

## Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

PROFILE OF THE WEEK: B. Howard Caughran, U. S. District Attorney, elder in the First Presbyterian Church, former school teacher, World War veteran and the newly elected president of the Indianapolis Bar Association. He always uses the initial B, never has disclosed his first name.

Howard Caughran (it's pronounced something like "Cawr-ahn") is known for his ability as a story teller. He has a never-ending supply of yarns which he spins entertainingly and without provocation. Most anything "reminds me of a little story."

His sense of humor runs to mild practical jokes such as the time he invited guests for the evening, then borrowed a smallpox sign and lacked it on his door. He gets a big laugh watching his guests' dismay as they arrived to saw the sign.

He's a 51-year-old six-footer, weighs 165 or 170 pounds. His face is determined, yet kindly in appearance. His eyes are blue gray, and he has trouble keeping his dark, curly hair combed. He still retains his Tennessee accent, usually speaks rather rapidly and sometimes stutters a bit. Extremely affable, he can be pushed quite a ways—but not too far.

His clothing is neat and conservative, and he almost never buys a new suit until he drags him down to a store. He likes to wear anything the least bit effeminate. For instance, he wouldn't think of carrying a woman's umbrella, even in an emergency. He'd drown first.

He's slightly forgetful at times. He left his umbrella at the Guaranty Cafeteria the other noon. They held it for him and the next noon he picked it up but lost it again—this time for good—before he could get back to his office with it. It's happened before, too.

Mr. Caughran is one of the few men who can say they moved here just because they liked the town.

Ernie Pyle is on leave of absence because of the illness of his wife.

## Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The almost solid anti-labor vote from the rural South accounted for the large margin of 116 votes by which the House passed the stiff Labor regulation bill. In general, representatives from rural sections voted for the bill while those from industrial sections voted against it.

The breakdown of the vote shows members going in the direction of political self-interest, but the result cannot be argued away on that basis. Under this same geographical distribution the House has many times before voted for labor—and seldom against it. The same distribution of members voted for the Wagner Act a few years ago.

Now it votes for a restrictive bill, and the result is the same. The House shouted in additional amendments, including one by Rep. Martin Dies. This was done in the face of a strong labor lobby. It was, as some members said afterward, partly an act of defiance of labor pressure.

Labor-union officials were called from all over the country to assemble here and work on Congress. When large numbers of votes are involved, as in pressure for pensions, relief appropriations or labor legislation, the most courageous legislator takes pause. It is no easy matter to vote against a numerous and organized minority. Parliamentary government has become widely discredited because it has been unable to resist sizable voting minorities.

## Milder Action Forecast

AS A BELIEVER in democratic government I felt better when the House passed a stiff labor bill. It isn't the bill so much as the principle of the thing. The House action gives at least the appearance of stamnia. It also was healthy because substantially the same body has over recent years voted a liberal program of labor and social reform and has now moved to correct abuses of its own program. This is no fascist-minded house, as its pro-labor votes in

About to get his discharge from the Army, he looked over several cities as a place to live and practice law. He liked Indianapolis best. Since then he has been here.

Born in Fayetteville, Tenn., he attended Trinity College, now Duke University, was a county school teacher, and at Arkansas, studied law at Cumberland University in Tennessee and taught school a few months in Colorado before enlisting in the Army in 1917. He's a former City Health Board attorney, once ran for the State Legislature.

His pet peeve is split infinitives; he just can't stand them.

When someone tells him something interesting or amusing he usually remarks, "Aw, no," without naming the infection.

He never smokes or drinks, and doesn't like to see women smoke. As a boy he signed a pledge not to smoke until he was 21, then never got the habit. He likes corn bread, and has to have coffee at least three times a day with about two drops of cream in it.

He doesn't care for the radio except for political speeches, attends the movies only about three or four times a year. Reading is his principal relaxation, although his work doesn't give him much time for indulging it. He's particularly fond of biographies and poetry. He's rather enthused over his new car, enjoys driving. He never misses a thing when he's driving, tells stories with gestures, and sees all the sights. And usually he's the only person in the car that's relaxed.

He doesn't like to play cards, but will take a hand at bridge when he feels he must. He doesn't play well, either; converses too much. He'd much rather sit down for a lively session of checkers with his son, John, a freshman at Shortridge. A daughter, Joan, is at Wellesley.

Mr. Caughran's principal hobby is visiting the homes and tombs of the Presidents. He's seen all but about a half-dozen of them to date during his vacation trips. One of those half-dozen, much to his embarrassment, happens to be the grave of Benjamin Harrison, in Crown Hill. It's just so near that he hasn't gotten around to it yet.

Intense cold set in Friday, according to a broadcast quoting a war correspondent for Pravda, official Communist Party newspaper. Russian troops advancing at night were reported to have found German soldiers frozen to death on a main highway near Volokolamsk.

The official news agency Tass conceded that the Germans had launched several attacks in the Mozhaisk sector but said they had been repulsed with heavy losses. A German infantry battalion was reported to have been surrounded and "completely wiped out" in a village near Mozhaisk.

In the Stalingrad area south of Moscow, a Pravda correspondent reported, mounted Russian guards supported by tanks, infantry and artillery, forced the Germans to abandon their lines and retreat northward. In the Tula sector, just west of Stalingrad, it was admitted that the Germans still had the

past show.

The talk is that the Senate will rewrite the bill and take the force out of it. Some time ago the House passed amendments to balance the Wagner Act and they were buried in the Senate. The labor lobby is still on the same break this time. Vice President Wallace has referred the House bill to the Senate Labor Committee, which leans toward mild legislation, rather than to the Judiciary Committee, which had reported out the Connally postal-seizure bill and which would have been inclined toward a strong bill. Whether the Senate will support the House remains to be seen.

During the emergency we probably would be better off with strong legislation. We need restrictions on industry during the emergency that would be undesirable in normal times. Experience suggests we need them also with regard to labor.

## Purpose Is to Stop Strikes

THE PURPOSE IS to get at the strike. The Smith Bill passed by the House goes straight to that point. It outlaws a strike or lockout during a 30-day cooling-off period. A strike could be called only by a secret vote of the employees, taken under Government auspices. The status of the closed shop is not to change. Jurisdictional strikes would be outlawed. Unions would be required to register and make their accounts public. Some details of the Smith Bill may be extreme or impractical, but those essential features ask no more of labor than should be expected during an emergency.

Ample opportunity is provided for fair adjustment of wage disputes. Can anybody say that this Administration and its agencies have not taken a sympathetic attitude toward labor in deciding wage questions? The strike weapon still exists as a last resort but obstacles are thrown in the way of exercising it. That is not only considered good policy during the emergency. It always has been considered good policy as in the case of the Railway Labor Act devised by labor itself.

A democratic government has the right to ask of all its citizens that they assist it during the emergency. By insisting upon that right now, the House gives new respect to the principle of self-government.

## Fragrant East

LASHIO (By Clipper).—While waiting for a Burma Road convoy to crawl out of the flood-ravaged Irrawaddy Valley down near Mandalay (where, despite Rudyard Kipling, flying fishes have never been seen)—well, while waiting, this seems an appropriate moment to reconsider the territorial merits of that eminent 13th century Venetian traveler, the late and long-slumbering Marco Polo.

Marco Polo, as you will well remember, was the traveling salesman who journeyed for three, four, or five years, all the way from Turkey and Persia through Turkistan, the fringes of Tibet and Mongolia to ancient Cathay—the north China empire of Kublai Khan.

About the year 1275 Signor Polo set forth with his father and uncle, The Great Khan (Kubla) took such a fancy to young Marco that he traveled for tens of thousands of miles through kingdoms never dreamed of by the Western world in service of the emperor.

Wrote His Story in Jail

AFTER YEARS and years Signor Polo got home, became commissioned to escort a beautiful Chinese princess to Persia as the bridal candidate of a Persian prince and finally, after three years of heroic persistence, got back to Venice along about 1295.

Then Signor Polo got jailed in the course of a Venetian-Genuese war and to kill the monotony of a war prisoner's lot he wrote a long, detailed account of all the wonders he had seen in the unknown, incredible and fantastic Far East.

The travel of Marco Polo did not become a best-seller until long after their author's demise, but they landed the enterprising Signor Polo right in the middle of the Harvard classics and many other classical collections of much earlier vintage.

## My Day

WASHINGTON, Friday.—Yesterday evening, in New York City, at 8:30, I went to America's Town Meeting of the Air. I enjoyed the program very much. As so often happens, I felt that many sides of the problem of health could not be covered, even in as long a period as we had on the air.

One thing I felt needed emphasis, namely, that the workers themselves, through their labor unions, organizations, are doing a great many things to improve their health. It seems to me that the employer has an obligation to use every safety device possible to prevent accidents and has an obligation to initiate other programs, with the idea of social welfare always in the background and the realization that health is a stepping stone to all real welfare and security.

But the employee also has a responsibility for plans and programs which they can work out themselves, or in co-operation with the employer. I think a shining example of this is Mr. David Dubinsky's International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, which has worked out programs for both health and recrea-

## NAZIS FREEZING TO DEATH, RED RADIO REPORTS

## Cossack Cavalrymen Deal Foe Terrific Blow on Southern Front.

LONDON, Dec. 6 (U.P.).—Powerful German attacks on the Mozhaisk sector due west of Moscow have been repulsed and Russian troops have hurried back attacking Germans north and south of Moscow with annihilation of 10,224 Germans and destruction of vast quantities of equipment in the Volokolamsk area. Russian war dispatches said today. The Russians were credited with brilliant artillery work.

Radio Moscow broadcast that in the Volokolamsk sector 60 miles northwest of Moscow the Germans, in addition to losing 10,224 officers and men in a week's fighting in temperatures 13 degrees below zero, suffered the loss of 139 tanks and 22 planes.

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Surgeons Work at Battle Edge

BERLIN, Dec. 6 (U.P.).—A military spokesman said today that the Germans had captured Mozhaisk, a

key town, 60 miles west of Moscow.

The Germans also claimed to have seized the towns of Mtsensk, Cherd, Novosil, Livny and Maloar-

changel on the south central sector of the Eastern Front.

These five towns are in the Orel

sector about 60 to 100 miles south

of Tula.

Sleep 2 or 3 Hours; No Lives Lost in 106 Major Operations.

By VIRGIL M. PINKLEY

United Press Staff Correspondent

WITH CASUALTY CLEARING STATION ON LIBYAN BATTLE FIELD, Dec. 3 (Delayed).—Today I visited men in white trying des-

perately to save human life on the

edge of raging battles.

The High Command, in its daily

communiqué, admitted the con-

tinuance of strong Russian attacks

in the Donets River Basin on the

southern front but said they had

been "wiped off" with severe Rus-

sian losses.

Doctors in this group avoided

making a single amputation among

their latest cases, a matter of great

gratification to their commanding

officer.

U. S. Equipment Used

The unit was taken as close to

the battlefield as possible to avoid

carrying casualties in ambulances

long distances over rough desert

tracks. Much of the equipment

was made in the United States, including the operating theater,

X-ray machines and medicines.

As I entered the theater, be-

clouded by the heavy odor of chloro-

form and other anesthetics, I saw a

red-eyed doctor and his assistant

removing pieces of shrapnel from

a corporal's knee. They had just

completed a delicate operation on

an armored car gunner's face, which

had been shot up pretty badly in

a strafing by a German Stuka.

"We work under trying conditions but with excellent equipment," a

serious young captain-surgeon said.

"There is a chance to do good work here."

Shrapnel Wounds Mostly

About 70 per cent of the patients

handled at the station suffered from shrapnel wounds.

The unit twice was surrounded

by Axis tanks and armored cars as

the fighting shifted. The first time

it was at night when lights burned

brightly. The second time it was

daytime and the tanks had

been driven up to the hospital.

"Had they moved in, a large num-

ber undoubtedly would have died,"

a colonel said. "Nazi tanks halted,

made an investigation and then

passed 20 yards distant. Later Brit-

ish successes brought the unit back

to our own territory."

Undermine Nazi Plan

Germany has won by the simple

process of concentrating her full

weight against one opponent at a

time, meanwhile combining military