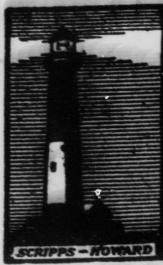


# The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1942

## IF THEY'D HAD THE TOOLS

IT is now revealed that the Japanese lost seven warships—one cruiser, four destroyers, a submarine and a gunboat—in the Wake Island action.

If our Marines had had four more airplanes, they'd probably have sunk the whole Jap navy.

## NEGLECTED NINCOMPOOPS

THE British, having been at war longer, are even more impatient than Americans over the poor showing in the Far East. In the press, in parliament, and among high government officials, there are shouted criticisms which are only whispered in this country.

As usual in such a mood, there is a hunt for scapegoats.

In London yesterday one high official got so un-Britishly hot under the collar that he had this to say about the late commander-in-chief of all imperial forces in the Far East, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham:

"The only comfort I have, and I do not apologize for my language, is that I am glad a nincompoop of that kind was promptly replaced by Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell."

When the proud, clannish and calm British brass hats take to calling each other nincompoops, that is bigger news than some cocky Communist editor in Moscow calling the fightingest American in the Army—Gen. MacArthur—a ladybug.

We have not had the pleasure of the acquaintance of Brooke-Popham, and have no interest in defending him from just criticism. But we are concerned with the tendency in Britain to make goats of commanders, because that disposition is also rife in America.

The trouble with this goat business, apart from personal injustice, is that it always covers up bigger mistakes.

ASSUME that Brooke-Popham was a nincompoop and worse, his dismissal still leaves larger questions. Who picked such an incompetent?

The two worst failures in Malaya resulted from lack of plane protection for H. M. S. Prince of Wales and Repulse and for the peninsular air fields.

As an air officer who believed in the superiority of the bomber over battleships, and who built the chain of Malayan airfields which his predecessor did not provide, is it reasonable to suppose that Brooke-Popham would have forgotten to use planes to protect them if he had had planes to use?

It is obvious that Brooke-Popham, good or bad, was not responsible for the dangerous shortage of bombers and pursuit planes at Singapore. It is obvious because the Australians for many weeks had been demanding major air reinforcements of Singapore, and were refused by London.

The frankest official statement we have seen on this whole tragic problem is that of the British foreign minister. Replying yesterday to charges in parliament of government "neglect" in Far Eastern preparedness, Mr. Eden said:

"If we were wrong, it was a deliberate decision and not one based on neglect."

WE believe that is true of both the London and Washington Governments.

They faced the hard alternative of shorting one area, and they decided to pass up the Pacific while concentrating on the Atlantic, England, Iceland, Africa, Russia and the Middle East.

That costly miscalculation regarding Japan cannot be corrected by making goats of front commanders, or by blaming Churchill and Roosevelt for taking sour tips from policy advisers.

It can be partly corrected now only by getting to the Far East, very quickly, all the equipment which should have been there before Dec. 7.

Unless that is done, we may yet make goats of Wavell, Brett, Hart and MacArthur, but we will not stop the Japs.

## OLD TIRES AND SAFETY

TIRE rationing brings with it a pressing problem of safety.

Many, many of us are going to drive on old tires. They have a lot more miles in them, and with care can render long service. But remember that slick tires are dangerous at high speeds.

Even retreaded tires cannot be expected to hold up like new ones. There will be more blowouts on the highways as aging rubber and fabric give way. If you are traveling fast when the blowout happens, it may be just too bad for you and your family.

Make those tires last, but don't expect the same of old tires as you expect of new ones.

Even if your tires aren't worn to the danger point, drive slower anyway. The tires will last longer. Sudden stops and speed on curves wear out rubber much sooner than does easy driving.

## THE FREEDOM OF THE WHEEZE

ONE of the jokes that killed vaudeville was the one about how married men don't really live longer than single men—it just seems longer.

It wasn't very good joke at best, and now comes the awful revelation that it wasn't even true. A life insurance firm has just completed a study which demonstrates that married men actually do live longer. They are also less likely to commit suicide, drink themselves to death, and get themselves killed in accidents.

The statisticians came to the conclusion that the favorable balance toward longevity came from living "a normal family life," which anybody could have told them anyway.

Little by little science is creeping up on common folk knowledge, and one of these days we'll have chapter and book for every one of those little things grandma knew so well without a statistic to guide her.

## Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—This will be an account of a notable contribution to the cause of unity by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Tuesday night Mrs. Roosevelt and two friends, one of them being her protégé, that veteran and inveterate professional youth, Joe Lash, late of the Communist front, approached the Mansfield Theater with tickets for a play called "In Time to Come," which is a story of President Wilson's War Administration. Observing two pickets from Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians blocking the place, Mrs. Roosevelt refused to enter and got her money back.

Otto Preminger, the producer of the play, reports that Mrs. Roosevelt said, "I can't cross a picket line—fair or unfair," and Local 802 states that the New York Times account of the incident in which she was so quoted is "substantially correct."

"In Time to Come," is an all-union show, employing 66 persons, including a pancake turner which is a man who plays a phonograph record. Any child can play a phonograph record, but under unionism this is a high-salaried trade. Preminger says the pancake in question is played less than two minutes. The union claims it is played longer, but will not say how long. Incidentally, the record was made by union musicians in a union factory.

### Promoter Balks at Racket

THE UNION demanded that Preminger hire four musicians to do nothing at \$337.50 a week. He said his box office couldn't bear that overload, but said he would accept one first musician at \$112.50 a week to do nothing and when that offer was refused he proposed to post \$337.50 a week in escrow and submit the dispute to any public agency having jurisdiction. This was rejected also and the pickets showed up 10 minutes before Mrs. Roosevelt and her party appeared.

Aside from the unmistakably Hitlerian attitude toward the art of the drama, which is revealed in this conduct, Mrs. Roosevelt here gave support to a plain, undisguised racket. There is no dispute here between an employer and any worker. Preminger employs no musicians whatever and has no use for any and the union is simply trying to shake down a businessman at the rate of \$337.50 a week as the price of forbearance. No employees are on strike and the same union itself crossed a picket line some months ago when a teamster's outfit tried to make a musician pay a teamster to convey to a theater a piccolo about the size of a pencil which he carried in his pocket.

### Word About the Leader

THE INTERNATIONAL president of the union is Jimmy Petrillo of Chicago, who is also president of the Chicago local and draws combined salaries, expenses, perquisites and allowances of about \$80,000 a year.

The president of Local 802 is Jacob Rosenberg, who was himself charged some time ago with patronizing with his family a summer resort at which a non-union orchestra was employed, but beat the rap.

Petrillo says, "there was nothing to it," the scandal was silenced.

Rosenberg also turns out a union publication at the expense of the members in which he heaps praise on himself and last fall, when he ran for the New York City Council, he used this journal to ballyhoo his ambition and had the gall to announce that he would "look forward eagerly to the support of our members," most of whom undoubtedly took rapturous joy in slitting his throat at the public polls. He was slaughtered on election day, but he had gained a little personal advertising and herewith gets some more.

Incidentally, Lash, whose nerve equals and resembles Rosenberg's, put in for a commission as Lieutenant, J. G., in the Naval Intelligence some time back, but an informant reports that not even Mrs. Roosevelt's influence could put that one over.

## War Profits

By Thomas L. Stokes



WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Handsome profits for defense industries are shown in OPM and Congressional reports, to be published soon, which will become the basis of proposed legislation to limit war-industry profits.

Administration leaders recognize the disturbing effect of tremendous war profits upon rank-and-file labor, particularly with taxes and costs of living going up. Therefore, they see the necessity of putting a limit on profits in order to demonstrate an effort to distribute the burdens of war as equitably as possible.

President Roosevelt stated the Administration position in his budget message, when he said:

"Excessive profits undermine unity and should be captured."

Preliminary reports indicate profits, above taxes, of 57 per cent for airplane companies for 1940, with 41 per cent for the first six months of 1941, on the basis of investment.

Large profits also are shown for shipbuilding. In the next few days the special House Naval Investigating Committee, headed by Rep. Vinson (D. Ga.), will publish the first of its reports on shipbuilding profits.

The faculty members are helping too. In the Art Department the directors are encouraging the stu-

ents to paint patriotic themes in their work.

In the music world of the schools

band directors are presenting patriotic themes in their concerts and public appearances, as well as in classes.

Heads of the schools are offering more convocations along the patriotic path.

To sum up the situation: In the present emergency the people are closer to each other than ever before. They also feel closer to their Government.

With a feeling such as this we

can continue to laugh in certain unscrupulous characters' faces.

For myself, this closes this particular discussion, although new subjects, or new angles to old subjects are always welcome.

This also prevents the possibility of a monopoly of Hoosier Forum space by a few individuals.

For myself, this closes this particular discussion, although new subjects, or new angles to old subjects are always welcome.

Another manner in which the schools are co-operating is by the sale of defense stamps. Just about all the schools are offering this service to their students. The students are showing their patriotic spirit in this way more each day.

Still another way of bringing the defense program to the young people is by the school club's representatives engaging speakers to tell the members just how the subject can help them in defense work.

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