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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Planning a Bigger City

IT HAS been said many times of metropolitan areas that the bigger cities get, the worse they become as places to live.

This is a major problem residents of Indianapolis will have to face unless more adequate planning for a rapidly growing metropolitan area is started by government officials, business and civic organizations.

Indianapolis has been spilling far out of its boundaries for many years with resulting confusion in lack of sewers, hodge-podge traffic, dead-end streets and the menace of future slums.

We have vast city areas that have no part in any metropolitan plan of the future and little government supervision. They are under the jurisdiction of the county government but the present structure of this branch of government is inadequate to cope with mushrooming urban problems.

THERE'S something about a thriving industrial community that sets it snowballing. Indianapolis is a good, lively spot for a great variety of enterprises. We have the sort of transportation and power and community spirit that makes us a magnet, even if we don't want to be big.

Thus, it is up to all of us to make urban development a reality, to fight for a metropolitan district government, streamlining services and supervision in one, efficient operation and to stop neighborhood factionalism that handicaps orderly growth of any city.

If we are going to be bigger, and it looks as though we don't have much choice, we must also have a bigger horizon so we can see where we want to go instead of finding ourselves in a mess after we get there.

The Platform's Pledge

PRESIDENT TRUMAN said he intends to keep fighting for a labor bill that would fulfill the Democratic platform pledge to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act.

He said that he still wanted a new law which would carry out the platform; that he was not convinced he would have to make any concessions to get it from Congress; that he did not know how long he might have to wait for it, but that his administration would run for four years.

The Taft-Hartley Act could be repealed this year, and replaced by a fair new law in full accord with the Democratic platform. For the only specifications laid down in that platform are these:

"WE advocate such legislation as is desirable to establish a just body of rules to assure free and effective collective bargaining, to determine, in the public interest, the rights of employees and employers, to reduce to a minimum their conflict of interests, and to enable unions to keep their membership free from Communistic influences."

But if Mr. Truman insists on the kind of new law he so far has demanded—a law thoroughly acceptable to the big union leaders, a law relieving them of public responsibility for abuse of their power—he will not get it this year, and he should not get it ever.

For such a law would not establish just rules for collective bargaining. It would not be in the public interest. It would not protect the rights of employers. It would not reduce conflicts to a minimum. It would not help unions to freedom from Communistic influences. It would not carry out the Democratic platform. It would violate that platform's pledge.

Beyond Understanding

THERE may be other issues in the Ford strike that we don't understand. But what seems to be the main issue involved something we simply can't understand.

The union charges that an assembly-line "speedup" violates its contract with the company. The company denies that, but offers to submit the question of whether it has violated the contract to arbitration. The union refuses to arbitrate.

So, 65,000 Ford workers are striking. But their idleness threatens hundreds of thousands more all over the country in various allied businesses with involuntary unemployment and loss of wages or profits. If long continued, it will hurt the whole nation seriously.

SUPPOSE two citizens signed a contract, then disagreed about whether one of them had broken it. Would they be permitted to fight out their difference of opinion in the middle of busy traffic, inconveniencing or endangering a lot of innocent bystanders?

They would not. The law would tell them to take their controversy to court, or to let some impartial third party settle it. For the meaning of a contract is a question of fact and legal interpretation.

What we cannot understand is why a contract between a union and an employer should be considered different—why the law shouldn't compel a difference of opinion about the meaning of a labor-management contract to be settled peacefully by arbitration or court adjudication.

Got Any Chic Bushes, Elsa?

THIS business of going swimming becomes more and more complicated for the fairer sex. Now the famous Parisian dressmaker, Elsa Schiaparelli, has come up with a beach coat which can be pegged out like a tent for undressing on the beach.

Trouble is, milady has to bring along a henchman to drive the pegs and then unstake her beach coat after she gets into her bathing costume.

Any time now, you can expect to hear the wife wail that she can't possibly go swimming with last year's peg driver.

But Marx Would Be Mad

A Soviet scientist has just discovered how to make that terrible capitalistic tipple—champagne—in only 45 days. And, far from blushing at such un-Marxian frivolity, the Soviet government has awarded him a Stalin medal.

We're glad to hear it. It's possible that if we wait long enough those spartan Russians eventually will become nice and decadent like the rest of us.

DEAR BOSS . . . By Dan Kidney Backs Federal Reform Program

Bridgeport Brass Head Gives Views as New C. of C. President

WASHINGTON, May 7—Dear Boss—Herman W. Steinikraus, who was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at the 37th annual meeting here this week, is a Hoosier by industrial marriage.

As president of the Bridgeport Brass Co., he is head man of their Indianapolis plant, as well as boss of the two big parent plants at Bridgeport and those in Canada as well.

The Indianapolis factory is a war baby in which Mr. Steinikraus takes a great deal of paternal pride. He has high praise for its wartime contribution and high hopes for peacetime production there.

As successor to Earl O. Shreve as president of the National Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Steinikraus did something that has become more unusual since Eric Johnston left that post—he agreed with a policy of the President of the United States.

An hour before new Chamber President Steinikraus held his first press conference, President Truman had one in which he said he asked congressional leaders daily to get action on governmental reorganization.

Nothing Happens

THEY always say that action is forthcoming but nothing happens, the President said.

That this plea should no longer be ignored was stressed by Mr. Steinikraus in urging support for the findings of the now famed Hoover Commission on governmental reorganization.

"How can you get Congress to act?" Mr. Steinikraus was asked.

"I think that when the people learn what that Hoover report contains they will demand action," Mr. Steinikraus said. "Then I am sure that Congress will respond."

"Reorganization should be carried out with dispatch. Each citizen should see that he is doing his share to get the government to do a good job of housekeeping. There is plenty of room for savings. It is only logical to revise such a vast setup and the Hoover findings have plenty of facts with which to make a good start."

He cited the apparent deathlessness of bureaucracy by pointing out that a government survey found a commission still functioning to promote production of spruce for wood propellers for World War I airplanes.

"I don't say that is a typical case," Mr. Steinikraus laughed. "But anyone would admit that it has been quite awhile since the armed services used spruce propellers on their war planes."

For General Welfare

IN AGREEMENT with President Truman on the need for prompt and efficient government organization, Mr. Steinikraus parts company with him on Taft-Hartley repeal. He testified for retention of "good features" of that labor-management law, but added that he was always ready to see this or any other law improved for the general welfare.

"Labor-management co-operation is essential in this crucial period," Mr. Steinikraus said. "We had that during the war and we can have it again. The areas of agreement between the two groups are far larger than the areas of disagreement. Both need each other and each must cooperate. It is not the best policy to play politics with labor-management relations."

"Over-all planning by the government was roundly condemned by the new chamber president. He doesn't think that this or any other government is that smart."

"No government can do things better for people than they can do things for themselves," he said. "An all-wise government might not even be good for us. We all know that whatever the government does, it does expensively."

"Of course there will be changes made based on trial and error in Taft-Hartley as in other laws. But we shouldn't go back, we should go forward. I have sufficient confidence to feel that those in Congress who actually represent the grass-roots sentiment will act wisely and we will do well."

Wholesome Adjustment

FALLING prices and slower sales were termed a "wholesome adjustment" by Mr. Steinikraus.

"If we are returning to a peacetime economy we shouldn't be alarmed about it," he declared.

"The present downward trend is more healthy for our economy than a continued upward spiral."

At 59, Mr. Steinikraus is the active, dynamic type of business leader who doesn't look or show any signs of slowing down.

AGRICULTURE . . . By Earl Richert Farm Bureau Tieups

WASHINGTON, May 7—A long-simmering farm-organization fight over the close tieup in many areas between the Farm Bureau and the mail and the tax-financed government Extension Service is due to break out in Congress soon.

This will come when Chairman Elmer Thomas (D. Okla.) of the Senate Agriculture Committee begins public hearings on his bill to divorce the Extension Service from the Farm Bureau wherever a close affiliation exists.

Sparkplugging the drive for the Thomas bill is the Farmers Union, and on its side is the National Grange.

Farmers Union officials contend that, in many areas, government-paid Extension Service employees are collecting dues and keeping records for the Farm Bureau—a private organization.

In some cases, they say, the words, "Farm Bureau," are painted on the doors of Extension Service offices. Some county agents, they say, conduct membership drives for the Farm Bureau.

Pressure for Members

"IN New York," said Ben Stong of the Farmers Union, "membership in the Farm Bureau is required before a farmer can even get an Extension Service bulletin."

Farm Bureau officials contend that this is entirely a states' rights fight and that each state should decide—not Washington—how its Extension Service should be operated.

The close relationship between the Farm Bureau and the Extension Service goes back to pre-World War I days when many states decided something must be done to get information concerning technological developments at state agricultural colleges into the hands of farmers.

Some of them passed laws providing that, if associations of farmers were formed, agents would be placed in each county and appropriations made available for extension work. These sponsoring county associations grew into the American Farm Bureau Federation and the close relationship with the Extension Service has continued in many areas.

The Extension Service is operated by state agricultural colleges and is financed by both state and federal funds—and, in some instances, county appropriations.

Oppose State Basis

FARM BUREAU officials contend that "big government" advocates have never liked the idea of the Extension Service being run on a state-by-state basis without direct control from Washington, as is the case, for example, of the Soil Conservation Service.

On the other side of the picture, a Farmers Union official said his organization "would have a million members, too, if we had half of the Extension workers soliciting memberships for us." The Farm Bureau claims more than one million members; the Farmers Union, 185,000, and the National Grange one million families.

The Thomas bill proposes to ban payment of federal funds to states which permit close ties between the Farm Bureau and the Extension Service.

Agriculture Secretary Charles Brannan wrote Sen. Thomas that he agreed with the major purpose of his bill but disagreed with some proposals.

Among the states listed by Farmers Union officials where the close relationship between the Farm Bureau and the Extension Service exists are Alabama, Texas, Tennessee, California, New York, West Virginia, Iowa, Illinois and parts of Pennsylvania.

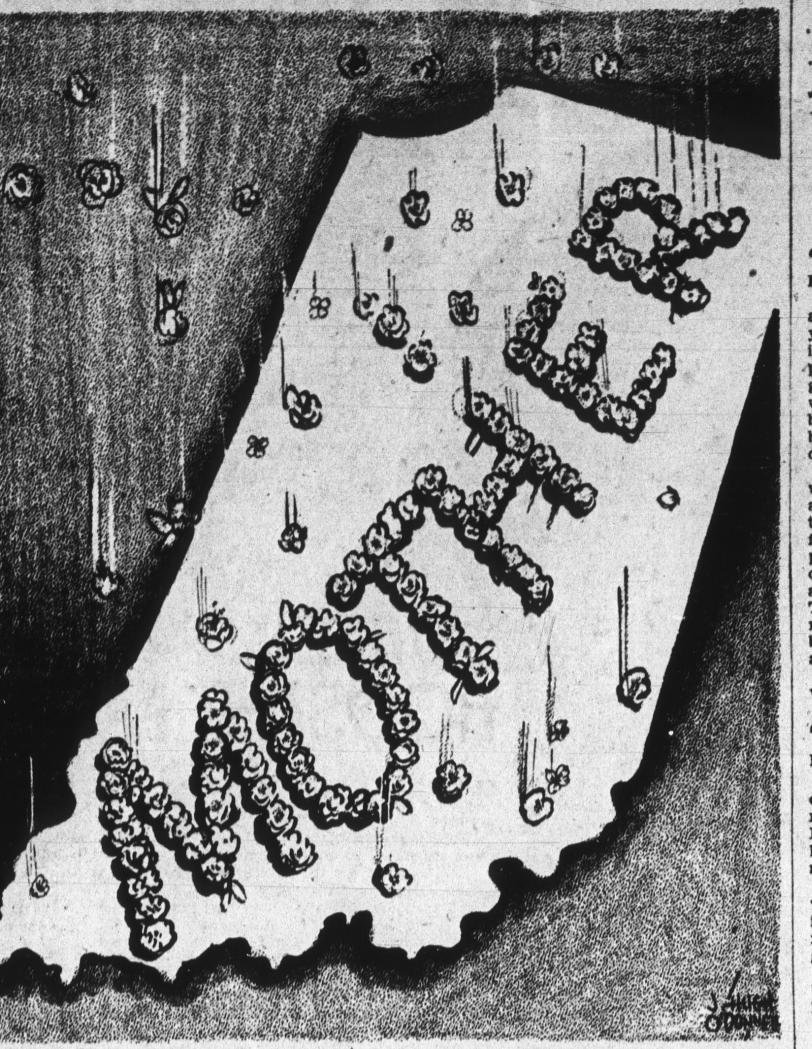
Among the states without close tieups are Ohio, Indiana, New Mexico and Colorado.

A special committee of Agriculture Department and land grant college officials studied the situation and reported last fall that it was not sound public policy for the Extension Service to be affiliated with such farm organizations. The committee said the

people in the various states should take the initiative to end the situation.

Sen. Thomas said he would push his bill because he "did not think any private organization should be permitted to dominate any federal institution."

Blossom Time



NEWS NOTEBOOK . . . By Peter Edson

Behind Scenes at the Capital

WASHINGTON, May 7—Washington embassy representatives of the 16 Marshall Plan countries met frequently to talk over their common problems of European recovery. They have nicknamed their group "The Beggars' Union."

reduced U. S. expenditures for European aid. Instead, request will be made to keep on hitting European assistance programs all the harder.

When a foreign policy is working, that's when it needs fullest support. The time to cut is when a foreign policy isn't achieving desired objectives.

WHEN Chester Bowles was running for governor of Connecticut, a friend asked ex-Representative Clara Booth Luce for some political advice on how to get elected in the Nutmeg State. She gave five rules: "Explain nothing. Deny everything. Demand the proof. Don't listen to it. Attack the opposition."

Mr. Bowles paid no attention to this cynical and sinister advice which so belittles the intelligence of the American voter. He got elected, too.

More Women Working

WHILE total U. S. employment has been dropping steadily since last November, the employment of women has been rising. Last month there were nearly half a million more women working than a year ago. Total number of women now employed in the U. S. is 16,550,000. Roughly three out of every 10 U. S. women are now considered in the labor force. The ratio of women workers to men is one to four.

VERMONT Senators Aiken and Flanders recently guided 36 members of the Green Mountain state legislature through the Capitol. They all went into Vice President Barkley's office for a chat. One of the Vermonters said to Barkley, "Mr. Vice President, they tell us you're an exceptionally good judge of character and human beings. Two of us here are Democrats. Do you suppose you can pick them out just by looking at them?"

Mr. Barkley, never at a loss for a word, immediately shot back: "Why friend, you are all so handsome and intelligent I had assumed that you were all Democrats."

STATE DEPARTMENT success in getting tentative agreement from Russia for lifting of Berlin blockade is not expected to result in

For Free Philosophy

EXPLAINING the workings of Marshall Plan "counterpart funds" is one of Economic Co-operation Administrator Paul Hoffman's ever-present problems.

Before a group of British workers in the U. S. on a technical training mission, Hoffman analyzed it this way: Once in South Bend, Ind., he brought home five bottles of medicine guaranteed to cure athlete's foot. When Mrs. Hoffman reminded him he didn't have athlete's foot he said, "Yes, I know. But I might get it some day and these samples were free."

It's the same way with European recovery, Hoffman explained. If 10-ton tractors were being given away free, everybody in Europe would want one.

WORLD AFFAIRS . . . By William Philip Simms

Allies' Top Cards

WASHINGTON, May 7—The United States, Britain and France will sit down at the forthcoming Big Four conference in a vastly stronger position than some now seem to think.

By demanding a unified Germany and an early termination of the Allied occupation—both of which every German wants regardless of zone or politics—Russia hopes to put the West on the defensive at the start.

But the Western Powers hold some high cards of their own. They are expected to propose:

ONE: The return of most of Eastern Germany to the Germans.

TWO: Free and unfettered elections for all Germany under United Nations supervision, to make certain that Germany will be free not a police state.

THREE: Abolition of East and West zones and a unified country just as soon as a German peace can be arranged, to be followed by the withdrawal of Allied troops.

FOUR: Consent to Soviet participation in the Ruhr if Russia permits British, French and American participation in control of the coal and iron areas in Eastern Germany.

Positive Program

SOVIET propaganda is seeking to convince Germans that the West wants partition, and more or less permanent occupation of their country. The West cannot dislodge their minds merely by denying what the Russians are saying. The West has to have a positive, concrete program of its own.

One of the highest cards in the West's hand is Russia's treatment of Eastern Germany.

Section VI of the Yalta protocol stipulated that "the final delineation of the western