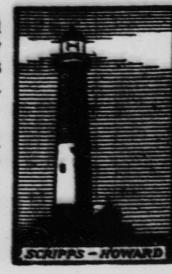


The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1942

WE'RE NOT WINNING THIS WAR

"DO you think the United States is doing all it can toward winning the war?"

The Gallup Poll, having put that question to a cross-section of the nation's voters, reports that 78 per cent of those interviewed answered "yes."

(Too bad the pollers couldn't reach the Americans hoping vainly for reinforcements in the foxholes of Bataan. They might have a different opinion.)

If more than three-fourths of the American people actually believe that this country is doing all it can toward winning the war, they are victims of one of the most dangerous mass delusions in all history.

It is true that Congress could hardly appropriate more billions in briefer time or with less debate. It is true that the people, through Congress, have given the executive practically unlimited war powers. It is true that an army of Government press agents is working diligently to spread the impression that the Government is doing a marvelous job.

BUT the United States is not doing all it can toward winning the war. And it is not winning the war. It is on the defensive on every fighting front, losing ground in the Far Pacific, losing ships in the near Atlantic, despite the brave efforts of under-equipped soldiers, sailors and marines.

On the home front, save for the honorable exception of those who have given sons or husbands or brothers or fathers, nobody has yet been required to make such contributions of toil and taxes and self-denial as can be made and must be made.

From a few of the men who know we are getting the truth. Donald M. Nelson, head of the War Production Board, tells us that industry's task of conversion has been little more than begun.

William S. Knudsen tells us that "generally throughout the country" production is not yet on a war basis.

William L. Batt, director of WPB's materials division, warns us that "America can lose this war."

America so far is losing this war. Instead of pride in what we have done, we should feel shame that we have done so little. If we hope to lick the Germans and Japs, we must lick the spirit of complacency among ourselves and in our Government.

FAN DANCING—

AN ACT to provide protection for persons and property from bombing attacks in the United States, and for other purposes."

That's the title of the law authorizing appropriations of 100 million dollars for the Office of Civilian Defense. Oh, fellow-taxpayers, if they had only left off those last four words! What a difference it would have made!

L'affair Mayris would not have occurred. There would have been no such convocation of information specialists, assistant information specialists, labor problem consultants, racial relations advisers, associate racial relations advisers, business specialists, librarians, and assistant librarians—no unending parade of payrollists; typists, orators, custodians, consultants, file clerks. No such swarm of expensive flies on this particular sugar bowl. But those four words—"and for other purposes."

WITHOUT them we should have had a single objective for our 100 million dollars—"to provide protection of persons and property from bombing attacks." But not so. We'll have everything from fan dancing to a children's crusade.

To administer the 100-million-dollar expenditure, here is how the payroll classifies:

For those things seemingly pertinent to protection from bombing attacks—fire defense, civilian protection, protective construction, camouflage and blackouts, evacuation and transportation, emergency medical, training and inspection, control and communications, property accounting, and air patrol—\$322,260. For overhead directly connected therewith, \$180,220.

For other expense which wouldn't be there if those four words hadn't been tacked onto the title, \$857,840. Let us call that the Eleanor Glide department.

Thus doth another tail wag another dog.

RECORD

GOVERNMENT departments and bureaus broke all records in the fiscal year 1941 by sending out 1,123,563,721 pieces of postage-free mail—nearly nine pieces for each man, woman and child in the United States. That compared with 999,138,119 pieces in fiscal 1940, and 970,764,376 pieces in fiscal 1939.

Cost to the Postoffice of handling the 1941 departmental "free" mail was \$49,020,190—up about 10 million dollars from the previous year. "It is believed," Rep. Louis Ludlow has just reported for the House Appropriations Committee, "that this increase of departmental mail will be continued during the present and the next fiscal years."

And, our Congressman might have added, during each year thereafter so long as the Government's ever-growing army of press agents, information specialists, public-relations experts and hand-out writers can get priorities on paper, typewriters, mimeographs, printing equipment and franked envelopes.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



DETROIT, Feb. 10.—Discussing a shortage of skilled men for the war trades, the personnel man of one of the big motor companies, who deals in workers by the thousand head, remarked that a smaller company had appealed to him for help. The little company needed machinists and without them could not deliver on time the mechanism which was its allotted task in the whole armament scheme. "They begged me," he said, "to lend them 300 of my men."

A half hour later, the personnel man's boss, discussing another phase of production, remarked with a note of reproach, that the big unions claim men for their own as though the men were property. The more men they control through their closed shop and check-off agreements, the greater the power of the boss unionists over both the men and industry. If they call them out on strike they can be impersonal toward the privations of families because the individuals are not men to them in the human sense, but just so many critters, with no voice in the matter. The successful organizing strike, a common device, called for the purpose of driving into the union thousands more men employed at an unorganized plant, who desperately don't want to join, increases the power of the union boss and the strikers go hungry with their families and obey orders with little complaint.

Feudalism in Manpower

WHEN the boss had explored this thought I said the personnel man's talk of lending the machinists had revealed a similar impersonality and sense of property in men, although not the same brutality. I believe we all agreed that the industry did think of workers by the drove or herd, subject to loan.

The boss of the Great Corporation, an old-time shopworker, himself, then said the downrightest feudalism in this country existed in the baseball business where the man is, frankly, just property on the hoof. He did not say, but I often did when I was doing sport, that this serfdom was the very foundation of the amusement which for more than 40 years has been regarded as the national game of the freest country on earth. Twenty years ago the standard baseball contract was attacked in court, but it must have been upheld because it is still the standard form.

Briefly once a player signs, he becomes property and may be sold and must work for his next owner at the owner's terms but, growing old or being hurt, may be fired on 10 days' notice. He is scheduled as property of a certain value in his owner's assets and tax reports. The owner can claim depreciation on the player as his talent and shrews decline, but the player, being, for his own tax purposes, a man, can claim no such depreciation. The player can't solicit a better job and the owners have a written conspiracy, with penalties provided, whereby no owner may approach another owner's player with an offer of a better job.

Treat Men as Property

A FEW years ago cases were reported from the low minors in which one player was taken in trade for bird dog and another for a satchel of new and used baseballs.

Some employers using masses of men prefer to do business with the unionists. They agree on wages, hours and conditions and the union very efficiently delivers the labor at the gates on time, or a fair average skill and reasonably sound of mind and limb.

Dave Beck, the Seattle Teamsters' unioner, startled me once by exclaiming angrily of the brewery drivers "those men belong to me." He meant that his union claimed jurisdiction, but he said, "Those men belong to me," and he meant that, too.

Last Saturday, the Chicago Daily News, which belongs to Colonel Frank Knox, discussed national conscription of civilians for work and soothingly remarked that a Gallup Poll "shows that a majority of our citizens are willing, in the war emergency, to let the Government tell the workers 'what job, where and how much.'"

What do you think of that?

'Work, Work, Work'

By Wm. H. Stoneman



LONDON, Feb. 10.—Exhortations to the British people to increase the tempo of their labors and the measure of their sacrifices dominated the British press and radio programs over the weekend.

Newspaper comment was characterized by a thunderous appeal from J. L. Garvin, editor of the (Sunday) Observer and grand old man of British journalism, to "work, work, work." The B. B. C. presented a highly eloquent oration by Sir Stafford Cripps, former Ambassador to Moscow, describing the sacrifices of the Russians and contrasting those sacrifices with the comparative ease of life in England.

Sir Stafford, who incidentally was in Moscow during the London blitz, warned the people that "arms, raw materials and foodstuffs" would have to be sent to Russia before the German spring offensive which, he indicated, might begin in April. His point was that the British must increase their own sacrifices in order to help Russia.

All these observations fell on willing eyes and ears and nobody disputed their validity. By this late hour everybody in this country realizes that the situation is serious and that Britain's war effort should be increased to the maximum. It is also fair to say that 99 per cent of the British people would gladly work their fingers to the bone and suffer cold and privation if they thought it would save Singapore or the Burma Road, or help the Russians lick the Germans.

All they now need is to be shown and what they have not been shown properly is how they can exert their full energies to advantage and how their sacrifices can be translated into help for the allies.

According to them all who manage their own business are not

The Spirit of '42?



The Hoosier Forum

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

NOTE TO MRS. ROOSEVELT

By R. W. Hall, 2107 E. Michigan St.

To our "First Lady": So you think \$4600 a year salary to a dancer is more important during these times than buying defense stamps and bonds.

Why in the world don't you stay home and give as much help as you can in comforting the President?

Why do you rant about our children and our homes when you are never home long enough to see them? A fine example, don't you think?

Four stars to The Times for taking this matter up and no stars to them for printing "My Day."

"LET'S SHOW THE BOYS WE ARE THINKING OF THEM"

By Carl W. Schwesener, 633 West Drive, Woodruff Place

In December, 1941, while in Miami, I wrote several letters to the newspapers asking for free postage, a raise in pay, and tax exemption on all necessities the soldiers buy, including smokes of any kind.

Now, thanks to the fullest co-operation of many newspapers all over the country, in printing this letter, including The Indianapolis Times, the Senate gave the boys in the service, anywhere, free postage in a bill passed Jan. 29.

Now, let us all put our effort behind the tax exemption on necessities, including smokes of any kind, and a raise in pay. These boys are our defense, let us show them we are thinking of them, that we appreciate what they are doing for us by writing our Senators and Representatives in Washington, demanding they act now, as many of our boys won't come back to us, and refuse to take "no" for an answer.

"PUT THE DOG IN THE DOG'S PLACE"

By W. H. Indianapolis

In answer to Mr. Charles Kwitny, of Feb. 5, 1942:

Your spiel about dogs gives me a pain and you're not speaking for everyone. You're speaking for yourself probably.

I wonder if your love for dogs would cause you to let your children sleep with them, kiss them, etc., if you have any. I would like to have seen the look on your face or your actions if it had been your child that had been bit. Would you love and kiss the dog or let it set on your lap, as only a child should do?

And you sound as though you doubt that the dog ever bit the child. You also say, "Let's not have better children." Why?

Well, let me tell you something, pal. I have a dog and think a lot of him and so far he has never bit anyone and he better not. For

Side Glances—By Galbraith



If he does, or if any dog bit either of my two children, yours too, no one will have to call the police to shoot him. I'll do it myself.

The sympathy for the neighbors' kids is true. I have seen the kind that take their baby house dogs walking on Sunday mornings, pick it up and pet it when other bad old dogs came near, talk to it like it was a baby, etc., and the very same day threaten to call the police on their neighbors' kids for running on their lawns while during the week their dog ran all over your place. I think to get the full benefit of this you had better read your letter over again.

I give three cheers for Mr. Arthur Mellinger. Put the dog in a dog's place and let the children live a normal child's life. Down with stray dogs, all of them.

"SIX-DAY WEEK ENOUGH, HE SAYS"

By "Sailor," Indianapolis

A lot of hullabaloo, and possibly some mischief, is arising over the "double time for Sundays" issue in war industries. In these times of national hysteria would it be too much to ask you to print a common sense suggestion?

Seven days a week is too much physically. Anyone who has studied the matter can tell you that a man can do more work in six days than in seven—just as he can accomplish more in eight hours than in 10. Cut the war industries down to six eight-hour shifts and shut the place down on Sundays. That will solve the problem, save money, lower the number of accidents and increase production.

No, I am not a lazy defense worker. I am just an enlisted man in the armed service, but I've still got my mental balance, and I want those war goods delivered in the greatest possible amounts, in the least possible time, and at the least possible cost.

"JAPAN HAS THE JAPS, AMERICA HAS THE SAPS"

By Rita, Indianapolis

In answer to G. R.: What do you mean if "we" feel it is necessary? Who is going to ask "we" what is necessary? From now on we are just told; so why go to Germany or Japan? If war-time taxes forced us on us, try using Central Standard and get to work on time.

The sugar shortage is due to lack of foresight. I saw sugar centers idle, when they should have been full blast.

England protects no interests except her own. In one corner of his factory, an English manufacturer made war supplies for China and in the other corner they made war supplies for Japan.

We exported to Japan almost twice as much oil as the rest of the world, 90 per cent of her copper, two-thirds of her machinery, and 90 per cent of her scrap iron, some of which came back to Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. Mayor La Guardia sent the scrap iron from a New York "I" to Japan.

Japan has the Japs, America has the Saps.

"THERE'S NO POCKET IN A SHROUD"

You must leave your many millions.

And the gay and festive crowd;

Though you roll in royal billions,

There's no pocket in a shroud.

—John Alexander Joyce.

"DAILY THOUGHT"

Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.

—Job 40:12.

"LET PRIDE go afore, shame will follow after."—George Chapman.

Questions and Answers

The Indianapolis Times Service Bureau will answer any question of fact or information, not involving extensive research. Write your question clearly, sign name and address, include a three-cent postage stamp. Medical or legal advice cannot be given. Address The Times Washington Service Bureau, 1013 Thirteenth St., Washington, D. C.

Q—Please give some information about the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

A—It was founded in 1782 by George Washington and was revived by President Hoover Feb