler and his armies.

Today the answer to our patriotic sacrifice is curtailment of production and employment. A modern plant, with modern machinery and equipment, producing three and four days per week. Orders from Washington are to the effect 220,000 auto workers are to be laid off by Dec. 1st.

General Motors holds the lion's share of contracts for national defense, and why they should build new buildings when steel and other materials are vitally needed for defense seems to be un-American. Should not defense contracts be allocated to the auto plants and building materials be diverted to where they are most needed?

The press has consistently charged that any strike (even 10 men) was a tie-up of national defense. Where is that same press now when auto manufacturers are tying up national defense? Have we forgotten the slogan labor-baiting Sloan of GM used, when he stated that an idle plant in America is no better than a bombed plant in England? We are told that a dictator would take away our rights and democracy would cease. I believe that to be truth. However, I honestly believe that those who want to preserve democracy here should put some dictator force upon those in industry who are now unmasked and proven to be the real saboteurs of national defense. Heading that list is the auto industry.

With modern plants and modern equipment idle, the number one problem is to force defense work into those plants. Let those who cast their stones at labor retrieve them and cast them where they will do the most good.

WINTER

A widow bird sate mourning for her love

Upon a wintry bough;
The frozen wind crept on above,
The freezing stream below.

There was no leaf upon the forest bare,
No flower upon the ground,
And little motion in the air—
Except the mill-wheel's sound.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)

DAILY THOUGHT

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.—Luke 8:15.

GOD ANSWERS sharp and sudden on some prayers, and thrusts the thing we have prayed for in our face, as a gambler with a gift in a Browning.

Gen. Johnson Says—



WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—If my mail and contacts with what I hear of those Congressmen are any criterion, a very unpleasant situation is gathering speed and volume in this country—like a snowball on a mountain-side which could become an avalanche.

It isn't so much a protest against so-called "priorities unemployment" as it is of the arbitrary and unplanned nature of the defense restrictions which, if not in some way softened, will wipe out the tragically cripple all but the greatest corporations in this country and impose burdens, not yet dimly dreamed on the entire civil population.

This writer has been intimately familiar with most of the recent emergencies in Washington—before World War I, while it was going on, in the immediate post-war and industrial depression, in the much greater 1929 depression, during the formation of the New Deal, throughout the groping, fumbling approach to World War II—and now.

An Orgy of Utter Confusion

IN EACH GREATER or lesser crisis, it tended to become a madhouse, but compared with the situation today, the appropriate incidental music would have been "calm sea and happy voyage." Just now it is a madhouse from which the roof has been taken off and all the witches and their familiars have been invited in to celebrate Walpurgis Night in an orgy of utter confusion.

The hotels are crowded with frantic or dispirited people, eager to co-operate, but unable to find out what they can or can't do or what is expected of them. In general they get one continuous run-around there and learn from home of one ruinous restriction after another, either lately applied or in immediate prospect.

Rising prices, confiscatory taxes, with no end in sight, they can understand and expect. But the increasing denials to them of materials, transportation, power with which to conduct their business, even on a skeleton basis, threaten a sentence of economic death—to them and many of their employees. This is much harder for anybody to understand, and the stern necessity for it, if it exists, has simply not been "sold" to them.

A Long and Difficult Task

BELEATEDLY MR. ODLUM has been called in to "preserve the small businessman" by spreading defense orders. Anybody who knows anything about war production is aware that this is a worthy, but almost worthless gesture. So little sub-contracting can produce efficient results. So many—by far the bulk—of these people can't take defense business. They are not equipped for it.

It is a long and difficult task to change over a plant from one type of production to something entirely different. Neither can employees trained in one specialty be easily adapted to another. In addition, by far the majority, such as retailers, wholesalers and non-metal-working shops can't take this kind of work at all.

Mr. Odlum, while being one of our ablest promoters in finance, especially public utilities, has no experience in this type of industry or administration. No comfort has been found there. He seems to be as bewildered as the dazed people who look to him rather hopelessly for help.

How long can you do this sort of thing and how far can you go? I don't know. But people who talk about 50 billions of war production annually have no answer to the necessities requirements of our civilian population except "let them do without" would do well to pay some heed to this situation. Our country wants to do its part. But somewhere there is a limit to what we can do. Isn't anybody in Government paying any attention to that? Not up to the present writing.

A Woman's Viewpoint

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson



BECAUSE WE ARE all searching for something to fortify our faith, a new book just published by Harper and Brothers must be recommended. The author of "Brave Enough for Life" is Barbara W. Newhall. This book is a story of a woman's life, a story which can certainly help.

Even if you handle books all the time, and open each fresh one with cynical disdain, since such a vast number aren't worth opening, you can see instantly by glancing at the first page that this is a different kind of book. Your mind will fasten fiercely onto the words for there is a terrible hunger abroad in our land—a hunger for something more desirable than bread—food for the soul. And here, in simple language is sustenance.

Overstreet wanted something to build up her own flagging courage. She looked about her, and seeing signs of a hard winter ahead for the human spirit, said to herself, "I must prepare for it by gathering together and keeping everything in my own experience and in history that will give me confidence in people." The result is her book.

Choose Spiritual Ancestors

GREAT PEOPLE HAVE always been alive in the world and they live among us today. Because they are never in the majority, the generation to which they belong seldom knows them. They are recognized only when they have become a part of the past.

Mrs. Overstreet advised us to choose spiritual ancestors so that we may acquire a sense of fellowship. She names those she has chosen—Euripides, Aristotle, and Socrates, who really died for freedom of speech when he drank the hemlock rather than cease speaking what he believed to be the truth. Epictetus, St. Francis, Erasmus, George Foxe and John Locke. Coming down to our own time, she reminds her of the few great ones she has met—Einstein, Gandhi, Edward Arlington Robinson, Father Jimmy Tompkins and others.

Besides, there are all the little great people who never get their names in the papers or history books. You know many of them and so do I. And so long as one of them is left alive, there is hope for the race. The author's creed is summed up in these words:

"In order to have a sense of fellowship I do not have to visualize myself in marching with the majority. I have only to know that among my contemporaries there are men and women speaking in defense of the same values that have been defended by the great of all ages."

Questions and Answers

The Indianapolis Times Service Bureau will answer any question of fact or information, not involving extensive research. Write your questions clearly, sign name and address, enclose a three-cent postage stamp. Medical or legal advice cannot be given. Address: The Indianapolis Times Service Bureau, 1612 Thirteenth St., Washington, D. C.

Q—Is Connie Boswell crippled? Does she use a wheel chair when she broadcasts?

A—She has been crippled since childhood. When she broadcasts, she uses a high wheel chair, and at other times a small folding wheel chair.

Q—What is the official world speed record for a measured mile for automobiles?

A—It is 358.35 miles per hour, made by John R. Cobb in his "Red Lion," at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, Aug. 23, 1939.

Q—Are football covered with pigskin?

A—Outside covers of regulation footballs used in college and professional games are not made of pigskin. They are generally made of the best grade cowhide. The term "pigskin" for a football is traceable to the fact that in the early history of the game the ball often consisted of a blown-up pig's bladder.

Q—What is the per diem cost of feeding the U. S. Army?

A—About 50 cents per day per soldier.

Side Glances—By Galbraith



"The only reason you object to Jenny's boy friend is because he's a lieutenant, and as a World War private you have to watch yourself or you'll salute!"