

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Charles F. Weddle

MOST Hoosiers would have to admit they did not know Charley Weddle. Yet, at one time or another, probably a million people have stood within arm's length of his work. Mr. Weddle, frail - bodied, sensitive, and patient, earned his gray hairs young. It is the anxiety color which comes early to newspapermen. And Mr. Weddle, with a dignity and self-reliance all his own, sat for several years on the "anxious seat" in the editorial room of The Times. He was news editor.

Yesterday the mind and hands which created the sparkling headlines Times readers love, passed to eternity. He had long stuck by the rugged principles of Scripps-Howard journalism, believed to the depths of his soul in the freedom of expression, the elasticity of thought, which has kept The Times close to the hearts of the common people.

Mr. Weddle did his level best to preserve the free thinking of men. His passing is a challenge to the rest of us to carry on.

Slums . . . by Law!

WE'RE not proud of it, but it is nevertheless a fact that Indianapolis has some of the worst slum areas in North America.

We are proud, though, of the fact that Indianapolis has perhaps the most progressive program in the United States for clearing away those slums and replacing them with decent, low-cost homes.

That program has been carefully worked out, and has been under way for more than two years. It has been delayed while money to run it became available, and while legal points regarding it were decided. It is just now beginning to produce concrete results.

Under it the city has purchased literally acres of slacks that are unfit for human beings to live in, and is clearing and improving the land on which they stand. Once improved the land will be sold, usually for less than it cost the city, to anyone who promises to build a decent home on it. Private citizens have contributed more than \$200,000 as a revolving fund to furnish capital for those who haven't the cash to build, and so organized it that it will make possible the construction, immediately, of more than \$2 million worth of new low-cost homes by private home-owners.

It has been administered so carefully that not one family has been forced out of a single home to make way for it, and so that it will continually provide more homes than the area now contains. The program has been widely acclaimed as a national model, and extensively studied and copied.

FOR reasons that have never yet been explained, certain little groups have launched a demagogic attack on the project.

They have charged that families are being driven out of their homes without shelter to make way for it. They have charged that homes "worth \$10,000 or \$12,000" are being torn down as "slum dwellings." They have charged that private interests are making, or about to make, private profits out of the program.

All these charges are completely and absolutely false. Yet they are the only basis for the drive in the state legislature to destroy this whole program, and to fasten these slums permanently on Indianapolis by state law.

Members of the General Assembly who obviously have no personal knowledge of the plan or the need for it are being urged by high-pressure tactics to vote for amendments to be the present law that would accomplish just that.

We doubt if many members would consciously vote to keep these sub-human slums in Indianapolis.

We doubt whether the political party to which most of the members belong would care to accept responsibility for doing so.

This is a good law and a good program as it stands right now.

It should be preserved and continued.

The Case of Ott Workman

MORE than 12 years ago a man named Charles Basch was shot during an attempted holdup in Haysville. The man who shot him confessed, was convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Then Ott Workman, a brother-in-law of the victim, also was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment, although the prosecution admitted Workman was miles away from the scene of the crime.

The only evidence ever offered in court connecting him with the shooting was a doubtful statement of the confessed robber, a man of questionable veracity, who told many conflicting stories. He testified that Workman had told him, months before the crime, that Mr. Basch kept money in his safe which could easily be robbed.

There appears to have been no other evidence against Workman, at least none was offered in court.

A PRISON authority recently charged that Workman is a "political prisoner." The careful analysis of the crime and the trial and the evidence in this case which Times Writer Robert Bloem completes in this edition, neither proves nor disproves that statement. Nor does it conclusively prove or disprove that Ott Workman is innocent, or guilty, of connection with this crime.

But it does show conclusively that Ott Workman never was proved guilty of it in court "beyond a reasonable doubt." We have, in fact, seldom seen a fairer case. Unfortunately political ramifications appear to have blocked any objective examination of this case.

After looking at the record, we believe there ought to be one.

It's a Watchdog's Life

GOVERNOR DEWEY and Senator Vandenberg have advised the GOP to resume its position in the middle of the road and its role of governmental watchdog. We seem to recall that the GOP was sitting in the same spot and performing the same duty in '36, '40, '44 and '48 when that big, fast Democratic machine came whizzing around the corner and smacked it.

DEAR BOSS . . . By Dan Kidney

Hoosiers Face Margarine Issue

Heavy Pressure Seen From Indiana Dairymen

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—Dear Boss: Hoosier Democrats, like their colleagues elsewhere, were elected to Congress on a national platform calling for repeal of oleomargarine taxes. They are not unmindful, however, of the part the dairymen played in making former Rep. Edward A. Mitchell, Evansville Republican, a one-term in the Eighth District. Instead of staying awake nights counting sheep, some of them seem to be counting the cows.

Rep. John R. Walsh, Anderson Democrat, has concluded that there are a considerable number of cow farmers in the Fifth District and that their voting strength outweighs the soybean growers and housewives combined. He has decided to be for repeal of the penalty tax on margarine "if it isn't colored yellow." This of course is the heart of the matter.

10 Cents a Pound Extra

ONLY yellow margarine pays the 10 cents a pound now. In order to escape such payment housewives have been spending their time punching small bags of margarine after they get home. The bags contain a capsule of coloring and the result is okay, except that they still don't like it. Admitting it is an improvement on the old way of mixing the coloring in, they would like to get it colored at the stores—the same as butter.

There is the rub. The butter boys say they don't mind coloring margarine so long as it isn't yellow. They consider they have a patent on that. And despite the Democratic platform, there may be others from Indiana voting to prove it.

Mr. Walsh put a big blast against yellow margarine into the congressional record this week. He cites how big the dairy industry is in Indiana and sees the creameries closing if margarine is allowed to compete with butter on the same yellow basis. In fact he introduced a bill to lift the tax, but ban yellow margarine, which seems to solve everything but the problem.

Taft-Hartley Answers

ANOTHER Freshman Democrat, Rep. Andrew Jacobs, Indianapolis, took a number of pages in the appendix of the record to publish his answers to Taft-Hartley law questions sent all the legislators in the name of President Charles E. Wilson of General Electric Co.

In replying to the Wilson questionnaire, Mr. Jacobs raised a few questions of his own. He said he mailed the letter to Mr. Wilson Feb. 9, but hasn't heard from him yet. Since the Wilson letter was sent broadcast throughout the country, it seems doubtful that he will.

Requests to Congressmen cover a great gamut of things, but one of the most curious was received this week by Rep. Charles A. Halleck, Rensselaer Republican. A constituent wanted to know where he could buy a tiger skin.

His able secretary, Jesse Nolph, turned up with the answer. It was a New York importing firm's address obtained from the fish and wildlife service in the Interior Department.

Tiger skins can be obtained there "either raw or dressed." All are non-Tammany.

Register as Lobbyists

THREE former Indiana Congressmen have registered as lobbyists here so far. They are the recently defeated Rep. Gerald W. Landis, Linton and long-time ex-Rep. Ralph Updike, Indianapolis, both Republicans, and Rep. John W. Boehne, Evansville Democrat, who lost his seat to former Rep. Charles M. LaFollette, who served two terms as Republican.

Mr. Landis announced that he is staying on in Washington to help keep some of the Taft-Hartley law, which he aided in formulating as ranking minority member of the House Labor Committee in the GOP 80th Congress. His part in putting that measure over caused him to be singled out for slaughter at the polls by the United Mine Workers in the Seventh District at the personal behest of President John L. Lewis. His successor is Rep. James E. Noland, Bloomington Democrat.

Republicans in Indiana are agreed on only one thing at this point according to reports back here from the state. That is—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey will not be the GOP presidential nominee in 1952. They are saying the same thing as in 1946—remember.

Barbs—

ETIQUETTE is really saying, "No, thank you" when you mean "Gimme!"

CARELESS pedestrians and careless drivers think the same of each other—and they're both right.

MOST people are willing to try anything once—too often.

ABOUT the only price we can't kick about is that on government bonds.

MILITARY STRATEGY . . . By Jim Lucas

Europe Top Priority

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—U. S. military strategists give first priority to the Atlantic and Europe and assign only a minor role to the Pacific and Far East, it was learned today.

The joint chiefs of staff have made no formal decision. They insist that reductions so far were dictated by budget ceilings. They concede privately, however, that they plan only a strategic defense in the Far East, as compared with a military structure capable of strategic offense in the Atlantic.

Army Secretary Kenneth Royall has denied he said the United States might withdraw from Japan in case of war with Russia. He admitted, however, he was the "high government official" to whom the remark was attributed by numerous reporters.

Pushed Into Background

FROM competent military sources, it was learned that the Far East-Pacific has been pushed to the background of strategic planning. Budget cuts will, whenever possible, be made there instead of the Atlantic and Europe.

High-ranking officers defend this as the only possible choice. They say the Marshall Plan "clearly shows where our interests lie." They argue we cannot police the globe with a \$15 billion budget and it is their job to place their troops where they will be most effective.

One Pentagon source says the joint chiefs' most optimistic plans call for merely holding our own in the Far East. This source doubts we can do that but he thinks we may be able to salvage something. So he defends such a policy.

"As long as we operate under ceilings, and we do not oppose them, we have no other choice," he says.

A spot comparison of the European and Far Eastern military pictures does not reflect this now, he admits. Statistically, Uncle Sam still is stronger in the Pacific. The difference so far is intangible—strategic planning and future emphasis. The joint chiefs hope to bridge the North Atlantic and restore Western Europe's defenses with an outlay of \$1 billion to \$5 billion in armaments as they reduce on the other side of the globe.

Global Strategy

ONE high-ranking source insists we have a global strategy despite this. He says, however, we are implementing only the Atlantic phase. The Pacific's role in that global strategy, he says, must remain in blueprints until we get more money.

As of today, we have 100,000 ground troops in Europe, 25,000 Air Force and a few Navy men.

On the other hand, we have 60,000 Army men in Alaska, 120,000 in the Far Eastern command, and 80,000 in Hawaii. The Navy has 74,000 sailors and Marines in the Pacific. The Air Force will not disclose its troop assignments.

In Korea we have only 7500 troops, a cut from 25,000. Mr.

The Great Mouthpiece



ESPIONAGE PROBE . . . By Marquis Childs

Harm Seen in Amateur Spy Work

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—During World War II intelligence reports out of enemy Germany were often amazingly accurate. At times the most secret plans of Hitler and the Nazi high command were transmitted to London.

The chief reason was the extraordinary network of professional agents developed by the British intelligence service in Germany through the years. There was also the fact that many courageous Germans, hating the Nazis and all they stood for, risked torture and death to try to send out vital information.

As a British cabinet member expressed it to me in a conversation in London during the war: "Why shouldn't our intelligence out of Germany be good? Some of our agents are the third generation of the same family working for us."

That is to say that German grandfather, father and son were each in turn British agents. That is the achievement of a professional intelligence system which, when all the romantic nonsense is stripped away, is a dirty, mean, secret business that most governments regard as necessary at the present level of human development.

Professional Job

IN RELEASING the hitherto secret Tokyo spy report the Department of the Army seemed to me to show a basic confusion. Spies are not caught by whipping up public fear and suspicion. Counter-espionage, the business of blocking and defeating spies planted by an enemy or a potential enemy, is also a highly professional job in which amateurs are likely to do more harm than good.

The authors of the Tokyo spy report express admiration for the Canadian spy inquiry and the report that came from the Royal Commission. But the two documents could hardly be more unlike. The Canadian report consists largely of testimony given by witnesses before the commission, with conclusions stated briefly and unemotionally.

The report from Tokyo made public by the Department of the Army is based on second-hand and unverifiable sources, chiefly the statements of convicted German and Japanese spies prior to their execution. It is written in a florid style with highly editorialized comments about official United States policy.

The American Army officers who put together the Tokyo document apparently felt it was their mission to arouse the public in this country to a sense of danger. After the Canadian report, with its grim and unmistakable warning, that hardly seems necessary.

Business for Experts

HE TELLS of the "cover" he used in obtaining information and he also ventures to give a thumbnail sketch of the director of Britain's world-wide secret service. Even though that director had long since retired, the author is careful not to give his name.

The professional intelligence service is reported to have been shocked by these indiscretions which violated the strict code of secrecy. According to one report, most of the edition was bought up by the secret service and it is today almost impossible to obtain a copy. In other words, in the view of the most successful secret service in the world this is a professional business which must be kept strictly within professional confines. That is a lesson some American officials would do well to learn.

Head Start in Spying

AS THE Canadian report made abundantly clear, Soviet Russia has a head start in the spy business. Within the Communist parties in each country are fanatical individuals who have transferred their loyalties to Soviet Communism and who engage in espionage not for pay but out of devotion to the fountainhead of communism in Moscow.

But even apprehending this type of spy seems to me to be a highly professional undertaking, which should not be entered into by those unable to distinguish between disloyal acts and thoughts which may be outside the accepted and conventional pattern.

As we are fond of proclaiming to the world, freedom of thought and freedom of expression are two qualities that distinguish ours from a totalitarian society.

A fascinating and little known book, "The Fourth Seal," by Samuel Hoare, describes the British secret service mission in Russia in 1916 and '17. Hoare (now Viscount Templewood), the head of the mission, relates how every government department in Russia under the czar, had its own espionage service which often devoted most of their time to spying on each other.

The White House

THE White House tax discussion was incidental and brief, as one participant described it. It came up in connection with a discussion of the social security program, he said. He gave the following version:

Mr. Truman asked the congressional leaders if they would explain that the committee's action in taking up social security ahead of tax matters was done at the administration's request and did not mean there would be no consideration of a tax program. They agreed.

No Figure Mentioned

IT WAS this request from the President that prompted House Speaker Sam Rayburn (D. Tex.) to tell reporters that in all probability Congress would have to approve a tax increase bill. The Speaker was careful to avoid mentioning a figure. He merely referred to "some tax legislation."

Administration indecision over whether to insist on the first amount requested by Mr. Truman was said to stem from these new factors: (1) Uncertainty over the nation's economic health caused by food-price drops and similar indicators, and (2) Discovery that internal revenue collections increased by some \$3 billion in 1948 despite the reductions voted by the Republican 80th Congress.

Treasury officials long have been in disagreement with the President's Council of Economic Advisers over the amount and method of boosting the nation's tax burden. Mr. Truman's recommendations are said to be based on the council's advice.

Tax Cut Bills Pour In

THE SURPRISINGLY large tax yield right after a heavy reduction in rates gave the opponents of President Truman's \$4 billion proposal a weighty argument, one tax leader conceded. New proposals for reducing taxes, meanwhile, poured in on the Ways and Means Committee from House members.

A compilation of measures received up to Feb. 3 showed that tax-cut bills outnumbered tax-increase bills by nearly 50 to 1. More than 100 bills have been sponsored to cut taxes through repeal of or exemptions from the excise taxes on luxuries; various exemptions from income taxes; and by reductions in rates of the various federal levies.

Only two tax-increase bills have been introduced. One is a measure by Rep. John Dingell (D. Mich.) to reimpose the wartime excess profits tax on corporations. The other is a bill to impose an import duty on tung oil. The administration's tax program has not yet been introduced.

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.

'No Freedom to Slander'

By the Rev. Walter Chenaunt, Lafayette, Ind.

W. M. Ferree of Indianapolis in a letter to The Times defended W. O. Osman of Indianapolis for his having flooded the Indiana General Assembly with scurrilous hate sheets calculated to inflame hostility against the Negro people of Indiana. He deplores the demand that Mr. Osman be penalized for flagrant violation of the Indiana Anti-Hate Statute.

He said, "Don't stifle free speech." We would counter with the more just slogan, "Don't abuse American freedom." This felon is entitled to as much freedom as anybody else until he is caught in the overt act and proven guilty. Yes, I am entitled to my share of free speech until I abuse that right by slandering my neighbor because I don't like his color or his religion or his politics.

"Freedom of speech"—what monstrosities have been committed in thy name? How many reputations have been blasted and honest individuals hounded to their graves in the name of the abuse of the right of free speech? Shakespeare said, "He who flies from me my good name, robs me of that which does not enrich him; but makes me poor indeed."

We ask only to be accorded the same kind of treatment that any other group under this American flag receives. This has not always been accorded us but, thank God, there are still more good Americans than bad.

'Need for Community Action'

By Frank H. Fairchild, President Indianapolis Social Hygiene Association

The Times' editorial recently on social health was greatly appreciated by those organizations and individuals who are interested in turning venereal diseases. When it is realized that in this area venereal disease cases exceed the number of cases of childhood diseases, it is quite apparent that a situation exists that just cannot be shrugged off but calls for community action. Effective action is being taken by the Indianapolis Social Hygiene Association which is a Community Fund Agency. This includes education and treatment over a long range period looking forward to eradication of these diseases and attendant delinquencies.

'Squeeze Play Investigations'

By H. V. P. City

I think it is about time Prosecutor Dailey went to work on the backlog of safecrackers, robbers, etc., and stopped the "squeeze play" investigations of lotteries.

Everyone knows he wants to replace Chief Rosen. And he is trying to embarrass Mayor Feeney who has done a splendid job. It is just a battle for power, and he will wake up out on a limb like Judson Stark.

Mr. Dailey has far more important things to do and should stop wasting the taxpayers' money with his "monkey shines."

Warning to Veterans

By Arthur B. Crane, City

This is a warning to all ex-service men. A man came to our house at 2849 N. Sherman Drive. He was a member of my son's company in the Army. He wanted to stay all night and he did. I was at Veterans Hospital at the time, and my wife and son both had to work so they let him sleep. When they got home from work Saturday evening he was gone and so were a lot of our clothes. \$16 in silver, a German Lager and P.38 and one box of cigars.

Be on your guard and don't let them take you for a ride.

What Others Say—

NO university is giving the young man a basic, fundamental understanding of his American civilization. It is going deeply into this field to provide intensive study that is badly needed today.—Dr. Howard W. Haggard, director, office of university development, Yale University.

FOOD still is an important weapon in our effort to help bring about stability in the world. If we . . . use our land, our energies and our technological skills to build a permanently sound and productive agriculture in America, we shall be making, meanwhile, a contribution to peace.—Agriculture Secretary Brannan.

THE industry policy, morally indefensible and economically stupid, is to give pensions to executives who do not need them, but not to be able to afford pensions for workers who do.—Walter R. Reuther, president, CIO-United Auto Workers.

TAX INCREASE . . . By Tony Smith

Budget Cut Possible

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—Congressional tax leaders have indicated that the Truman administration might modify its request for a \$4 billion tax increase.

Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee said the House would not pass the Treasury Department still had not decided whether the full amount, asked by the President could be justified.

They emphasized that no promise was asked or given that the majority committee members would fight as a unit for the President's program.

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