

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1942

WHO'S COMPLACENT?

MAYRIS CHANEY resigns for the good of the service. We like to think of that as perhaps signaling the end of an era.

The '20s were an era—of wonderful nonsense, with a Wall Street label. The '30s turned into an era of wonderful nonsense, with a government label. The lamb of the '20s was the speculator. The lamb of the '30s was the taxpayer.

Is it too much to hope that the Chaney affair may symbolize such a shift in the wind as followed the tickertape decade?

We don't mean to pick on Miss Chaney—just because she has seen the light. We admire her for doing the right thing. We wish her well and hope she makes in her profession, which is dancing, not air-raid protection, much more than that \$4600 a year she would have got from the federal payroll.

But we can't overlook the importance of her resignation, because we believe it may not only symbolize a shift in the wind, but may set an example.

A Chaney incident was needed to stir public sentiment about a thing the public could easily understand—that you can't put out a fire bomb with a boondoggle.

No ponderous problem in military tactics was involved; no strategic secrets that might give comfort to the enemy; no intricate maze of fiscal procedure—just something that hit John Q. Public where he lived, in his common sense.

THERE has been much talk since Pearl Harbor about public complacency. We think the complacency runs not to the public but to the leadership—and that the Chaney matter is just one straw in a wind that is rapidly swelling in force.

Pensions for congressmen, special draft dispensations for labor leaders and movie actors, less than A-1-A rating for airplanes, parity-plus for the farm lobby, excessive profits for war contractors, time-and-a-half and double-time for unions as compared with 21 bucks a month for soldiers, union limitations on apprentices in desperately needed war production, pork-barrel politics bottlenecking such vital appropriations as that for the Soo canal, the Normandie fire, cushy jobs for sunshine-patriots, NYA as usual, CCC as usual, uplift and social projects as usual, specialists as usual, consultants as usual, racial relations advisers and associate racial relations advisers as usual, receptionists, junior and under receptionists as usual—you go ahead and finish the list.

For you are the public—the allegedly complacent public; the public that is paying the taxes and sending its sons to the camps or to parts unknown; the public that is buying bonds and knitting socks and giving to the Red Cross, and closing down its rubber-tire businesses and its gas stations and its electric and refrigerator shops, and its auto sales branches, and not squawking about it, yet, but instead just wondering and worrying in the gloom of bad news, from the sea, on the land, and in the air.

But if complacent once, before Dec. 7, not complacent now.

WE like the comment by Rep. Hatton Sumners of Texas, one of the real statesmen of our time, on the transformation that's taking place:

"When I looked upon this light, frivolous people, this people who seemed to want to be bottle-fed, and rocked to sleep in the arms of a great federal bureaucracy, I knew such a people could not win."

But, he continues, "I have seen these audiences under challenge, of their own accord, thrust aside their soft, unfit personalities and stand forth the finest thing I have ever looked upon in my life—a nation reborn under the challenge of responsibility and of duty."

"The American people want to do this job. They have the stuff in them to do it if we (the leaders) will only do our part, tell them the truth, forget our political fortunes, cast away ambition . . . and substitute for it a deep yearning . . . that we may be fit, faithful servants of a great people, governing in a great democracy, acknowledging no master save the god of their adoration."

THE SON OF H—

HERR GOEBBELS' latest propaganda makes the pagan god Wotan a first cousin of the Jap sun god. Next logical step is to rechristen Adolf Hirohitler.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

SOMEBODY in the State Department ought to give a simple, clear, public explanation of how these two news items happened to be capable of appearing almost at the same time:

1. A shipload of American supplies left for Vichy, France, during the last week of January.
2. British broadcast reports that "Vice Premier" Darlan of France has agreed to send two shiploads of supplies weekly to Nazi Gen. Rommel's forces in North Africa.

Unless a fairly clear definition is made as to just what is American policy toward France since we entered the war (and bear in mind that Gen. Rommel is now fighting us and our policy can scarcely be what it was before Dec. 7) people are going to begin to wonder what's going on here.

Maybe it's all baby-food that is going to France; maybe it's something that cannot even be used to substitute for what is being sent to Rommel. Maybe there is a good answer. Oughtn't the American people to know what it is?

PLUS A DIRTY WINDSHIELD, TOO

WHEN they start building cars again why not make em with ready-bent fenders so they'll always look like new?

The Auto Crisis

By Peter Edson



WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Dislocation of the automobile industry itself is only the first step on this downward trend of America's pre-war civilization on wheels.

Loss of jobs by 200,000 or more automobile factory workers, while the plants are retooling, is temporary. They'll all get other and perhaps better jobs in war plants. The real blow comes below the manufacturing level, hitting the 40,000 or more dealers with their 500,000 employees, the 55,000 repair establishments, the 95,000 other retail outlets—only a few of which will be able to keep going in a business run on a rationing basis.

The industry is certain to be run on a rationing basis. Cars, buses, trucks, tires and retreading are already rationed. When present stocks are sold, that will be all.

From this point on, the troubles begin to spread. Nine out of 10 dealers and their employees may have to find other work.

Their troubles are passed on to the real estate operators who hold the leases of the automobile dealers who go out of business. These landlords must find new tenants. The tenants must find ways to terminate any long-term leases. Parking lots are included in this business, too.

New Field May Open Up

BANK OR INSURANCE companies holding any mortgages on the rented properties face a loss of interest while the premises are vacant. Banks holding commercial paper from the lessees may have to look to their collateral for settlement if they avoid heavy losses.

Finance companies which carried the car owner during the purchase period will collect their last installments and then have to look elsewhere to invest their money.

One new field may open up here, the financing of used car purchases. There is a possibility of some turnover and some new business in the used car market, though what may happen here hasn't developed clearly. Owners of old used cars may create a buyers' demand for better used cars just to acquire better times.

If that happens, watch first for price ceilings for used cars as well as new, and watch next for rationing of used cars. Yes, it's possible you may have to get permission to buy a second-hand jalopy. You'll have to prove you need it.

So, until restrictions are put on the used car market, there is the possibility that the finance companies, which once scorned a loan for used car purchase, may get into the second-hand car business.

It Means \$250,000,000 Less Taxes

YOUR CHAIN OF consequences leads next into the fields of taxation. Last year, Congress passed a whole new set of automobile taxes, figuring this source of revenue would yield another \$245 million to help pay war costs. But all these taxes were calculated on normal car use. With production of motor vehicles channeled into war, these taxes are out way down.

Furthermore, state and local automobile tax collections face a drop. The total of all automobile taxes, federal and local, has been estimated by the American Automobile Association at \$800 million a year.

The net indicated loss of auto and gas taxes for next year is about \$250 million. This means that \$250 million in war taxes will have to be raised some place else.

Drop in auto taxation, drop in automobile use means also a decline in state funds for highway maintenance since most of the money for this work comes from gasoline taxes and license fees. The roads you ride upon, therefore, won't be as good as the roads you are used to.

(Mr. Pegler did not write a column for today.)

U. S. Aviation

By Maj. Al Williams

I HAVE NEVER underestimated the Japs or any other actual or potential opponent. Beyond question Japan has brave and capable soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Needless to say, we have faith in our own American fighting blood—sound faith, based on its record in other wars and this one. Why, then, have the Allied forces lost so much ground?

Because flesh and blood cannot stand up against overwhelming machine superiority. Reports that trickle through show that British, American and Dutch pilots are taking heavy toll of the Jap air forces—when the planes are of comparable performance. Man for man in the air, there is no doubt at all that American pilots are far superior to Jap airmen.

Seasoned American pilots have been bringing us that story each week since the war in the Pacific began. The Jap pilot is brave and skillful, but he just can't hold a candle to the competently trained American air fighting man.

Licked By Our Own Planes

THE PHENOMENAL SWEEP of Japanese forces through the Philippines, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies is due to their numerical superiority. British army forces in Malaya were swept off that peninsula by the numerical superiority of the Jap air forces. Japan's airpower dominated that combat zone.

Singapore's defenses were obsolete, with a lot of giant anti-warship guns pointing seaward—built for a type of war that never came. We predicted that the British high command would never understand the necessity for supplying adequate airpower for Singapore's defense.

The RAF at Singapore tried to offset the full power of the Jap air drive with obsolete planes—some of them tagged obsolete six to eight years ago. The best RAF pilot, in an outmoded fighter or a training plane, can't successfully combat two or more Japs in modern heavy gunned fighters. That's the straight story of Japan's successes in the Far East.

The British were licked in Malaya, not by Jap planes, but by the British planes that were kept in England.

Three hundred Spitfires could have turned the Jap invasion of Malaya back in its very inception.

So They Say—

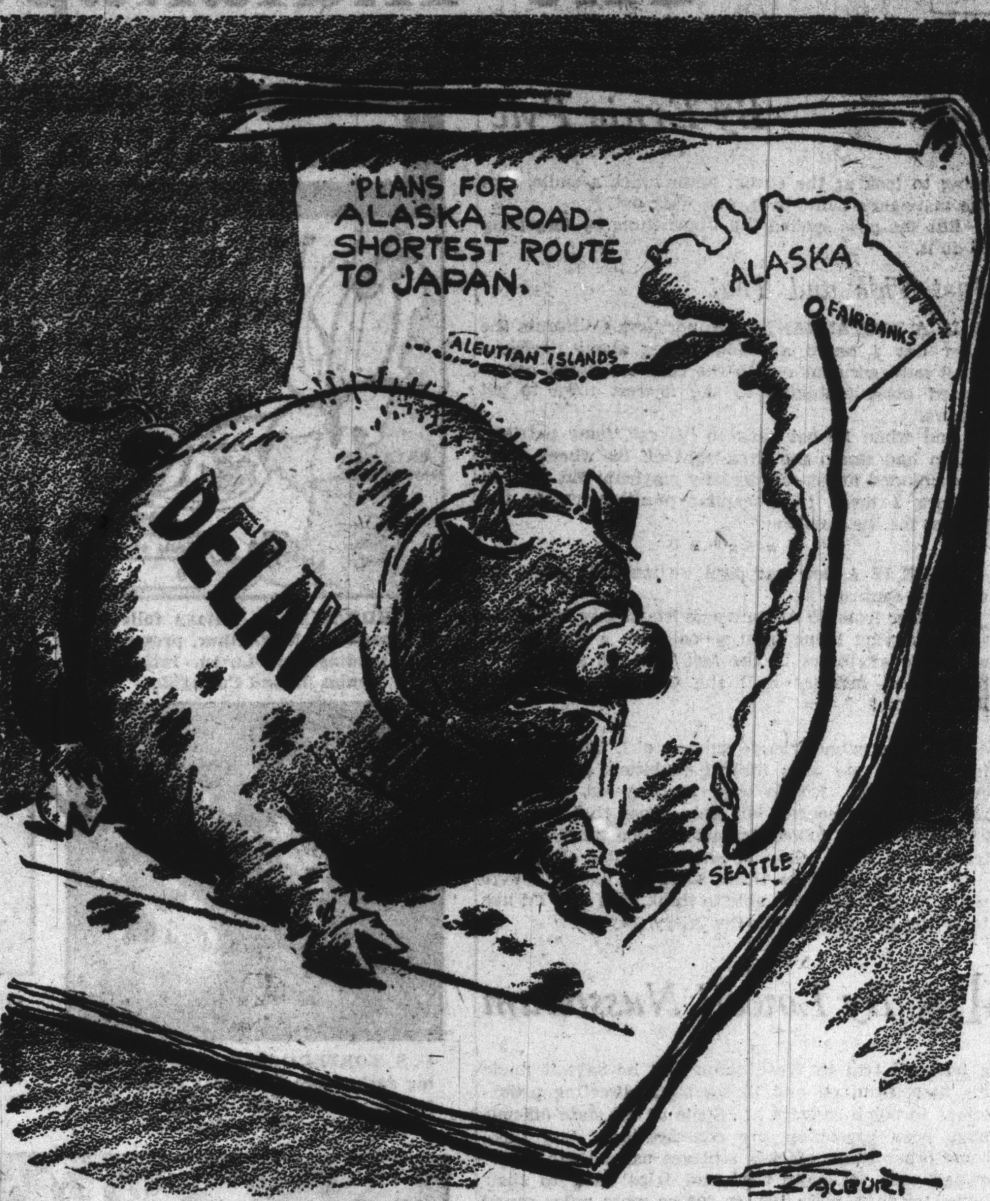
Never in history has a country co-operated so openly and so loyally with another country as Panama has with the United States.—President de la Guardia of Panama.

That pension bill will hurt the re-election chances of every sitting member of Congress who shares responsibility for it.—Alf Landon, 1936 U. S. C. presidential candidate.

Speed is essential, for any lagging in the conversion effort may lead directly to the death of American fighting men.—Donald M. Nelson, WPB head.

This war can't be won by the spirit responsible for Pearl Harbor or the burning of the Normandie. Our people will have to get tough with themselves, and get tough with the traitors, saboteurs, and fifth columnists in our midst.—Abbi A. H. Silver, Cleveland.

The Road Hog!



The Hoosier Forum

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

"MORE POWER TO JENNINGS AND A ROPE FOR YOU"

By Emma Thurman, Terre Haute

About the issue being brought out by Mr. John K. Jennings on a church directory. You cast a critical eye toward that. Would it ever occur to you that in spite of all this new employment there still remains a number of people who for different reasons can not go into private industry? What disposition would your newspaper people decide for them? Poor house, I suppose.

More power to Mr. Jennings and a rope for your neck.

"THIRD OF VOTERS DISTRICT BOTH DOMINANT PARTIES"

By W. E. Edwards, Spencer

Glenn Budington Kelland, the Scattergood Baines story teller, told quite a different kind of story at his Lincoln day address in Indianapolis, mixing some self-evident truths with a whole lot of political fiction, as is usually done by political bigwigs.

It is true that we, as a united nation must support our war efforts without stint, for only in that way can we hope to maintain our form of independent government. Nor do we disagree with Kelland's statement that criticism of the administration should be free. But we do disagree with ideas of continuing the dominance of the two-party system.

Mr. Kelland and other bigwigs of both parties fail to recognize that about one-third of the voters have learned to distrust both the dominant parties; that distrust has grown into disgust, because both are strictly under the control of what is usually known as Wall Street. . . .

Neither Mr. Kelland nor any Republican speaker dares to quote all of the homespun truths enunciated by Lincoln, because to do so would show how far the Republican party has drifted away from the precepts enunciated by that honest Abe. Lip service spoken in honor of Lincoln seems like sacrilege when we recall some of the truths spoken by such a man as Lincoln. Here is one of them quoted verbatim:

"As a result of war, corporations

(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.)

have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow; the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign until all wealth is concentrated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed."

Realism thou become a myth when faced with bitter political struggles for front place at the political pie counter!

A WORD OF PRAISE FOR RESCUER OF TWO BOYS

By Louis Wood, 3308 N. Alabama St.

I wish to call to the attention of the public a generous and magnificent thing which has been done among us. Two boys drowning in Fall Creek upon the late afternoon of Feb. 14th were rescued by a passing young man, John Haufe, who managed to save them both after they had gone down twice. . . .

We who saw it cannot well make little of it. . . . We all have need to be glad that such generosity still lives in man, such quick response and helpfulness, such lack of self in the face of danger to another.

"HYPOCRISY OF PATRIOTISM AT THE VERY TOP!"

By Mrs. S. J. Barish, R. R. 16, Box 129

About a week ago it was my privilege and duty to aid in soliciting funds for the Red Cross in the suburban districts. I was very deeply touched by the spirit of giving when I solicited three homes in my given section, where the mothers "robbed" the children's banks to contribute.

To me that was true sacrifice and the genuine spirit of giving for National Defense—then, when I read of Mrs. Roosevelt's being instrumental in placing her dancer protege into a \$4600 a year job, "I

burned up." The hypocrisy of patriotism at the very top of our government!

Forty-six hundred dollars a year will do far more good in contributing to the multitude of needs for our boys in service (and heaven knows their sacrifice is indeed great) than for the child safe at home who can do myriads of other forms of exercise for recreation, for health building and for acquiring grace and poise.

A large number of these are taught in the schools and within reach of each and every child, not only those of parents who can afford to give their own children dancing; to which group no doubt, Mrs. Roosevelt's protege will cater.

I for one think this appointment, and other appointments as asinine, should be reconsidered, when at a time as this it is a sacrifice for every true-hearted American to finance "the" war, without financing dancing instructors.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE VIEW ON WAR IS CLARIFIED

By Frank C. Ayres, Christian Science Committee on Publications for the State of Indiana, Indianapolis

Some wrong impressions have resulted from a recent item in your paper under the heading, "Christian Scientists Form Fellowship of Pacifists," and need correction.

The Christian Science denomination is not opposed to participation in war or self-defense regardless of circumstances or situations, and as a general rule Christian Scientists individually are not conscientious objectors or pacifists. If any few Christian Scientists have formed a Pacifist Fellowship, such organization would have no connection with the Christian Science Church.

For a person to be exempt from combatant training and service, he must be conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form by reason of religious training and belief as distinguished from membership in a particular church or denomination. To state that his objection is based on his adherence to the Christian Science Church would be a misrepresentation, since this Church does not include in its tenets any statement on which such objection could be based.

When Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, advocated the settlement of international controversies by "other ways than by war," she also said, "But if our nation's rights or honor were seized, every citizen would be a soldier and woman would be armed with power for the hour" (The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellaneous, page 277).

"YOUR EDITORIAL SIMPLY FIRST-RATE PROPAGANDA"

By Mrs. Leslie F. Trebor, Marion

I wonder if your editorial about some people not buying defense stamps because of something Mrs. Roosevelt did or said couldn't be classified as first rate propaganda. Anyway it certainly did more harm than good and should afford you no satisfaction. I might better say I am not going to buy defense stamps because people like Laura Ingalls are doing all they can to disrupt things here and some of them are getting away with it; she probably won't get a fraction of what the crime would warrant.

However, that has nothing to do with our buying defense stamps unless it helps us to put forth a little more energy to save for them.

DAILY THOUGHT

I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.—John 10:9.

HOLD HIM alone truly fortunate who has ended his life in happy will-being.—Aeschylus

Side Glances—By Galbraith



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"I inspected that snooty woman's attic today, and if she'd spend as much time cleaning up there as she spends at the beauty parlor, she might not look so fresh but our fire hazard would be reduced!"

Gen. Johnson Says—



WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—At the request of A. F. of L. and C. I. O. agents, a "labor leader" may now be deferred from the draft. So the Washington headquarters of Selective Service announces.

A good many interpretations are being given to this. From the only really bitter lesson of the draft of World War I, it was learned that "blanket exemptions" were wholesale escape avenues for a whole favored class. For a man to be exempt, merely because he could show that he was a railroad man or a ship-builder, deprived the local board of an opportunity to see what that meant to the winning of the war.

Too frequently it was found that it didn't mean anything. It was the chief complaint of our returning soldiers.

So this time it was written in the law that it isn't a man's calling alone that counts. He must show that he is engaged in a civilian job necessary to "expedite the successful prosecution of the war." He must be a "top" man, says the Selective Service headquarters.

It's a Pretty Loose Term

THE LATTER is a pretty loose term. It would include a good many racketeering "labor leaders" like Willie Bluff, who is now behind the bars. Labor leadership is generally supposed to be an elective office and in the great democracy of labor, there is no "top" man until you get pretty well up toward the national organization. If there are "top" men locally their conduct frequently would bear inspection.

The number of man-hours lost in war production, many of them in "jurisdictional disputes" in which the employer is not even a party, is a positive disgrace. Could any "labor leader" engaged in one of these be regarded as necessary in the successful prosecution of the war?

I am reliably informed that in Egypt and China there are upward of 500 crated American planes that have been there for weeks but on account of a strike in a propeller plant, have no propellers and won't have any for many more weeks.

It is common knowledge that many strikes, slowing up whole production lines, have been craftily pulled in some department, small in itself, but so placed in the line of production that it ties up one and sometimes many great plants.

Only One Right Rule!

YOU MAY THINK that this is well over or on the wane. Remember how shortly after the joyous get-together meeting of A. F. of L. and C. I. O. leaders with the President, Phillip Murray came forth with his direction to all his unions to demand \$1 a day extra wage and other concessions not now generally granted. That means a big new struggle if it is pursued.

Furthermore, if C. I. O. wins in that fight, A. F. of L. will have to take it up and be successful or fade out. Together they claim about 10,000,000 members or counting 250 working days, \$2,500,000,000 a year. Is that, and what will go with it, aiding the successful prosecution of the war?

One wonders what MacArthur's men will think about such things when they hear of this new draft deferment order. One wonders what the country will think about them when those long black boxes draped in red, white and blue bunting begin at first just to trickle home, rising in an increasing flood to tens of thousands. There is one right rule:

"Keep political and special interests away from the machinery of the Selective Service."

A Woman's Viewpoint

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson



I'M LOOKING AT the Far East situation, and it seems to me Congress should be occupied with more important business than a bill to create a Woman's Auxiliary Army Corps. If women were really patriotic, I think they would forget that idea and get to work at something they already know how to do.

This country is striving to create a great fighting Army and Navy and to produce implements of war in unlimited quantities. We have tremendous manpower, but millions of our boys are still untrained. The important, immediate task is to get them ready to fight, and the technique of modern fighting is not learned in a day.

If this conflict runs into years, as it may, we shall have to call, equip, and teach many more men. Obviously, then, this is not the moment for women to barge in demanding military recognition. It smacks of showoff stuff, and Mrs. John Whitehurst, president of the General Federation, called the turn when she deplored this feminine tendency to muddle and boss.

They Behave Like Children

FIGHTING WITH ARMS is not the business of women. They add nothing to their value as citizens or as women by setting themselves into the military effort when such behavior can only retard its progress.

To speak plainly, that seems to be what several groups now have in mind. They are eager to help, but they behave like children who annoy busy mothers by begging for household chores beyond their ability.

In a way, every citizen is now a soldier, and a good soldier does the task allotted to him. If he has intelligent officers, that task will be one for which he is best fitted and trained. His job, whatever it may be, is important to the success of the whole war effort and he knows it.

Why can't we take the hint, remembering that we are women and that our feminine contribution to the country is exactly as important as any contribution made by men? There's been enough flirtation between Congress and women's groups. It should go out along with boondoggling.

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

Questions and Answers

(The Indianapolis Times Service Bureau will answer any question of fact or information, not involving extensive research. Write your question clearly, sign name and address, inclose a three-cent postage stamp. Medical or legal advice cannot be given. Address The Times Washington Service Bureau, 1615 Thirtieth St., Washington, D. C.)

Q—From what is caviar made?

A—It is the prepared and salted roe of sturgeon and certain other large fish. It is eaten as a relish.

Q—Did George Washington own four mills?

A—He had two, close to Mount Vernon, and accepted custom grinding from his neighbors. Most of the flour went ultimately to the West Indies, and probably the greatest part of the farm revenue came from this source.

Q—What is considered the most beautiful sound in the English language?

A—Edgar Allan Poe in his account of how he wrote "The Raven" states that after trying over many sounds he reached the conclusion that the syllable "on" was the most resonant. Hence he used the word "on" over and over.