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Give Lights and the People Will Find Their Own Way

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1942

CHURCHILL'S LEADERSHIP

IF words could wipe away the British defeats of Singapore and Dover Strait, Churchill's deeply moving eloquence yesterday would restore the Allies' certainty of victory. But words cannot win the war. Only much faster Allied effort on the production and fighting fronts can save us all.

Mr. Churchill, of course, knows that his effective answer must be on the land, on sea, and in the air. There is no other answer to Japan and Germany.

One factor in turning the tide, as he said, must be British unity and Allied unity. Britain came through the trial of 1940, and Russia survived the assault on Moscow, partly because defense was not destroyed by internal bickering.

THE backbone of morale is confidence in the leader. Because the people believe in him, Mr. Churchill is worth many battalions.

If the London reports are accurate, the growing lack of confidence there is not in the leader himself. It is in the allegedly second-rate cabinet officers and military chiefs who surround Churchill.

Certainly we in this country have no desire to judge Churchill harshly. He is very popular here—perhaps even more popular than in England.

Moreover, we have an understanding sympathy for Mr. Churchill's weakness of failing to surround himself with strong men and to delegate authority. For that, also, is the chief weakness of our own President-Commander-in-Chief.

Allied victory depends largely on sustaining and strengthening the great leadership of Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill. Each is carrying too heavy a load—the results show that. We hope each will speedily find stronger associates, with the ability to help these two men to lead us "forward steadfastly together into the storm and through the storm."

AND \$100,000,000 TO SPARE

THE greatest temporary unemployment is occurring in Michigan, where the automobile industry is changing over to war production.

Michigan has an unemployment-compensation reserve of \$135,000,000. Evidence placed before the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington proves that Michigan can make all the regular unemployment compensation payments to displaced workers, plus all the added benefits which the McNutt-Hillman bill would provide from Federal funds—and still have \$100,000,000 left in reserve.

Which is but another bit of proof that the purpose of the McNutt-Hillman bill is not to serve a need, but to use a subterfuge to federalize the states' unemployment-compensation systems.

Messrs. McNutt and Hillman should abandon this power grab, and devote their energies to placing skilled unemployed men in war industry jobs now available, and to training others in the skills that will be needed in the multitude of jobs that will open up soon.

There will be work for all who can work.

HELPING THE LOBBYISTS

THE American Federation of Labor looks with approval on pensions for Congress. So says W. C. Hushing, chairman of the A. F. of L.'s national legislative committee, in a letter to Rep. Robert Ramspeck of Georgia, author of the pension law.

This, we suspect, will be news to a good many union members. However, Mr. Hushing's attitude is easy to understand. When Congress votes a special benefit for its own members, it becomes more difficult for Congress to refuse special benefits demanded for members of other groups. The task of lobbyists and other pressure blocs is made easier.

Which strikes us as a compelling reason why pensions for Congress should not have been voted—and why, having been put through without adequate consideration, the scheme should be repealed.

NORMANDIE NEGLIGENCE

THE Normandie was a \$60,000,000 trust in the hands of the Navy Department. The great reconditioned ship was almost ready for her task of carrying desperately needed re-enforcement and aid to United States soldiers and sailors fighting and dying on distant war fronts. Months of difficult and costly salvage work, even if it proves practicable, must now delay that task!

Small wonder, then, that what happened to the Normandie has been a serious blow to civilian confidence and morale.

Signs of negligence have become so grave that only another Roberts' commission appointed by the President can compel adequate answer to the question millions of shocked Americans are asking.

LANDIS IS "BOSS" NOW

DEAN JAMES M. LANDIS should not be blamed for the waste, boondoggling and whoops that occurred in the Office of Civilian Defense while the responsibility headed up to part-time director La Guardia and his part-time assistant, Mrs. Roosevelt.

But now Mr. Landis is the full-fledged director of OCD, and has the "final say," on the assurance of the President. Mr. Landis should, and will, be held accountable for what happens from here on.

If the OCD's Augean stables aren't cleansed in a month, then the logical thing would be to turn the job over to the War Department and to retired Army officers who will know how to douse lights and incendiary bombs without getting mixed up in Maypole dances and community sing-songs.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Walter Lippmann is one of our best known cosmic columnists, distinctly on the scholarly or double-dome side and a conscientious and responsible man. He is not known as a news-and-fact reporter, however, so he gave me a start Thursday when he wrote from Frisco a piece that seemed to me to be a cry of alarm. His trouble in the role of Paul Revere is his reputation as an essayist. What Lippmann said belied no column over near the editorial matter but under a black line outside. Tightened up a little bit, this is what he said:

"The enemy alien or fifth column problem on the Pacific Coast is very serious." The coast is in imminent danger of combined attack from within and from without. The peculiar danger is in a Japanese raid accompanied by enemy action inside American territory. The combination can be very formidable.

"For, while the striking power might not be overwhelming at any one point, Japan might do irreparable damage if it were accompanied by sabotage to which this part of the country is especially vulnerable."

Do You Get What He Says?

"THIS IS A SOBER report," he went on, "based on what is known to be taking place. The Japanese navy has been reconnoitering the Pacific Coast testing and feeling out the defenses. Communication takes place between the enemy at sea and enemy agents on land. There has been no important sabotage, but this is no sign that there is nothing to fear. It is a sign that the blow is well organized and held back until it can be struck with maximum effect."

From that Lippmann goes on to urge the mass evacuation and mass internment of enemy aliens, most of whom, of course, are Japanese.

Do you get what he says? This is a high-grade fellow, with a heavy sense of responsibility, trying to tell us that the enemy has been scouting our coast, a fact unknown to our people, that the Japs ashore are communicating with the enemy offshore and on the basis of "what is known to be taking place" there are signs that a well-organized blow is being withheld only until it can do the most damage.

That probably means reservoirs, harbors, oil stores, naval works, bridges and the big power works and radio stations and shooting of our civilians by Japanese residents in military groups and civilian garb.

We Booted One!

WE ARE SO DAMNED dumb and considerate of the minute Constitutional rights and even of the political feelings and influence of people whom we have every reason to anticipate with preventive action!

The Germans round them all up and keep them in pens. There isn't an American or Briton or the loose anywhere in Japan or the territory she holds. But we have to be fastidious and mysterious like a lot of guardhouse lawyers and the first thing we know it's Pearl Harbor and we even bury inside the papers a warning by a man whose reputation for sober responsibility justified immediate alarm and radical precautions.

Our papers are operating under great difficulties and strain. We can't investigate half the important things that come to us or give due prominence to information which we do confirm. Nevertheless, we have done much fine work and our worst sin has been our poisonous optimism expressed in the over-emphasis on petty victories.

But in this case I say we booted one, for what Lippmann says is true we should have been all over the story within a few hours and the Japanese in California should be under armed guard to the last man and woman right now and to hell with habeas corpus until the danger is over.

This and That

By Peter Edson



WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Washington's newest night club is a block from the Treasury in a limestone palace once occupied by an investment bank. . . . The wool labeling act which went into effect last July is being hailed as a great protector of consumers in wartime, when the tendency might be to reduce quality. . . . Anti-prohibitionists now charge the false rumors of over-indulgence at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 6 and 7 were started by an English prohibition society with German connections. . . . Almost 48,000 communities in the nation depend completely on highway transportation.

British blackout traffic accidents increased a fifth in the second year of the war. . . . Four per cent of U. S. rayon production is earmarked for Latin America. . . . The Army's shirt buttons are made from vegetable ivory, the tagus nut of Ecuador.

Need Some Place to Stay?

U. S. BLACKLIST of business firms sympathetic to Axis now has 3650 names in American republics, 1813 in other countries. . . . Washington has 115 licensed lodging houses and 500 homes listing rooms for tourists. . . . If you come to Washington and want a room phone REPUBLIC 2600. It's the new clearing house for all hotel and rooming house reservations. . . . Messengers using their own bicycles must be paid an extra half cent an hour for day work, a cent an hour for night work, according to new wage and hour ruling. . . . Another wage and hour ruling is that employees changing to work clothes at the plant must be paid for five minutes dressing time at both ends of the day. . . . One new war plane rolling off the assembly line every nine minutes equals 60,000 planes a year. . . . Twelve out of every 1000 women arrested are charged with murder, 17 with driving while intoxicated, says the FBI.

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

If we in our own sphere of life shall give more sweat it will mean less blood to those of our brethren who are fighting our battles and less tears for those mothers and fathers who have unselfishly given their boys to the service of our beloved land.—Archbishop Spellman, Catholic Diocese of New York.

I consider that every artist who isolates himself from the world is doomed. I find it incredible that an artist should want to shut himself away from the people, who, in the end, form his audience.—Dmitri Shostakovich, Soviet composer and fire warden.

The attitude now seems to be that men without teeth can live just as well in the Army as they have up to now out of the service.—Brig.-Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service director.

For the rest of my lifetime I think there will be sufficient to do to try to get the world back on its legs.—Sir Stafford Cripps in declining a British cabinet post.

A wise man I think once defined education as that which remains when we have forgotten all that we have been taught.—Viscount Halifax, British Ambassador to the U. S.

Chopsticks—American Style!



The Hoosier Forum

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

REAL CUTE TO SEE WHICH SISSEY WINS OUT!

By Mrs. E. Riegel, 1037 Chadwick St.

I have been getting a big "bang" out of the Forum the past week or so. It is going to be still more interesting to see who wins the dog question. "The three old ladies" are having a time by themselves so I'm not going to root for any one of them. I mean "Mr. A. Mellinger, Mr. C. Kwitny and Mr. E. Pervine." It will be real cute though to see what one of the big sissies will win out.

Talk about women! I bet they would be swell for a "sewing bee."

A SUGGESTION AGAINST THE MILITARY HIGHWAY

By W. M., Indianapolis

Just a suggestion in regard to a military highway around Indianapolis:

Why build a 25 mile highway from U. S. 67 (via Shadeland Drive and Arlington Ave.) which becomes a dead end road at the railroad crossing, south of Troy Ave. This proposed highway would serve only to connect with one military highway—U. S. 31 to the south. We hope the war will be over before the time it would take to construct this highway.

At present, we have three arterials that connect four U. S. highways to the east, namely: U. S. 67, U. S. 40, U. S. 52 and U. S. 29, and by using Arlington Ave., Emerson Ave. and Sherman Drive, to Raymond St. it will connect those with four U. S. highways to the south, namely: U. S. 31 at Shelby St. or Madison Ave., U. S. 135 at Meridian St., U. S. 37 at Bluff Road or West St. and U. S. 67 at Kentucky Ave., any of which will make connection with Ft. Knox.

To do this would require the widening of Raymond St. from Arlington Ave. to Kentucky Ave., of which two-thirds is rural district. The balance from State Ave. to Bluff Road passes through residential district.

To relieve traffic within the city, a wide highway of less than one mile could be built on Keystone

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.

Fancy banners with the printed prayer will not, of themselves, do it.

MR. MADDOX CONSIDERS US SUBVERSIVE, TOO!

By Edward F. Maddox, 929 W. 28th St.

It is my opinion that the printing of subversive propaganda in time of war, at least, is just as subversive for the editor who prints it as it is for the person who writes it.

Now the editor of Times has published in the Forum a proposal by George O. Davis which is a cunning, subversive proposition to establish a totalitarian state system over this nation.

Of course if the editor desires such a system imposed on the United States there is some reason on his part for printing such dangerous stuff, but if he is not in favor of junking our whole American way of life in favor of a Soviet or Nazi system it is hard to understand what good motive he could have to keep bringing such dangerous and subversive propaganda before Times readers.

I SURE WANT TO HELP THOSE POOR CONGRESSMEN!

By Charles King, 1311 N. Tuxedo St.

I sure want to help those poor Congressmen out and 100 million more want to do the same. Now there is poor Congressman Boehne. He sure needs more money. He has a poor father to take care of.

Now to do this, there is an old blind lady down the street who gets \$9 a month. Take \$4 from her and take a little from the rest of them until you get poor Boehne's \$800 from Indiana. Then Indiana will have set the example for the Congressmen of other states.

Then, after 10 years, during which he married, fathered a son and did political ladder-climbing, he found himself Governor—the youngest chief executive in the United States. He still holds that title, although he is now rounding out a second term and has reached the ripe old age of 34.

What's more, he's tall and handsome, and looks as though he could be hard but never tough. Maybe he was softened up for my visit by the recent advent of a baby daughter, born Jan. 23—the first baby, by the way, ever born in Minnesota's executive mansion. Kathleen Esther Stassen has a brother, Glen, who is 5 and whose photograph looks out at visitors from his father's massive desk at the St. Paul State Capitol with small boy appeal.

We talked about children—governors, I find, are just as silly about theirs as the rest of us—and about whether the poor old G. O. P. has a future, and if so, what it is.

Governor Stassen is hopeful. And I feel a little better, since seeing a Republican in the flesh functioning in a high elective office. It goes to prove that things are never as bad as they seem, for in low moments I have thought such specimens had gone to join the dodo.

I HOPE THEY ADOPT THAT LAW HERE!

By H. A. H., Indianapolis

I have noticed several items in the Forum about dogs and children and would like for the writers to read the following.

We have always had children and we have always had dogs and I think that every child should have a good dog. I raised a family of four boys and they had a dog and wherever you would see the children you would see the dog. I don't see why a child should not have a dog but the dog should be trained the same as a child. If a child cries for a few minutes the first thing is to spank the child, but a dog can stand and bark and howl for hours at a time and half of the night and what happens? Nothing! Now many owners of dogs will gladly tell you how smart their dog is and if you will stand and watch him, he will show you the many tricks that the dog can do. But at the same time he will let the dog sit in the yard and bark and howl for hours and half of the night...

In a large city on the west coast, if a dog barks between 7 p. m. and 8 a. m., the owner is fined. I hope that they will adopt that law here.

DAILY THOUGHT

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord—Scriptures 4:5.

WHAT GOOD I see humbly I seek to do