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Police 'Deals' on Confessions

EVERY week or so testimony in some criminal case here discloses that the defendant made some "arrangement" with law enforcement officials to make a formal confession of his crime in return for a recommendation of leniency either in the amount of his bond or his penalty.

This practice has been regarded generally among police officers as "customary" procedure in cases where officers were unable to "nail down" sufficient and legal evidence for a conviction.

Signed confessions solve many tough cases that otherwise might never get through court but making "deals" with criminals to get them leads the public to suspect rightly that police may be taking the easy way out in preparing evidence. The practice also may prove a dangerous one in some types of cases.

More thorough detective work in most instances will produce sufficient evidence for conviction and the cases will stand on their merits. It is better than relying on a "deal" with the prisoner to get a confession.

'The Pot Calls the Kettle Black'

CAMPAIGN speeches here recently have been full of charges that one politician or another in the opposition party has been collecting campaign funds from gamblers and others who make a living just outside the law.

As far back as we can remember highly organized cliques in both Democratic and Republican parties have been squeezing the gaming elements dry of surplus cash in every political campaign. And most of them are open about it and admit it.

So, we can't understand how any candidate in either party can make much "campaign hay" on those charges and hope thereby to influence the voters one way or another.

It's nothing more than the "Pot calling the kettle black."

Hoosier Patriots Respond

THOSE who have said consistently that there are no houses for rent in Indianapolis, are in for a surprise. It is true that rental property has been scarce. The reason advanced is that many property owners are wavering between selling and renting because of low frozen rents.

But when the Soviet Union continued to snarl at Uncle Sam's coat tails, and nip at him verbally, Hoosier patriotism began to simmer.

The 10th Air Force moved into Ft. Harrison. It had to be housed. The Air Force set up a rental agency to catalog all available houses and apartments.

Indianapolis citizens phoned in, many of them saying, "We aren't anxious to put our property on the rental market, but if you boys are getting ready to fight Russia, you can have our houses."

Lots of them have said this. And that's just a foretaste of what Hoosiers can and will do if and when real trouble comes.

Mr. Truman Gets a Break

WE'RE inclined to think that President Truman got the best break of his campaign to date when John L. Lewis lit into him Tuesday at the United Mine Workers' convention in Cincinnati.

There's a lot of evidence that support from Mr. Lewis is a political liability, while his enmity may prove an asset.

"Harry Truman is totally unfit for the position he occupies," said Mr. Lewis. "His principles are elastic. He is careless with the truth. He has no specific knowledge of anything. He is a malignant, scheming sort of individual, dangerous not only to the United Mine Workers but dangerous to the United States of America." He added that Mr. Truman twice had the union prosecuted and fined for striking against federal court orders "because he was too cowardly to send me to jail."

The convention delegates, Lewis henchmen almost to a man, applauded loudly. How many rank-and-file coal miners will obey the implied order to vote against Mr. Truman is another question.

But this is certain: A great many other citizens and voters were reminded that Harry Truman twice displayed much courage by standing up and fighting successfully to protect the country when John L. Lewis threatened it with suffering and disaster.

Typical Ickal

"IN good time," to use his own words, Harold Ickes will issue a statement telling how he stands on Truman for 1948. This from Mr. Ickes after a 15-minute call on the President, which indicated what the long-word boys describe as a rapprochement. Mr. Ickes, we recall, has been pretty bitter toward Mr. Truman since he left the cabinet.

We doubt whether his delayed fuse, when it finally ignites, will blow the top off the Presidential campaign. It will take more than Mr. Ickes' customarily high appraisal of his own importance to determine who will be our next occupant in the White House.

But, may we observe, the publicity play by Mr. Ickes was certainly characteristic.

Educational Notes

A MAN we admire is Louis Rich, of South Orange, N. J. A retired business man, now 85 years old, he has enrolled as a student in Bergen Junior College, saying: "This is an atomic age, and the only way I can keep in tune with the times is to go back to school."

We think something should be said, also, in behalf of Robert Neel of Rochester, N. Y. He has eight members of his family—three sons, three daughters, one son-in-law, one daughter-in-law—attending the University of Rochester, from which he himself was graduated in 1906.

In Tune With the Times

Barton Rees Pogue

EDITOR'S NOTE

Today is the 99th anniversary of the birth of Indiana's best-loved and most-famous poet, James Whitcomb Riley. We join Indianapolis and Greenfield in tribute to his memory.

—B. R. P.

I KNEW JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

James Whitcomb Riley was one of the most different of men. In reading his poems publicly, which he rarely did, you would have thought he was some bashful schoolboy declaiming a last-day-of-school recitation. This bashfulness and self-effacement grew upon him as he became older. To such a person there must be some outlet. The little children that thronged Lockport St. was the answer.

To see him walking on the streets of Indianapolis or in the bookstores, which he haunted, impressed one very much: You felt at once that you were in the presence of a very great personality.

He had the bluest eyes, set in the complexion of a baby, and a most lovable smile. His hands were plump and quite beautiful. He walked as one treading Olympus. His expression was simple and benign.

I carry it as one of my choicest memories to have seen and heard this great childish bard of the Hoosiers.

—PEARL DUTCHESS WESTFALL, Spencer.

I LIVED IN RILEY'S TOWN

We, me and dad and mother, moved to Greenfield in the fall of 1897. I complied with the truancy laws and finished grade school in the village where Riley got his formal education. He recalls that the outside of the schoolhouse was his favorite side. He said that he tried McCaffrey's Speller, but found the author so disconnected in his thoughts that he gave up in despair. "Never has such a failure in arithmetic been recorded," said the poet. "I could not tell twice ten from twice eternity, but I did possess the knack of learning such things as were not taught in school." He recalls that one of his teachers was a roly poly woman, who had a mole on her chin, right where Abe Lincoln wore his, and it had eye-winkers on it that tickled his nose when she kissed him.

This Oct. 7, as on all Riley birthdays of the last quarter century, Greenfield school children will march to the city square and lay flowers at the foot of the monument erected to the friend of all boys and girls.

But no such observance was scheduled in my grammar school days. In literature classes we tramped for days over Longfellow's "The Children's Hour," heard old Shylock mutter in his beard, saw Wordsworth's "host of daffodils," but no teacher made Brandywine country, lying calm and serene on the eastern border of the town, whisper the words of sweet abandonment that Mr. Riley has written into "The Old Swimmin' Hole," or "Up and Down Old Brandywine."

We knew the "hole" where Riley had done his swimming. North from "Big Rocky," through "Little Rocky" to "the Bayou" the boys of Brandywine knew their stream.

Each footprint we made in the dusty paths that led up and down the little stream was an accented syllable in an unending poem. The ragweed, the dog-fennel and the pokeberry were unaccented syllables in the anapest of unbounded freedom and joy! The water in Brandywine was warm as the sympathies of the poetic world! The sycamores clapped their hands, and the yielding fields sang together in the air.

Each day we were living, but we lived more completely than any poet might ever write!

—HOOSIER OBSERVER.

A LETTER FROM MR. RILEY

Poet Madison Cawein
Oh, but you do many, many great things; and your capabilities are greater than you know. But I want you here on the present, palpable earth more in today, and among today's "virginal" writers, its words, hills, mountains, rivers, lakes and skies; and, above all, its people and their lacks and loves and yearnings and possessions all touched into the just divinity your art certainly commands. . . . I mean . . . that the simplest thing God ever made is worthy of celebration. You can't toss a pebble in any quarter of any back township in Kentucky and not hit a poem spanning the top of the head; a poem that no one has ever heretofore dreamed was in incipient existence. . . . Then keep 'em all sunny and sweet and wholesome clean to the core; and if ever tragic, with sound hopes ultimate. If pathetic, my God! With your own tears baptized and made good as mirth. . . . Go among all kinds of people and love 'em whether you want to or not. . . .
Copyright, 1939, from letters of James Whitcomb Riley.
Edited by Dr. William Lyon Phelps.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS . . . By Marquis Childs

Truman Pins Drive on Labor, Social Issues

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—Almost without interruption from now until the week-end before election day President Truman will be on the road carrying his uphill, underdog fight to the country.

The President and the men immediately around him refuse to believe that the voters have in overwhelming numbers made up their minds that nothing said or done between now and Nov. 2 can change the outcome.

During the brief interval in Washington the President and his advisers reviewed the strategy of the past two weeks and plotted the attack to come. Greater emphasis from here on out is to be put on the "constructive" side of issues rather than on denunciation of the 80th Congress and the Republican leaders whom President Truman is blaming for the failure of his domestic program.

Thus, in his speech on social security, the President will say that the constructive effort of the Democratic administration was to expand social security provisions so that 2,000,000 additional persons would be put on the rolls. In contrast, the Republican Congress, the President will say, acted to cut off 750,000 who were previously covered.

Emphasis on Taft-Hartley Act

IN VIRTUALLY every talk in the next few weeks, as the campaign strategists plan it, emphasis is to be placed on the Taft-Hartley Act and its threat to trade unionism. This emphasis represents the influence of Clark Clifford, special counsel to the President, who maintains close relations with both AFL and CIO leaders.

Mr. Clifford has become convinced that the Taft-Hartley Act is a wedge that will be used to shatter the economic power of mass trade unions in the not-too-distant future. It is believed that organized labor can be spurred into getting out the labor vote in the large cities.

The fact is, of course, that it is only at this eleventh hour that labor has begun to try to organize seriously for the Truman-Barkley ticket. The disaffection both before and after the Philadelphia convention resulted in a kind of paralysis that has only now been thrown off.

No Rush of New Voters

IN MICHIGAN, with its great industrial centers, the CIO United Auto Workers has taken over the Democratic Party. But with the dead-line for new registrars less than a week away, there is no indication of a rush of new voters who might be expected with union urging, to vote Democratic.

In New York David Dubinsky, head of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, has informed the White House

Don't Look Now, But—



BATTLE OF BALLOTS . . . By Peter Edson

Victory for Dewey Seen Likely On 'Vague Campaign Platform'

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—With less than a month to go before election day, these campaign developments stand out:

Save on the big bipartisan principles of foreign policy, anti-communism and a few generalities like belief in the future of the great American West, Republican Presidential candidate Thomas E. Dewey has yet to say specifically where he stands on most important domestic issues.

On his swing across the country he has come out for rain, sunshine, honesty, co-operation, efficiency, reorganization, whatever is good for the nation and all such political pap.

On such a vague and platitudinous platform Gov. Dewey is apparently going to win the election.

President Truman in his campaign for reelection has said exactly where he stands on every conceivable issue, even at the risk of putting his foot in his mouth to do so. You may not like his words. You may not like his ideas. You may not like the way he has in the past tried to carry out his words and ideas. But at least he has made known his principles. This, however, is apparently not enough to get him re-elected.

Jack Kroll of the CIO-PAC thinks Mr. Truman can be re-elected if 60,000,000 or more of the 94,000,000 eligible voters get out and register, then get out and vote. The total presidential vote in 1940 was just under 60,000,000. In 1944 it was just under 48,000,000. So it will take an all-time record vote—better than 65 per cent of those eligible—to get the result Kroll and other labor political action people are hoping and working for.

Biggest Story of the Year

THE BIGGEST political story of the year is in the once-solid South, where a major political realignment is going on. Save for Mr. Truman's dip into Texas, neither of the major party candidates has as yet invaded Dixie. It has been largely a private stamping ground for South Carolina Gov. J. Strom Thurmond, presidential candidate of the States' Rights Party. Henry Wallace has of course been there, but has been egged out.

Gov. Thurmond claims he will carry 10 states or more and get 100 electoral votes or more. Five states and 50 electoral votes would be a mere 25 per cent of the total.

Gov. Thurmond admits that if he carries only one state, it will be a victory.

If the States' Rights Party gets 100 votes, Mr. Thurmond thinks it will be enough to prevent either Mr. Dewey or Mr. Truman from getting a majority of the electoral college—266 out of 531. Should this happen, the election would of course be thrown into the new House of Representatives. There each state would have only one vote for a choice between the three high candidates in the national election. Gov. Thurmond thinks the Southern states would then have balance of power and be able to decide the election.

This possibility is pretty generally discounted by Washington political observers. It is believed that Mr. Dewey has good chances for a minimum of 300 electoral votes, even if Gov. Thurmond gets his 100. Gov. Thurmond says the rise of his States' Rights Party has prevented Gov. Dewey from capturing any Southern states, which he might otherwise have done because of opposition to Mr. Truman's civil rights program.

Sees Surprising Wallace Vote

PROGRESSIVE Party campaign manager C. B. Baldwin refuses to predict that his candidate Henry Wallace will carry even one state. Mr. Baldwin is still predicting that the Wallace popular vote will be surprisingly large—without mentioning a figure. Practically every other political dooper says it will be surprisingly small—less than 3,000,000. Mr. Baldwin still hopes the Wallace party will be on the ballot in 44 states. As of today it is accredited in only 29.

The Wallace party has withdrawn many of its candidates for Congress. Baldwin says this is to support proven liberal candidates of the Democratic Party. Jack Kroll says it is because of the poor showing in California, Wisconsin and Minnesota primaries. Originally the Wallace party had entered over 100 candidates for Congress and 11 candidates for the Senate. Its best chances are probably to elect several congressmen from the New York area.

Hoosier Forum

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

Favors Dogs on Leash

By Frank Ludge, City

Our City Council seems to be going to the dogs. Some people seem to think the law means what it says for everyone else, so we have dogs all over town loose every day and a good many more at night.

There are people who live by the laws and do try to obey. People who love their dogs do not object to keeping their dogs on their own premises and on a leash when off. Those dogs are cared for and are at home when needed.

Dogs are not to blame for the laws they dig and scratch up or the flowers they destroy or the gardens they ruin, or the fifth they deposit. Every dog owner should be made to pay for any and all damages done by their pooches, even the rabies treatment any person has to have.

Our city has just added \$5000 to our taxes. Now we have another crop of dogs to have the rabies and we are back where we started with more taxes to pay and future rabies cases.

We should all get behind Dr. Gerald P. Kempf, city health director, and back his dog leashing ordinance and there are lots of people who think if some of our City Council can't do anything good for our city, there are men who can.

I believe even the dogs would vote for that if they could, for every dog on a leash is a loved and cared for animal.

'Modern Woman Provocative'

By H. Seaford, Woodruff Place

Every day my scorn of "modern" women grows a little bit more.

If the Indianapolis streets are not safe for women whose fault is it? Much of the behavior of "modern" women is deliberately provocative; ditto their outlandish dress. What do such females think the males are, just something to be slapped around? The attitude of all "modern" girls is "Oh, I can take care of myself." Then why don't they do it? One writer says, "And women don't want to listen to the plea that the city cannot afford enough policemen to make it safe." It's too bad if "modern" females can't have every little thing they want.

It seems that "modern" girls and women bitterly resent that they are female. Well, with all their might that they are male. Well, who was it decreed that they should be female? There's the place, if any, they should vent their spite. For no matter how many or how few police there are, it should be plain to all people of even average intelligence that the streets will never be any safer for women than they are, until the women themselves change. The only thing any man respects in women is femininity.

'Try to Give GOP \$5'

By Howard Finn, 221 N. DeQuincy

Why doesn't Mr. Armstrong finish the other half of the story he started Saturday, Oct. 2, about the \$5 donation given to the Democrat central committee?

Why doesn't Mr. Armstrong try forcing \$5 on the Republicans for a donation? Do you think they would refuse it? Did you print the story, about the firemen giving dinners and presents to Chief McKinney because he happens to be a Democrat? Also can you name one chief of the Indianapolis fire department in the last 30 years that did not receive a present from the men he worked with?

I was a fireman 25 years and happen to know the feeling of the men I worked with about giving a present to a chief that is well liked and has the respect of every man he works with.

The men are in no way obligated to make donations to political parties or anything else, Mr. Armstrong, believe that or not. Out of all the departments in our fair city you pick the one that is the most efficient and second to none in this country. You and every taxpayer should be proud of them.

Opposes 'This Nude Age'

By L. T. C.

I want to applaud Carl and Nella Gooding for their letter in Thursday's paper Sept. 30. They have expressed my sentiments to the letter. I have thought for months I would write, citing the very things Carl and Nella have said in this nude age, where women of all ages parade their nudity before the public, what can they expect? They are the very ones who would complain most loudly about these sex offenses. These sex offenses were not so prevalent in the days when women and girls dressed modestly and were modest.

Mothers who dress (or I might say undress) for public appearances and allow their daughters also to do so are inviting disaster and I say as Carl and Nella, ministers and police and other officials would do well to advise women to dress in a manner becoming womanhood and these sex crimes would be reduced.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS . . . By William Philip Simms

Hint German Problem May Go Back to Big 4

PARIS, Oct. 7.—Following Andrei Vishinsky's dramatic but not unexpected boycott of further Berlin discussions here, the impression grows stronger than ever that—perhaps through "neutral" mediation—the whole German problem may go back to the Big Four foreign ministers.

Delegates with whom this writer talked believe Russia now is anxious to have the problem removed from the United Nations. They think Russia may now even be inclined to listen to reason since she must know she finally is up against a stone wall beyond which she can't go without resort to force.

Therefore, as the U. S., Britain and France have stated they are willing to resume discussions in a new Big Four conference provided Russia lifted the blockade, good chances on the part of "neutrals" might possibly at last bring the East and West together.

Asks Big Four Settlement

NOT ONLY Foreign Minister Molotov in a note, but Mr. Vishinsky in speeches Monday and Tuesday—especially Tuesday—may have added greatly to this impression. Again and again Mr. Vishinsky returned to the theme. The question of Germany and Berlin, he kept repeating, is for the Big Four and not for the Security Council. As for the blockade, no such thing exists, according to him and Moscow. And he has done his best to make listeners believe Russia wants nothing more than a reasonable settlement with the western powers.

Why, then, some are asking, not take the Kremlin at its word? Without holding up Security Council proceedings in any way, why shouldn't third parties "mediate" between Russia and the western powers? If the Kremlin means what it says and the Berlin blockade is a mere figment of the West's imagination, why not normalize the situation there and settle the German, Austrian and other peace problems promptly and quit stalling?

It is pointed out, first, that under Chapter VI on the pacific settlement of disputes that if necessary the Security Council can call upon the parties to settle their dispute by mediation or some similar means.

Seak Solution by Negotiation

SECONDLY, mediation has never yet been tried. Yet Chapter VI says, "the parties to a dispute likely to endanger international peace and security shall first of all seek a solution by negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement," etc. Some but not all already have been tried unsuccessfully.

It is fully recognized—it is even more than half expected—that Russia still is merely playing for time. However, it is observed that in the event Germany and Berlin went back to the Big Four for another try the United Nations could hold the case in abeyance pending the outcome, somewhat as did the council in the case of Iran.

Mediation is considered possible because it seems the only practicable thing left to try.

Side Glances—By Galbraith



"I bought a new girdle today and it's simply divine—your father will have to take us out tonight so I can be seen in it!"

that he will do everything in his power to help the President. Registration figures show, however, a drop in New York City of 234,555 voters below 1944.

By way of contrast, it is revealing to look back at the Democratic campaign of 1940. That campaign, too, was conducted in an atmosphere of deepening crisis with the formerly free countries of Western Europe under Nazi tyranny.

President Roosevelt, running for re-election to an unprecedented third term, started out by saying he was "too busy" to campaign except for brief "non-political" inspection trips.

It was the late Wendell Willkie who barnstormed across the country speaking often a dozen times a day. The Willkie campaign in its intensity was a precedent for President Truman's present strenuous effort.