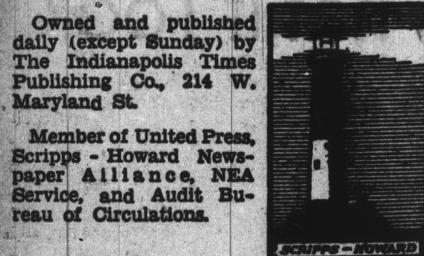


The Indianapolis Times

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RILEY 5551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1942

NOTE TO MRS. ROOSEVELT

SINCE Jan. 17, Indianapolis Times carrier boys—in common with newspaper boys throughout the nation—have been selling defense stamps.

The Times carriers have done an excellent job. In less than one month these boys—106 of them—sold exactly 161,794 stamps. That's more than \$16,000 in dimes.

This week—for the first time since the drive started—their sales show a sharp decline, approximately 18,000 stamps under their peak week.

The reason—as reported by many of the youngsters—is that people don't want to buy stamps if Mrs. Roosevelt is going to spend the money on dancers.

Here is something more eloquent than the testimony of hundreds of so-called experts.

ONE COMMANDER IS NEEDED

IN advocating unified command of all fighting services under one man, Wendell Willkie adds his voice to the many suggesting this reform.

Not that the White House is unaware of the situation. In fact, the President's haste after Pearl Harbor in unifying all the forces under one commander at each of the major outposts, such as Hawaii and Panama, has done much to convince the public that the reform thus started at the bottom needs completion at the top.

As Mr. Willkie says: "The Government's aim, therefore, should be to see that dead wood, red tape, jealousies and prejudices do not obstruct that (common) end. To bring about effective co-operation one man should direct the military services."

Of course that is now being done, in theory, by the commander-in-chief. But it is not being done in fact—as Washington's share of responsibility for Pearl Harbor proved—because the job of being war-time President and ranking official of allied councils doesn't leave time for Mr. Roosevelt or any genius to be his own Secretary of State, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of War and commander of the combined forces.

Gen. Marshall cannot do it. He is doing two big jobs already as Army Chief of Staff and Army commander, just as Admiral Stark was doing both jobs in the Navy until Admiral King was given the command and Stark the supply task. It is no discredit to Marshall, King or Stark, but rather a service to them, to suggest an over-all command.

Wherever combined command is discussed, spontaneously the name MacArthur is mentioned. That is inevitable. If ever a general earned complete public confidence, the heroic and brilliant defender of Bataan has earned it.

But whether MacArthur can serve best in Bataan or Washington is for the commander-in-chief to decide. Certainly it is for the President to pick his own military chief, just as he made his own choice of Nelson as production chief.

It is to be hoped that he will not delay the one as long as he did the other.

THE WORD IS "SCRAM"

APPARENTLY William Dudley Pelley, the infamous bigot and fascist, has decided to make Indianapolis the locale for his new activities.

We don't know who invited this charlatan to this community but whoever did ought to join with him a new endeavor.

One word tells it.

THEY'RE FORGETTING PEARL HARBOR

A FEW hours of cross-questioning by the Ways and Means Committee has revealed clearly that the McNutt-Hillman war-displacement relief bill is just a thinly disguised grab for the power and purse of the state unemployment-compensation systems.

State governments have been so successful in administering their unemployment-compensation laws that they now have accumulated reserves totaling more than two and one-half billion dollars—enough to enable them to meet the emergency of industries changing over to war production.

Indeed, the very size of the reserves may be the undoing of the state systems. For some Washington officials can't bear to see that much money in any hands except their own. And think what a ready-made political machine they would acquire by taking over the power to appoint all the people who administer unemployment compensation in the 48 states!

The grab started with a lot of hullabaloo about how the Federal Government was coming to the rescue of the states by contributing to payments of men made jobless by the conversion of industries. But testimony soon disclosed that no state had asked for Federal help.

This bill should be defeated. The state unemployment-compensation systems should be left alone. Federal officials, McNutt and Hillman included, should concentrate on the immediate job of winning the war.

Rather than seeking ways to give away more Federal money, they should turn their energies to placing skilled workers in war-industry jobs now available, and training others for the millions of new jobs that will soon open up as peace industries are converted.

Is it too much to ask that McNutt, Hillman, et al., forget politics and lay aside their ambitions for personal power until the war is won?

NO DEAD DUCK

WE quote from a news dispatch: "At the same time the House refused to vote \$80,000 to pay for the Donald Duck movie designed to make income tax paying pleasurable. Said Rep. Wigglesworth: 'Billions for defense, but not a buck for Donald Duck.' The stand presents a problem, for the Treasury already has paid the bill."

We would say, some problem—but not for Donald Duck.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



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Chicago, Feb. 14—Last September, when the A. F. of L. was holding its annual hoodlums' old home week or national convention in Seattle, John Boettiger, President Roosevelt's son-in-law, who is editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, ran an editorial note apologizing to the gorillas for printing these dispatches. But he said he believed in a free press even to the extent of running opinions with which he wholly disagreed and made himself out quite a fine, ethical fellow while, incidentally, assuaging the hurts of the union workers who run Seattle as a fascist-bolshevik city.

Well, I am fond of repartee, myself, so I will go back to the time when Mr. B. was covering the White House in the first Roosevelt term. He was not yet the President's son-in-law, but he was parking his dogs under the White House table every night and everyone understood that there would be chimes when the respective divorces of the parties concerned came through.

So it was very amusing at the President's press conferences, to see John standing there, strictly deadpan, and hear him needling the President with heckle-stuff and read his pieces warning his countrymen of a conspiracy, led by the man who was about to become his father-in-law, to collectivize the whole nation and muzzle the press and always under his own name which meant that he either subscribed to these sentiments himself or was the sort of man who would sing any old song for a moderate salary.

Here is something more eloquent than the testimony of hundreds of so-called experts.

Boy, Can the Spots Change!

I AM A TRIFLE tardy on the up-take only because this has been my first opportunity to check John's writings, done in the role of an informed and honest man, in the Tribune files, but I can tell you now that you can finally mark off that old one about the leopard's spots. That one ain't so. The spots can change and change into a stripe, too.

It was in 1934 that John was alarmed about a dark conspiracy to make this country over by stealth into an imitation of the Soviet. Moley and Tugwell were the devils in his book, but he was very suspicious of the whole professoriat, as he called the Brain Trust, and, on his own hook, pointed out that the emblem of the TVA was a clenched fist grasping some lightning, which he likened to a Communist sign.

He detected an unhandy attempt to circumvent the Constitution in the rewriting of the AAA and drew to prominence an idea then being toyed with by the Brain Trust, that after taxation had reached parity with the profits of a private business, the business would surrender and the government would take it over.

I Guess We Know His Ethics

HE DIDN'T TRUST that sinister New Deal any whatever, during his sparkling days in Washington when he was working for R. R. McCormick, but we can't very well suspect that he was in receipt of any brass checks along with his pay because that would call for a conclusion, as the shysters say. When a journalist puts his name over his stuff it means in our business that he pledges his professional integrity that such are his own, independent opinions, not his boss's.

Mr. Boettiger and the President's daughter were wed and, after a brief stopover at Will Hays' emergency landing field he was made editor of the Seattle P.-I., a Hearst paper, with his wife, a newspaper novice, getting a job at a salary such as few newspaper girls of long experience and outstanding ability ever achieve.

It could not have been his political opinions, so often expressed in the Chicago Tribune, although it might have been his versatility, which appealed to Mr. Hearst, himself a versatile man, for Mr. Boettiger, meanwhile, had become an aggressive New Dealer.

So I guess we know what his ethics and principles are. He told the wide world and it is all there for any man to see unless, some day, in fulfillment of the dark prophecy which he gave us then, the new order should purge the files here as in Italy and Germany.

[Editor's Note: The views expressed by columnists in this newspaper are their own. They are not necessarily those of The Indianapolis Times.]

U. S. Aviation

By Maj. Al Williams



"JAPAN MUST BE bombed to defeat!"

That isn't a new-fangled, Hollywoodian slogan—a cute little bunch of words. It's the formula for the only way we can lick Japan.

It means the awakening of the American people to the realization that in a compromise war against Japan—a sort of warship-infantry-air force war—we'll stand a darn good chance of facing a 10-year job. We must get and consolidate land bases in Asia before we can strike at Japan proper with the weapon that has crushed ocean fleets and naval bases and land armies and forts.

Airmen of England as well as America long since counted Singapore out in a modern air war. The real stand of the British, Dutch and American forces will be in Java. What the British lack in realistic vision, and industry to implement that vision, the Dutch have in abundance. To an airman's way of thinking, Java will prove to be a much harder nut to crack than Singapore. Java is evidently all set and equipped to fight a true hit and run war with fast torpedo boats and a vast network of airfields from which to operate British, Dutch and American planes.

Monument to Brass Hats

SINGAPORE WAS BUILT by the old men who estimated this war wrong from the start, with their big guns and warships. Each of those great 18-inch guns at Singapore is a monument to the stupidity of the Brass Hats who planted them there and the Parliament that approved them.

If Java is the halting line of Jap expansion toward the southeast, necessitating every ounce of Jap effort and resources in that direction, isn't that all the more reason for launching an attack against the Jap homeland through and along the Aleutian Peninsula and its stepping-stone islands to the Asiatic Continent?

The other prospect is of American forces, along with what the British will provide, working slowly and painfully from island to island all the way to the Asiatic Continent and recapturing the Philippines, thence moving to Formosa, and from there battering Japan proper.

"Japan must be bombed to defeat" means a purpose and a plan. It means doing a modern job of war in the modern way. It means fighting a type of war we can be sure of winning—by way of Alaska with bombers against Japan.

So They Say—

We do not ask mere survival, but rather that the church may be able to supply leadership for the building of a better world which must come.—President Bishop Henry St. George Tucker of Virginia.

Fascism can't produce beautiful music. All that Fascism has given the world is bombast, bluster, blood, discord, murder, war and defeat.—Mayor LaGuardia of New York at a rally of Americans of Italian origin.

With Love and Kisses!



The Hoosier Forum

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

FEELS CONGRESSMEN SHOULD BE ASHAMED

(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.)

those trends in the light of reason knew long before Pearl Harbor that we were headed for war and that nothing our Government could do, except back down and take it, was going to keep us from being in the war; yet many members of Congress from both parties hid their heads in the sand, voting against each and all moves made by the Administration to prepare our nation for the inevitable.

Or it may have been that too many Congressmen were thinking more about their political fences than they were about the nation's welfare and safety. The result of their attitude has been so far: Too little and too late.

None fiddled while Rome burned; our Congress fiddled while the flames of national destruction crept closer and closer to our shores.

Respect is not something to be handed out freely, it is something to be earned by worth of acts.

Hitler and the Jap militarists no doubt had a good laugh about us leaving dancers and other entertainers placed in Washington's offices for the purpose of victory.

"PUT A STOP TO THESE PATRIOTISM PARASITES"

By Robert McDonough, Jonesboro

May I call your attention to an incident which occurred in my pharmacy this afternoon which I passed off at the time but have been thinking of since.

Two affable young men came up to me with a story to the effect that they were to be enrolled in a flying course which would train them for an aviation career. The instruction would be free, they said, but they must have money for gasoline, etc., etc. and I could do my part to help by subscribing to a magazine at 4 cents per week of which 3 cents would be given to them for expenses.

Recognizing the old "working my way through" racket I walked them off. But in thinking about it I feel that I should have done something more. I have since learned that girls working this story were in Marion today. Certainly at a time like this we can not afford to have gullible citizens who are anxious to co-operate in any way they can, cajoled and victimized by such petty schemes.

I would have written to the magazine as I do not feel they are in the least responsible but it seemed to me that your paper would be in a position to do something more quickly to stop this and other forms of "patriotism parasites."

"NEGROES WILLING AND ANXIOUS TO JOIN FORCES"

By F. H. T., Indianapolis

I would like to call the public's attention to a piece of flagrant propaganda that is being spread about the Negro's loyalty to our beloved republic. I wish to say that there is no more loyal or patriotic section of our country than the sections inhabited by colored citizens.

We have countless numbers of young men of Afro-American descent who are already in the Army, and thousands more who are willing and even anxious to go to the front to fight for their beloved land and, if need be, to die for it.

The writer is amazed to see such an aspersion cast on a race that has shown itself on innumerable occasions to be among the most courageous and valiant of any of our cross section of our nation...

DAILY THOUGHT

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.—Romans 8:26

BLESSED INFLUENCE of one true-loving human soul on another.—George Eliot.

America Afoot

By Peter Edson



WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—A "revolution in reverse" is headed for these United States in the next few years as the country's normal evolution of transportation is thrown out of gear by the war curtailment of new passenger automobile production and the restricted use of automobiles already built and in service.

1. In the next few months, the country will begin to realize fully the degree to which the passenger car has become an economic necessity instead of a luxury.

2. The success of the war production program will be found dependent on truck transportation to a degree greater than anyone had realized.

3. Key to the whole problem will be the rubber situation.

4. Railroads, interurbans and street car systems will be found inadequate to care for the increased traffic burdens if automobile transportation is drastically curtailed.

Some Other Problems