

# The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1942

## AND IT CAN HAPPEN HERE

TO THOSE who think the Henderson efforts to prevent inflation are going too far, we commend the following table, being the index of prices in Germany, covering nine years, from 1914 to 1923.

Price index at end of year or month:

	1913-1
1914	1.25
1915	1.48
1916	1.51
1917	2.03
1918	2.45
1919	8.03
1920:	
June	13.82
December	14.40
1921:	
June	13.66
December	34.87
1922:	
June	70.30
July	100.55
August	192.00
September	566.00
October	1,154.00
November	1,475.00
December	
1923:	
January	3,286.00
February	5,257.00
March	4,827.00
April	5,738.00
May	9,034.00
June	24,618.00
July	183,510.00
August	1,695,100.00
September	36,223,711.00
October	18,700,000,000.00
November	1,422,900,000,000.00
December	1,200,400,000,000.00

Statistics are, traditionally, a bore. But maybe those are worth going over at least twice; worth as much time, as say, a crossword puzzle.

They mean that, if you had lived in Germany during and after the last war, the unit of your purchasing power, as of the end of 1913 would, by the end of 1923 (nine years), have shrunk to one trillion, two hundred billion, four hundred million of its value.

Translate your dollar into that, and it would mean that, if one dollar today will buy a shirt, it would take one trillion, two hundred billion, four hundred million dollars to buy a shirt nine years from now.

Then, for good measure, apply the table to the dollar you might receive nine years from now on your social security pay-off, your annuity, your bond income, your life insurance savings, or what have you.

And then ask yourself whether Leon Henderson is going too far.

Some of his methods are subject to argument. But, we say, not his objective.

## LET'S NOT WASTE THEM

NUMEROUS resort communities, especially in the gas-rationed East, are threatened with ruin because of the increasing difficulties of transportation. At the same time military forces continue to spend great sums and consume great quantities of scarce materials on the creation of training centers.

Of course some of this new construction is inescapable, but it seems that the services would do well to lease idle resort facilities—where that is possible at reasonable rentals—and thus save time, money and materials, while incidentally enabling beach and mountain resorts to avert disaster.

At Miami Beach the army air forces are already using scores of hotels as an officers training center. If they had built a new center from scratch they would have had to install barracks or huts, water lines, sewer systems, electric communications and so on, while fully equipped hotels stood idle.

Some military authorities are said to be cold on the Miami Beach business—to think officers and troops should be trained under canvas, not in fancy hotels. That may be reasonable in days of peace, but it doesn't seem to make much sense now when time and building materials are so precious.

## FUTILITY

THE pressure that Hitler put upon Marshal Petain, to force Pierre Laval back upon "unoccupied" France, may be judged from the quotation attributed to the aged chief of state by an American correspondent to the London Daily Telegraph: "I couldn't bear the man (Laval). Physically, even, he was repulsive. . . . He was selling France bit by bit."

"The French people are behind me and never will I let the Germans make me take Laval back into the government. Never!" That is how Petain is said to have felt last January. But Hitler held the whip hand and Laval came back.

To what avail? Ask Hitler today, as he hesitates whether to kick Laval out and install some more effective quisling—as he wonders whether any traitor could force France to collaborate.

## THOSE 7500 MILES

BROADLY speaking, it is good news that the average automobile tire on a civilian automobile is good for another 7500 miles. It will not, however, prove notably helpful to the individuals whose treads are smooth, or the others whose fabric is peeling through, or the few who literally are running on the rims.

You can take the appropriations for synthetic production, the experiments with guayule and the stories about available South American wild rubber, put them all into a cement box, and sink them in the deepest available water, so far as normal civilian tire supplies are concerned.

## Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler



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SCRIPPS-HOWARD

NEW YORK, May 22.—The most significant remark in the general cry of outraged dignity raised in the senate over the gasoline rationing farce was Robert M. La Follette's reminder that if the executive branch of the government should ever try to suppress critical comment in print, then the only place where the press could find adequate defense would be in the halls of the national legislature. I believe this although suggestions have occurred in congress that freedom of opinion in the press should be curtailed. And I note that in offering his thought, Senator La Follette said he had detected a deliberate design in certain sections of the press to undermine the people's faith in congress. He seems to feel that the press should exempt congress from criticism in return for which dishonest forbearance congress would undertake to protect its own silent defender.

If that is his idea he simply doesn't understand the nature of a free press because free, honest journalism cannot spare a buyable defender from honest criticism, even to save its life.

### Dependent on Each Other

THE FACT IS that both the legislative branch of our government and the free American daily press are in great danger from the executive branch. If congress is the last defender of freedom of the press, then the press is the final defender of the integrity of the national legislature. Neither can exist without the other and if either goes all our freedom will die.

I wonder whether Senator La Follette realizes that in criticizing unworthy actions by individual senators and representatives and the surrender of the legislative function to the executive, the press has been fighting for the independence of congress. After all, the mere passing personnel of these houses are not the institution itself but only momentary custodians of its mission in free government.

### Congress Decadent, Not the Press

WE OF THE PRESS have the normal, patriotic motive of all believers in the American form of government in demanding that congress remain independent, intelligent, courageous and above temptation. But we have also the special motive which was suggested by Senator La Follette's reminder. We realize that if congress should become an American reichstag of a party leader then we would have no defender and would go the way of the German and Italian press.

I may be prejudiced, but I say with sincerity and alarm that congress has been servile to the executive and politically venal and has yielded to the temptation of petty graft. On the other hand, it is my belief that the American press has never been more vigorous and independent than it is today. Look at the risks it has taken in opposing extension of executive and bureaucratic power over all our people by the national government. Who ratified that extension of power while the press opposed it? Congress did.

Time was when we of the press had special privileges, but we don't have them any more. Congress, on the other hand, so far forgot honor as to vote itself a pension and loads the payrolls with its cousins and its aunts and now is caught in the act of claiming special exemption from the gasoline shortage.

### Compare the Positions

AS THE PENALTY of our honest opposition to some of the tendencies of the government the press has been belittled and sneered down constantly for years by President Roosevelt, Harold Ickes and others. I doubt that congress has given intelligent consideration to the consequences of this persistent, studied campaign, should it succeed, or examined the motive for it.

The motive is revenge for intelligent, patriotic opinion, the spirit is intolerance of dissenting opinion and the purpose is to substitute a compliant press and the exciting, emotional voice-appeal of the radio under control of a ruling party.

The press, be it noted by Senator La Follette, has never suggested that congress be muzzled or intimidated, but has demanded character and independence in congress.

But, in congress, on the other hand, the remarks upon the press have resented character and independence and have conveyed warnings that the freedom of the press is somehow, a gift of the present incumbents and subject to revocation by them, for less majestic.

## The Root of It

By S. Burton Heath



CLEVELAND, May 22.—Once upon a time, a little wart appeared on the side of the fourth finger on our right hand. Since it was not painful the wart was neglected. Gradually it grew. In time, tiny warts began to appear on other fingers which came into contact with the original excrescence. Disturbed, we attacked the newer growths and kept them under control. But the original tumor—the sebaceous wart—thrive on, and bred new offspring.

Eventually we obtained some acetic acid and killed off the sebaceous wart. Thenceforward we had no more trouble.

All of which comes to mind whenever we stop to think about the way Washington is trying to control that inflation which the New Deal and Old Deal both dread and say that we must stop at any cost.

By imposing a ceiling upon prices we are trying to stop the Jack's beanstalk climb of the price level. The prices which competitive retail outlets normally charge are fixed generally by the costs of the goods they sell. Those costs are governed largely by raw material and labor charges.

But the cost of labor and the price of farm products—two major elements which go to make up the cost of those things still flowing to retailers' shelves—are to be fixed.

The retailer in March was selling commodities which he purchased before March, at prices lower than those for which he could replenish his stock in March.

### Can It Be Pollyannaed Away?

WHEN LEON HENDERSON fixed retail prices at March level, he sentenced the retailer to a very substantial cut in the markup from which his expenses and profit have to come.

Neither retailer nor wholesaler has any reason to expect that even this reduced markup margin can be maintained, for Washington insists upon permitting readjustments in wages, which enter into the cost of goods.

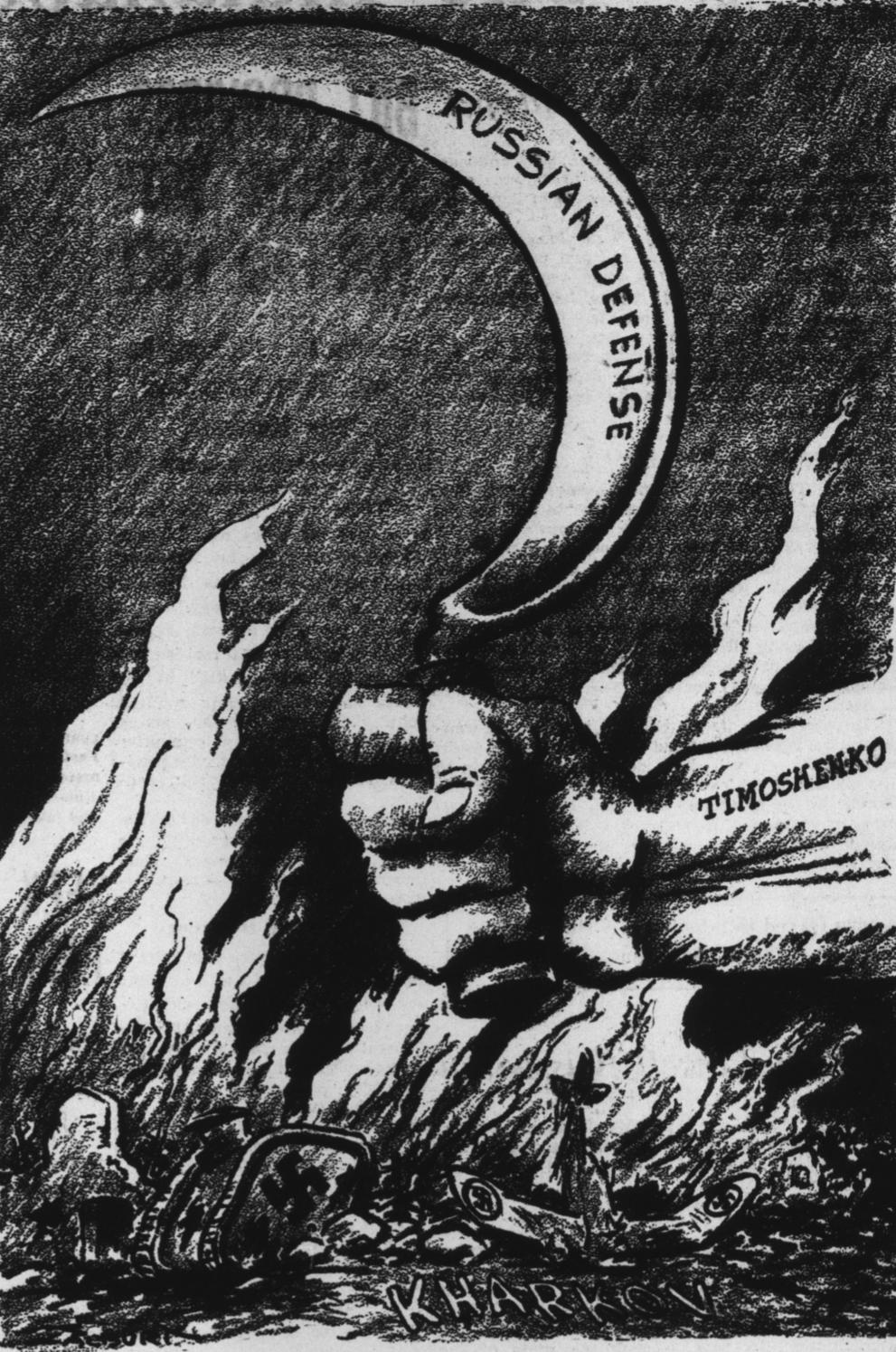
Mr. Henderson has said he is not going to stand for price rises to correct such injustices, which if not eliminated may sound the death knell of American merchandising except in the case of the biggest, most efficiently operated stores.

Instead, the administration would prefer to subsidize those who otherwise would be ruined by politicians' refusal to offend "Labor" by fixing wage levels.

As the situation now stands, we are going to permit the seed warts of inflation to flourish, but by proclamation forbid them to be communicable. As new tumors defy Mr. Henderson and do appear, we shall cover them with bits of adhesive tape in the form of subsidies, and deny they exist.

Can a tumor be pollyannaed away? Our wart couldn't.

## The Grim Reaper!



## The Hoosier Forum

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

### LET US BE KIND TO OUR FELLOWS

By F. D. S., Indianapolis

"Your bravery is only equaled by your modesty," the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates is reported to have said to one far more radiant in works than in words, the Father of Our Country, George Washington.

In this year of grave peril may our bravery toward the foe be only equaled by our kindness toward our fellows. And kindness is not what we give but what we share. As we all will share in the victory our valor will win. Let us cheerfully share the privations and the sacrifices that that victory demands.

By millions of acts of humble personal kindness let us again show forth to a cruel world that "the bravest are the tenderest."

### WE WOULD LET DRAFTEES CHOOSE ARMY OR NAVY

By A. C., Indianapolis

The navy is our first line of defense and our only means of offense at present, including, of course, the air power which must fight for the most part over the sea.

The navy is in desperate need of men. One is that only first class men, of high intelligence and initiative, are fit for naval life. The other is that the navy has never before needed a large force. It does now, and it must either accept volunteers from the draftees or take to conscription on its own account. That would be confusion worse confounded.

The logical thing for the army to do is to give every aid to the navy to get acceptable volunteers, and there is no better way than to offer every drafted man the choice of services, and if he chooses the hard

work, he can be sure to be given a good idea.

Why not express systems? For example, a trolley car could stop to load every fourth block. This would

give a quarter of a mile of good running time before loading and the way traffic is, the trolley would be loaded to the doors before it was half way downtown. Then the next trolley could be hitting another four streets.

This system, it seems to me, would give quicker service to everybody and distribute the load more evenly. As it is now, a car stops at every corner and half the time there is another car right behind it, coasting with half a load.

### "NEWSPAPERS MUST LEARN A SET OF MORALS"

By H. H. McClellan, Indianapolis

It seems to me almost subversive for the newspapers to be parroting the inane remarks of a man like Court Asher. When the newspapers get around to quoting what a man like that has to say, you are giving him a springboard that the U. S. government won't allow him. I noticed the same thing was true when Pelleys was put in jail. The newspapermen flocked around him and the papers came out with a lot of tripe that no self-respecting person could read without disgust. In other words, Pelleys spreads his hate and filth into the homes of many more thousands than his dirty little sheet could ever do.

If the newspapers are going to stand for something in this country, they've got to learn a set of morals. Just parroting about "freedom of the press" is no excuse. What do newspapers have editors for if not to edit?

### "WHY NOT GIVE THIS MONEY TO GOVERNMENT?"

By \$80-A-Week, Indianapolis

I see in your paper the lists of money spent in the primary political campaign. I see where Mr. Ostrom's campaign cost more than \$5000 and I suppose this was not considered very much.

I would guess that the politicians maybe spent about \$50,000 in the campaign and I wonder why a lot of this money wouldn't have been better spent by going to the government in some way or another.

### "BURIALS IN TOWN WOULD SAVE MUCH RUBBER"

By C. O. Wilson, 814 Ingomar ave.

I have been reading the death notices and couldn't help but notice how many were to be buried out of town. Why couldn't the government subsidize the undertakers so that they could take burials out of town as trade-ins on lots in town and bury the deceased at the nearest cemetery?

With a person being buried in the U. S. A. about every five minutes and one out of every five to be buried on the average of 20 miles away this would save enough rubber to keep several tanks a-rolling.

### DAILY THOUGHT

Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassion every man to his brother.—Zachariah 7: