

# The Indianapolis Times

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*Give light and the people will find their own way*

## Rail Strike Averted

GOVERNMENT seizure and a federal court injunction have averted a railway strike that threatened to paralyze the country.

For that we are thankful. And the railroad workers ought to be.

It never should have been made necessary—as it was for President Truman to order the Army to take over the railroads, and the Justice Department to get the injunction against the unions of engineers, firemen and switchmen.

Officers of the three unions should have had judgment enough to recognize from the first these obvious truths:

ONE: That public opinion would not tolerate such a strike. Especially when its object was to enforce demands for concessions exceeding those recommended by a Railway Labor Act Fact-Finding Board—and accepted by 19 other unions representing more than nine-tenths of the railroad employees.

TWO: That the government would have to act to prevent the strike or to stop it if it started.

The government did act. The seizure was ordered under a law passed in 1916. The injunction seems to be based mainly on the theory that, in the absence of specific law, the government has constitutional power to maintain itself, "insure domestic tranquility" and "promote the general welfare."

CERTAINLY the threatened strike soon would have become a national disaster, wrecking domestic tranquility and general welfare—causing untold danger, loss and suffering. And challenging the integrity of government itself.

We are glad that, almost at the last moment, the union officers found sense enough to obey the injunction. But the injunction is temporary. There is no assurance that it will be made permanent.

And so the country's escape from this strike, and its safety from other similar perils, also may be only temporary.

The time has come, we think, when Congress must give the country lasting protection in specific law against man-made calamities such as this strike would have been. No combination of owners and managers should be permitted to shut down the nation's railroads. No combination of workers should be permitted to do that. In this industry, and a few others, strikes are in fact intolerable.

Congress should face that fact now; should require that, by the fairest methods possible to devise, labor-management controversies in these vital industries must be settled without strikes.

## Manual... And E. H. Kemper McComb

OF course E. H. Kemper McComb really believes, for the moment, that he is about to retire completely from Manual Training High School, as his announcement said the other day. But somehow we doubt if he makes it.

He can divorce himself from the Class of 1950, maybe. Or 1960. But hardly from the Class of 1904. Or 1920.

To a good many hundreds of Manual Graduates . . . some of them greying and middle-aged and famous in fields of their own, now . . . Manual and the man who has guided it for so many years are forever inseparable. Likely as not they'll go on, as they always have, seeking him out whenever their paths turn homeward again, keeping an ear primed for his shrewd and kindly appraisal of what they've done with the training he gave them, and never once admitting that Manual isn't exactly as they left it.

He may, indeed, retire from Manual's future. But not from its cherished past. The 48 graduating classes he has seen on their way on 48 commencement days are still going to be his . . . and the imprint of his personality and his ideals they have taken with them will endure long beyond the day when he closes his desk and hands the keys over to someone else.

For such retirement as this may be we join with his alumni in the wish that the years before him may be many and happy.

## Merle Sidener

MERLE SIDENER was a successful businessman, and before that a successful journalist in much more than a purely local sense. But, at the end of a busy career, his enduring monument is built on neither his business nor his professional attainments, substantial though they were.

Rather he is going to be remembered for what he did entirely outside those fields . . . did just because he wanted to do it . . . and because he loved people and sought, tirelessly, to serve them.

Religion, to Merle Sidener, wasn't a cloak to be put on of a Sunday, and laid aside the rest of the time. It was an integral part of his daily life . . . to be lived, and practiced and shared with others all day, every day. To the largest men's Bible class in the nation . . . built by his own enthusiasm and sincerity . . . he translated each week for years, his own clear conception of faith into terms of common experience and common understanding . . . and thousands found it a language of inspiration.

His influence reached into every phase of the community's life. He gave, without stint, of his talents to every cause he believed would make Indianapolis a better city, and would make life richer for the hundreds of thousands of men and women he considered his neighbors.

He has made the world a little brighter because he passed this way.

# A New Twist In U. S. Labor Injunctions

## Some Senators Think Specific Law Needed in Rail Disputes

concerned. A majority of the Supreme Court has decided that way.

But there is still uncertainty how far the government can go in getting court orders to enforce its will against such associations as the three railway labor unions which had threatened to stop rail transportation this morning.

"We should have specific law applying to the railway unions as well as all other labor organizations," said Sen. Joseph H. Ball (R. Minn.), chairman of the Congressional Joint Committee on labor-management relations. "I am dubious about enjoining a strike on the apparently uncertain basis that has been used in this case."

SEN. WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND (R. Cal.) said that a bill he introduced yesterday would dispel the doubt about injunctive powers in railway labor disputes. It would remove the exemption of railway labor from the injunction processes of the Taft-Hartley law in national emergencies.

"Congress should not adjourn without acting on the bill because the same situation may arise again," the Senator said. Sen. Ball said he didn't think the Knowland proposal was the right answer.

He pointed out that under the Railway Labor Act railroad workers must go through at least several months of cooling off before they can actually go on strike. And he said it might be unfair to impose a further wait under the Taft-Hartley act.

He inclined toward a plan of compulsory arbitration in rail-way disputes.

SEN. ROBERT A. TAFT (R. O.) chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, also approached the subject cautiously. He said that if anything were done it should be within the framework of the Railway Labor Act.

This would mean that the injunctive procedures of the Taft-Hartley Act would be written into the Railway Labor Act, rather than making railroad workers subject to two laws which differ greatly in their details of trying to avert industrial disturbances.

It is pointed out that the three railway unions now concerned are in a different position from that of the Lewis mine workers in 1946.

The miners' union had signed a contract with the government under federal operation of the mines. The railway unions have signed no such contract.

## Hoosier Forum

"I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

### Why Must Politics Be a Circus?

By C. D. C.

It won't be long now until the American people will be given a free treat to the Quadrangular Political Circuses. There will be Twiddle-dee-dee, Republican, Twiddle-dee-dum, Democrat—and, this time, Twiddle-dee-winks, Progressive.

We all know that Henry Wallace will head Twiddle-dee-winks. And it is not at all improbable that certain gentlemen who make presidents could tell you, if they wished, who would head Twiddle-dee-dee and Twiddle-dee-dum.

The show and preliminaries will be all about the same, however:

Twiddle-dee-dee will stress Lincoln. Twiddle-dee-dum will finish up on Franklin Roosevelt—and then bedlam will break loose.

Twiddle-dee-winks will stress both Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt and then you can expect "We want Wallace" to break loose.

The party bosses will pick the candidates by a system of horse trading in some smoke-filled hotel room. It is quite probable, of course, that bosses of both parties have already decided on a dark horse but, be sure of one thing, the bosses will get their man.

Mrs. Roosevelt, of course, can be expected to be on hand to give her blessing to Twiddle-dee-dum, and probably Herbert Hoover and the rest of the old guard to Twiddle-dee-dee.

Twiddle-dee-winks, of course, will be in the unique position of being able to promise everybody everything without having to deliver anything.

Let's hope some day the American people will learn that government is not a circus—but the biggest business in the world.

Then competent men who have been elected by the people will sit quietly around a conference table—and select their presidential candidates in the same way a board of directors would select the president of a company for their stockholders.

### We Need Professional Men

By L. E. J.

I wonder if anyone else is getting as dizzy as I am on things we are being told today.

We were led to believe a very short time ago—"We must send financial aid to Europe or Russia will take over and we will have to send our boys later." When the big-wigs put it like that, we naturally preferred to send anything they ask for.

Now, before the ink is hardly dry on the ERP bill, we are being told we must draft the boys to build up our forces! Why? Do we have to make Europe accept the ERP?

It seems to me if we must train men (boys) for our own protection, and not Europe's, we could train them in or immediately after high school. Why stop a young man's plan for a professional future by drafting him out of college?

No veteran, regardless, should have his life interrupted again.

If our lawmakers will take a good look around they will see how short we really are on well trained, professional men. We had better look out for our own future—and not worry so much about everyone else. A military man can be trained far quicker than a scientist or doctor.

### Find Veterans Place to Live

By One Who Knows

It sure is a shame that these American boys who risked their lives and the best part of their lives to fight for a peaceful place to live, can't even find a place to live.

Every time a veteran answers an ad in the paper for a place to live, it's the same answer every place he goes. "No children." "I don't want to rent to veterans with children."

Don't people who rent places ever remember they were kids once themselves?

They have a lot of vacant lots in this town to put these one-room huts on for the veterans to live in if nothing else.

It's tough on a veteran who went to fight. He thought his family would be all in one place when he got back. Then when he got back he found that they have to put one child here and one child there, so that they all might have a place to live.

## Preserving Our Land for Future'

National Affairs . . . By Walter R. Humphrey

A MERICA'S basic resource

is its land. Our generation has a primary responsibility to see that this resource is protected and preserved for the many generations to come.

A piece of legislation looking far into the future has been introduced in Congress by Rep. Clifford R. Hope (Kan.), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

This bill grew out of nationwide hearings by the committee, and has the approval of all its 27 members.

RECOGNIZING that preservation of irreplaceable land resources is vital to national life and security, now and hereafter, the bill would consolidate the government's many land conservation functions in a single Agricultural Resources Administration.

The new administration would be in the Agriculture Department.

Under it would be an Agricultural Land Service, the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

THE FIRST of these would combine the present Soil Conservation Service and all other conservation activities now in the Agriculture and Interior Departments.

The Forest Service is already in Agriculture.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is now in Interior.

The bill would establish conservation and orderly development of agricultural land and water resources as a basic Government policy.

Knowledge of conservation is specified as a prerequisite for the head of the proposed ARA.

THE ARA would give technical assistance to farmers through soil-conservation districts. That is highly important, for all 48 states have soil-conservation district laws and such districts are now doing by far the biggest conservation job in the country.

The Hope bill would not destroy the basis of the fire work already being done by the present Soil Conservation Service.

Congress would do well to look to it as a basis for prompt action.

THE HOPE bill is bi-partisan—or, better still, non-partisan. It would tie the nation-wide conservation work into a tighter, more economical package, preserving the Federal activities that count, and gear conservation to the future national needs. It holds the promise of more efficiency, more economy, and better results.

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