

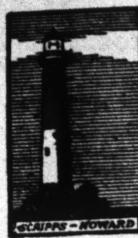
ROY W. HOWARD President
WALTER LECKRONE Editor
MARK FERREE Business Manager

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IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO

IT is good news that the Red Cross campaign for funds now being conducted by the Indianapolis chapter is running 50 per cent ahead of the record at the same stage of the drive last year. But after almost a full month, Indianapolis still is \$509,000 short of its quota. There's a long way yet to go.

If the citizens of Indianapolis fully realized all that the Red Cross is doing for the service men and women of the nation, the city would have subscribed the full amount, and more, the first week of the campaign. The goal of \$1,146,000 sounds big, but it is not large in comparison to what we spend each week for things we could easily do without, it is not large in relation to the tremendous contribution the Red Cross is making all over the world. It is little enough to ask, when so many are giving everything.

The Red Cross never is slow in ministering to the health, comfort and happiness of our loved ones in service. Can we be slow in giving freely and generously to the Red Cross?

Let's turn in that \$509,000 to the Indianapolis chapter before another week passes.

It's the least we can do, it's little enough to do.

MANPOWER: TWO QUESTIONS

NUMEROUS propositions for herding civilians into war-essential jobs have been put forward, ranging from broad national service legislation down to various strata-gems for compelling only 4-F's under 38 to get into important work.

The stepped-up pressure of the draft is bound to cause new personnel difficulties in industry and agriculture, and sooner or later the government may have to resort to some form of compulsion. But in this connection a couple of questions occur to us:

1. Insofar as current talk of applying compulsion only to 4-F's under 38 is concerned, why should compulsion be used only against a particular age class? Granted that the army doesn't want men past 38 for service in battle, who will argue that men in their 40s are necessarily of no account behind a plow or a lathe? And surely their obligation to serve their country to the best of their ability is not destroyed by baldness or bulging of the beltline.

2. Is there any assurance that the administrative geniuses of the war manpower commission, who sometimes seem to be changing their minds with each morning's mail, would be adequate for the job of distributing manpower where it was most needed, even if they had the power? The WMC has shown little imagination, for instance, in coping with the costly hoarding of labor in which many cost-plus manufacturers have recklessly indulged.

Before congress prescribes forced labor of any kind, it had better take steps first to insure that the controllers of manpower know where men are needed, and how many, and where they can be most advantageously obtained.

The principle of work-or-fight is morally sound in wartime, but experience so far has shown greater efficiency in the voluntary co-operation of the people than in administrative direction from Washington.

A NEW CHAPTER

THE Colosseum, no doubt, is classed among the "cultural monuments" of Rome now threatened by approaching battle. It has been preserved to remind the world of the glories of that great pagan city which flourished where the City of Popes now stands.

But it took the Nazis to remind the world also of the brutal sport that used to attract howling thousands to the great arena. And there are probably few more barbarous chapters in the Colosseum's bloody history than that added in the year 1944 when, according to Swiss dispatches, 300 hostages were murdered there in reprisal for a patriotic uprising against the German conquerors.

In fact, the ancient contests of the gladiators seem almost merciful by comparison. These men at least were armed and given a fair chance to defend their lives. Many were criminals already condemned to die. All, when wounded, had the right of appeal to the mercy of the spectators. And surely the mob did not always turn thumbs down.

NO, the Nazi chapter in Colosseum history belongs with those of early Christian martyrdom. Those brave professors of a new faith were "enemies of the established order." That was their crime. That was also the crime of the 300 victims of the Nazis. It was not a matter of whether they had shot the guns or thrown the bombs that killed 38 German soldiers and Fascist militiamen. They were chosen to fulfill a promised ten-to-one reprisal because they had fled fascism when Mussolini fell, or because, like stout-hearted old Vittorio Orlando, they had always resisted it.

In their death the Romans may now see and taste the fruit which in two decades has sprung from the seed of fascism.

The Nazis have turned back the pages of Rome's history to a time of cruelty and oppression which Rome had forgotten. Wild beasts in the second century or machine guns in the 20th, the intent and result were the same.

CHURCHMEN plead that Rome may be spared. Their plea is natural and understandable.

But the Nazis are in Rome now. They have shown themselves as they really are, in a spurge of brutality and perverted bravado. They have not spared Rome's people, and they will not spare its antiquities if they are challenged.

Perhaps they have demonstrated to Rome that, if bombs are necessary to drive them out, they are bombs of liberation.

Radical Slump

By Thomas L. Stokes



MADISON, Wis., March 31.—Typical of the times, the LaFollette Progressive party which dominated this state so completely a few years back is suffering now—at least temporarily—the usual fate of third parties when everybody has a job and there is no economic discontent.

Coming to its 10th anniversary which it celebrates in May, the party is weak and torn by factional strife.

Beyond its lack of a major economic issue, on which it flourished in the depression years and some time afterward, the party is now sharply divided on issues growing from the war. One faction clings to the isolationist tradition handed down by the elder LaFollette to his two sons, Robert M. Jr. and Phillip; the other is breaking away toward a program of international co-operation. The schism nurtures some bitterness.

Loses Control of Legislature

THE PARTY reached its heyday when Phil sat in the governor's chair here a few years back. It controlled the legislature and had an effective machine down through state offices. Bob then a senator as now, had a national forum for the party's objectives in Washington and a close working alliance with the New Deal that supplied patronage and prestige.

Today it has only 13 out of 100 members of the assembly and six out of 33 members of the senate. Two of its leading members in the legislature switched to the Republican party two years ago, and more are expected to join the exodus this year. Phil is on Gen. MacArthur's staff in the Pacific. Bob is not so cozy with the administration.

What is happening to the Progressive party has occurred in other third party and independent political movements in what was formerly known as "the radical frontier," including Minnesota with its once powerful Farmer-Labor party and North Dakota with its Non-Partisan league.

The Farmer-Labor party, at its peak, revolved about a personality—the dynamic Governor Floyd Olsen. With his death it began to fall part, Republicans swept back into power six years ago.

Dual Leadership Holds Party Together

THE TWIN personalities, Phil and his older brother Bob, have held the Progressive party together in a dual leadership. Phil tried a few years ago to branch out with a national Progressive party, but it failed. He was defeated for governor and went into law practice.

In the tens days of debate before Pearl Harbor he spoke all over the country under the auspices of America First, trying to stem the surge toward war. Then he went into the army. He had served overseas in world war I.

The Progressive party is keeping hands off officially in the presidential primary which culminates in next Tuesday's election of convention delegates.

Very likely the Progressives will split their votes among the four candidates, the others being Governor Dewey, Gen. MacArthur and Lieut. Cmdr. Stassen. Some may vote for the Roosevelt slate of delegates in the Democratic primary.

No Formal Alliance With Democrats

WHAT ABOUT the Progressive party in the November election, and what about its future?

One thing is certain. There will be no formal alliance with the Democrats behind President Roosevelt as in the past. One authority told the writer that more Progressives would vote Republican than Democratic this fall. Bob LaFollette is not up for re-election this year.

The Progressive party may be in only a temporary slump. It is not wise, one is warned, to count it out. Two years ago the Progressives elected a governor who died, however, before he took office.

Furthermore, it is pointed out that in the post-war period there are likely to be pressing economic issues which the party can capitalize to draw a clear line between itself and Democrats and Republicans. The Democratic party is a third party in this state, and perhaps will continue to be.

(Westbrook Pegler is on vacation. His column will be resumed when he returns.)

We The People

By Ruth Millett



IN SOME CITIES, judges give the neglectful parents of juvenile delinquents a jail sentence, or make them pay a fine.

But in San Francisco, the juvenile court puts delinquent parents on probation and sentences them to attend a "Parent School" for eight sessions, one night a week.

There a judge tells parents of their legal responsibility. A member of the city playground department tells the parents their children's recreational needs. A representative of the United States employment service after-school jobs for children. A Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, and a Protestant minister talk about the place of religion in family life. Someone from the Community Chest tells the parents what organizations such as Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have to offer young folks. A psychologist discusses family problems. And a physician talks about nutrition, general health, and communicable diseases.

System Seems to Work

THE SCHOOL has "graduated" 200 parents—and so far hasn't had a single pupil sent back to repeat the course.

This school hasn't cost San Francisco anything. The course is held in a public high school—and the lecturers don't charge for their services.

A judge can't make delinquent parents better by making them pay a fine or spend two weeks in jail—or by giving them a public "bawling out."

The only way you can make good parents out of poor parents is by educating them.

So They Say—

IF EVERY ONE of the 36 million homes in America avoided waste of food, fuel, paper, metal, rubber and gasoline, the needed workers, materials and production facilities would become available automatically—Air Forces Gen. Henry H. Arnold.

WE CAN KEEP the millions now in industry and agriculture employed and we can absorb the men now in the armed forces into our working economy, but we must be willing to produce and produce on a basis that will permit greater consumption.—Eugene Casey, presidential assistant.

IF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE does not succeed in providing something approaching full employment during the years that follow the war, the state will again be called upon to care for the needy and to undertake activities that will make work.—Eric A. Johnston, president U. S. C. of C.

The Achilles Heel



Our Hoosiers

By Daniel M. Kidney



WASHINGTON, March 31.—Republican congressmen from Indiana have been hopping mad at Wendell L. Willkie ever since he sound off at Kenosha, Wis., last week and produced this headline in The Washington Post:

"Willkie Says He Lost Election Lugging Anti-war Republicans."

The "anti-war Republicans" means them, they admit. But they go on to add that individually they polled more votes in their district than Mr. Willkie did. Mr. Willkie carried the state by 899,466 to President Roosevelt's 874,063 and Senator Raymond E. Willis was elected on the Republican ticket with a total vote of 888,070. So the G. O. P. senator fell short of the Willkie total by 11,906.

He then came here for his first term and joined at once with what Mr. Willkie terms the "anti-war Republicans."

Rep. La Follette is Only Willkieite

THOSE RE-ELECTED on that record in 1940 included Reps. Halleck, Johnson, Landis, Gillette, Grant and Springer. Also elected in 1940 was Rep. Earl Wilson who immediately joined them.

They continued to vote "isolationist" until Pearl Harbor. When Mr. Willkie tried to get some of them to change their course they promptly turned thumbs down.

In 1942, however, the sole Willkieite joined the Hoosier G. O. P. here. He is Rep. Charles M. LaFollette of Evansville. And he has voted more with the two Democrats, Reps. Madden and Ludlow, on major issues than he has with his colleagues.

The house Republicans numbered 208 after the election of 1942, which meant that they gained about 50 seats over 1940. By far the majority of those seats, particularly in the Midlands where gains were greatest, were men of the stripe of the majority of Hoosiers, rather than like LaFollette.

So when Mr. Willkie says they sunk him, they become true indeed.

Most of them were highly pleased at the latest Gallup poll showing Indiana Republicans favor Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York by 47 per cent, as against Mr. Willkie for the 1944 nomination with only 18 per cent.

Willkie Still Has Indiana Following

MR. WILLKIE still has a great following among Indiana women, however, and some of them write their congressmen and lecture them for not coming out for him.

One Indiana woman who worked for him in Massachusetts in 1940 has left here to join Mrs. Grace Reynolds, Indiana Republican national committee-woman, head of the women's division at the Willkie headquarters in New York City.

She is Mrs. Charles McKenna, who is the daughter of Joseph Everson of Ladoga and Indianapolis. She had been on the staff of the late Senator Frederick VanNuys, Indiana Democrat, her husband being in the army.

Until leaving for the Willkie assignment Mrs. McKenna worked for Senator Samuel D. Jackson (D. Ind.) who took over the entire VanNuys staff.

An Indiana university graduate, Mrs. McKenna expressed surprise at the failure of Hoosier Republicans to support Mr. Willkie as a favorite son.

In Washington

By Peter Edson



WASHINGTON, March 31.—First industry to be mobilized for war was the machine tool industry and, conversely, it is the first to be demobilized. The tendency has been to sing the blues over the industry's future, on the broad assumption that during the war it has produced enough machine tools to last for the next 10 or 15 years and has so manufactured itself out of a job.

This line of reasoning has been followed frequently in dickerin with army and navy price adjustment boards on renegotiation of excess profits. Individual machine toolmakers argue that since they have already supplied their post-war market for a decade or more, they should be allowed greater profit margins to build up post-war reserves. By and large, this argument has fallen on deaf ears in Washington.

Also, a new note of optimism is beginning to be heard, like the first robin of spring on the grass plots around the offices of the machine tool builders. Pencils have been sharpened to record those notes and the result is something of a song that maybe there aren't 10 years of continuous winter ahead. And since the prosperity of the machine tool industry is basic to general American well-being, it's worth listening to.

At the end of 1939, U. S. industry had about a million machine tools in operation. Sixty per cent of these tools are over 10 years old and could stand replacement. As of today, approximately 700,000 new tools will have been built for war industries. About 200,000 of these have been built for private industry, leaving 500,000 government owned.

Privately-Owned Tools No Worry

THE 200,000 privately-owned tools are no particular worry. They're going to be put to use, replacing older and less efficient tools, for in the competition for post-war markets, with higher labor production costs, manufacturers with the most efficient tools will have the advantage.

Concerning the 500,000 government-owned tools, estimates vary. From 5 per cent to perhaps 20 per cent or approximately from 25,000 to 100,000 are special purpose tools for war industries and manufacture of munitions. These tools offer no post-war competition to civilian industry.

How many government war plants the army and navy will want to keep in a "stand-by" condition, ready for any possible emergency resumption of hostilities, is an unknown factor. One thing that is counted on is the desire of army and navy to retool all their navy yards and arsenals, replacing older machinery with newer and more efficient models which they already own. Estimates of the number of new tools that will go "in gear" for stand-by plants and to retool government shops range from 70,000 to 150,000 units.

Export Market Is Unknown Quantity

POST-WAR DOMESTIC demand is another indefinite market, but it is pointed out that many old machine tools have been worked during the war far beyond normal life. Also, these tools have been worked on a two- or three-shift basis. Getting all American industry back to a one-shift basis and replacing obsolete tools might dispose of 100,000. A minor market to be developed is retooling of the 125,000 machine shops in technical and vocational schools, which might take 8000 to 10,000 of the newer model, simpler machine tools.

There remains the export market as the greatest imponderable of all. Soviet Russia has shown a great liking for American machinery and has their entire western industrial plant to rebuild. How many machines it will take to retool bombed factories in Germany, France and Italy is anybody's guess. How much of an industrial nation China, Australia, India or any of the Latin American republics will become is pure speculation.

For all these markets, the U. S. will of course be competing with Great Britain. But from the above point of view the machine tool glut does not look hopeless, and it further outlines an opportunity for the post-war employment of many go-getting American gunnery salesmen, to whom there is no superior.