

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

CAMPAIGN OF 1944—XIII

THE ISSUES AT HOME

IT must be a little discouraging to run for state or local office with a red-hot national campaign stealing all the spotlight. Like trying to whistle Brahms' Lullaby against a brass band giving out with boogie-woogie.

So the men and women we will elect on Tuesday to run our state and county offices haven't had very much chance to make their own personalities felt by the voters, and chances are most of them will win or lose along with the top of their own party ticket. In general that isn't a very happy situation, but this year it is perhaps not as bad as usual, because both parties have put forward pretty good nominees for most offices.

This is especially true of the state tickets. In a good many spots it would be hard to decide, on a basis of individual merits, which of two opposing candidates to choose. We do believe that Judge Emmert has been an excellent attorney-general, and that his record plainly entitles him to another term. The same should certainly be said for Dr. Malan, the superintendent of public instruction. We intend to vote for both of them.

WE ARE NOT, this year, going to endorse a whole slate of county candidates, either. Both parties have nominated some good men, and some we do not consider quite as good. In some places both parties turned down at the primaries men who stood out as far better material for office than the men they chose. That was the result of the general lack of interest in the primaries, and the fact that not nearly enough of us took the trouble to vote. We do endorse Lewis Johnson for sheriff, however. The administration of Sheriff Petit has not been wholly bad. But during his entire term in office gambling has flourished openly throughout the county in direct violation of the law. If Mr. Petit did not know this he has been less observing than we believe a sheriff should be. If he did know it he has not fulfilled the duties of his office. We believe Mr. Johnson would take a different attitude on that subject.

ALL OR NOTHING AT ALL

ORGANIZED labor attained its present strength and influence by following the political doctrine of Samuel Gompers, "Reward your friends and punish your enemies." But the Political Action Committee of the C. I. O. has changed that.

The P. A. C. theme song is "All or Nothing at All." And to the P. A. C. "all" means support of the Fourth Term. That was proved conclusively by the telegram of Walter Frisbie, state C. I. O. secretary, rebuking the Evansville Industrial Union Council for endorsing Rep. Charles LaFollette for re-election from the 8th Indiana district.

And when Rep. LaFollette, a courageous liberal Republican, has one of the best labor records in congress, if labor can regard anyone as a "friend," certainly Rep. LaFollette qualifies. But, according to Mr. Frisbie, his record is "clouded" by his support of Dewey and Bricker."

IN OTHER WORDS, all the votes Rep. LaFollette has cast for labor in congress are less important than the ballot he will mark in the election booth on Tuesday. And the wishes of the labor constituents he has served likewise are less important than an edict from a union officer in Indianapolis. Is this democracy in action?

Samuel Gompers is dead. And so, too, is his time-tested philosophy. The Indiana P. A. C. gospel now is:

Punish your enemies and reward your friends. Unless, of course, they happen to be Republicans. In that case, punish them, too.

ALL RIGHT SO FAR

A MAN was falling from the top of a 30-story building. As he passed the tenth floor, he waved happily to the people in the window—or so the story goes—and said:

"I'm all right, so far."

The people who talk about "Roosevelt prosperity" are like that man. A prosperity based on continued government borrowing is not real and cannot last. If you could borrow all the money you wanted, would you not seem prosperous—until there was no more money to borrow?

We will not have prosperity until we have a government that knows how to live within its income.

Thomas E. Dewey, as governor of New York, has balanced the budget of that state. Franklin D. Roosevelt, neither as governor of New York nor President of the United States, has been able to balance the budget.

That's why it's time for a change.

FIRST DIVISION

IT may turn out that one of the campaign's smartest moves was the booking of President Roosevelt into the Brooklyn Dodgers' Ebbets field and Philadelphia's Shibe park, which is shared by the hapless Phillies and Athletics.

After many dreary seasons of watching the local athletes, the fans, whatever their politics, were pretty sure to come out to the ball yard for a look at a contestant who can't possibly finish worse than second.

MR. ROOSEVELT SAID

"JUDGE parties and candidates, not merely by what they promise, but by what they have done, by their records in office, by the kind of people they travel with, by the kind of people who finance and promote their campaigns. By their promoters ye shall know them."

That was said in 1938, before Communist "Leader" Browder had been jailed or pardoned, or had endorsed Mr. Roosevelt.

REFLECTIONS—

Hard to Fool

By James Thrasher

THIS WAS the year, the staticians told us, when the women voters could swing the elections. Well, maybe they could and maybe they couldn't. It would take a nation-wide check of registration to tell. But the very threat of such a possibility should have shocked the candidates into a complete revision of campaign strategy and tactics.

It didn't, of course. Electioneering followed the old traditional pattern, and there's nothing to be done about it now. But wait till next time, as the Brooklyn Dodger fans are in the habit of saying: The women voters will still be with us, and the wise office-seeker will start right now to build an entirely new system of political fences.

So this is going to be a little sermon to them on how to win votes and influence women, or vice versa. The text is taken from the words of a great and wise magician who explained why he refused to perform for an exclusively feminine audience.

"They don't want to be fooled," he said. "They sit there cold-bloodedly and try to see how the trick is done. With an audience of men I can raise a cigarette to my lips with my right hand and make three moves with my left while I'm taking one puff. But the women just sit and stare at my left hand."

True in Politics as Well as Magic

NOW THIS, we contend, is a great and fundamental truth which is true in politics as well as magic. Politicians have ignored it since the 19th amendment was passed. But the fact remains that women in general don't want to be fooled.

They don't go for smoke screens. The old mumbo-jumbo of name-calling and half-truths and pious protestations, which was old stuff when Andy Jackson first went to the hustings, doesn't confuse or divert the ladies worth a darn. They're inclined to keep their eye on the hand that's doing the trick and ignore the cape-swishing.

The trouble is that men (including politicians) let themselves be fooled by women as well as by magicians. They're inclined to dismiss women's political choices as another example of womanly intuition. They forget that on occasion this intuition is a matter of deciding on the basis of fundamentals, while the men are mistaking their own absorption in the political sideshow for deep-dish thinking.

Moral Is Pretty Obvious

THEY ALSO tend to confuse a diplomatic silence, maintained in the interest of domestic tranquility, with a wifely submission to the lord and master's suggestions on how to vote.

The moral of this highly generalized sermon is pretty obvious: Let the next batch of candidates woo the feminine voter by sticking to the issues and the record and laying off the red herrings and rabbits pulled out of the hat. The candidates who do it best may find themselves elected.

And in doing so they may raise political campaigning to the adult level on which it belongs.

WORLD AFFAIRS—

What of Austria?

By William Philip Simms

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—Diplomatic recognition of Italy by the United States and Great Britain raises the problem of what to do about neighboring Austria, now within striking distance of the Red armies in Hungary.

The Nazis admit that if the Russians take Budapest, the back door to Germany will be open and allied occupation of Austria cannot long be delayed.

And in doing so they may raise political campaigning to the adult level on which it belongs.

It Might Be Archduke Otto

IF THE AUSTRIANS are given the same choice, stranger things have happened than that Archduke Otto, son of the late King-Emperor Charles, should eventually mount the throne of a new and enlarged Austria. (After the last war, Italy annexed the Southern Tyrol. She will probably have to give it back.)

The future of Austria, however, depends a good deal on how the allies interpret the word "democracy." Assuming that Austria will be independent again, will she become a democracy American style, British style or Russian style? That is to say, will she be a republic like the United States, a constitutional monarchy like England or a Soviet state like those of the U. S. S. R.?

There are rumors that even Moscow will agree to Otto if the people of Austria want him. Russia has raised no objections to King Michael of Romania, nor apparently to former King Carol, Michael's father, now on his way back to Europe from Mexico. A word from the Kremlin would probably have been sufficient to cause the Mexican foreign office to refuse Carol the necessary visa. The United States would not let him step ashore at New Orleans.

Fish Out of Water Can't Live

TWO DECADES ago, in Vienna, I interviewed Dr. Michael Hainisch, the Austrian president.

"See that!" he exclaimed, pointing at a map of Austria. "That is not a nation. It is a fish out of water. And a fish out of water can't live."

What he meant, of course, was that the treaty of St. Germain had so reduced Austria that economic independence was impossible. Her army had been shrunk to a mere police force. She had been left at the mercy of any strong neighbor. From the day Hitler came into power, Austrians saw their peril clearly as did the uneasy Italians. Prince Starhemberg and Benito Mussolini tried their utmost to interest Britain and France in a plan to stop Hitler and prevent anschluss, but did not get to first base.

In London in 1936, the prince begged the British to do something, but was informed that it was British policy to "discipline" Italy. And when he replied that a strong Italy was needed to offset the growing power of Nazi Germany, he was told that "if we defeat one dictator, the other will be disposed of more easily." Still he persisted: A snub to Italy, he warned, would drive her into the arms of Germany.

The rest is history. And while it is rarely given either to individuals or nations to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start, the allies may now have that opportunity, both in Austria and Italy.

To The Point

NEVER ASK a judge to give you a little of his time.

JUNIOR HAS troubles too, what with geography changing as rapidly as women's fashions.

THE QUESTION is raised of what to do with those German generals. Oh, just toss them on the Junker pile!

SOME PEOPLE need a good belt before they'll buckle down.

Not Running in the Usual Sense!



The Hoosier Forum

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

"THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK"

By Thelma Lyons, Indianapolis

If the Republican party ever nominates a candidate who can outline a better program for the government of this country than the present one, or can do something besides criticize everything even pertaining to the Democratic party, that candidate may have a chance of being elected. But I have never heard a worse smear campaign than the one being carried on by Dewey and his cohorts. It's an insult to the intelligence of the American public.

Your newspaper editorials are just as bad. For instance, Oct. 27 you say that "in each of Mr. Roosevelt's campaigns there has been at least one cute little trick for raising money." One time it was the Democratic convention book, etc.

What about the latest convention book the Republicans have published? On the back cover of the booklet carries a coupon which, with \$2.00, entitles the reader to a year's subscription to a magazine called "The Republican." How is that for a "cute little trick for raising money?"

It's an unprejudiced paper but from the editorials that have been appearing in your paper, I would say that you have been following a course that is distinctly partisan.

I must admit that I was very surprised to see the above-mentioned article. Let us have many more of these fine unprejudiced articles on your editorial page.

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