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ROY W. HOWARD President WALTER LECKRONE Editor HENRY W. MANZ Business Manager

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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-spenders 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 Tamed 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. Caphart, 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 checkmated him out of the gubernatorial nomination left flat on 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 farmers.

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. It also is in opposition to the Republican national platform of 1940. 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. Caphart, was on hand; however, and afterward complained that Mr. Dewey didn't do justice to the record of the Republican 80th Congress.

Sen. Caphart 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 incomes 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, Tar-Hartley and other Republican Party measures.

Although he remains in the House, he pulls more weight in Congress than the Senator. Having abandoned isolationism, Mr. Halleck 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 unrelentingly 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 29,000 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 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 often-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 unyielding, top-heavy, costly bureaucracy—and how familiar that

The Clouded Crystal Ball



OUR TOWN . . . By Anton Scherer

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, nay, the notion and enunciate the doctrine that it is "good to love the unknown."

"All Valentine's are not foolish," he said, "and I shall not easily forget thine, 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 never knows us again, yet we it, should feel it as an obligation; and E. B. did."

"This good artist set himself at work to please the damsel. It was just before Valentine's Day three years since (circa 1823, my profane interjection). He brought, unseen and unsuspected, a wondrous work. We need not say it was on the finest gift 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 Caster, with mottoes and fanciful devices, such as beseemed—a work in short of magic. Iris diph

"This good artist he commanded to the all-swallowing indiscriminate orifice (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

"Good to Love Unknown"

NONETHLESS, 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 celibate 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.

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