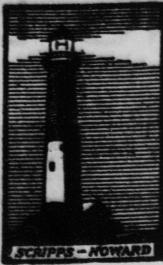


The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD RALPH BURKHOLDER MARK FERREE
President Editor Business Manager
(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214 W. Maryland St.

Member of United Press, Scripps - Howard Newspaper Alliance, NEA Service, and Audit Bureau of Circulations.



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.

RILEY 8551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1942

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE is reported falling. The public reaction in this country is one of helplessness—the nightmarish feeling that we can do nothing about it.

But we can do something. At least, we can refrain from hysteria. That may not seem much, but it is very important. It is bad enough to lose a battle. It is worse to lose morale, for that will lose us more battles.

Public pressure in the long run determines government policy and military strategy. So it can be either helpful or harmful. It is most harmful when it demands scapegoats.

British public opinion got its Singapore scapegoat weeks ago when the commander-in-chief, Brooke-Popham, was fired.

The battle of the Far East has not been going better since then, but worse. Which means there was more than a weakness in command, there was also weakness in supply.

THERE is no mystery about that. Prime Minister Churchill, and Foreign Minister Eden have stated that, in the difficult choice between fronts, they shorted Singapore.

Secretary of the Navy Knox also publicly defended the policy of fighting Hitler first and the Japs second.

Then public reaction here and in England, and official Australian, Dutch and Chinese reaction, forced a modification of that Anglo-American policy. The change has not had time to produce results.

Criticism of the original get-Hitler-first strategy seems futile and unfair at this late date. Though the gamble failed in Libya, it paid off in Russia; and Churchill may have been wise in trading Britain's lesser losses in Malaya for Hitler's larger losses in Russia.

BUT what matters now is the future. Either we can re-treat from the Pacific, or we can fight.

We cannot fight successfully unless we go all out. A few planes, a few ships, a few regiments, will only produce more heroic but fatal Manilas, Hongkongs and Singapores.

The American people should be told by the President why the Battle of the Pacific continues to go against us, and prepare either for more retreats or for total war against Japan. The people need more facts, and fewer hopeful communiques about winning battles which we are losing. Americans at home can take it, too.

TURN STAMPS INTO BONDS

FROM many cities come reports that large numbers of people who have bought defense stamps are turning them in for cash instead of converting them into bonds. The assistant postmaster at Cleveland, for instance, discloses that only 44 per cent of \$279,897 worth of stamps redeemed in January went into bonds.

It doesn't help the Government's war financing to buy stamps, keep them a few weeks, and then cash them in. On the contrary, it hinders. It is a meaningless transaction, involving waste of paper, effort and bookkeeping costs. Exchange your defense stamps for bonds and keep the bonds. When you do that your money really goes to work, earning interest for you and helping to win the war.

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS

WE read of the terrible plight of Gen. MacArthur's battle-scarred troops in Bataan and at Corregidor—out-numbered, short on weapons and rations, without word of long-awaited reinforcements. That makes us feel sad and ashamed.

We read the stern admonition of War Production Boss Donald Nelson: "Until final victory is achieved all of this nation's vast resources of men, materials and machines must be directed to the production of an ever-increasing quantity of war materials at an ever-increasing speed. There can be no compromise with the achievement of this objective. Everything else is secondary." That makes us feel a bit more hopeful.

Then we read a la-de-da press handout from the Office of Emergency Management, telling of 2582 water colors and sketches by 1129 artists entered in the "first war-time art competition," of 109 of these pictures being purchased by the Government at a cost of \$2410, to be exhibited first at the National Gallery in Washington, and then taken for a tour around the country. And again we feel discouraged.

It may be that we just don't understand about where the "finer things of life" fit into a war of death, blood, tears, sweat, toil and taxes.

Just the same we suspect that several other literal-minded citizens in the Filipino jungles and on that fortress isle in Manila bay must have a jaundiced eye for water colors right now.

FAILURE IN A CRISIS

LEON HENDERSON was correct when he told the General Federation of Women's Clubs that the price-control bill, now about to become law, is weak and inadequate.

It specifically hinders attempts to hold down the cost of living, he said. It can not stop increases in food and fiber prices. It is an altogether insufficient weapon against inflation.

All that is true. It is true because the bill has been written in political fear. Fear of the labor lobby, which has prevented any step toward stabilization of wages, although wage costs are an important element of prices. Fear of the farm bloc, which has demanded and obtained preferential treatment for agriculture at the expense of the general welfare.

The Administration cannot escape its share of the blame. But the Congress which has squirmed and dodged and compromised for a half a year to produce this thoroughly unsatisfactory measure—a measure which could do more to cause inflation than to prevent it—has failed sadly in its duty to the country.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



DETROIT, Feb. 11.—My score in the matter of prophecy is terrible but still I just shut my eyes and swing at any old thing.

So here we are again, this time to predict that the despised industrial magnate or big businessman will presently receive a new social and political rating in our national community, not necessarily from the Washington ideology set, but from an increasing element of both Houses of Congress, from the combatants of all services and from the public. I doubt that many of them would want to keep social around Washington, anyway. They wouldn't care for Joe Lash, the discoverer of the fountain of youth, who is still a wide-eyed and innocent juvenile and a model for young America with one divorce behind him at the age of 32, and they might not get with Dean Landis or Harry Hopkins.

In their personal feelings they aren't likely to forget their experiences of the last eight years. It wasn't so much what was done to them as the kind of people who were chosen to do it.

Patriotism Comes First

THE RANCOR of the defeated Southern states which persisted so long after the war would have been less bitter and lasting if the men who went down to reconstruct them had not been such evil swine.

However, because these businessmen are patriotic and because doing is their habit of life, they will turn in war achievements in their line, which will rehabilitate them with their fellow Americans, whose opinion counts.

The tasks which the Detroit big businessmen have done already are enormous but only a start and yet, the great buildings and machines which have hopped into being like trick drawings in an animated cartoon, are beyond appreciation by the statesmen, politicians, fictional bosses and ivy-league theorists and lawyers of the dominant group.

One great trouble of ours since the panic struck has been the absurd disproportion between politics and our industry, by volume and ad valorem. Reformers got in our hair and we have been lectured and educated out of our wits by bleedinghearts who saw no good in anything American, although Europe and particularly mother Russia copied the achievements of these very businessmen.

Businessman Is the Captain

AND NEVER mind the line about labor with an uppercase L and the obscure engineer and chemist having done it all. Without the organizing genius and the daring imagination of the promoters and executives, the man with the hoe would still be his old self and his field would not now be converted with a plant almost a mile long and a quarter mile wide housing machinery more than two stories high, all created within 11 months. The businessman has been the captain of the team in all its major victories and but for him the fighters wouldn't have a chance for their lives in this war.

Are they in for profits? Yes, if any. They are in it for patriotism first, however, and they have the intelligence to realize that when it all adds up there may be no such thing as profits, money or even private ownership as we understand them now. They are thinking only of turning out such an overwhelming mass of weapons that the fighters can finish the war in the briefest time and with the smallest possible loss of American lives, for their sons are fighting, too.

I asked a big one if he thought his company would still own the plant after the victory.

"One thing at a time," he said. "Does a man on his wedding day worry his head about how he is going to get a divorce?"

This and That

By Peter Edson



WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Major La Guardia's recent suggestion that all of labor's overtime earnings and all of industry's profits be paid for in defense savings stamps and war bonds has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. It was a good enough suggestion as one device for preventing inflation by holding back money which might otherwise be spent on civilian goods, and for providing enforced savings which might be spent beneficially during the post-war recovery period. But the idea has to be abandoned for one very practical reason. As the stamps and bonds are now issued, they are convertible into cash 60 days after issuance.

A number of industries are finding that out now—in a big way. They gave their employee stamps and bonds in the form of Christmas gifts and year-end bonuses, thinking this was a good way to encourage thrift among their employees and help the government at the same time. But practically all these gift stamps and bonds are now being cashed as quickly as possible.

THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD was six years old recently, and though NLRB used to be the biggest news in Washington, this sixth birthday and the accompanying sixth annual report received scant notice. A summary of the board's six-year record before the courts, however, is worth noticing:

The U. S. Supreme Court has enforced 26 board orders in full, enforced six with modification, and denied only two.

In the same period, the Circuit Court of Appeals enforced 140 board orders in full, 102 with modification, and denied enforcement of 56.

Washington Jig-Saw

PUERTO RICO and Virgin Island distilleries will be permitted to continue making rum instead of converting to industrial alcohol. . . . Five million more non-agricultural workers are now employed than at the height of the boom in 1929. . . . Treasury procurement office buys nearly 400,000 items, from pen points to locomotives. . . . "Hoof and horn meal," powdered as a slaughterhouse by-product, has been found effective in quickly smothering incendiary bomb fires. . . . More than 2000 U. S. cities and towns with a total population of 12.5 million have no form of local public transportation. . . . U. S. nurses in this war will triple the 21,000 nurses recruited for World War I. . . . Farm Security Administration will have 100 mobile, migrant labor camps in operation for seasonal farm workers this summer. . . .

So They Say—

What we need today is not so much comfort as more of the kind of faith that will make it true of us as of the scientist, that the word "impossible" is to us much like a spur to a horse.—Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor New York's Riverside Church.

Never in all history has there been such a tidal wave of hatred in Europe as now has welled up against the Germans.—George H. Earle, former U. S. Minister to Bulgaria.

We are not going back to anything. We are going forward. We could not stop the march of progress if we wanted to, but we can do something about the direction of the changes.—Charles W. Eliot, National Resources Planning Board.

Part of the Fifth-Column Job



The Hoosier Forum

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

ATTACKS NIGHT PARKING AS SERIOUS MENACE

By T. V. X., Indianapolis

I wonder if our defense committees of Indianapolis realize how dangerous night parking in streets is? They don't allow parking of any kind on a public highway.

Yet they let cars park all along a main street. Sometimes one can't even walk through. It's bad enough in the daytime but at night it is very bad.

There is a law that says you must have a light on your car when you park in city at night. I don't think this has ever been enforced, yet it must have been a good law or it never would have passed.

The new defense law says, I believe, that if there is a blackout you are to pull next to the curb at once. But how on earth could you pull in to a curb with cars there?

There should be an explosion, fire, wreck or what might happen during these war days, it would be impossible for fire trucks, ambulances, doctors and so on to get close enough to a building or house to be of any service...

People who have garages should put their cars up at night or park them from main heavy traveled streets. Apartment house owners should provide garages or parking lots, and if they must park in streets make them display a light of some kind...

** * *

NOBLE CONGRESSMEN VOTE THEMSELVES A PENSION

By H. A. Wilson, Coatesville

While listening to a newscast the other day I heard a commentator say that Donald Nelson had refused to let the members of OPM to give up their positions with private companies and devote all their time to speeding up defense at a proposed salary of \$10,000 per year. According to Nelson these men have obligations to meet which would be impossible at the proposed salary since they are accustomed to getting many times that.

Yet Nelson, Knudsen and the rest of OPM think the draftees should consider it a patriotic privilege to sacrifice their jobs to serve in the

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.)

** * *

WHO DUMPS TRASH ON THE HIGHWAYS?

By Arthur S. Melling, 3500 W. 36th St.

Mr. Kwinty, 2929 Ruckel St., took a contrary view about the letter I wrote about dogs. I forgot to put in the letter that the child attacked was only five years old. I never heard of anyone who thought that a child only five years of age would be responsible for its acts. So many people come to the defense of a dog for its acts that first it was teased or provoked to bite someone.

There is a humane way of putting dogs, and cats too, out of the way; that is a rifle. I have done it to cats that had become chicken thieves. I did not sack it up and haul it away and dump it upon someone else to be a "bird killer."

There ought to be about five or 10 million cats put out of the way, so the birds could have a chance to multiply and take care of insects.

For instance, we are practically helpless in the face of the "Mexican bean beetle."

Incidentally, cats and dogs are not the only thing city people dump along our highways. Where do all the beer cans, trash, paper, and even garbage come from? You will find it mostly on the right hand side of the road, leaving the city. Then it comes from people who

are coming out of the city. Is not a public highway as much of a front yard as your own? Would you want country people to throw trash on your front lawn?

When anyone has no more respect for a highway than to use it for a dump he is lacking in civic pride. Junk cars do not throw that kind of trash along the road.

If you can afford that good car, you can take care of your rubbish.

** * *

A PROTEST FROM RISING SUN, IND.

By Abby L. See, Rising Sun

Just how did it occur to you, Mr. Kwinty, that Hoosiers at Rising Sun, Ind., should change the name to Pearl Harbor? You seemed to have selected the most discordant name in the whole of the archipelago. Sure the name would always be remembered, but as a constant reminder of things unpleasant, also of the graveyard of many of our American boys.

Are you a dreamer or just nothing to do but think up names? . . .

The people of Rising Sun, Ind., mind their own business (wish you would mind yours) and are all doing what they can for war defense. If the time ever comes when the people here want to change the name, they will most surely select the name.

** * *

URGES U. S. PROVIDE 10-ACRE HOMESTEADS

By Thomas Lloyd, R. R. 6, Box 437

To develop moral strength and financial soundness, I move the Government to buy one 10-acre farm in each square mile of farm land over the whole country, put on each a good two-room house, sell them to families of the low wage class.

The cost of these farms should not exceed two thousand dollars each. This would give a new life to many hopeless people and a place to start to help themselves and that stimulant to good citizenship, a home. Farm life has gone stale, it needs revival and a resettlement. The people have been moved off, now the farms are just a mechanized desert. Back to the land, our God given heritage for a new life.

** * *

TAKE ALL THESE CURS TO THE COUNTRY

By E. Perrine, Indianapolis

I am speaking to Charles Kwinty