

Owned and published daily by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214 W. Maryland St. Post Office No. 1, Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, NEA Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Price in Marion County, 5 cents a copy for daily or Sunday; delivered by carrier daily and Sunday, 30¢ a week, daily only, 50¢ a week, Sunday only, 25¢ a week. Mail rates in Indiana, daily only, \$2.00; all other states, U. S. possessions, Canada and Mexico, daily, \$2.50 a month, Sunday, 30¢ a copy.

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Indiana's Part in Preparedness

PROGRAMS will be sponsored throughout Indiana the next 10 days by the Reserve Officers Association in observance of National Security Week. The purpose is to inform the public concerning the need for preparedness in advance to meet any future emergencies and reduce the dangers of war.

The Indiana Department of the Association will warn citizens this week: "Unless we are able to build and provide a security force that can neutralize the effect of a sudden attack, we would receive such a crippling blow that it might mean our defeat or a long, costly and drawn-out conflict."

The gravity of this warning was graphically illustrated in the infamous sneak attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

The necessity for sufficient national preparedness to prevent any such disaster in the future has become more apparent since the end of World War II.

It is a subject more citizens should think about during these months of uncertainty in our relations with other peoples of the world.

No Time to Raise Taxes

SEN. GEORGE and Rep. Doughton, chairmen of the two taxing committees of Congress, talk common sense when they say this is no time to start legislative new taxes.

On advice of his economic planners, President Truman last month asked for immediate tax boosts on corporations, middle-and-upper-bracket incomes, and payrolls. The idea was that inflation demanded quick action of that kind.

What has happened to commodity prices in the last few days changes the picture. The planners will say inflation is a serious threat. But Congress now is worrying more about deflation—about how to put floors under prices rather than ceilings over them.

Corporate security prices took no such plunge as the commodity markets. One simple reason is that the stock market never got so inflated. For a long time, that sensitive index to the investing public's confidence has been running a slow pulse.

This week the New York Stock Exchange tables—the "big board," not the curb or the over-the-counter market—listed 214 stocks on which dividends at current rates would return 10 per cent or more of their current prices. Even "blue chip" stocks show a dividend-to-price ratio of 6 per cent or better. And that at a time when many corporations are said to be paying out in dividends only about one-third of their earnings.

THE Wall Street Journal reports one private survey as listing 21 corporations whose shares are selling for less than a per-share division of their working capital. In other words, the cash these corporations have in banks, if divided among the owners of their stocks, would give each stockholder more than the current price of his securities, and the stockholders would still own the physical plants.

For an economic system which depends for its vigor and growth on risk enterprise and venture capital, that's a pretty sick situation.

It means, plainly, that a great many people with capital are unwilling to venture it, even on the stocks of established enterprises with high earnings, let alone on new enterprises or expansion of old ones.

One reason for this unwillingness is that taxes are already very high. A more important reason is uncertainty as to how much higher taxes—federal, state and local—may be going. As former Sen. La Follette once said, business can adjust itself to progressive legislation but not to uncertainty.

Legislative moves to raise taxes now would be likely to produce only more uncertainty and, therefore, smaller business volume and less federal revenue. What is needed at this time is determined legislative action to reduce the cost of government.

This is not a time to raise taxes and thereby endanger the present flow of revenue.

Where Hoover and Truman Agree

THE Hoover Commission's first report to Congress proposes to consolidate some 65 federal agencies into about one-third that number, thus promoting efficiency and saving the taxpayers much money.

Other reports will propose additional government reorganization plans. And objections will be raised against each proposal.

Indeed, as the first report came out, Congress was being swamped with letters and telegrams opposing any change that would take from the Army engineers the civil functions of flood control and similar work.

Herbert Hoover, in our opinion, is correct when he says that one administrative agency's exemption from reorganization would be a precedent for ultimate defeat of all reorganization plans.

THE bipartisan commission he heads was authorized by Congress and has the strong support of President Truman. Its reports were prepared after long and careful study by groups of well-qualified experts in the various fields of government activity. They offer the best and probably the only hope for eliminating waste and duplication of effort in the vast and helter-skelter federal bureaucracy, and for promoting genuine economy.

Of course, the tax-payers will find reasons for objecting to change that affect their agencies. But if their objections prevail, there will be no real reorganization, no economy, no gain of efficiency.

Mr. Truman and Mr. Hoover know more than any other men now living about the urgent need for better organization of the government's executive branch. The presumption is overwhelmingly strong that any plan they agree on ought to be adopted.

DEAR BOSS . . . By Dan Kidney

GOP Accord on Program Sought

Jenner Titled Indiana 'Boss'; Offers Three-Point Remedy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—Dear Boss—Come the next campaign, the Republican Party is going to stand for something more than just election.

Such is the conclusion one reaches from reading the reams of "Lincoln Day" addresses which flooded the capitol press galleries this week. Ranging all the way from Gov. Thomas E. Dewey down to Sen. Homer E. Capehart, all the GOP title holders are determined that being a Republican must mean something. They don't agree on just what.

According to friends of Sen. William E. Jenner, he is now the "boss" of the Republican Party in Indiana. They base this on the fact that the crowd which checked him out of the gubernatorial nomination felt that he was their faces at the polls last fall. Now the Jenner men claim all but seven out of the 22 seats on the Republican state committee.

He offered a three-point program:

ONE: At least 90 per cent parity for the American farmer.

TWO: A parity tariff to guarantee the American farmer and the American workman against an eventual influx of foreign products which would undersell American farm products and manufactured goods.

THREE: Cessation of gifts and grants of American money and machinery to foreign nations thus guaranteeing support payments to agriculture.

Skeptical of Remedy

TRANSLATING this triple play into legislation would mean the old Smoot-Hawley high tariff law, plus farm parity payments and a new isolationism. Those who survived the great depression of the 1930's may well express some skepticism about Dr. Jenner's great remedy. They can recall his noted predecessor, the late Sen. James E. Watson, urging the Smoot-Hawley bill's passage with the prediction that the USA then would see "the greatest era of prosperity the world ever has known." Instead the "greatest depression" ensued.

Point three of Sen. Jenner's program is the same specific which the Republicans prescribed after World War I and which many believe led directly to World War II, viz., failure of the United States to assume its world responsibilities after shifting from the position of debtor to that of a creditor nation. Now Uncle Sam has even greater need for staying in the game, they say. For his hard money is the only one of value in the whole free world.

Opposite to GOP Platform

DESPITE these objections, Sen. Jenner does have a program and it is in opposition to that espoused by the Democrats also. It is in opposition to the Republican national platform of 1948. It was squarely on that platform that Gov. Dewey urged his colleagues to stand when he made his national Lincoln Day speech here Tuesday night. In fact he told them to stand on the platform or get out of the party. Sen. Jenner wasn't there. His senior colleague, Sen. Capehart, was on hand, however, and afterward complained that Mr. Dewey didn't do justice to the record of the Republican 80th Congress.

Sen. Capehart is back in Indiana making his own Lincoln Day speeches. According to the handouts here he is trying to make up for that deficit. At Goshen he said:

'The Golden Years'

"ECONOMIC signs now point to the possibility that we will soon be calling the years 1947 and 1948, when we had a Republican Congress, the golden years of prosperity with full employment at the highest wages, highest farm prices and the greatest business income in history."

The greatest believer in the 80th Congress, however, is Rep. Charles A. Halleck. He also is back in the state making Lincoln Day speeches and missed the Dewey dinner. As majority leader in that Congress, Mr. Halleck had a great deal to do with passing the tax cut, Taft-Hartley and other Republican Party measures.

Although he remains in the House, he pulls more weight in Congress than the Senator. He was referred to the 20,000 votes which, in opinion, might choke on Mr. Jenner's three-pronged program. In fact he may not subscribe to the idea that Bill is boss.

NATIONAL POLITICS . . . By Marquis Childs

Illness of the GOP

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—So many doctors are gathered about the Republican bedside that even if physical health should return, the pale, wan patient seems likely to develop an invalid's psychology. They all agree, these doctors, in their general diagnosis.

What Gov. Thomas E. Dewey told the polite assemblage of diners in the Mayflower Hotel ballroom was merely confirmation of what has been obvious for a long time. The sick party has a split personality, torn between a loving past and a future that many in the party see as bleak and unremittably hostile.

The gray heads, the silver heads, the bald heads in the Mayflower ballroom held cherished memories of that warm and happy past. The faithful reserved their applause, for the most part, for Gov. Dewey's ringing declaration that the Republican Party would never try to out-promise the Democratic Party.

Narrow Vote Margin

BUT while the doctors agree, they still tend to put a gloss of optimism over the deep-seated nature of the illness. Thus, Gov. Dewey referred to the 20,000 votes which, if they had been shifted to the Republican side in three states, would have changed the outcome.

This optimism ignores the fact that if it had not been for Henry Wallace and the Dixiecrats, the Truman victory would have been of landslide proportions. The shift of only a small number of Wallace voters would have given the President New York's 47 electoral votes.

The Democrats won in spite of losses on both flanks and in spite of a candidate who was generally rated ineffectual and unpopular. That is the overwhelming fact looming in the background of every Republican huddle.

Where the doctors falter is in their prescriptions. They are so negative, so cautious, so highly generalized.

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, came closer than Gov. Dewey to something tangible when she proposed a new kind of Republican policy committee. It would be composed of three Republican Senators (with the selection emphasizing the "young Turk" independents), three Republican House members, three Republican governors and two members of the GOP national committee.

Chinese Issue

IT WAS somewhat surprising to find Gov. Dewey in his oft-candid speech reverting to the old device of beating the administration for failure in China. This was at the moment in history when the Chinese Communist armies were riding into Peking on motorized equipment from the U. S. A. and with arms from the U. S. A. that they had taken with scarcely a struggle from the demoralized armies of Chiang Kai-shek.

Gov. Dewey offered no prescription for China, although you gathered that he might have favored greater and continuing aid. That was true on the New York governor's campaign trail—you could never find out what the Republicans would do about China if they got in.

Gov. Dewey belabored the Truman administration for its unwieldy, top-heavy, costly bureaucracy—and how familiar that

The Clouded Crystal Ball



OUR TOWN . . . By Anton Scherrer

A Tribute to St. Valentine

OF ALL PEOPLE, it remained for Charles Lamb, a confirmed bachelor and incorrigible bibber of gin-and-water to hand St. Valentine the prettiest tribute—a performance as paradoxical as any to confound mankind.

Moreover, he was the first to nurse the notion and enunciate the doctrine that it is "good to love the unknown."

"All Valentines are not foolish," he said, "and I shall not easily forget those, my kind friend (if I may have leave to call you so) E. B."

E. B. (now identified as Edward Burney) lived opposite a young maiden, whom he had often seen, unseen, from his parlor window in C-e Street. She was all joyousness and innocence, and just of an age to enjoy receiving a Valentine, and just of a temper to bear the disappointment of missing one with good humor. "E. B. is an artist of no common powers; in the fancy parts of designing, perhaps inferior to none; his name is known at the bottom of many a well-executed vignette in the way of his profession, but no further; for E. B. is modest, and the world meets nobody half-way."

'Repay a Favour'

"E. B. MEDITATED how he could repay this young maiden for many a favour which she had done him unknown; for when a kindly face greets us, though but passing by, and we never know us again, nor we it, we should feel it as an obligation; and E. B. did."

"This good artist set himself at work to please the maiden. It was just before Valentine's Day three years since (circa 1823, my profane interjection). He wrought, unseen and unsuspected, a wondrous work. We need not say it was on the finest gilt paper with borders—full, not of common hearts and heartless allegory, but all the prettiest stories of love from Ovid, and older poets than Ovid (for E. B. is a scholar)."

"There was Pyramus and Thisbe, and be sure Dido was not forgot, nor Hero and Leander, and swans more than sang in Cayster, with mottoes and fanciful devices, such as besemmed—a work in short of magic. Iris dipt the wood."

"This on Valentine's Eve he commended to the all-swallowing indiscriminate office—(ignoble trust)—of the common post; but the humble medium did its duty and from his watchful stand, the next morning, he saw the cheerful messenger knock, and by and by the

precious charge delivered. He saw, unseen, the happy girl unfold the Valentine, dance about, clap her hands, as one after one the pretty emblems unfolded themselves.

"She danced about, not with light love, or foolish expectations, for she had no lover; or, if she had, none she knew that could have created those bright images which delighted her. It was more, like some fairy present; a God-send, as our familiarly pious ancestors termed a benefit received, where the benefactor was unknown. It would do her no harm. It would do her good forever after. It is good to love the unknown."

Delivered to Wrong Girl

I HAVE festooned today's piece with Charles Lamb's lovely lines, for I, too, recall an artist whose behavior on Valentine's Day was not unlike that of E. B. With this technical difference, however: Instead of commending his home-made tribute to the "all-swallowing indiscriminate office of the common post," he entrusted its delivery to an irresponsible boy of the neighborhood. By one of those curious quirks of fate for which, only too often, Cupid is responsible, the boy delivered the Valentine not to the girl for whom it was designed, but to the damsel living next door.

I happen to remember everything connected with the miscarriage, for I was the kid who delivered the Valentine. The artist who had entrusted me with the precious message was raving mad (I learned later) when from his window he saw me entering the wrong house. However, all's well that ends well. Eventually, the love-sick artist married the girl who didn't get the Valentine; thus proving again, if further proof is necessary, that the girl who reaps the reward isn't always the one who gets the Valentine designed for her.

Good to Love Unknown

NONETHELESS, Charles Lamb's tender message that it is good to love the unknown still holds good and will continue to do so as long as Valentine's Day typifies the "restless principle which impels poor humans to seek perfection in union"—another sagacious observation contributed by the colubine who dreamed up his loveliest thoughts in the atmosphere of a well-stocked dram shop.

From which one must not gather, however, that such habitats lend themselves to a generalization based on a knowledge of specific cases; or, to put a finer point on it, that an appreciation of a mixture known as gin-and-water is tantamount to a literary style approaching that of Charles Lamb. It helps though.

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.

'U. S. Debt Troubles Me'

By Josephine Buck, Westfield, Ind.

Yes, I love my Uncle Sam, for he has been good to me. He is the dearest uncle a person can have as I have grown up under his care. I have not loved blindly for I have noted many faults and mistakes of his.

Now, take our debt for instance. I cannot fathom prosperity for a family when such a mammoth debt hangs overhead. He doesn't take it seriously enough to my mind. It troubles me. It seems to me Uncle Sam might be a little more economical and try to pay up what he owes. I'm afraid the members of the family may be hurt by it all.

Then we have the mighty weight of our aged folks. They are always needing help it seems. Why don't we give them money to do with in a simple plan? It is pure logic that old folks can't do much for themselves. Why shouldn't we have a simple old age plan without red tape involved? Personally, I never intend to be caught in that needy condition if I can help it. But, who knows if troubles may sweep away my little savings before I age?

As for housing conditions, it appears to me Uncle Sam is pretty busy about many things and we are able locally to know our problems. I do think as a family we should be able to make a place for each one reasonably. It would cost Uncle a lot of money in his awful condition to bother with our houses here. Let's work together better. If sister needs a house to live in, why not move over and let her in?

And what a joke for Uncle Sam to be raising his servants' wages at this time, just when everything is in such a turmoil and predictions are that prices are coming down. It looks like the servants are taking advantage of our Uncle, and he may go bankrupt.

Yes, I would say that Uncle Sam has many faults and problems, and how they will turn out is a stunner to the whole family.

'Rent Control Unjust'

By J. F. Frantz, 750 Ketchum St.

The law of rent control cannot come within the term of general welfare. To promote the interest of private individuals in respect to business or private property is in its essential character a private advantage and not a public object. The results from this promotion of the private interest does not justify the use of public money raised by taxation.

To control rent makes it possible to compel a humble citizen to give up his civil rights and remedies under a law in which the government assumes the position of legal supervisor to control and regulate private rights in private property by the pitting of one private citizen against the other in legal conflict over private property rights. This is unjust.

To preserve this freedom of civil rights and remedies we will find nothing more dangerous to our Constitution nor more strange to our form of government and shocking to our ideals of basic justice than the law to control private rent and property.

'Be Patient on Phone'

By W. H. Richards, Box 291, City.

Persons using the telephone should remember that the person called is not always in reach of the receiver to pick it up on the instant.

I am temporarily a cripple, recovering from a broken leg, and frequently am alone 10 feet from the phone. I am picking up my crutches and getting to the phone, the bell rings three or four times. I take the receiver and hear the "all clear" signal. The caller has hung up.

Don't be so impatient. Many times it is impossible to answer until the bell has rung six or seven times.

What Others Say—

WE have not manufactured an atomic power plant for aircraft yet, and no one should expect to see an atomic-powered rocket taking off for the moon this year—or next.—Andrew Kallitinsky, Oak Ridge, Tenn., scientist.

WHAT makes a honeymoon a honeymoon is not expensive hotels, or a shiny new roadster, or a breath-taking tressouze. What makes a honeymoon is a deep feeling of love in the hearts of two people who swim, read, hear the wood thrush at dusk, walk down a country road as they establish a more intimate pattern of togetherness.—Dr. F. Alexander Magoun, Washington marriage counselor, in his book, "Love and Marriage."

WORLD AFFAIRS . . . By William Philip Simms

Human Rights Action

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—If the United States should decide to take the case of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty to the United Nations, it would seem to have a pretty strong legal foundation.

But independent of any action which might be undertaken at Lake Success, the United States or Great Britain has the right to examine all acts against religious freedom in Hungary.

The 1947 peace treaty with Hungary specifically binds the former Nazi satellite to grant complete civil and religious liberty to its citizens. Paragraph 1, Section 1, of the political clauses reads:

"Hungary shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under Hungarian jurisdiction, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion and public meeting."

Fundamental Freedoms

TO EMPHASIZE the point, Paragraph 2 more or less reasserts the above in different language. Moreover, the United Nations has been working on the meaning of human rights for the past three years.

In its preamble, the United Nations charter makes protection of "fundamental human rights" one of its chief reasons for being. And in Paris last December the General Assembly by a 48-to-0 vote, with the Soviet bloc abstaining, passed a human rights declaration. Its Article 2 reads:

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion."

Article 6 says, "No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 11 guarantees a fair trial by "an independent and impartial tribunal." And the defendant is to be presumed innocent until proved guilty.

Asylum From Persecution

ARTICLE 15 gives everyone "the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."

Among other things, Cardinal Mindszenty was accused of the "crime" of opposing the suppression of religious schools. Article 19 declares that "everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and in public or private" to manifest his religion "in teaching, worship and observance."