

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1942

WE DRAW BLOOD

WE hope the men of Wake—the captured survivors, that is, of that supremely gallant band—will get the news, somehow, that vengeance has been claimed. That our Navy, in its raid on the Jap islands from which the attacks on Wake are believed to have been launched, knocked out a swarm of Jap warships, including an aircraft carrier.

This is good news indeed for a Friday the 13th that offers otherwise a very somber set of headlines.

And it should teach us all to have more patience—to lay off the "where's-our-Navy?" murmurs. The Navy isn't forgetting Pearl Harbor.

KELLAND ON UNITY

CLARENCE BUDINGTON KELLAND is a first-class writing man, known for years to millions of magazine readers. We think he is proving himself also a first-class political philosopher in his comparatively new role as executive director of the Republican National Committee.

Of three Lincoln Day speeches we have read (and with all admiration for the other two, by Alf M. Landon and Wendell Willkie), Mr. Kelland's interested us most, for a reason.

It looked through the large end of the telescope. It reflected rare perspective, wisdom and restraint on the vital question of politics in wartime.

Speaking here in Indianapolis, Mr. Kelland first expressed for himself and his party unalterable opposition to a negotiated peace of any kind and high resolve for carrying the fight until the Axis is "eradicated from the face of the earth, utterly and finally."

He then swung into his conception of the "device under which we have lived from the birth of this republic, which has preserved and made it strong and without which it must have died." That is the two-party system.

"I DO not mean venal politics," he said, "or cheap, job-seeking partisan politics, but that brand of politics which is the sole means by which the common man can express his patriotism and his vital interest in the welfare of his country."

Mr. Kelland states his theme—the differentiation between political unity and national unity—as follows:

"National unity is unity, solidarity, loyalty to the common state and for the common welfare; to the country and to the flag which belong to all of us alike."

"Political unity is a cat of a different color. It is unity under the emblem of a single political party. It is the abolition of the two-party system and the erection of the one-party system."

"When political unity comes in at the door, human liberties go out of the window. . . . Political unity means that all opposition, all criticism dies—a system of tyranny upon which there is no deterrent, and no brake. . . ."

"It is those nations which have succumbed to political unity which have loosed madmen and death upon this planet. . . . Germany has political unity. Italy has political unity. Japan has political unity."

MR. KELLAND quotes Lincoln, a Republican President in wartime, and Wilson, a Democratic President in wartime, to reinforce his point, and in characteristically clear language clarifies what amounts to the number one of the freedoms for which we are fighting.

"It is essential," he says, "that every American, rich, poor, Democrat or Republican, male or female, shall distinguish between unity under a flag and under an ideal, and unity under a symbol printed at the head of a column on a ballot."

Though the speech is a Republican speech, on the big day of the year for the Republican Party—as Jackson Day is for the Democrats—we believe that none other than Franklin D. Roosevelt, head of the Democratic Party, will applaud its philosophy.

ALL OF THE SAME CLOTH

INDIANA'S WPA administrator, John K. Jennings, has announced publication of the first part of a two-volume directory listing the churches and religious organizations of northern Indiana.

It is doubtless a useful work for many groups and organizations. Yet, even though it was begun long before Pearl Harbor, one cannot regard activities of this nature with anything save a critical eye.

Mayris Chaney when we need planes. Douglasses when we need tanks. Church directories when we need ships and men and supplies in a dozen corners of this battered earth.

STRONG FOR AMERICA

INDIANAPOLIS joins the United States this week in saluting 1,500,000 Boy Scouts who are celebrating the 32d anniversary of their organization.

The boys in this spontaneous movement are already justifying their war slogan "Strong for America." They collected millions of pounds of aluminum. They distributed Defense Bond posters in 11,500 communities. They listed 400,000 home available for defense housing. They are serving their country every day in numerous other ways.

Further, more than 8,000,000 "alumni" of the Boy Scout movement are serving their country in more mature capacities. Some of them, no doubt, are with MacArthur in the Philippines; all are serving the better for having been Scouts.

Indianapolis and America honor her Boy Scouts, thank them for past services, congratulate them on greater service to come.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



CHICAGO, Feb. 13. — Having acknowledged the huge ability of the American man of big business and his value to the community in time of war or peace, I might add that he is, in his moments of social relaxation, the most poisonous and vulgar bore on earth, with a penchant for incoherent oratory larded with the catchwords of the hour, stupidly dirty and aged locker-room jokes and timeworn songs, drunkenly done. A genius in his line, which is big machinery and the development of markets to absorb wares produced in the mass, he ought always to remain in character for the sake of his prestige. Instead of which he rather fancies himself as a combination of the late Will Rogers and all the personality wags in dinner jackets whom he has heard in the night clubs and cannot resist the temptation to droll in his clumsy, witless way.

The result is appalling and the unfortunate waiters, sulking behind the pillars, go out and blab to the chauffeurs, who tell the cops and service station men what paltry oats these masters are and the word thus gets around.

Even at little lunching parties or dinners within their own circle, men who have been seeing one another in business day after day for years arrive at a point when one of their number who is, by some intuition, toastmaster of the occasion, presently will tinkle on his glass with a butter knife, clear his throat and, after one joke in Swedish dialect and one in Italian or Irish, each ineptly arriving at an unclear climax, begin to introduce as speakers of the occasion all the others clockwise around the board.

Politeness Calls for Mirth

All these men may be tremendous doers in the manufacture of motor cars, vacuum cleaners or vital articles unknown to the public which go into the great machines that make machines but, with the exceptions of old Henry Ford and one other whom you may personally nominate to prove the rule, they all suffer from a delusion that they are wits, raconteurs and even humorists and not too bad in close-harmony, either, given a low ceiling and three or four rounds of what it takes to loosen them up.

Dialect is a tricky medium even for the best professional entertainers, but your business genius at his fun recklessly deals in such subtle tongues as Negro, German, Scots, Spigoty, Chinese, Japanese and the two versions of the English which are the cockney or gormiblue and the drawing-room or, as he thinks, bloody-blighter.

The scenarios are not more than three in number, all incredibly nasty and so fully familiar to every man that the boresome narrative never is relieved by the climax. Politeness, however, calls for roars of mirth during which the speaker prepares to explain how this light digression illustrates a point in his argument which has no conceivable relation to the talk just told.

At Their Worst While Relaxing

THEY ARE AT their incredible worst when relaxing from their cares in Palm Beach or Miami and strangers in their midst, who have heard big names or seen them in the national ads for years, find it very hard to reconcile such personalities, observed under such conditions, with the achievements which these dull people undoubtedly have wrought.

Great men, giants among the American people they undoubtedly are, when working at their jobs, but taken at play they propagate very low opinion which has had so much to do with the sullenness of the men at the machines in the plant.

Oratory is an art, though a low and insincere one. But men with no gift of expression may be seen twitching in their chairs and pencilizing little notes on the cloth, awaiting their turns to rise and stammer meaningless nothing about nothing. And yet, in their normal moods, at work or in casual conversation with no circle for an audience, they are interesting men whose achievements prove their stature.

Perhaps these social faults are immaterial, but it must be remembered that they made a very unfavorable impression on the hot-eyed world-shakers of the New Deal who knew nothing of business or its mighty men and undoubtedly were responsible for the belief in Washington that such funless clowns must be impostors getting by on advertising alone.

U. S. Aviation

By Maj. Al Williams



OUR AIRLINES today represent the use of about 350 transport planes, with schedules touching only one or two cities in the average state. This we have been pleased to boast about as "air service" to a nation of more than 130 million people. It is merely the skeleton of what is coming.

The volume of airline passenger business increased 38 per cent between 1936 and 1939, but the air express business?

In 1938, for example, the total of all air express volume handled by our domestic airlines amounted to 7,300,000 pounds, while a little airline in Central America, using about six old tri-motored Fords, carried some 15 million pounds. In 1939, two European airlines carried 3739 tons of air express, flying about 13 million schedule miles, yet two of the greatest airlines in this country carried only about 657 tons while flying about 18% schedule miles.

Our failure in flying freight and express is not wholly due to railroad control, but the association of airlines and railroads is a makeshift which forces the airlines to avail themselves of the Railway Express pickup truck service. The pickup system is obsolete, because of the 20 mile-per-hour traffic through congested cities.

Need Freight Planes

THEN, TOO, we are trying to carry air express in passenger transports. This is expensive. Every passenger in an air transport represents not only his own weight, as a pay load, but an equal poundage in plane equipment for his comfort—sound insulation, heating, seat or harness, food, seats, racks, etc.

Air Express costs about 75 to 95 cents a ton-mile, railroad express about 11 to 18 cents. Rail express shipments total about 150 million packages a year, averaging 40 to 45 pounds per package. Air express and air freight planes now on drafting boards will be capable of carrying 16,000 pounds of cargo at 150 miles an hour. Conservative cost estimates indicate that such planes could be operated at about 15 to 16 cents per ton-mile, meaning 415,000 to 520,000 air express packages a day. Such things can and will be done.

This will put all fast, urgent delivery freight and express in the air, the heavy, bulky freight on the trains, and the rest on trucks.

There must be a network of transfer and auxiliary short-flight airlines feeding into the main line air operations. Specially designed or modified airplanes for such service are available. For instance, the helicopter, landing on and taking off from the tops of big buildings in the hearts of cities, may eliminate time-wasting city traffic transportation in trucks.

So They Say

There are going to be a lot of new faces here next year.—Anonymous and rufous member of Congress quoted by the New York Times.

With this belly?—Mayor La Guardia's reply to the suggestion that he might be made a major general.

The Hot Potato!



The Hoosier Forum

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

HITLER WAS WRONG, HE POINTS OUT

By C. O. T., East Chicago

A nation is a composite of at least three parts: (a) The physical geography of the country. (b) The people who live there. (c) The government in power at the present time.

(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.)

comes self-supporting she is subject to lose the only companion she has and loves.

All of us are potential mothers and lots of us would love to become mothers, but we can't and remain self-supporting when our men leave, and we're in a spot. . . .

If the Army takes any married men at all, the fact that a man's wife is working should not constitute status. It's time that the idea that a woman's place is in the home, and if she is anywhere else she should be punished in some way, be sent to the good old trash pile. . . .

SAYS C. I. O. DEMANDS NOT UNREASONABLE

By J. F. S., Indianapolis

The new C. I. O. demands for a wage increase, bonus and eight other demands are not too much if you look at it right. There are 5,000,000 members, the most important men in America today, as most of the work is defense work. A worker on these vital jobs is worth \$100 a week, the right to strike will be kept, and no ceiling will be placed on his wages.

Higher prices on food, rent, taxes and payroll deductions for defense bonds, etc., must all be met by pay increases as they develop; these costs should be paid cheerfully by the other 125,000,000 Americans who will not mind sacrifices when the money is going to the patriotic men who are working for victory.

The President realizes this, and has asked for \$300,000,000 to be paid to the C. I. O. members who are not working because of the changes in the auto industry.

Union leaders are not all gangsters and Communists, but are just trying to get a better living. They should not be opposed by those who are not doing so much for the country.

PROBLEM FOR CITY HALL

By Mr. X., Indianapolis

Something has gone wrong with the sewage system at 20th St. and N. Keystone Ave. on the northeast corner. The earth is giving away in places, and sewer rats as big as cats are digging holes up through the earth to get a sniff of fresh air. Several complaints have been made about it, but nothing has been done to correct it.

When the rats make their appearance the dogs of the neighborhood put their tails between their legs and seek other neighborhoods. Once in a while a brave cat will kill one. When they get in the walls of the houses and start gnawing on the laths it sounds like a mad Nazi grinding his teeth with wrath.

So, I'm leaving it up to The Times to call it to the attention of the proper city officials to have something done about it.

THE CONSTANT ONE

When love was false and I was full of care.

And friendship cold and I was sick with fear;

Music, the beautiful disturber of the air,

Drew near,

Saying: Come with me into my country of air,

Out of the querulous and uncivil clay;

Fling down its aching members into a chair,

And come away.

—George Dillon (1907)

DAILY THOUGHT

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.—II Corinthians 3:17.

The LOVE of liberty with life is given, and life itself the inferior gift of Heaven.—Dryden.

Gen. Johnson Says—



WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—As was remarked here quite recently, on good authority, in our Army now building there are less than 10 officers among every 100 who were in the Army three years. As that Army rapidly multiplies on present plans to three, four or even 10 million men that percentage will decline until we have one officer—to a hundred.

Of course these are shocking danger signs. No parent wants to trust the care and leadership of a son to arbitrary command in a life and death struggle to a man whose only outward sign of competence is a piece of metal insignia on his collar.

It is true that all this is not quite as bad as it sounds. Thousands of these military commissions are not in combat groups at all. They are various kinds of specialists—engineers, doctors and technicians where the basic professional training may be expected to do as good or even better than in the regular army.

Under our Army theory and system all these men are supposed to be under military law and command. This, according to tradition, carries the uniform and the soldier's oath and obligation.

This Job Is Different

I HAVE NO LATE trustworthy break-down of the figures showing the percentage of this group, but the fact remains that,