

The Indianapolis Times

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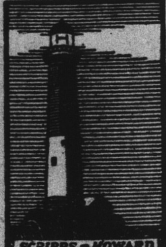
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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1943

RUMML PLAN IS STILL INEVITABLE

THE Rumml-Carlson bill for pay-as-you-go income taxation was defeated in roll call in the house of representatives yesterday by a margin of 17 votes.

The ways and means committee plan—to make people pay two years' taxes in one or continue to carry one year of tax debt—was then defeated by 80 votes, on a roll call, and the whole tax mess was sent back to the committee.

The 44,000,000 income-tax payers of the country, it seems to us, are getting pretty poor service out of our elected representatives—the issue being now back where it started four months ago, because they have voted against everything and in favor of nothing.

We still think that something like the Rumml-Carlson bill will be adopted eventually. There is no other way for the government to make sure of collecting the taxes congress lays.

CHURCHILL'S WAY, AND ROOSEVELT'S

DEC. 26, 1941, speaking before our congress, Winston Churchill said: "On any day, if they thought the people wanted it, the house of commons could, by a simple vote, remove me from my office."

March 22, 1943, he hit the same note: "At my time of life I have no personal ambitions, no future to provide for."

Churchill's approach to his job is in interesting contrast to Roosevelt's. Part of the contrast runs to the make-up of the two men; another, perhaps larger part, to the difference between the English and the American democratic mechanisms.

The American president is the leader of his party. He works by the four-year term, not by the day. He is always either running for office or running his party for office, and so he must constantly "heed the rumble of a distant drum." The British prime minister is, so the speak, always running not for an election later, but to stay tomorrow where he is today.

NOT that Churchill is without political guile. Far from it. But his problem is entirely different. To him 1944 is just 366 more days. To Roosevelt it's an election year.

The advantages and disadvantages of the two systems are subjects for much argument. But as of now, Churchill, it seems to us, is in a better position to swing free; is unencumbered by the thing which handicaps Roosevelt—the necessity for translating every present action into terms of future political reaction.

A lot of the temporizing that has caused our muddling at the top is due to that. Too much strategy, too much deviousness, too little directness. Too much wet-finger-to-the-wind and ear-to-the-ground. Too many implied promises of pie in the sky and bread and circuses to come. Too much jerry-building. Too many of what Churchill condemns as "pledge-bound delegates."

Churchill says he is not "in need to go about making promises in order to win political support to be allowed to continue in office," or to "drum up cheap cheers." Accordingly, he tells his people, "I am resolved not to give or make all kinds of promises and tell all kinds of fairy tales to you who have trusted me and gone with me so far . . . through the valley of the shadow." So, footloose, he faces the present and the future on an over-all basis of "no promises, but every preparation."

WITHOUT fear of what the voters may decide six months, a year or four years hence, he can express himself about "wasters in every class, whether they come from the ancient aristocracy or the modern plutocracy or the ordinary type of pub crawler." Before speaking he doesn't have to translate into votes how many plutocrats God made and how many pub crawlers. He operates on a political schedule which closes the books every sundown, not on an accrual basis.

The temptation for any American president—leaving the fourth term out of the discussion—is to temper the wind of present necessity to the shorn lamb of the political by-and-by.

Maybe all that explains SPAB, for example, that "faltering step forward"; or the long stalling on over-all price control; or the reluctant approaches to so many vital problems on the domestic front; the demagoguery that has dominated fiscal policy; the delay in getting to a war cabinet operation; the tenderness toward the blocs; the hesitations that have cost so much in time, money, production—and lives.

At the risk of being called Anglophile, we believe maybe Churchill is right when he says: "The world is coming increasingly to admire our British parliamentary system." Anyway, we can't be accused of getting into a fight with our ally when we say it may be worth while for us, in our democracy, to take a look at the mirror.

COL. H. WEIR COOK

IF there was ever a man who gave his life completely to aviation, that man was Col. H. Weir Cook of Indianapolis, who has died in action in the South Pacific.

Flying was in Weir Cook's blood and he lived flying. He distinguished himself in the first war, came out of it and pioneered in the days when flying the mail called for tremendous courage. Back home, here in Indianapolis, Weir Cook devoted his time to seeing that his city kept pace with the great modern science. He was aviation's No. 1 ambassador in this community.

And when the war came, it was typical of Weir Cook that he went right back into the service. And it was equally typical that he chafed on routine duties until the army did move him into combat service.

It is hard to believe that one so vitally alive and interesting and stimulating should now be dead. His friends and family know, however, that he died the way every airman wants to—in the air.

Our Hoosiers

By Daniel M. Kidney



WASHINGTON, March 31.—Outspoken Rep. Earl Wilson (R. Ind.) this week aired his views regarding the "womb to tomb" security promised in the national resources planning board report to congress.

In his weekly letter addressed to constituents, Mr. Wilson announced that the backgrounds of those really responsible for the report had been gone into and some curious discoveries made.

"Some of the personalities uncovered were more than interesting, and Democrats and Republicans alike and even a goodly number of acknowledged 'New Dealers' have seen fit to state their objections to the 'Blueprint for Heaven' as the NRFB report has been dubbed," Mr. Wilson reported.

"First of all, Mr. Frederick A. Delano has been revealed as a mere 'front man' for other administration powers, who have preferred to remain the 'powers behind the throne'."

"There is an old French quotation which goes, 'If you would be splendid, be a duke. If you would be powerful, be a duke's chambermaid.' The names involved in this case are mostly those of 'dukes,' or should it be spelled 'dupes'? The actual power of the board lies in other quarters just as it does in the case of the war production board. Capital opinion has it that Donald Nelson and Mr. Delano merely bear the titles."

Looking Back at 1932

"QUITE INCIDENTALLY there are two lesser known names which stand out in each of the organizations, Dr. Eveline M. Burns, director of research for the NRFB, and Dr. Arthur R. Burns, chief labor adviser in the WPB. The two doctors are man and wife of course, and were British subjects until very recently."

"They are students of the London School of Economics, the headquarters of a Mr. Harold Laski who has figured in our American news several times recently. The NRFB program is not the first outline for living other people's lives which Mr. Burns has produced. She authored an interesting publication in 1932 entitled, 'Socialist Planning and Program.' That publication should be read by all Americans who may find themselves living under controls set down in her latest plan. One statement which strikes the tone of the whole article, 'The Socialist state will have to devise some means of coercing labor where necessary to make labor do what the Socialist state wants.'"

'Furor in Washington'

"MANY OF THOSE who have 'gone along' as the administration leaders term it, with all proposals of the New Deal have dropped sponsorship of this newest plan like it was a 'hot potato.'"

"Dr. Alfred Haake, a former adviser to Rex Tugwell, spoke on the subject in Chicago the other day. One quotation from his speech was, 'The bureaucratic boys feel that a cradle-to-the-grave plan of life is merely another example of their benevolent paternalism. They want to save us the trouble of living our own lives.'"

"It would be my personal comment that nothing has ever caused such a furor in Washington, not even the declarations of war on Japan and Germany."

Westbrook Pegler is on vacation.

In Washington

By Peter Edson



WASHINGTON, March 31.—There are today approximately 225,000 U. S. workers drawing state unemployment insurance, and you can add that to your pet list of inconsistencies of war, taking into full consideration the fact that there is supposed to be a manpower shortage.

This figure has dropped 70 per cent from a level of 800,000 of a year ago, and from a peak of 1,288,000 in June, 1940, but federal bureau of employment officials do not believe this number will ever be entirely eliminated, even when the armed services have their 11 million men and women and civilian industry has reached the idyllic and Utopian condition of so-called "full" employment.

Examination of the various classes and the conditions of the quarter-million workers now drawing unemployment compensation gives a little light on why this must apparently be so, according to the social security board point of view.

In the first group are war industry workers temporarily laid off. The cause of the layoffs may be shortage of materials, lack of parts for assembly, change in design of some piece of war equipment making necessary a retooling of the factory.

State unemployment compensation officials now have a better checkup on workers than they ever had, so applicants for unemployment insurance must present proof that they have left a job for good cause before they can begin to draw benefits. Also, there is a compulsory waiting period before the temporarily unemployed can begin to collect in most states.

Non-Essential Unemployed

SECOND GROUP of workers drawing benefits includes those potential employees of industries now considered non-essential to war production.

During the time they're looking for an essential job in a war industry, these people can collect compensation, but here again are checkups. Beneficiaries must report regularly at employment offices and must take the first bona fide offer of a job in their particular trade.

Mechanics aren't compelled to take farm jobs, or vice versa, nor are workers compelled to take jobs that require extreme inconvenience in travel to and from work or the taking of a job in another community, requiring a worker to move or be separated from his family.

Workers living in communities remote from war production centers make up the third and probably the largest of the groups of unemployment insurance beneficiaries. Twenty per cent of all the benefits paid go to workers in the New York City area, which got comparatively few war contracts and is today the biggest surplus labor supply area in the country.

Working Wives

WORKING WIVES, on the fringe of the labor force, make up the fourth group. Many were persuaded to take war jobs, sometimes against their better judgment, sometimes through sheer patriotism and a desire to help win the war. When layoffs come, these working wives are often the first to be dropped, but having been gainfully employed, they are eligible for benefits if they register with the employment offices as willing to take another job.

Men about to be drafted make up a fifth large group of beneficiaries. If a man is about to be called up for service, he is likely to be among the first to be laid off, if his plant is forced into a temporary shutdown. While waiting for his number to be called, he is eligible for unemployment insurance.

Two out of three workers now are being covered by federal-state unemployment insurance programs. The figure of 225,000 workers now receiving benefits represents only a little over one-half of 1 per cent of the 40 million workers under job insurance.

This is of course not the entire number of unemployed in the United States today. Social security board experts estimate the total unemployed at the present time may number 1.5 million, believe it may drop to 750,000 eventually, but will never get below that figure.

The Giant Killer



The Hoosier Forum

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

"SOMEONE SHOULD INFORM CONGRESSMEN"

By J. Dinary, Columbus

Why do our congressmen continue to let the president browbeat them? Someone should inform our congressmen (though we trust that our Indiana congressmen already know it) that they have power over the president, not the president over them.

They hold this power under the constitution. They can pass any bill over the president's veto. They can refuse to pass any bill that he sponsors. They can refuse his requests and demands in general according to their own good judgment.

So, just why, under any circumstances, do our congressmen continue to let the president browbeat them?

"THE FACT THAT RUMMILS FORGET"

By Edw. F. Barker, Indianapolis

Ament the Rumml plan. This Rumml plan is the most discussed and the least understood public question of the day.

In simple every day language, this is what its proponents urge. They claim that the average taxpayer spends his earnings as he goes along and when taxpaying time comes . . . he has great difficulty in scraping it together in one lump sum.

And further, there is too much grace allowed him between earning and paying and he has spent it when the time comes to pay; and for the purpose of restoring the pay-as-you-go practice or current payment plan, the Rummls suggest a cancellation of last year's taxes so as to make it easy to start over again or from scratch and with a clean slate.

The main fact these Rummls forget is that delaying or changing the date of payment does not accelerate one second any prompt payment or make easier the task of paying at all.

No matter what or when the date falls how often it is postponed, the line will still be just as long waiting to get in at the last minute.

If the taxpayer cannot pay his '42 taxes in the first three months of '43, in the name of logic why forgive him his '42 taxes and make him pay his '43 taxes in monthly installments?

I heard the Town Hall discussion on this question and in all logic Congressman Gearhart of California uncovered the mare's nest if not a deep-laid scheme to profit large interests in saving them large sums by the change.

Well, whether intended or not, such would be the effect. It would forgive the big interests, the saved-

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns, religious controversies excluded. Because of the volume received, letters must be limited to 250 words. Letters must be signed.)

up or laid aside money during '42 to pay '43 taxes March 15 and give them the benefit of paying their '43 taxes on the installment plan, thus giving them a clear gift or cancellation of '42 taxes.

What does it profit the United States treasury to forgive the millions of taxpayers of less than \$100 per year and lose the millions and millions of those many thousands of taxpayers whose bookkeeping system has already laid aside . . . 10 billions . . . ready to pay.

Make them all pay promptly as we compel the soldier to answer his draft call promptly.

This is how a clear-eyed, unselfish citizen sees it.

"UNEQUAL EMPHASIS GIVEN TO SINS OF PUBLIC"

By Walter Frisbie, Secretary, Indiana State Industrial Union Council

The Wednesday, March 24, editions of The Indianapolis Times were the only newspapers in Indianapolis which gave the story of . . . Carnegie-Illinois Steel . . . a part of the importance due it. In one of its editions The Times carried the story on the front page, although without any headline.

This is to The Times' eternal credit. This illustrates better than any vituperation or condemnation the point that we in organized labor have continually made that even the best newspapers do not give equal emphasis to the sins of all parts of the public.

When a group of workers exasperated by a long festering grievance go on strike for a single day in a vital war plant their action is headlined; every phase of the story is given great publicity; they are assailed as traitors; editorials are written on the subject.

But when one of the great steel corporations is revealed to have faked the specifications reports on vital plate going to shipbuilding and other concerns, the newspapers of this great city ignored the story as far as it was possible; your paper alone gave it the front page in one edition and then carried an excellent, complete and well-headlined article in the financial section in the later editions.

If the workers in Carnegie-Illinois plants had sabotaged \$1,400,000 worth of steel the newspapers of the nation and your own newspaper

then would have been crying for their actual blood.

But when it is revealed that this steel corporation had shipped out four carloads, \$1,400,000 worth of steel plate which was definitely defective with the tensile strength test reports falsified, it was merely handled as a routine story, given neither headline nor editorial comment; and yet your newspaper which also played this down did by far the fairest and the completest job of any newspaper in Indianapolis.

When a tanker built by Henry J. Kaiser broke in two last autumn the newspapers which carried the story, and many of them didn't, implied that faulty workmanship, bad welding, was responsible for the disaster.

But when it has been discovered that the reason the ship broke in two was that it was constructed of plate which was nearly as brittle as cast iron and that the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Co. has been falsifying its tests on steel and shipping defective steel to shipyards and other war industries, there is not even a squib on the subject among your editorial comment.

We commend you on the fact that you did the best job in Indianapolis in covering this particular story but we have to point out that even the best job in Indianapolis on this story was a pretty poor piece of work.

(Editor's Note: We respectfully call Mr. Frisbie's attention to the editorial, critical of Carnegie-Illinois Steel, published Thursday, March 25, on the editorial page of The Times.)

"BONDS WILL COME BACK—TAXES NEVER"

By Pat Hogan, Columbus

There is a vicious brand of insanity which originated in Washington and now takes national scope and should be blasted into oblivion now.

A neat trick of the tax artists is the carrying about "forgiving" last year's tax. If there is any "forgiving" it is up to the people to forgive the congress that lowered the exemption so that it sucked in millions who had just begun to earn a decent living; and the people should do no forgiving until congress repeals that mistake.

Also the newspapers bewail "the expanding purchasing power" and "dangerously excessive purchasing power" which must be drained from the workers' pockets, or indeed, grabbed before it gets there.

Millions of people are buying homes, built before Pearl Harbor, others are buying farms and paying up old debts which accumulated during the depression. Does any sane person believe these folks have excessive cash to feed into the hopper for the bureaucrats to quarrel over and lick up in salary while quarreling?

Of course, we must, and will, finance this war, but this is Hitler's war and there is no reason under the sun why we should pay for it as we go or at any other time. Make the axis pay if it takes 100 years.

Instead of more and more taxes, make it compulsory to put 23 per cent of our earnings in bonds. The bonds will cushion the shock of millions who through age, accident or inability may drift into hard straits after the war, and they will need it more than the bureaucrats need cushions for the swivel chairs now.

DAILY THOUGHT

And the Lord was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth.—II Kings 18:7.

HAST THOU not learn'd what thou art often told. A truth still sacred, and believed of old, That no success attends on spears and swords. Unbless'd, and that the battle is the Lord's? —Cowper.

Costly Blunders?

By William Philip Simms



WASHINGTON, March 31.—In united nations circles here there is a growing suspicion that we may be making some costly blunders in the propaganda we are aiming at both victims and dupes of Adolf Hitler in Europe.

Woodrow Wilson shortened the first war at least a year by winning over the populations of some of Kaiser Wilhelm's allies. He won them, not by threatening to impose some new regime or other of our particular liking, but by promising them "self-determination."

Leaders of foreign groups in the United States complain that some of the propaganda which we are now sending into their countries is directed at groups, rather than at populations as a whole. Some of it, they charge, is class-angled.

This, they say, is extremely harmful. For while the inhabitants of Hitler's puppet states are almost all hostile to Nazism, they are left guessing what their fate would be under the united nations.

Italians Wonder, What Next?

TAKE ITALY. Italy is now a prisoner of Germany and knows it. In Italy in 1940, just before she took the plunge, I failed to find a single Italian who wanted to enter the war. As for entering it on the side of the Nazis, they were considerably more than opposed.

They hated the Germans, who openly treated them as inferiors. They clearly foresaw, even then, that a German victory would leave Italy just a little fish in Hitler's big European pond.

Today the people of Italy have their eyes on Tunisia. Sooner or later this year, they expect invasion. At heart, well-informed Italians tell me, the vast majority of them would welcome united nations forces—especially the Americans—if only they had some idea of what might be in store for them afterward.

Luigi Sturzo, founder of the Christian Democrat, popular party in Italy back in 1919, author of "Italy and Fascism," "Church and State" and other writings on the subject, gives a pretty clear picture of the state of mind of his countrymen.

Want No Fascism

HE SAYS, in the April number of "Foreign Affairs."

"The Italian people must feel certain that after the allied occupation is over they will not have to face new variety of fascism which will continue to tyrannize over them. They must be told, and believe, that in an earlier stage they will have opportunity to decide freely, as the third point of the Atlantic Charter provides, which form of government they wish to organize."

Will the future Italy, he asks, be a monarchy or a republic? What about King Victor Emmanuel? Or the crown prince? Or the crown prince's 8-year-old son, with the Crown Princess Maria Jose as queen regent?

None of these questions, says Mr. Sturzo, is vital at this time. Nor should the united nations try to settle them at all. To respect the rights of all people to choose the form of government under which they will live, the Italian people can be trusted to settle these issues for themselves. One thing, however, may be taken for granted: They will not choose fascism.

'The American Way'

THIS FORMULA, leaders of foreign groups in America urge, should be adhered to in dealing with all of Hitler's dupes. Not one of Germany's neighbors, they say, entered the Nazi camp voluntarily—that is to say because of popular leanings—hence all of them could be won over to the allied side if the job were done about properly.

When I asked what they meant by going about the job "properly," the reply invariably was reducible to: "The American way." Some who are working on it, it is charged, do not seem always to be thinking in terms of the Atlantic Charter, or even of democracy as the word is understood in this country.

As a result, not all of Europe's desperate peoples are persuaded that they either understand or particularly like what they hear.

We the Women

By Ruth Millett



TOWNS AND CITIES that are not near army camps are fast becoming manless communities.

Step in a restaurant—or even in a bar—after a movie and you'll see unscouted girls and women who are trying to make their lonely evenings less lonely by hanging together.

The picture is a pretty drab one. A group of men out for an evening's fun give an impression of having a swell time. But when women become dependent on each other for companionship, they usually look a bit bored with it all.

The situation is so bad in Washington, where there are three women for every man and most of them married, that the government girls are being offered an opportunity to attend a career clinic, where leaders in the beauty and fashion world will attempt to show the girls how better to get along in an almost manless world.

What Use Is Charm?

IT IS NICE to think that women's loneliness is being taken seriously enough that someone thought up the idea of a clinic, aimed to teach girls how to plan pleasant living.

But it can't do much good. For after you have taught a girl in a manless town how to make the most of her looks and personality, and how to turn a room or an apartment into a pleasant home—you are right back where you started.

The girl wants to try her newfound loveliness on some man—and she wants some man to admire her pleasant home surroundings.

There is no happiness for women in a manless world. All they can do is keep busy so that the days won't drag hopelessly, and look forward to the day when the men will come home.

Men may get a kick out of each other's company and actually enjoy living for a while in a world without women. But a woman either lives for some man—or else she merely exists.

To the Point—

LOTS OF BOSSIES will be too busy this summer to take vacations—a lot of help won't have a chance to loaf either.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA have signed a fishing pact. Russia should be warned that there's probably a catch in it.

TWO MICHIGAN men were arrested for stealing bacon. That ought to be a lesson against taking sides.

WHO REMEMBERS the good old days when they ate bandits plenty of rope?

REMEMBER WHEN you were at college days for eating polenta? You know you did, now!