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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Seven Years Is Too Long

ANY citizen charged with a criminal offense has a right under the Constitution to have a trial in court within a reasonable length of time and the public has a right to expect that the guilt or innocence of defendants will be determined promptly.

Yet, in Marion County Criminal Court there is a case involving charges that four former deputy county clerks embezzled \$45,000 public funds and altered court records in an alleged attempt to conceal the shortages. It has been pending on the court docket for seven years and still no date has been set for trial of the case despite an order from the Indiana Supreme Court more than a year ago that it be tried.

IF THE defendants are innocent of the charges they certainly should have been acquitted by trial years ago and cleared of the cloud of suspicion that hangs over them. If they are guilty the public expects justice done according to laws passed to protect society.

Seven years is much too long for courts and their officers to permit a criminal case to remain untried. If there is a good reason for not having a trial in the case, the public ought to know what it is.

Time to Try Parking Meters

THE subject of parking meters has been debated and kicked around City Hall for the last 10 years but not a single one ever has been installed on an Indianapolis downtown street.

During the administration of the late Mayor Tyndall, several attempts were made to have meters installed in the downtown area but each time a purchase ordinance came before the City Council it was voted down. None of the ordinances was turned down on the argument that the city does not need them. They were defeated merely through failure of Councilmen, Safety Board members and the Mayor to agree on the brand of device to be purchased.

MOST cities the size of Indianapolis have parking meters and reports on the results elsewhere show the devices contribute greatly to the relief of parking congestion and bring in much needed additional revenue.

Mayor Al Feeney after nearly a year's study has announced his administration is ready to proceed with the purchase of meters. It is time for Indianapolis to move forward toward some solution of the parking problems and installation of meters is a step that has helped other cities. They would help solve our problems, too.

The Hoffman-Harriman Team

THE Hoffman-Harriman team will continue to direct Marshall Plan aid. This good news comes from the Economic Co-operation Administrator, Paul G. Hoffman himself. He says the President wants him and roving Ambassador Harriman to stay on the job, and they have agreed to do so.

No two men in public service have had more thankless tasks. They are caught between American pressure for hard-boiled policy to get maximum results and counter-pressure from abroad for more money under looser requirements. Besides that inevitable tug of conflicting interests, they also are subjected to rival claims of recipient nations for larger slices of a pie which is expandable. Meanwhile, they must keep Congress satisfied.

So they need the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, and the vision of the prophets mixed with the trading touch of a Missouri mule dealer.

PRESUMABLY they have made mistakes. We have criticized them occasionally for what seemed to us overly optimistic and uncritical reports of progress.

But their batting average has been high. If American economic aid has reversed the downward plunge of Western Europe and at least temporarily saved many of those nations from communism, as most of us believe, chief credit goes to Mr. Hoffman, Averill Harriman and their associates.

Secretary of State Marshall who conceived the plan, Sen. Vandenberg and members of Congress who perfected it and voted the money, and the European statesmen whose co-operation has made it possible, have paid tribute at various times to those who are making the plan work. All concerned can be thankful that these two American businessmen, turned international public servants, will carry on during the difficult months ahead.

CIO Red Purge

THE action of the CIO's national executive board in revoking the charter of the Greater New York CIO Council is of particular interest. For most of the Communist and pro-Communist CIO union presidents were members of the New York council.

The executive board charged that the council had "brought discredit upon the national CIO by the slavish adherence . . . to the line and dictates of the Communist Party." And a comparison of the council's past activity with general Communist policy in America during the past 10 years stamps that charge as both accurate and temperate.

Further, the unprecedented platform attack on Reds in the CIO by President Philip Murray in Portland and the tremendous support which it received from convention delegates indicates the extent to which the union is willing to go in clearing itself of Communists. It is also a heartening commentary on the loyalty and intelligence of union members.

The CIO big wheels, like a lot of other prominent people, were cool to the Truman candidacy for a long time. But now they are prominent among those who are taking credit for the President's victory and working and hoping for his blessing on their own objectives.

We don't know, of course, what instructions the CIO leftists have been given. But it would be well for both CIO and Democratic leaders to take a close look and make sure that the Communists aren't sneaking by the parade, and heading toward the inner political circles.

DEAR BOSS . . . By Dan Kidney

Young Willkie Shows Ambition

White House Looms as Hoosier's Final Objective

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27—Dear Boss—Growing up to be President of the United States still is a legitimate goal for an American boy—even if he is a Republican.

At any rate reports are current here that the White House looms as the ultimate objective of a young man just elected to the Indiana legislature on the GOP ticket despite the Democratic rip-tide.

He is Philip H. Willkie, 28-year-old son of the late Wendell L. Willkie, Republican presidential nominee who was defeated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940. The presidency was the first and only elective office ever sought by Mr. Willkie. His son, however, is beginning at the bottom. He won the nomination for the House from an old-timer by conducting a door-bell-ringing personal canvas. He was elected in the face of his party's loss of the lower branch of the state Legislature.

With this triumphant feather in his cap, young Mr. Willkie then rushed off from Rushville to New York City and addressed the Young Republicans at Schwartz's Restaurant, 54 Broad St. He won this headline in The New York Times:

Charter Dynamic Course'

"WILLKIE Urges Republicans Plan A Program at Parley Convention" and this subhead: "Indiana Legislator Suggests Meeting for '48 to Eanble Amateur, Professional Leaders of Party to Charter Dynamic Course."

Republican veterans of a dozen political wars returning here read the Willkie advice with some amazement. One of them even quoted Shakespeare:

"They scoff at scars, who have never felt a wound."

Maybe they misread the piece. Indiana Rep. Willkie was only telling them what to do. He didn't add where they could go if they didn't like it.

Urging his 1948 professional-amateur Republican national convention for next year, the Rushville Navy veteran of World War II who holds degrees from Princeton, Harvard and Columbia universities, had this to say:

"There is a widespread theory that the Republican party lost the election through its failure to espouse sufficiently definite ideas and policies. Such a conference convention would give our leaders a chance to stand up and be counted where the people could see them."

Ready to Be Counted

He added harsher things. He even suggested that some of the Republicans don't want to "stand up and be counted." He didn't name names. Nor did his critics here want their names used for quotation. They are unanimous only about one thing. They are ready to be counted on Mr. Willkie's proposed conference. Counted out that is.

Whether it is good to begin young to try and grab the big prize would appear rather dubious from the facts of recent history. Take our own Hoosier statesman on the Democratic side—Paul V. McNutt. He always wanted to be President and set his sights on the White House at very early age. Instead the job went to Harry S. Truman who never dreamed of such a thing.

Two examples might be cited among the Republicans. First of course is Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. It's difficult to recall when he didn't want the Presidency, but not so difficult to predict his chances for another try at it in the future.

The second sample is Sen. Robert E. Taft of Ohio. He may still get a chance at it. He certainly has wanted to live at the White House, if not from the time he lived there with his father at least from the day he married Martha.

In his castigation of the conduct of the recent Dewey campaign, Mr. Willkie said the GOP lost this year "because it failed to excite the imagination of the American people."

'Still Believe in Santa Claus'

IT MAY BE a little late to be retelling post-election tales, but Horace Coats' comment was "the results prove that the American people still believe in Santa Claus." He is secretary to Sen. William E. Jenner (R. Ind.).

A Negro girl related here how her sister works at one of the "cliff-dwellers" establishments (old families with wealth, snobbery or both). The day after election she was serving breakfast for madam (who had been planning for weeks to throw parties for the Dewey Republicans).

"What happened?" the dowager asked her maid. "I just don't understand."

"You don't answered your own question," the servant quietly replied.

NOT ALL writers proved to be bad prophets regarding the Truman victory. The trouble was that those who were right just didn't get into print. Take 11-year-old Jim Pickett, son of the postmaster at Richmond, Ind. He attends Todd School at Woodstock, Ill., and the day before election wrote this to his Democratic dad:

"Tomorrow will be election day and by the time you get this letter we probably will have President Truman for President." He should have sent it to the papers.

Barbs—

A liberal Republican is one who thinks the party got left by being too right.

Nobody would suspect that the Kitty Hawk was the grandfather of the Hell Cat.

AGES ago the elephant was no bigger than a pig—and life was no circus then, either.

LOTS of people start things on a shoestring and wind up taking a good lacing.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS . . . By Marquis Childs

Probe of Oil Lobby Activity Proposed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27—The miserable, petty practice of Congressmen who compel their employees to kick back part of their salaries or who put names on the Congressional pay roll of those who perform no service should be exposed. Rep. J. Parcell Thomas, of New Jersey, is involved and now similar charges have been brought against Rep. Alvin O'Konski, of Wisconsin.

But this does seem petty, indeed, alongside the need for investigation of what may well be a scandal of major proportions. Ever since the middle of the summer rumors have persisted that the oil lobby would spend millions of dollars to defeat President Truman.

Their interest was in the vast wealth of tideland oil which they are now exploiting. President Truman has stood firm for keeping the oil in the tidal waters under Federal jurisdiction. He has been backed by national defense chiefs who have argued the acute necessity for military reserves.

Essential to Oppose Truman

ON THE OTHER hand, the Republican platform called for turning over the tideland resources to the states. Therefore, it was essential to major oil interests to seek Mr. Truman's defeat.

How was this to be done? One way was to underwrite a revolt in the states of the normally solid South.

In August, hints came from the Democratic National Committee that oil interests in Texas were providing unlimited funds for the Dixiecrat revolt.

The report of expenditures by the Dixiecrat party shows nothing out of the way with respect to oil. But such reports, and this is true not merely of the Dixiecrats, have tended to encroach more and more on the realm of fiction.

Not Costly Campaign

COMPARATIVELY at least, the Dixiecrat campaign was not a costly one. There were many sources of revenue, including the large utility companies. Perhaps the oil interest did not have to come through with any big amounts. The persistent rumors may be baseless.

But we have a right to know all that can possibly be known.

All I Know Is What I Read in the Papers



OUR TOWN . . . By Anton Scherer

Heads of 15 Indiana Governors Will Disappear From Circle

INASMUCH as nobody shows any inclination to tackle the job, it behoves me to dedicate this solemn Sunday to what the French call a "catalogue raisonné" designed to deal with the sculptured human heads on the facades of Hotel English. It won't be long now until the housereckers begin their ghoulish task, leaving us nothing more substantial than a memory.

Fifteen of the heads are portraits of early Governors of Indiana. As for the rest, they represent hand-picked examples of a goodly number of generations of the English family, starting with the great-grandfather of William H. (for Hayden) English, the builder of the historic hotel, and running in a direct line to, and including, Mrs. Rosalind English Parsons, daughter of William E. (son of William H.) English.

Beginning at the farthest point west (on Market St.) the Governors' Gallery starts with the portrait of Claude Matthews (22d Gov.). Thence by extension in an easterly direction following the subtle curve of the Circle are the portraits of Thomas Posey (third Gov. of Indiana Territory); Oliver P. Morton (Civil War Gov. 1861-67); William Henry Harrison (first Gov. of Indiana Territory and ninth Pres. U. S. A.); Thomas A. Hendricks (16th Gov. and V. P. of U. S. A.); Abram A. Hammond (the Lieut. Gov. who became the 12th on the death of Gov. Willard); Jonathan Jennings (first Gov.); Ratiff Boon (second Gov.); James Brown Ray (fourth Gov.); Noah Noble (fifth Gov.); David Wallace (sixth Gov.); Samuel Bigger (seventh Gov.); James Whitcomb (eighth Gov.); Joseph A. Wright (tenth Gov.), and George Rogers Clark (first Military Gov. of the Northwest Territory).

Christened Rosalind. Subsequently she married Stewart Parsons. And it is Mrs. Parsons' sculptured head that completes the ancestral portrait gallery on the Circle.

Two Building Operations

NOW FOR the Governors' Gallery (mind you, this is an imposed job not to my liking). This set of heads is of later vintage—say some 20 years or more. It's explained by the fact that Hotel English represents two distinct building operations. The sculptured family tree, for instance, is part and parcel of the original unit. If she went downtown on Thursday, the teenagers were coming home from school and certainly not there to show off. It so happens sport socks are most conservative for school. You certainly can't expect us to wear hose and good shoes to school; our allowances won't allow it. Saddle oxfords have low heels and are very comfortable for school! It's a shame all of us haven't the money to spend at a beauty shop a couple times a week. We can't all be rich.

Tell Mrs. Bengal for me the next time she's in town to stay over Sunday and watch us strut our stuff. Because we do have it!

P. S.: Does she remember when she was 17?

Hoosier Forum

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

Keep letters 200 words or less on any subject with which you are familiar. Some letters used will be edited but content will be preserved, for here the People Speak in Freedom.

'Pull Together for Cleanup'

By Merritt V. Reed, 1944 Ludlow St.

In reply to E. P. Robinson regarding trash and filth on Southeastern Ave.

Trash on our boulevards and main routes into Indianapolis was not all thrown there by people living in Indianapolis, but by suburbanites who do not have a collection service. On their way to work here in town they fill a sack with the day's collection of empty cans, garbage and waste and toss it out the car window.

You surely do have a legitimate complaint and I believe that if you could get the license number of the car of anyone who litters our streets and call Tony Malo, our street commissioner, he would see that they were prosecuted.

Now for my complaint, and I believe it should be yours, too. You live between Hawthorne yards and Beech Grove shops and the Big Four yards. You surely get your share of dirt and smoke. Wouldn't you like to get that cleaned up, too. Let's all pull together. If we work on both of these conditions and can get help from others like us, we can, I'm sure, make it so hot in the City Hall that we are bound to get action.

Let's all pull together and some day maybe this city will again be known as "The City Beautiful."

'Join Us and Sweat'

By an Ex-G. I.

In reply to Mrs. J. D. D., Indianapolis—You call practical necessities a luxury. For centuries the farmer has been pushed around by people who like high wages for themselves, but low cost on everything except society.

Take off the price support; you'll have a low cost of food for a while, but your dollar devalues, your wages soon decrease, and then the breadwinner pays taxes, too, the same as you do, except more because of the larger plots of ground.

The farmer pays taxes, too, the same as you do, except more because of the larger plots of ground, the immensity of which is up to keep the machinery and land.

All of the country school children I know pay for their meals just the same as town children.

I don't know about the betterment of rural homes except for what the owners do. My wife and I are living with in-laws. No money to build—no money to buy—no houses for rent.

It seems the tobacco tax would be fine for paying a bonus. I'm a veteran and I smoke.

As for the Farm Bureau, I think we need more organizations of this kind. Why don't you investigate and find out what it really is about?