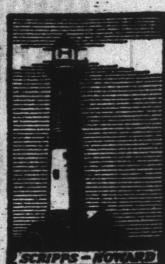


The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD President RALPH BURKHOLDER Editor MARK FERREE 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 News Paper Alliance, NEA Service, and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1942

WHERE MAC ARTHUR BELONGS

WENDELL WILLKIE thinks we should bring Gen. MacArthur home and put him in supreme command of Army, Navy and air.

But—if the impending shake-up in British organization occurs—why not Gen. MacArthur for supreme command where the actual, and most critical, fighting is going on?

We, of course, don't know whether Gen. Wavell is on the shake-up list. But if so, and if Gen. MacArthur is available, he might be the genius who could turn the tide in the southwest Pacific.

This war has arrived at a stage where high strategy and oratory in Washington and London definitely are not providing "what it takes." Furthermore, we don't believe Gen. MacArthur would willingly pull out of Bataan for any administrative post. He is a natural-born fighter—the soldier son of a soldier.

GEN. MAC ARTHUR is of the until-hell-freeze-over breed.

He wouldn't leave his men and fellow-officers in the Philippines unless the new assignment was as dangerous as the one he now pursues—and more important.

He has proved himself to be the greatest underdog fighter of this, the toughest of all wars. If put in Wavell's place he might accomplish the impossible, attain the thing that "can't be done." And if you need further proof that this is one of the rare soldiers of all history, just cast your eyes over the record of the Rainbow Division which he commanded in World War I.

The situation in the Dutch East Indies is of the same desperate nature today as that in Bataan—only, now, of larger size.

If this master warrior is to be used elsewhere than in the Philippines he should be placed where his inspiring leadership will count most. And that's where there is shot and shell, not blueprints and carbon copies.

BOUQUET FOR DRAFT MACHINE

NOW that the new draft sign-up is over, and a lot of us are carrying neat new registration cards, maybe it's time for a word of praise.

We mean for the unpaid volunteers who made the registration process so efficient. The job of the draft boards and their many registration-day assistants is neither soft nor exciting. The work is mostly drudgery. But with very few exceptions it has been performed in a business-like and cheerful way.

The country owes a vote of thanks to these citizens who have sacrificed their time so helpfully.

CALIFORNIA—ANOTHER PEARL HARBOR?

"To hell with habeas corpus until the danger is past," writes Westbrook Pegler, about what he sees as a Pearl Harbor peril today on the Pacific Coast. He refers particularly to an investigation made by Walter Lippmann that visualizes the possibility of an uprising of Japs within California, timed to a Japanese attack by sea and air.

"To hell with habeas corpus" is strong language, even in wartime, in a country fighting to preserve just that sort of thing.

But we don't think Pegler has gone hysterical. On the contrary we believe that habeas corpus and the rest of the Bill of Rights can be preserved only by taking adequate military steps to guard against a Pearl Harbor repetition on the Pacific mainland.

We think that danger should be turned over to the military, just as the military took charge in 1906 after the earthquake hit San Francisco.

THE Pacific Coast is on edge. Warnings pour in, from the Mexican border to Alaska. It's a time for taking no chances.

We believe that declaring the southern part of California, if not the whole coast, a "zone of military operations" would not be going too far. But it's a job for the military, not for the chambers of commerce.

Such a coup, from within and without, as Lippmann and Pegler think possible could mean the capture or destruction of the oil for our whole Pacific fleet, of supplies for Hawaii and beyond, of the vast airplane plants, the aqueducts, the water reservoirs, the pipe lines—all the intricate fabric on which not only the coast depends, but our whole Pacific position.

Therefore, we urge—play safe. If martial law is the price, so be it. We aren't playing ping pong. Let what is necessary be done in order that it not be, for all time, "to hell with habeas corpus," but that habeas corpus and our other civil liberties may finally be preserved.

ALASKA'S BURMA ROAD

WHO is holding up the international Alaskan highway, which is so essential to defense of our exposed outpost?

Everybody is for it, but nothing happens. Even the War Department, which blocked it for years with red tape and indifference, at last wants action.

Gov. Gruening, Alaskan Delegate Dimond, and the State Department have been pressing for it. The international joint commission, after making many surveys and amassing much data for four years, has recommended it.

The President is in favor. But the whole project is tied up in a cabinet committee. Just what Secretaries Ickes, Knox and Stimson need to investigate about a plan that has already been probed almost to death, is hard to discover. Presumably they are busy with other matters.

The danger of Japanese attack is no longer academic. The faster the enemy advances beyond Singapore, the more forces released for a northern offensive.

What is the explanation for the delay?

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



RILEY 8551

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.

Chicago papers seem unable to stick to the newspaper business. They always try to control the mayor, the state's attorney, or county prosecutor and the governor and even the senators and some representatives. They promote all sorts of public spectacles and their political and other extra-curricular activities inevitably create obligations which newspapers are free without.

The Tribune, under R. R. McCormick, has been fiercely anti-New Deal ever since the NRA, and was just as angrily isolationist down to Pearl Harbor. He is still anti-New Deal, but has accepted the war with grace and vigor but without shirking his duty to criticize incompetence, venality, mistakes or misrepresentations by officials of the Government.

You Can't Embarrass R. R.

THIS IS A very difficult situation to be in, but McCormick is not embarrassed or deterred. He is a strong, obdurate man, who takes very little counsel of anyone and, although he has actually been accused of treason by his opponents, it is ridiculous to think that a man so independent and self-sufficient could be tempted to sabotage the American war in a hope that out of defeat he might arise like a Quisling, a Darlan or a Pétain.

He is a very patriotic man and he held the view that this country should arm mightily and not scatter its weapons as fast as they were made along the battle lines of Britain and Russia.

Frank Knox, who operates The Daily News, an evening paper, is a Chicagoan by adoption and his paper, too, was vigorously anti-New Deal until Pearl Harbor or not long before. But on the subject of war, he shared President Roosevelt's view of inevitability and so left his paper, where his investment is, to join up as Secretary of the Navy. So naturally during the America First campaign, the party got very rough and McCormick was called an appeaser and Knox and his co-believers were called warmongers.

'It is the Darndest Town'

MARSHALL FIELD HAD bad luck. He is a kiver-to-kiver New Dealer but a new personality and without much force. When he started his Sun he had a beautiful issue, for he was invading The Tribune's monopoly of the morning field as a supporter of the President's war policy, or, as The Tribune called it, interventionism. Then, the Japanese blasted his issue out of existence, for McCormick immediately bowed to the fact of war and there was no question of isolationism vs. interventionism any more.

Silliman Evans, a Texas politician and reporter who opportunized himself into some very good spots under the New Deal, was given the task of whipping up a full-size, first-class paper with character, out of ingredients. He followed the standard American pattern, which calls off a certain number of comics, columns and so forth but newspapers develop character, good or bad, by growth, as people do and here was The Sun, attempting to be adult the day it was born.

As a straight New Deal paper, The Sun probably will get some political favors from the Administration and it obviously is trying to need McCormick into recognizing it as a rival or critic. But McCormick just ignores it and keeps blasting away at frivolities, mistakes and some of the policies of the Government and The Sun keeps yelling "Hey, I called you a louse. Why don't you call me something?"

This fuss is altogether too noisy and nasty and the people might some day tell themselves that after all newspapers are for news and have no right to make or break governments or whip them unnecessarily into lathers and dissension just because they are competing for business. But it has always been that way in Chicago. It is the darndest town.

U. S. Aviation

By Maj. Al Williams



AIRMEN WHO KNOW how the Army and Navy work predicted emphatically, and correctly, that Col. Muhlenberg—the Air Corps officer who explained Pearl Harbor in part by, "You can't ship your airplanes abroad and have them at Pearl Harbor, too"—would not be roughly handled by the pseudo court martial investigating his statement.

He might have crashed a lot of political and military careers if he had been prodded into talking.

Likewise, there will be no further disciplinary action against Admiral Kimmel and Gen. Short, who were the commanders at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th. Both of these officers have refused public comment. Goad them into defending themselves against further punishment and they might say plenty—and political heads would roll in Washington.

The usual political strategy in such cases is to fix the blame publicly—and then let the matter sift out of sight in the sands of time. The services object to "washing service linen in public" and the politicians try to forget in the hope that the public will forget.

The Normandie Incident

THERE'S GOING to be a row about the destruction of the Normandie at her New York dock. This disaster has already been tagged "the Pearl Harbor of New York." The Normandie's loss amounts to many times that of a straight, out-and-out cargo or troop-carrying vessel of equal tonnage. She could have been converted into an aircraft carrier which might have swung the scales of victory.

The value of an aircraft carrier these days is indicated by the fact that two to four such deadly roosts for Jap airpower accounted for all the damage done at Pearl Harbor.

The Navy routine in the case of such loss of Navy property as the Normandie is to appoint a board of inquiry to fix the blame. There is no possible doubt that there was carelessness and failure to take elementary precautions against fire, or that unauthorized persons could enter the big ship as she lay at the pier undergoing conversion to war uses.

Someone—perhaps a good many someones—should be punished.

So They Say

In times of peace, lawyers are officers of the court, but in times of war they become officers of the State.—Attorney General Francis Biddle.

We can't have frivolous women coming in with Lady Bountiful attitudes, or sob sisters who do nothing but feel sorry for the patients.—Mrs. Edmond Butler, director of volunteers, St. Vincent's Hospital, New York.

In the new economy, no nation will permit bankruptcy and ruin so long as men, materials, and energy are available. Men first, money second.—Stuart Chase, economist, in a study for the 20th Century Fund.

The sole test is the individual's loyalty to the United States.—Dr. Will W. Alexander, chief minority group unit, War Production Board labor division.

The Doughboys of '42!



The Hoosier Forum

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

NUTS! NUTS! NUTS! TO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE!"

By Ed Bayliss Jr., 4822 Guilford Ave.

Let us all take time to pay tribute to our Department of Agriculture for the important contribution that they have made toward National Defense. We read in The Times of Feb. 12 that as a result of the Department's tireless labor in measuring 4,698 women, they arrived at the astounding conclusion that the chassis of the average American female is "dumpy."

My, how we should admire the fortitude, initiative and perseverance of the individuals who compiled this report. In spite of rationing problems, rising prices, defense, heck and high water, these people visualized the necessity for accomplishing this task and they rolled up their sleeves and did it.

So, fellow Americans, let us all shout three cheers for the Department of Agriculture to express our appreciation for their inspirational report. "Nuts, Nuts, Nuts."

'PRESENT CHAOS EVIDENCE OF MANAGERS' FAILURE'

By W. W. Daucks, 136 S. Noble St.

A century or more ago when the machine was just breaking through its shell, ownership and management of business largely coincided. Even labor often fused with these two.

But present day technology and the coming of large scale enterprise introduced an enormous complexity into that simple relation and it became essential to obtain capital from large numbers of investors. Distribution had to be arranged through various channels, so, in order to bring these elements together, professional management was born.

During normal times and conditions this relation sufficed, but when the stress of 1929 entered into the picture, in spite of all these so-called rare managerial abilities, described by one writer as amounting to genius, the mantle fell and the present chaos and uncertainty are positive evidence of complete failure of this group.

And yet, in spite of all this evi-

to express their views in these columns, religious controversies excluded. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Letters must be signed.)

10 per cent of similar days lost through accidents and only five per cent lost through sickness.

"LET OUR BOYS REST IN PEACE OVER THERE"

By Ruth Wellman, 1622 Charles St.

Why don't people stop capitalizing on the slogan, "Remember Pearl Harbor?" It's the graveyard of thousands of our sailors, but there are pins, emblems, stickers, etc. on the market that are making money from the tragedy.

Those of us who lost loved ones in Pearl Harbor will remember it always in our hearts, and the true American does not have to be goaded into buying defense bonds and stamps.

Let's remember the important thing is to win this war, so let our boys rest in peace over there.

"DOES FARMER COME AND DEMAND HALF YOUR DINNER?"

By Voice In The Crowd, Indianapolis

I wish to assure Mr. Daucks that I did not ask him to think. I also did not argue with him.

I merely pointed out to those who may have read his article that there is a vast difference between the amount of wealth produced annually and the national income as stated in dollars that have turned several times, partly in nonproductive directions.

Now so far as the higher professions being productive is concerned, I maintain that a high percentage of them perform valuable service to mankind, but I have never seen an educator, a lawyer, doctor, scientist, musician or politician ever produce anything that the socialists crave to divide. Their choice is to serve and not produce.

Of those who produce, there is only one who can carry the production process to completion from the tool and the soil to a commodity sold to a consumer. That is the farmer. He cannot keep all that he produces because he has to pay taxes and buy supplies that are made by others. If he has to pay high prices in an unbalanced economy he has a shrinkage in his real income. If the farmer cannot "keep all," how can any one else expect to do it? There is one thing that can be said of the American farmer. After he has sold to you the commodity produced by his brain and brawn, he does not come to your table and demand half of your dinner claiming that he by his labor produced it.

It is absurd to the limit to ask what would happen if all "labor-mental and physical would quit work flat." Five thousand years ago man knew that he must earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. When we cease to know that basic fact, we will all start to starve. The weakest of body and mind would starve first and then the rest would go to work again, because the desire to live is a stronger urge than the fallacy of idealism.

One-third of our population works. That leaves some of the women, the children and the aged who don't, so I ask you who are the most important links in an economy where we live by serving each other.

DAILY THOUGHT

When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.—Matthew 6:4.

She KNOWS omnipotence has heard her prayer and cries. "It shall be done—sometimes, somewhere."—Ophelia G. Browning.



"I know you always said from the beginning the automobile would never replace the horse—but it's taken 40 years and a lot of Japs to make you a prophet."

Gen. Johnson Says—



WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Wendell Willkie wants to bring Douglas MacArthur home and put