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Lobbyists and the Legislature

SO far 24 lobbyists have registered for activity in the legislature and many more will be listed officially before the session ends in March.

Many of these lobbyists are sincere and open in their activities against some bills and in favor of others. They provide valuable information, facts and figures, that legislators don't have the time nor the facilities to collect for themselves.

ON the other hand, some of the more skillful lobbyists, and there are many, can throw enough smoke screens around to make legislators forget they are there to pass laws for the benefit of all the people and not for a few cliques with enough cash to hire lobbyists.

We hope that all of the 149 legislators passing laws during the next two months will not forget that the taxpayers are shelling out \$100,000 for their salaries and other expenses to pass laws for the benefit of all the people.

Brake and Accelerator

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S economic report confirms our impression that, like the rest of us, he doesn't know whether inflation or deflation is now the greater menace.

He points out that some prices have turned down, but that dangerous forces are tending to push others higher. Besides, a sharp, uneven price fall could cause trouble as serious as a sharp, uneven climb.

THE economic report undertakes to convince Congress that just such a range of measures would be provided by the long and sweeping "fair deal" program advocated in the earlier State of the Union message.

If Mr. Truman is given such great powers as that program requests, the American people well may pray that infinite wisdom will guide his driving of the nation's economic machine. For one human error of judgment—one man's foot shoved down on the wrong pedal—could land 148,000,000 passengers in a smashup.

THE economic report, we're glad to say, deals with two important matters not mentioned in the previous message. Mr. Truman speaks of "careful limitation of federal expenditures," in addition to higher taxes, as necessary to accumulation of a budget surplus, and promises to discuss money-saving in next week's budget message.

And he comes out for repeal of the federal margarine taxes, as promised by the Democratic platform.

Democratic Blunder

WE praised Speaker Rayburn and Chairman Connally of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the other day for recommitting the Democratic Congress to continuance of bipartisan foreign policy. Maybe we were premature.

Chairman Connally's colleagues in the Democratic management have now decreed that his committee shall be apportioned 8 to 5 between majority and minority, instead of the 7-to-6 ratio granted by Republican leaders in the last Congress.

Sen. Vandenberg, the outgoing Republican chairman, charges that this is a partisan act. We agree. It may imperil the bipartisan policy, as he fears, unless the Republicans are less petty than the Democratic leaders have proved to be.

Remembering, however, the statesmanship of Sen. Vandenberg in leading the committee to unanimous bipartisan decisions, we hope he now will ignore the Democratic affront in the interest of a higher patriotism.

Another Comrade on the Spot

THE British magazine News Review has put the finger on Secret Police Chief Lavrenti P. Beria as one of the men President Truman had in mind when he said certain Soviet leaders were anxious to come to an understanding with us.

In addition to being head of the political police, Mr. Beria is a member of the Politburo and a deputy premier of the Soviet Union.

Crediting its report on Mr. Beria's new role as peace-maker to "Paris sources," the British magazine also says that according to the same informants, the Soviet police chief is in "secret alliance" with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, who has been denounced by the Cominform.

There must be somebody in Paris who wants to see Comrade Beria exiled to the Siberian salt mines.

It's Little Enough to Ask

AT the New Year only one Paris newspaper devoted an editorial to a progress report on European aid. Three others carried a total of slightly more than a column on it. The rest, and they are many, had nothing. That is bad, but apparently it is not entirely the fault of the press.

The European Council for the Marshall Plan has worked in almost total secrecy. Except for American publications and broadcasts, press and public know little of ERP's operations beyond what they see. So, on top of all else they must do, it seems vitally necessary that America's ERP administrators prod their European colleagues into giving full publicity to American aid and their use of it.

DEAR BOSS . . . By Dan Kidney

Hoosiers Given House Lessons

Freshmen in Congress Put Through Paces

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Dear Boss: There are 262 Democratic Congressmen in the 81st Congress and seven of them are from Indiana.

Only one of the seven, Rep. Ray Madden of Gary, is a holdover. So the task of teaching the six Hoosier freshmen in his party the facts of their Washington political life has been taken over by him.

When the House is not in session, the majority men can usually be found huddling in Mr. Madden's office. They discuss such matters as committee assignments and other House working arrangements, but underneath it all is the idea of learning to play that great game of House politics.

Just to impress the newcomers with the importance of saying "aye" when party lines are drawn on administration measures, Mr. Madden took the freshmen over for a private briefing with Speaker Sam Rayburn (D. Tex.). The wise old Texan gave each man a hearty handshake and congratulated Indiana voters for having the good sense to send Democrats here this year.

Follow the Leader

IN THE old New Deal days, Rep. Charles A. Halleck (R. Ind.) used to call the follow-the-leader business on the Democratic side a "rubber-stamp-Congress." When the GOP took over the 80th Congress and he became majority leader, Mr. Halleck outshone the Democrats in demanding what he called "party discipline."

With the exception of former Rep. Charles M. La Follette of Evansville, the Hoosier Republicans usually followed Mr. Halleck's leadership in a manner which well might have been termed "rubber-stamp" but Mr. Halleck wasn't using the term at that time. It is quite likely he will pick it up again. Then Mr. Madden will say that "these men were elected as Democrats and they are going to go along with our great leader—President Truman."

Reactions of Reps. James E. Noland, Bloomington; Winfield K. Denton, Evansville; Thurman C. Crook, South Bend; Edward H. Kruse Jr., Ft. Wayne; John R. Walsh, Anderson, and Andrew Jacobs, Indianapolis, to the state of the union message indicated that these Democratic freshmen from Indiana are quite likely to follow Mr. Madden's hopes.

Mr. Jacobs, however, is an independent fellow and later may turn out to be an Indianapolis Charley La Follette on the Democratic side. We shall see.

Given Publicity

BEING a woman may be somewhat of a handicap in politics at times, but when it comes to getting your picture in the papers it is quite a help.

Since her advent here, Mrs. Cecil M. Harden, Covington, the only freshman Republican from Indiana, has had her picture in at least one of the four Washington papers almost daily.

She was one of the seven out of nine women in Congress who attended a luncheon given by Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers (R. Mass.) and they were all in the pictures.

Mrs. Harden also was given the full treatment by Mary Van Rensselaer Thayer in her column in the Washington Post. Here is a Thayer sample:

"Cecil Harden is short, brunet, pretty. She center-panels her hair, dimples in a smile, showing toothpaste advertising teeth. For her first joint session she wore a black suit, frilled sheer blouse, her Persian-banded jacket enlivened with a red rose worn in a tiny hair vase."

Grandma Is Favorite Role

"MRS. HARDEN wears nice high heels, slimy stockings and is exceedingly feminine. Her favorite role is that of grandma."

A column of this and men in politics can feel compensated, without their pictures in the papers.

Toney E. Flack, publisher of the Messenger, a West Side weekly in Indianapolis, came down here to watch Mr. Jacobs take the oath and was host to the Indiana Democrats at a luncheon at the Raleigh Hotel.

Among those present was Judge John W. Kern of the U. S. Tax Court, son of the late Sen. Kern and himself one-time Mayor of Indianapolis. Mr. Kern's 12-year term on the court expires in 1950. He expects to be reappointed.

Barbs—

ANY time that a day seems to drag you can make up your mind that you haven't enough to do.

THE amount of paving going on indicates that now is the time to see America worst.

"DO Your Christmas Shopping Early" is what brings out the great mob of women who haven't the slightest idea yet what they want to buy.

THE average school kid figures his daily dozen exercises are all hands.

IF every nose stuck into other people's business were snipped off, wouldn't we be a funny-looking race?

WORLD AFFAIRS . . . By William Philip Simms

Tragedy of Europe

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The tragedy of Western Europe today is the lack of understanding and co-operation between Britain and France. It could easily wreck the European Recovery Program and nullify the multi-billion-dollar sacrifice by American taxpayers.

This is not to say British-French relations are strained; or that Europe's two great democracies are no longer friends. But they just don't seem able to pull together.

It could prove fatal to both. It might well be the horseshoe nail for want of which the present battle between Russia and the democracies could be lost to the West.

What makes it all the more alarming is that it is nothing new. Britain and France have been going their separate ways since the end of World War I and the death of the old entente cordiale.

No Lesson Learned

THUS Hitler got his start. Otherwise, he never would have dared occupy the Rhineland in 1936, scrap the Treaty of Versailles and rearm Germany. And there would not have been World War II or the present world upheaval.

Yet the lesson has gone unlearned. At least Britain has learned nothing from it. For France, all along, has been more responsive to the idea of renewed ties than her neighbor across the channel.

Again and again, during the fateful period between the two world wars, she sounded out Britain regarding moves to check the German war party, only to be rebuffed. France was warned not to expect help if she got into trouble across the Rhine.

Today there is the same lack of teamwork. It is imperiling ERP, Western Union, the Atlantic Pact and all that these stand for. Britain must bear most of the blame. She was not invaded and, as the Manchester Guardian, observes, "has had no legacy of hatred and mistrust in the shape of political trials," and no strong Communist Party dedicated to her destruction.

Standing

FRANCE today stands at the crossroads. She is living largely on capital—consuming wealth faster than she produces it. Yet, paradoxically, production during the first half of 1948 was greater than in 1938.

The London Economist says "there is nothing wrong (with France) that a short period of firm, honest and courageous government could not easily set right." It adds that her problems are political rather than economic.

As far as it goes this is true. But it is not the whole truth. It would be fairer perhaps to say that there is nothing the matter with France that confidence won't cure. That is where Britain could be of tremendous help. The knowledge that Britain

The Hand of Friendship



OUR TOWN . . . By Anton Scherrer

City Linked to Old Arctic Lore

FIFTY-ONE years ago, come tomorrow, the temperature hovered around zero. On that morning, Sgt. Julius R. Frederick left his home (104 Middle Drive, Woodruff Place) and walked all the way to the Bates House without wearing an overcoat to protect him from the frigid blast of an Indianapolis winter.

Arriving there (with his vest unbuttoned), he asked to see Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, a citizen of Norway.

Noting that it was only 9 o'clock, the hotel clerk ventured the opinion that Sgt. Frederick would have to wait at least another hour to see Dr. Nansen. The doctor, he went on to explain, hadn't gone to bed until 10 o'clock and needed 12 hours sleep to put him in the proper frame of mind to receive unannounced visitors.

The hotel clerk proved to be right, for it wasn't until 10:30 that morning when the two men sat down together to have a long heart-to-heart talk.

It was the most natural thing in the world that Sgt. Frederick should want to look up Dr. Nansen. Both men, each in his own way, had tried to find the North Pole. Dr. Nansen got within 200 miles of it—latitude 86 degrees, 14 minutes, to be exact. As for Sgt. Frederick, he had reached latitude 83-24.

An All-Time Record

SGT. FREDERICK had turned the trick almost 15 years prior to the memorable meeting of the two Arctic explorers at the Bates House. It was the all-time record until Dr. Nansen snatched it away from him in 1895.

I haven't the least idea what the two men talked about when they got together. Chances are, though, that somewhere in the conversation Sgt. Frederick found the proper opening to apprise Dr. Nansen of his participation in the Greely expedition which set out to explore the Polar region as early as 1881. Moreover, that he had been a member of the detailed party, led by Lt. Lockwood, which achieved the farthest point north on that occasion and, indeed, up until the time Dr. Nansen started the world with his performance.

Strangely enough, Col. Greely wasn't with the detailed party which hit latitude 83 degrees, 24 minutes. He remained in charge of headquarters stationed at Ft. Conger on Grinnell Land west of Greenland. Indeed, it was his hard luck to get no farther north than latitude 81 degrees, 44 minutes which, for irony, can't be matched by anything in more temperate zones.

Of the 25 men who started out with Col. Greely, only seven returned intact. Sgt. Julius

R. Frederick of Indianapolis lived to tell the tale.

As for Dr. Nansen, he told his story at the Grand Opera House that night. His audience was packed with the intelligentsia of Indianapolis, including the Literary Club which turned up in a body led by its president, Dr. Albert Brayton. It was the first time in history that the Indianapolis Literary Club permitted anything to interfere with its Monday night meetings. It never happened again. And from the looks of things today, it never will.

Search for Drifting Ship

IN THE course of his lecture, Dr. Nansen said his Polar trip was inspired by the fact that for a period of three years (in the late Eighties), a number of articles belonging to the "Jeannette," an Arctic expedition vessel lost in 1881, had drifted from Bering Strait across the Polar region to Greenland. And the more he thought about it, the more firmly he became convinced that a boat carrying the Polar ice in the neighborhood of the New Siberian Islands might reasonably be drifted by a current over the Pole and, eventually, come out on the east side of Greenland.

Dr. Nansen picked the year 1893 to substantiate his hunch. He sailed on board the "Fram," a steamer specially constructed for the purpose. After being carried to latitude 83 degrees, 59 minutes—just about the point reached by Sgt. Frederick a decade earlier—Dr. Nansen left the boat and with a single companion, Lt. Johansen, traveled on ice by way of sledges, dogs and kayaks. Thus on Apr. 8, 1896, he reached lat. 86-14, the farthest north point touched by human feet up to that time—a performance which automatically (and immediately) made him the highest-priced lecturer in the world, and indeed, the only one ever to impress the Indianapolis Literary Club.

Refused Professor Post

DURING Dr. Nansen's stay in Indianapolis, it also leaked out that, once upon a time, he was offered a job in Indiana University. That was back in 1885 when President David Starr Jordan invited him to be the professor of zoology. He almost accepted, he said. The only reason he didn't was because of Bloomington's location. It wasn't near enough to the North Pole, which doesn't necessarily mean that it wasn't frigid enough.

The only other thing I know about Dr. Nansen is the historic fact that he picked up a cold in Indianapolis. In the three years he spent in the Arctic, he never experienced a cold—not even a sniffle. He attributed it to the microbes in the air around here. And from that day to this, nobody has bothered to learn more about the origin of an Indianapolis cold.

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.

'Intolerable Practices'

By I. G. Benton Jr., 315 W. 28th St.

It might interest the majority of real Americans in this town to know that the southern traditions are rapidly becoming more evident in our own Indianapolis.

The unrepresentable verity that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, is being graphically proven daily in most of our public restaurants and dining establishments. In many instances, even after being presented with tangible evidence of the illegality of their discriminatory practices, the managers and personnel of these public enterprises have refused to comply with the letter or the spirit of the law.

These discriminatory and prejudicial practices are not only extremely ridiculous but unnecessarily embarrassing to numerous persons of all racial classifications who daily pass through our town.

These temporary visitors to Indianapolis quite often serve as influential ambassadors to other parts of the state and nation, and undoubtedly express their opinions of our city and the people in it in terms of what they have seen and experienced here.

Contrary to the assumptions of several managers of public establishments in this city, the majority of citizens have adjusted themselves exceedingly well to the presence of all other racial and religious groups, wherever they have come into contact with them. No more admirable example of democracy in practice can be offered than that exhibited by our largest and most popular theaters in this city.

The Chamber of Commerce can certainly recognize the impediment to the growth and prestige of this city that these intolerable practices represent.

'Falling for Red Bait'

By Edward F. Maddox, City.

The strategy of the Reds, both Socialists and Communists, is to agitate and propagandize public opinion into accepting and demanding socialist legislative reforms and creating such public pressure for these socialist measures that the Democrats or Republicans, or both parties, will adopt the Red ideas as their own in order to win votes. And the suckers bite!

We are in the stage, now, when both the Democrats and Republicans are falling for the Red bait. The labor unions also fall for the Communist intrigue. Wake up, our Americans! The Socialist-Communist line is, of course, to legislate and tax the capitalist system of private ownership of property out of existence. So we have a continuous radical attack on the profit motive.

The Reds are riding high today. The President and Congress had better reconsider some of their rash promises of the campaign.

'Be Kind of Heart'

By J. E. Werner

Some day there will be love and peace for all. A strong love and a strong peace that none can break.

It will be the coming of a new age, and pray God that it be this day and this age.

But in this fight the love will come first. Then through that love you will see the peace. It is the old story of nature—the heart comes first. For I believe if the heart can conceive, then the mind can believe. That's why I direct this to all who will read. Be kind of heart and good will, and the peace that is justly due cannot help but prevail.

What Others Say—

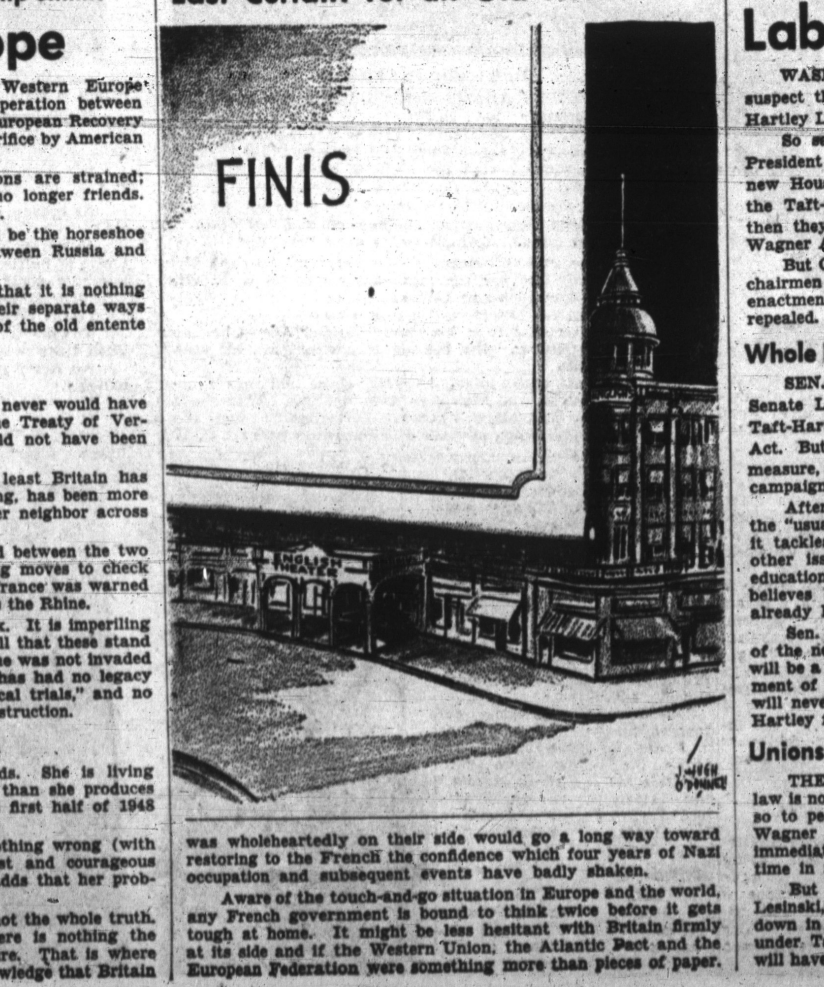
IT (the recent debate in the British Parliament on nationalization of Great Britain's steel industry) was interesting because it's something we probably will have to consider in our own country in five years. I deplore it, but we can as well face the fact that the trend is in that direction.—Rep. Katherine St. George (R.) of New York.

OUR main objective is to show any potential enemy that we are not lying down and that the nations of Western Europe are going to act together against any aggression.—Air Chief Marshal Sir James Robb, commander-in-chief of the Western European Air Force.

WE contend that the political representatives and institutions of Israel can speak for its own citizens only and can in no way speak for or represent those who are Americans of Jewish faith.—Leasing J. Rosenwald, president of the American Council for Judaism.

THE smaller nations of the world want strength in the hands of a nation that, they believe, does not now have aggressive instincts and that is capable of exercising self-control.—John Foster Dulles.

Last Curtain for an Old Friend



was wholeheartedly on their side would go a long way toward restoring to the French the confidence which four years of Nazi occupation and subsequent events have badly shaken.

Aware of the touch-and-go situation in Europe and the world, any French government is bound to think twice before it gets tough at home. It might be less hesitant with Britain firmly at its side and if the Western Union, the Atlantic Pact and the European Federation were something more than pieces of paper.

TAFT-HARTLEY REPEAL . . . By Fred W. Perkins

Labor Fears Delay

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Union leaders are beginning to suspect they're getting the run-around in repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law—that is, in the way they want it repealed.

So said one union lobbyist at the Capitol, after studying President Truman's message and learning the programs of the new House and Senate Labor Committees. The unions want the Taft-Hartley Act repealed, the Wagner Act restored and then they would be willing to talk about amendments to the Wagner Act.

But Congress isn't going to do it that way, according to the chairmen of the two committees having jurisdiction. Both favor enactment of an entirely new labor law before Taft-Hartley is repealed. That may take several months.

Whole New Labor Law

SEN. ELBERT D. THOMAS (D. Utah), chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, is supporting a bill for immediate Taft-Hartley repeal and immediate substitution of the Wagner Act. But, he explained, he doesn't expect the Senate to pass this measure, and he will make this gesture only because of his party's campaign promises.

After that, Sen. Thomas said, his committee will proceed in the "usual orderly way" to work out a new labor law. Before it tackles that job, he added, it will dispose of a half dozen other issues, including health insurance and federal aid to education. They precede the labor subject because Mr. Thomas believes his committee should work first on subjects it has already handled.

Sen. Thomas agrees with Chairman John L. Smith (D. Mich.) of the new House Labor Committee that the eventual outcome will be a "package" embracing repeal of Taft-Hartley and enactment of a new law. Under this procedure the old Wagner Act will never be restored. The new law may contain some Taft-Hartley features.

Unions Not Relieved

THE controversy over the method of getting a new labor law in not academic to the union leaders, although it may appear so to people not acquainted with legislative processes. If the Wagner Act should be restored, the unions would be relieved immediately of Taft-Hartley restrictions, and could take their time in agreeing to Wagner Act amendments.

But under the plan favored by both Messrs. Thomas and Smith, and also by House Speaker Rayburn—and not knocked down in the Truman message—the unions will have to operate under Taft-Hartley until the new law is completed, and they will have less bargaining power in regard to the new law's terms.

Cor

IF THE bubble had burst, it would have been a "wing and a prayer." Now all the bubble has done is give another shove. The bubble is getting on 10 and it will spring state finances. For Mr. Sch... And that's bad. On Jan. 4, made a very expensive "in the Republican... Believing, time, that...

Washing State Over Under

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