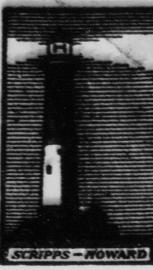


# The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1942

## A LITTLE CHILD DIES

THOUSANDS of men are dying every day as war sweeps around the world, and most of them are merely atoms in the day's casualty figures. Yet in all this carnage of death, a single figure stood out the other day.

It was that of a little Belgian child, one of 456 sent to Switzerland to undergo recuperative treatment for malnutrition. This boy of 14 was too far gone. Starved literally to death by the Nazi occupation of his homeland, this boy died before hospitalization could begin to set him on the road back to health. It is eloquent testimony to the fate of peoples whom Hitler has conquered.

This, too, lies at the door of those who elected to set the world afire to satisfy their criminal ambition.

## WAR PROFITS

MANY Navy contractors have been and are realizing excessive profits. The Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives makes this charge, supports it with a huge mass of statistics, and urges legislation limiting profits on war contracts to 7 per cent.

The necessity for profit limitation is, as the committee says, clearly indicated in justice to the taxpayers and for the sake of public confidence in the honesty and efficiency of government.

Public confidence in the honesty of industry also has importance. It would be inaccurate and unfair to say that the committee has exposed a greedy orgy of deliberate profiteering.

Indeed, the committee itself, though severely critical of excessive profits in numerous specific cases, takes pains to assert that "neither industry as a whole nor the major part of industry should be criticized."

**A**NALYZING 19,086 Navy contracts, having a total value of nearly four billion dollars, the committee calculates that 54½ per cent of the 1228 contractors concerned have realized or expect to make net profits exceeding 7 per cent on the cost of fulfilling the contracts. On individual contracts "many profits of 50 per cent or more were reported." On total business with the Navy Department "many average profits of 35 per cent or more were reported."

However, the average profit realized or expected on all 19,086 contracts is only 7.99 per cent.

So, if slightly more than half of the contractors have made more than 7 per cent, it follows—and the report discloses—that nearly half of them have made much less than the profit figure which the committee believes would be a fair limit. In fact, a great many have lost money on work done for the Navy. And, in many cases, the profits cited take no account of the Government's present and prospective taxes.

**F**OURTEEN members of the committee—seven others dissenting—urge legislation affecting labor as well as industry. The majority believes that strikes "have constituted the greatest single cause of delay in the defense program." It asserts that "tremendous financial gains" have been made by labor organizations since the defense effort began.

Reports from 117 national and international unions show that their net assets increased nearly 15 per cent—from \$71,915,665 to \$82,594,959—in the 18 months ended last March.

For the time being, at least, and we hope permanently, the need for strike-prevention legislation appears less urgent than it seemed before Pearl Harbor.

But the committee majority, in our opinion, is completely justified in holding that the "vast tax-exempt funds" disclosed to be in union treasuries provide reason for requiring public reports by all unions as to their "officers, members and financial conditions."

**W**E believe that most of labor, and most of industry, is patriotically eager to play a full part in winning the war without seeking special advantage—that deliberate profiteers are comparatively few in number—that laws are not necessary to compel most Americans to serve their country unselfishly.

As to specific provisions of law which are necessary to curb self-seeking minorities, we aren't inclined to be dogmatic.

Limitation of war profits is a large and complicated question. So is regulation of labor unions.

But we believe the Naval Affairs Committee is providing valuable guidance to Congress in carrying out what is the overwhelming will of the American people—that nobody shall be allowed to get rich out of this war.

## THE FUTURE INDUSTRIAL SOUTH

**F**URTHER evidence now comes forward in support of the idea that the country is being made over before our eyes, though the eyes do not always see clearly what is going on.

The South was rapidly becoming industrialized even before the war crisis. But the war industries now arising as if by magic, are changing the picture even more rapidly. Chemicals, pulp and paper, metals, iron and steel, rayon—all these and many other industries are being built up in the South as a result of the war effort. The facilities thus built will remain when the war shall have been won.

They may well mean a death blow to the sectional specialization which has had so great an influence on the country's social history in the past 50 years.

## QUIET A FIELD, TOO

**W**HEN Leon Henderson gets around to rationing rubber stamps, we hope he doesn't overlook the Congressional variety.

## Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



RILEY 5551

Price in Marion County, 3 cents a copy; delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week.

Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$3 a year, outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

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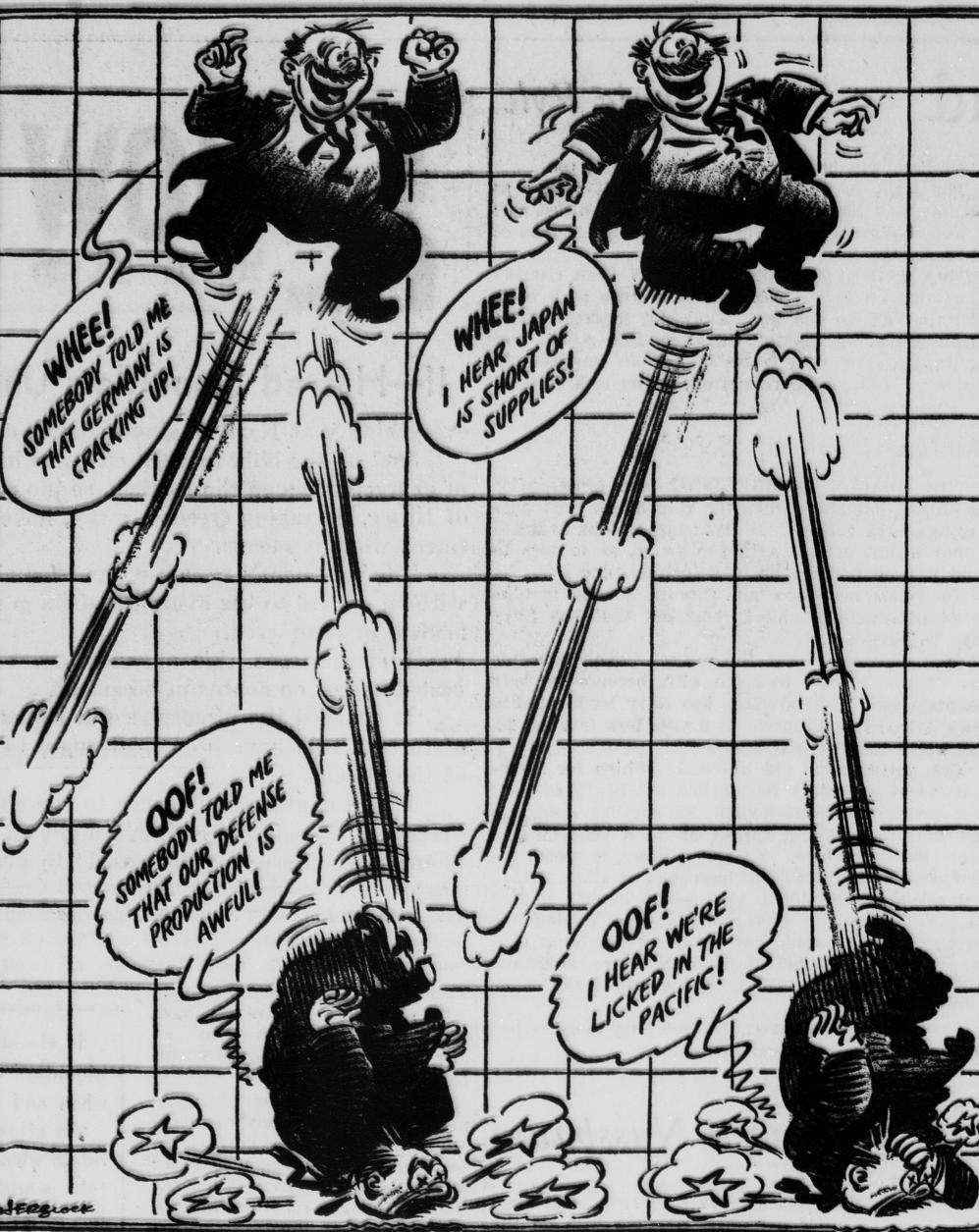
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## Prices Aren't All That Need to Be Stabilized



## Gen. Johnson Says—



WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—Too much emphasis is being given to rank and title in this Washington war-production effort.

There is some disposition to think that if a law is passed stating an objective, if general administrative directions are given and, above all, if the administrator is surrounded with sufficient pomp and panoply of office, the job is done and we can call it a day and set 'em up in the next alley.

The appointment of Donald Nelson and the one-man control authorized by executive order is a case in point—especially when considered with Mr. Knudsen's appointment as Lieutenant General.

Mr. Nelson's assignment is only a beginning to a difficult if not impossible task. It makes little difference whether he is a Cabinet officer or not, or rather it is very wise that he is not. Nothing chews up time or smothers it with boredom more effectively than Cabinet meetings.

### Knudsen's Title a Joke

Mr. Nelson isn't going to have time to be a Cabinet officer. Donald has the authority and responsibility and the President's backing. Without them he couldn't even undertake his job. They are all that count with him.

On the other hand, nothing could be more absurd or even fantastic than Mr. Knudsen's elevated rank. It is being jokingly suggested around here, that if even-handed justice is to be served, Sidney Hillman—the other half of the old Knudsen-Hillman two-headed-boy organizational monstrosity should be made Vice Admiral in the Navy.

In the old British Army, from which we inherited our general form of organization, the commander of an army was a general. Second to him and in direct command of the cavalry was a lieutenant general.

It was the second highest honor to which a soldier could aspire. It came only after a life-time of service spent in acquiring professional military perfection. It was so jealously guarded that, up to our Civil War, only Washington was ever granted that regular rank.

### What Can Three Stars Add?

EVEN WINFIELD SCOTT, the conqueror of Mexico, had it only by brevet. During the Civil War, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan got three stars. Grant later got four. Up to World War I, only a handful of Civil War veterans were lieutenant generals—among them our Lieut. Gen. Douglas MacArthur's father.

Changed international and military conditions have somewhat liberalized the rule, but they don't change its principle.

Relatively young Army and Navy officers were advanced far in grade at Hawaii because the importance of that great force in the Pacific seemed to warrant it, the defense flopped and these officers were promptly and properly broken.

SPAB and OPM also flopped to our great disadvantage and Mr. Knudsen, a responsible head of OPM is made a lieutenant general. That doesn't make sense.

We need Knudsen—now more than ever—but Knudsen doesn't need to be a lieutenant general any more than Mr. Hillman needs to be an Admiral. Bill has a standing and ability regarded with awe in every American factory. That's all he needs.

Three stars on his shoulder straps aren't going to add anything to that except perhaps a little ridicule.

## The Hoosier Forum

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

### IT'S WONDERFUL TO GIVE YOURSELF A PENSION

By Lee Miller, 1901 W. Morris St.

I see in the papers that the Senate has passed a retirement bill for Congressmen. That is wonderful to give yourself a pension. It seems that anyone can get paid for doing nothing if you are right.

I am for this pension if they will tack on a rider to pension everybody. How about drugists? We have done more good for our fellowmen than all the Congressmen put together. How many drugists are for this? Don't everybody speak at once.

### DISCRIMINATE THE REFUGEES FROM THE REAL NAZIS

By Dr. Heinz Dallmann, Indiana University, Bloomington.

I think something should be done by our Government to discriminate refugees from Nazis. Under the letter of the present regulations, German refugees fall within the class of alien enemies. According to direct information received by this writer from the Department of Justice, the last nationality of an alien is controlling so that even those refugees are affected by the regulations concerning alien enemies, who under German law have been deprived of their citizenship. It says literally