

The Indianapolis Times

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER
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PAGE 24 Thursday, Mar. 3, 1949

Owned and published daily by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 314 W. Maryland St., Postal Zone 3. Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, NPA Service and Audit Bureau of Circulation.
Price in Marion County: 5 cents a copy for daily or Sunday; delivered by carrier daily and Sunday, 35¢ a week, daily only, 25¢ Sunday only. Mail rates in Indiana, daily and Sunday, \$7.50 a year; daily, \$3.50 a year, Sunday only, \$2.50; all other states, U. S. possessions, Canada and Mexico, daily, \$1.10 a month, Sunday, 5¢ a copy.
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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

State Department's Left Wing

ROGER LAPHAM, American economic co-operation chief for China, has told Congress \$240 million will be required to continue civilian relief for those areas of China still under Nationalist control.

This is little enough help for a loyal ally, in dire straits after nine years of war. Refugees from the Communist advance have caused acute food shortages in China's coastal cities, and only outside aid can avert widespread starvation. But if what remains of Nationalist China is to be saved from Communist occupation, money must be advanced to finance armed resistance.

Congressmen who have discussed the Chinese situation with Secretary of State Acheson gained the impression that he has accepted, hook, line and sinker, the appeasement policy of the leftist underlings in his department's Far Eastern division.

THAT policy reduced Nationalist China to its present helplessness before the Red onslaught. Instead of changing it, Mr. Acheson apparently defends it. Instead of ousting the appeasers, he seems to be influenced by them, as his recent predecessors were.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Communists have ordered foreign correspondents and the United States information service in Peiping to "cease activities."

Much that Mr. Acheson is reported to have told the Congressmen in defense of his position did not square with the record. Some of them took exception to his assertion that his wait-and-see policy had the support of our best-informed military men. If that is true, he was asked, why doesn't he release the long-suppressed Wedemeyer report?

MR. ACHESON answered, lamely, that this would not be in the public interest. It is known, however, that the Wedemeyer report did not support the State Department's policy, and this policy is at variance with Gen. MacArthur's cabled message to the House Foreign Affairs Committee a year ago. It said:

"The Chinese problem is part of a global situation which should be considered in its entirety. . . . It would be utterly fallacious to underrate either China's needs or her importance. For if we embark upon a general policy to bulwark the frontiers of freedom against the assaults of political despotism, one major frontier is no less important than another, and a decisive breach of any will inevitably threaten to engulf all."

We have pursued this "utterly fallacious" policy for three years.

When President Truman proclaimed his general policy against Communist expansion, in announcing his Greek-Turkish program, the State Department's Far Eastern division was influential enough to make an exception of communism in China.

And the whole Asiatic front will be exposed to Red attack unless the President and Mr. Acheson bring State Department policy toward China into harmony with the Truman doctrine.

Gen. Clay and Successor

GEN. LUCIUS D. CLAY, our military governor in Germany, again is requesting retirement. After more than 30 years in the Army, a distinguished war record, and his brilliant service in the thankless job in Germany, he has earned a rest. But it will be hard to find the right successor. Theoretically, it is a job for a civilian and should be taken over by the State Department. Actually, however, neither the State Department nor any other civilian agency has the training or personnel to take over government functions in Germany. So the task probably will remain with the Army.

Increasing cold-war pressure by Russia might necessitate appointment of another general as our top representative in Germany even though he were directly under the State Department. Since Britain and France, as well as Russia, operate there with ranking generals an American civilian could be at a disadvantage.

The important thing is that Gen. Clay's successor be both able and experienced in dealing firmly with the Russians, and that he be in Germany for some months with Gen. Clay so there will be no single day of weakness in the turnover process. Gen. Mark Clark, formerly our military governor in Austria whose name has been suggested, is the type needed.

States' Rights and Margarine

STATE laws to prohibit manufacture and sale of yellow margarine are disappearing fast.

Thirty states now permit yellow margarine. Bans against it were abolished in five states—Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland and Missouri—last year.

So far this year, Michigan has joined the list and Tennessee has repealed all its anti-margarine laws, including a 10-cent state tax on yellow margarine. The prospect is good for similar action soon in several more states.

All this is convincing evidence of insistent public demand throughout the country for repeal of laws and taxes, state and federal, which discriminate unfairly against margarine and everybody who buys margarine.

The butter lobby, realizing the force of that demand, is now trying to sell Congress a tricky "compromise" scheme.

It calls for repeal of all federal margarine taxes and license fees. But here's the joker:

It also calls for an absolute federal prohibition on manufacture and sale of yellow margarine in every one of the 48 states.

It calls, that is, for Congress to repeal the laws of 30 states now permitting yellow margarine to be made and sold.

Talk about states' rights! Here is a states' rights issue that reaches directly into millions of homes whose housewives want to buy yellow margarine without paying heavy discriminatory taxes.

If Congress falls for the butter lobby's trick "compromise" it will hear from a lot of those homes promptly—and loudly.

In Tune With the Times

Barton Rees Pogue

A MEMORY OF GEN. LEW WALLACE

When a small child I lived in Crawfordsville, Ind., the home of Gen. Lew Wallace. Mr. Wallace's estate contributed a large share of natural scenic beauty to the interesting village, as it covered an area of between 10 and 15 acres of densely wooded ground.

Along one side of Mr. Wallace's estate was another wooded stretch of ground called Elston's Grove, through which a wobbly path had been traced by pedestrians, more especially by school children. Through this grove I traveled twice daily on my way to and from the Wilson School, where I studied in the second grammar grade.

I frequently joined with other children in climbing over the fence into Mr. Wallace's grounds to gather wild flowers. At this, he never seemed to make objection, either due to the fact that he did not see us, or to the thought that there were enough of these little "smiles of God" to supply us all.

One fall when the beech nuts ripened, about a dozen of us, girls and boys together, and possibly none over 7 years of age, climbed over the picturesque old rail fence and made a beeline for the nuts.

We talked and jabbered, quite unaware of the possibility that someone might hear us. But the sound of our voices reached the General's ears, who thought, evidently, that it was about time we needed to learn the lesson of going straight home from school. We were fairly grabbing the nuts and cramming them into our pockets when one of the boys yelled, "Run, kids! Here comes the General!"

We looked, and sure enough there he was coming down the path with a long buggy whip in one hand, and a large coil of rope thrown over his arm. In make-believe anger he ran as swiftly as his age would permit, crying at the same time, "I'll tie you to a tree and whip you!"

Away we scampered as fast as our little legs would let us, scaled the fence in a jiffy, some of us tumbling over and landing on our backs. But that did not matter, we were now on the safe side, and we had defeated the man who had been the general of an army!

Never after did I steal into "Ben Hur's" sequestered spot, although doubtless each year Mr. Wallace had both the joy and discomfort of dealing with trespassers, for his big beeches yielded a mighty crop of nuts, and the rich soil grew lovely flowers.

—JUNE WINONA SNYDER, Indianapolis.

FIRST OF MARCH

First of March—three short decades ago. Roads muddy, wind cold, a leaden sky. Heavy-wheeled horse-drawn wagons, stacked high. Indiana farmers moving. Hearts ache so.

Top-buggy or Ford. Farm to farm fight. She follows behind her chairs and bed. With a soul that's sick and heart of lead. Tears soak the pillow where she sleeps at night.

Always renting land! Her soul will die! Oh, for a roof which is her's to own. Church and school to boast, a family grown In a place where the good lands lie!

War! The machine age—prosperity. Electricity, tractor, deed to claim. The land their own, a proud family name. At last something for posterity.

—BERNICE HARNESSE EZRA, Lafayette.

ON MAKING AN IMPORTANT DECISION

If in doubt and still you do it. In the end, you always rue it. The other way is just as bad. For if you don't, you wish you had!

—DOROTHY M. PARKE, Indianapolis.

APPRECIATION

I didn't hear the rebird When the other birds were here; I didn't see his plumage Until the days were dear. But now against the brooding skies His pertness like a promise lies And fills my thoughts with cheer!

I didn't note the blessings My life was built upon. Or heed the whispered warning Until a few were gone. But now the blessings left to me Sing, like a redwood in a tree Upon a wintry lawn.

—ESTHER KEM THOMAS, Columbus.

Speaking of Filibusters!



HUMAN NATURE . . . By E. T. Leech

Planned State Means Controls

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3.—Human nature is what upsets planning. The planned state, stabilized and running by expert design, would be easy if people—including the planners—just wouldn't act like human beings.

But, being human, people have various ideas and natures. Most of them are lazy and like to take the easiest way. All of them like to be let alone.

Take, for example, the lowly subject of potatoes. After losing 150 million dollars supporting prices of the 1948 crop, the Washington planners recently realized something was wrong. So they cut the support price over a dollar a hundredweight.

And—here's where human nature came in—the experts fixed only one price for all grades. That, they decided, would encourage growers to get out and sell their best potatoes on the commercial market above the official price. Previously they had been turning the whole works over to Uncle Sam.

"A lot of growers seem to have forgotten about the art of selling," explained an official.

Only Acting Human

WHAT had happened, of course, was that the growers had been acting human. Why bother peddling spuds when it was so much easier to dump them on Uncle Sam? The planners had overlooked the simplest fact of life.

For similar reasons, farmers vastly overplanted other crops which Washington had guaranteed to support by purchase or loan at high prices. Finally the warehouses bulged with them, and the old, uncomfortable law of supply and demand set in to correct the excesses of human nature.

But farmers, of course, are no more to blame than anyone else. Human nature has been the big problem in all our Social Security plans. It has caused many abuses and dangers afflicting a program which is worthy and can be helpful if safeguarded. It is a program which can be ruinous unless the planners consider its possible evils, as well as its benefits. Unless they make allowance for human nature.

Many people won't work or save if someone else will support them. The more attractive you make the benefits, the greater will become the number yielding to this natural aversion to toil.

Already, by ignoring these human traits, planners have done much damage along with a lot of good. The biggest injury has been

in breaking down, on a big and growing scale, the old spirit of self-reliance. With it has come a weakening of the pride which made men and women stoutly shun anything which looked like charitable and public support.

The old practice of "saving for a rainy day" has taken a great kicking around. It was never easy, but it had become an American trait. Thrift was the main factor in supplying the means to develop this continent and to create our unique industrial machinery and high living standards.

Pattern of Loose Spending

BUT of late thrift has been made unpopular. Washington has set a pattern of loose spending and huge borrowing. It has preached carelessness. If you fail on hard times, it has said, the government should support you. Promises of such support are the easiest way to buy votes.

And, human nature being what it is, demands for public support are reaching the proportions of a flood.

The biggest problem of human nature involves the planners themselves. Mr. Truman recently told the National Planning Association that proper planning can avert economic disasters. There is a big difference, he said, between "a controlled economy and a planned economy."

There was where he apparently overlooked human nature. For the planner, being human, naturally thinks his plans are the very best. He wants to sell them to others. But those others, because they also are human, prefer their own plans.

Pass New Rules

AH! But suppose the planner can get an official position. A job where he can make new rules, or get a law passed. Then—just for the good of others—he can impose his plan on them.

But the others, being human, resist—or, at least, don't go along according to plan. So it becomes necessary to pass some new rules to make the old rules work. Also, to enforce them more strictly.

That's where planned economy starts turning into controlled economy. Enforcement becomes the watchword. And how can you get people to act according to plan unless they also think that way?

The planned state this turns into the controlled state because planners are human.

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.

'Pensions for Old Soldiers'

By Theo. B. Marshall, 1114 Tecumseh St.

The Times stated very clearly its stand on pensions for soldiers after they reach 65. The doublebarreled opposition to the bill, stating that it is neither to the best interest of the soldier or the country, sounds like refusing food to a hungry dog. It is based on very insecure grounds.

From your reasoning one would think that the salaries of public officials did not come from taxes but cost the public nothing; while every dollar paid to the soldier as a reward for service renders becomes an unbearable tax burden on the people.

At the beginning of our present Congress, our President was given a \$25,000 increase in salary. You favored this legislation on the ground that the \$75,000 a year salary was inadequate to take care of present needs and allow a saving for old age. In plain English, you would let the soldiers suffer for the necessities of life but you would have ex-presidents live in luxury. There's little doubt that you would favor pensioning all public officials. The Supreme Court Justices receive what now amounts to the same as a pension in that they are appointed for life. Our governors' widows receive a pension. Not so long ago Congressmen received an increase in salary. None of these handouts were opposed by you. Shortly there will be introduced in Congress legislation to increase the salaries of Cabinet officers, which you will not oppose if past actions can be taken as a guide. Now don't you think we should be fair and not give the politicians all the breaks? Our attitude seems to be billions to sustain the peoples of other countries, millions to increase the luxurious living of our public officials, but nothing for the old and needy soldier. Is this government of the people, for the people, by the people?

No one will dispute the fact that our government should practice some economy. We all know taxes are too high. This is no excuse for stating that a million or so dollars allowed needy soldiers as a pension will wreck our country. Let's use a little sound reasoning and justice and give our old and needy soldiers at least as good treatment as we give the peoples of Europe who have not fought our battles, but who in the last two years have depended on our soldiers to win their battles.

'Why Not Licensed Gambling?'

By L. McCormick, 4091 Englewood Drive

Now there is talk of raising the gasoline tax, possibly two cents a gallon. Ethyl gas is now practically 30 cents a gallon. Why put all the tax on car owners?

Most everyone gambles to some extent and will continue to do so either with or against the law. There is plenty of gambling everywhere. Why can't Indiana look into other methods and permit licensed gambling? Other cities and states do it and realize plenty of revenue off it to take care of bonus bids, etc., even enabling the Street Commission to keep up the work it's paid to do. Indianapolis has the worst streets in the Midwest. All its citizens are ashamed of them.

There is supposed to be an allotment of taxes for that purpose. Heaven only knows where that goes—there has been no change or repair of street conditions since the war, in comparison to taxes paid for that purpose. Don't forget about the straw that breaks the camel's back. Taxpayers get tired of paying and then having nothing to show for their money.

What Others Say—

ARE we, the American people, the tools and fools for which the Communists take us? I avow that unless the whole American people, without further ostrich-like actions and pretenses, unite to stop the Communist floodings of our own land—our sons—shall be summoned from their homes and families to bear arms against those who would desecrate and destroy them.—Francis Cardinal Spellman.

IF THE Truman depression, which now seems well under way, goes as far and as deep as many people feel it may, we will not long be talking about how to control production or distribute scarce products. Instead, we will be discussing here what we can do to spur on and to expand both employment and industrial production in this country.—Rep. Clarence Brown (R.) of Ohio.

I THINK the greatest contribution of tailors is to make comfortable clothes. If they are comfortable, then they will be smart.—Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

'KNOW HOW' PROGRAM . . . By Peter Edson

Truman's Big Puzzle

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3.—A select group in high government circles has run into 20 assorted kinds of complications. They have been trying to write the ticket to carry out Harry Truman's big idea for sharing American know-how with underdeveloped countries.

That's the way government works. Some hot shot at the top of the heap announces a new big headline policy in glowing terms. Then the technical experts are called in to figure out how to do it.

In the case of controversial "Point Four" of his inaugural address, the President apparently had no idea of how it would be carried out in detail. The job of planning it was assigned to Willard Thorp, assistant secretary of state for economic affairs. He appointed a committee. There is always a committee. In this case, some second or third level brass from eight agencies—State, Treasury, Agriculture, Interior, Commerce, Labor, Federal Security Agency and the ECA Marshall Plan boys.

They called in the experts from about 25 other government agencies and the wheels started to grind.

No New Marshall Plan

MAIN lines laid out in the President's speech were fairly clear. This is to be no Marshall Plan for the rest of the world. It is to be simply a program of giving technical assistance to those countries that want it. It involves no big program for government capital investment in foreign countries, though the more private capital assistance growing out of it, the better things will be.

But here the questions start to roll in. What kind of technical assistance will be the most helpful? What if any countries should be excluded? What is an "underdeveloped" country? How much self-help should be expected from these countries in return for U. S. technical assistance? What government measures will promote the flow of private capital to these countries? What guarantees from the U. S. government and from the foreign governments must private capital have on taxation, dollar convertibility and freedom from seizure?

Types of U. S. technical assistance given in the past include research projects, field missions, demonstrations, vocational education abroad, "in-training" of foreign technicians in the U. S. Which of these efforts are worth expanding and which are not?

So far, there has been no discussion with foreign governments on what they need or what they want. That will come later.

Another series of questions has arisen over what the limits of this program should be. How long should the program be for? How can a roster of experts be built up?

Private Groups in Field

THE question of relationship to private organizations already in this work has arisen. Rockefeller Institute, Institute of International Education, various church, medical and school missions and other international do-good foundations are old hands at this business. Private business organizations like fruit, oil and rubber companies also have done a lot. How co-ordinate government activities with them?

The next questions were what type of project is best for

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



development through the United Nations and which is best through a bilateral agreement direct between the U. S. and a foreign government?

How to co-ordinate this work with the United Nations subsidiaries—Economic and Social Council, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Labor Organization, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Trade Organization, World Bank? How co-ordinate it with the Organization of American States?

Finally, how can Truman's Point Four program be put over in such a way that it will minimize or refute completely the frequent charges that this is just another scheme by the American capitalists to promote world imperialism?

When the answers to some of these questions are a bit clearer, you may expect to see a better spelling out of this idea.

NON-UNION WORKERS . . . By Fred W. Perkins

No Voice on Laws

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3.—In all the talk about a new national labor law, "no one seemed to be interested in unorganized labor," says a letter from Elmer E. Marken, a resident here who is a non-union worker.

"We should have legislation that would benefit labor as a whole," he wrote, "rather than the organized groups which at times act like the spoiled child who will lay down on the floor and kick its heels until it gets what it wants."

The record shows that among the many witnesses who appeared before the Senate Labor Committee, advocating or opposing a sweeping revision of the Taft-Hartley Law, none spoke solely in the interests of unorganized workers.

Mr. Marken also is borne out in his contention that "un-organized labor outnumbered organized labor." The figures of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that of the 60 million people in the country's present working force, only one in four belongs to a labor union; and that of the nearly 40 million workers in fields that unions have been organizing, only about 16 million have been brought within the union fold.

No Spokesmen

MEMBERS of the congressional labor committees say there are two reasons why unorganized workers have been given scant if any attention in legislative efforts: (1) Being unorganized, nobody is delegated to speak for them; (2) Both the Wagner Act and the Taft-Hartley Law were framed to govern relations between management and organized labor.

However, a Taft-Hartley supporter says that statute's ban on the closed shop (under which an applicant must be a union member before he can be hired) is a protection for the unorganized millions, and also that nonunionists are equally entitled to benefits of the Wage-Hour Law.

From the present 60 million workers the statisticians deduct three large groups almost wholly unorganized—domestic servants, farm labor and the self-employed—to reach their figure somewhat under 40 million as the unions' potential membership.

The history of union organizing has shown, however, that this potential may never be fully covered. Except in certain fields well adapted for organizing, such as coal mining, unions have concentrated on the big units within industries. Too much effort and expense is required to reach the smaller units.

Small Percentage

THAT is given as one reason why, among the 10 million persons engaged in retail and wholesale trade, only an estimated 600,000 have been unionized. The unions have been successful in organizing many large department stores and other mercantile establishments, but have gone only sparingly into the many thousands of smaller enterprises.

Hotels have 400,000 workers, but few are organized. In this field, also, the unions have concentrated on the big ones.

Even in manufacturing, where unions have made great strides, only half of the 16 million employees are union members, the government figures show.

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