The Indianapolis Times

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

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

PAGE 12 — Monday, Oct. 24, 1949

Owned and published daily by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214 W. Maryland St. Postal Zone 9. Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, NEA Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Price in Marion County, 3 cents a copy for daily or Sunday delivered by carrier daily and Sunday, 20c a week. Daily only 15c. Sunday only 5c. Mail rates in Indiana, daily $4.0 Sunday, $2.50 a year. Daily $5.00 a year, Sunday only $2.50. All other states, U. S. possessions, Canada and Mexico, daily $1.10 a month. Sunday, 5c a copy.

Telephone RI ley 5551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Motorists' Public Responsibility

IN the next few months hundreds of Indiana motorists may lose their driver's license because their records show they've violated too many traffic laws too often.

These licenses will be suspended under a new system put into operation by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to take off the streets and highways the "fatal five per cent" drivers who have shown by their records that they are unfit to assume responsibility for the lives of others.

Many of these drivers, deprived of the use of public thoroughfares, will likely raise loud protests against what they will argue is their right of citizenship as taxpayers.

BUT the privileges of citizenship under the Constitution do not include the right to disregard all rules of safety in the slaughter of citizens on public highways any more than they give a taxpayer the right to murder his neighbor.

Many motorists, by their reckless and irresponsible disregard for the safety of themselves and others, have voluntarily given up their rights to operate a vehicle on public thoroughfares.

Suspension of the licenses of these drivers and strict law enforcement to see that they don't drive again may seem harsh treatment but the continued slaughter of innocent citizens calls for drastic action.

Indiana's Neglected Children

ACTION toward carrying out provisions of a 1947 law to establish a special educational program for Indiana's thousands of mentally retarded children deserves the support of the entire citizenry.

The State Department of Education estimates the program will get under way as soon as funds are available for it, probably by next fall.

Failure to make any provision for the rehabilitation of the state's estimated 10,000 mentally retarded children is a serious blight upon the community's social advancement record.

WHEN any one of the 10,000 mentally retarded children is forced to drop out of regular classes because he can't keep up with the rest, he becomes a potential candidate for Juvenile Court and likely a problem-child in crime later because of the antisocial complex acquired in school.

A special educational program for these children where they can compete successfully with their classmates on an equal basis will go a long way toward curbing delinquency, crime and the many other ills traceable to maladjustments of neglected childhood.

Sober Fact on UN

IT isn't often that the State Department permits itself to speak with candor and honesty about how hard it is to get along with Russia. Wishful thinking more often has been the policy line.

But recently, while the world waited and wondered whether Russia was going to quit the United Nations after a major setback in the assembly, the Deputy Under Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, frankly admitted the Soviets were doing the United Nations no good. Speaking in San Francisco at a United Nations anniversary celebration, he said:

"To the extent that the loyal participation of the Soviet Union is not required, the United Nations, by and large, is getting on with its job.

"TO THE extent that the help and assistance of the Soviet Union is essential, the United Nations is frustrated, faltering and disappointing. It is a serious charge, but it is based on sober fact."

Under the circumstances, he asks, would it be better for us all if the Russians should leave the United Nations? His answer is that "We should deeply regret the withdrawal. What we really want them to do is not to withdraw, but to join."

A lot of fancy words and sweet talk about the United Nations is going to be heard today—fourth birthday of the organization—but we predict no truer, more accurate appraisal will be forthcoming than Dean Rusk's.

A Fair Judge

EVEN when it came to assessment of punishment, the 11 Communist Party leaders were given the benefit—as they had been throughout their long trial—of Judge Medina's meticulous fairness.

The chief government prosecutor, John F. X. McGohey, had urged 10-year prison sentences and $10,000 fines for all of them. These were the maximum penalties provided by the Smith Act, under which they were convicted of conspiring to teach and advocate overthrow of the government by force, at the time they were indicted.

Judge Medina said he agreed with Mr. McGohey "in the strict matter of the law." But, he added, he must keep in mind the intent of Congress which in August, 1948—one month after the indictments were returned—reduced the Smith Act's maximum prison term to five years.

THE JUDGE also leaned backward when he sentenced Robert G. Thompson, New York State chairman of the Communist Party, to a term two years shorter than those of the 10 other defendants. He gave "most careful attention" to the fact that Thompson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism as a soldier in the war against Japan.

It is true that some Communists fought bravely in the American armed forces. But whether that was for love of America or because America was then Russia's ally is another question. The important thing, however, is that Judge Medina's scrupulously fair conduct of the trial, from beginning to end, makes attempts to picture the guilty Communist leaders as martyrs seem ridiculous.

As Usual

SHALL we put this on Page 1?" asked the picture editor, handing us an Acme news photo which had just come in.

It showed Vice President Barkley kissing Gloria Swanson, who was in Washington to promote a new film.

"Nope," we said. "Put it inside. The Veep is kissing the wrong gal."

MEDICAL CARE . . . By Charles Lucey

Most of Health Program Dies

Hospital Construction Only Measure Passed

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—The administration took a pushing-around in Congress on its big national health program and today only one fractional piece of it rests on President Truman's desk.

Over the jumps in both houses sailed a liberalized federal hospital construction bill providing $150 million a year for five years to expand the nation's hospital plant. But that's the one major health bill that survived.

The President's proposal for a compulsory national system of prepaid medical care—so-called health insurance—never had a prayer.

Some hearings were held on the subject in Senate and House and the pro and con sides worked up a good deal of heat in stating their positions. But even some Congressmen who have followed the Democratic programs consistently wouldn't accept the compulsory idea and it never emerged from committee.

Bills Knocked Down

BUT several parts of the health program which were favored generally and seemed to have a fair chance of passage were knocked down also. This was the case with a bill providing federal subsidies for training more doctors, nurses, dentists and public health administration personnel.

Still another bill which got lost in the shuffle would have provided $35 million a year for a school health program in both public and private schools.

All three measures passed through the Senate but were jettisoned in the House. There's talk that some smart operators in the House planned it that way. The idea being that they can pass one or two of the health bills in the session beginning in January, and point to this as progress, but never get around to the controversial compulsory insurance phase of the administration program.

Most people think the compulsory plan will not have a much better chance next year than this. In an election year there probably will be little disposition to get into a long wrangle on this issue—but for the administration it will still be something to talk about in the 1950 fall campaign.

Necessary Project

THE Senate-approved bill authorizing federal aid in training health personnel is agreed widely to be necessary, without regard to whether the nation goes for compulsory or voluntary health insurance.

Our 190,000 physicians is far short of what we need. The costs of becoming a doctor have increased and the medical schools are in a bad way financially.

Thus the bill provides medical schools with $500 annually for every student up to average past enrollment and $1000 for each student over the past average. Subsidies also would be paid for educating dentists, nurses and other health personnel. Funds would be made available too for expansion of medical schools. The bill should have a good chance next year.

The public health aid bill probably would have provided $20 million a year in grants to local governments at first, eventually about $80 million. Federal funds would be on a matching basis and would permit over-all a quarter-billion dollar expansion of public health work at local levels.

The hospital construction bill doubles the amount available under the old Hill-Burton bill and, in poorer areas, permits the federal government to pay up to two-thirds of a hospital's total cost. It also will provide funds for some hardship cases in which projects already begun are in financial trouble.

VANITY

When you are feeling all puffed up, big and proud,
Of some achievement that stands out before the crowd
Have you ever looked about you at a tree or a flower
And say could I build that, no I have not the power.
Then you will feel much smaller, your ego will deflate
For our vanity is something we should hate.
God who has made us, both the great and the small
Without this Divine Power we would be nothing at all.
For He made us all from earthly clay
A machine of perfection, He made us in a day
So no matter how great a thing we attempt to do
We could never finish it, unless God will see us thru.

Frank Gates, Blocher, Ind.

He Chose Fine Time to Walk Out

LEGISLATIVE 'JOKERS' . . . By Douglas Larsen

What's in Laws Congress Passed?

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—Now that Congress has left town the bureaucrats can start the fascinating job of deciding just what Congress did in the last few hectic weeks of the session.

It'll be months before the agencies are able to unscramble the complicated appropriations bills and find out just how much they got for this and that function. It'll be two years before any one can say for sure just how much the 81st Congress ran the Treasury into the red. They're still debating whether the 80th Congress balanced or unbalanced the budget. Figures given out now about how much the 81st spent are pure guesswork. It's all unbelievably tangled up in such terms as "future contract authorizations," "appropriations for past commitments," "authorization without appropriation" and "fixed contractual obligations."

Maybe one or two clerks of the subcommittees of the appropriations committees have a sneaking suspicion about where the money is going. But they frequently get lost in the last-minute trading among Congressmen. And after the bills leave their hands to become law they are through with the mess. The budget officers of the agencies take up from there.

'Jokers' in Bills

A BUDGET officer can start adding up all the figures on the money his agency got and be overjoyed, until he comes to the last line which says, "less $500 million which the administrator must save out of the above authorized expenditures." That joker was put in the military appropriations bill this year, for example. That means that after the committee got through agreeing how much specific items should be, it suddenly discovered it had been too generous and decided that it would force the head of the agency to cut someplace.

Real sport of post-session clambakes is to find out what laws Congress passed. This also takes months, literally. At every stage of a law going through Congress changes can, and usually are, made in the original draft. In the last minute rush of business clauses are added, dropped or changed completely. Whole sections of bills are completely changed by the deletion or insertion of one word. Result is muddled or incoherent phraseology which frequently makes it impossible to put an honest interpretation on a law.

This process also involves finding the "jokers" in bills, slipped in at the last minute to prevent some special interest from being affected by it. Finding the "buried" laws is about the same thing. These are measures which were controversial but were slipped in some noncontroversial act in order to get them made law.

Law-Making Authority

OF course, what this confusion amounts to is giving the various bureaus and departments the law-making authority. A law is no better or worse than the way it is interpreted or administered. By not making their intentions crystal-clear in the wording of a law the Congressmen in effect are passing their legislative authority on to the Executive Branch.

Some legal branches of an agency, when faced with interpreting a badly worded law, will attempt to find the intent of the Congressmen in passing the law. This is a frustrating business and lends itself to double-talk.

Agency attorneys will go back to the hearings held on a questionable law, study the speeches made on it on the floor and in this way try to figure out just what the Congressman had in mind when they passed it.

What Is 'Intent'?

TROUBLE with this is that a lot of "intent" isn't even put on the record. Compromises will be made on the telephone or in conversation. Some supporters of a measure can change their minds as debate progresses and may end up having an altogether different "intent" than the one they may have previously read into the record. In that case the government lawyers pick the intent which suits them best and use it.

It's all great sport and the redeeming feature of the whole business is that Congress will be back in town soon. If they don't like some of the interpretations an agency has put on one law or another, they can always amend or change it.

This Congress is dead. Long live Congress.

Barbs—

SINCE so many girls play golf in shorts, let us remind you again, men, that one of the first rules is to keep your eyes on the ball.

◆ ◆ ◆

THERE are 56 varieties of sausage in Russia. And just think of all the baloney.

◆ ◆ ◆

ONE of the best ways to escape a few of the things that are expected of you is to have a career.

◆ ◆ ◆

YOU can always get the best of any argument by not taking part in it.

◆ ◆ ◆

A WAVE of prosperity always makes a lot of swells.

Hoosier Forum

"I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

'Mythical Housing Shortage'

By A. E. Wrentmore, Pres. American Home Owners' Union, Inc.

I have been wondering where Mr. Katz got his information as to a housing shortage in Indianapolis of 15,000 to 20,000 units, and that the 1949 construction had "not made a dent in the situation." Wherever these impressions originated, however, they are very wide of the truth.

It happens that the organization which I represent made two very careful surveys recently, covering every block in the city, with the following results.

Number of vacant housekeeping rooms, 472; vacant apartments, 632; vacant houses, 629; houses under construction, 1,563.

We have a record of each of the above, showing its street and number. The total of the vacancies found was 3203. As only about 10 per cent of the vacant houses (old) were for rent, the number of available rental units was 1366. This means that housing was immediately available for 1366 families of 4 persons each, or for 5464 people.

Many of the houses under construction were nearly completed, and all will be ready for occupation by Dec. 1. Twenty-five per cent of these structures, or 391 were for rent. Many were doubles, but just figuring them as singles, this would make a total of 1757 vacant units which would soon be available, sufficient to house 7028 people.

As the annual increase in the population of Indianapolis is reliably reported to be not over 5800, and many of these people purchase homes, hence have no need of rental property, it is evident that the housing made available in 1949 will be more than adequate to supply every need.

Now what about the 1949 construction "not having made a dent in the housing shortage?"

Based upon the records of the building permits issued in Marion Co., the total number of rental units constructed for the year 1949 is, or will be, 1322. This means accommodations for 1322 families, or, counting four to a family, housing for 5288 people. As the increase in Marion Co. is 6500 per year, and as over 3000 dwellings are sold annually for residential purposes, besides the creation of numerous apartments in old buildings by remodeling and conversion, it is evident that the rental units created by private building in 1949 would much more than care for the increase in tenant population.

It is time that we had some facts upon this housing situation instead of the wild and erroneous hallucinations inspired by warped and fanatical imaginations.

◆ ◆ ◆

'Time to Use Courts?'

By A. J. Schneider, 504 W. Dr. Woodruff Place.

I just wonder when President Truman looks into his mirror, does he like the looks of the weakest President this nation has known, the slave to a handful of labor racketeers who are blackmailing him into nationalizing our industry to please their conscienceless whims?

Just because he is too stubborn to admit that the Taft-Hartley Act holds some good, for just such as situation as now exists, he prefers to take over industry under his so-called "wartime powers" in peacetime, deliver to the labor racketeers the last pound of flesh, and make it impossible for industry to accept their business back from the government after the damage has been done.

Of course, the welfare of 3 to 5 million is of more importance to Mr. Truman than the welfare of the 150 million whom he swore to serve and protect. However, what is a mere oath of office nowadays? What if the whole transaction is unconstitutional? No one except the politicians and labor racketeers, who are accustomed to spending other people's money with reckless abandon and without consent, have the kind of money necessary to challenge such unconstitutional acts before the Supreme Court.

I just wonder if the President is the only one who can use the courts under the Taft-Hartley Act for the general welfare? Could not the coal operators or the steel industry enjoin the President from exercising his mythical wartime powers to nationalize industry?

What Others Say—

IDEAS that the next war will end in 24 hours are a lot of damn bunk.—Lt.-Gen. Harold L. George (Ret.), wartime commander, Air Transport Command.

◆ ◆ ◆

WOMEN and fine horses are much alike. It is strictly a matter of conformation.—Elizabeth Arden, beauty parlor czarcrist.

◆ ◆ ◆

I DID pretty well. I might come back here some time and run for sheriff.—Presidential military aide Harry Vaughan, drawing loud cheers in Pittsburgh.

SOCIAL ADVICE . . .

Diplomatic Tricks

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—This city now claims the biggest, permanent, peacetime diplomatic community that has ever existed in a national capital.

Reasons for its size are obvious. All foreign aid and loan programs administered here naturally require special staffs of "expediters" from abroad. Because it is rated the gayest and most comfortable capital in the world embassy staffs have tended to expand. Diplomats like to enjoy life, too.

On top of that there is the phenomenon of diplomats attracting diplomats. They probably do as much business among themselves as they do with Uncle Sam. Washington has become a sort of international clearing house.

The very unprecedented size of the town's diplomatic family has created some unique problems in protocol. It even threatens to block the basic assignment of a diplomat here—being diplomatic. And that is where Baroness Catherine von Schoen has stepped into the picture. She is offering to help bring some polite order out of the present diplomatic mob-scene.

Personal Calls

JUST for instance, she explains, take the wife of a newly-arrived foreign minister. Strict form requires that she immediately make a personal call on all of the other wives of all the other diplomats of equal rank or better than that of her husband. Yet if she really tries to do that in Washington today, chances are she wouldn't finish the chore in time to pack for her husband's next assignment.

What can she do about it, and still be proper? The baroness will tell you for $10. That's her flat fee for an hour's consultation. If you want to keep her advice on tap at all times, the fee is $15 per month, paid in advance.

According to the social experts, chances are the baroness is going to make a good thing out of her new venture. At least, they say, if anybody can, she can. First, she's a native of the city, product of an old, socially prominent local family. Second, she is the wife of a former German diplomat and has lived the diplomatic life all over the world. In the process she has encountered just about every possible social and protocol problem that could exist.

American Citizenship

HER husband, Baron Wilhelm von Schoen, had his last assignment as German ambassador to Chile. He and the baroness were called home when the war came and sweated it out in his country home in Bavaria. She now has had her American citizenship restored and he is coming to this country soon to join her, and job-hunt.

Enjoying ripe middle age, she is pleasant and surprisingly down-to-earth in her talk and manners. She speaks five languages fluently. She'll grudgingly admit that there are pitfalls which a diplomat needs to avoid in Washington. But she says it's just not discreet to talk about the pitfalls.

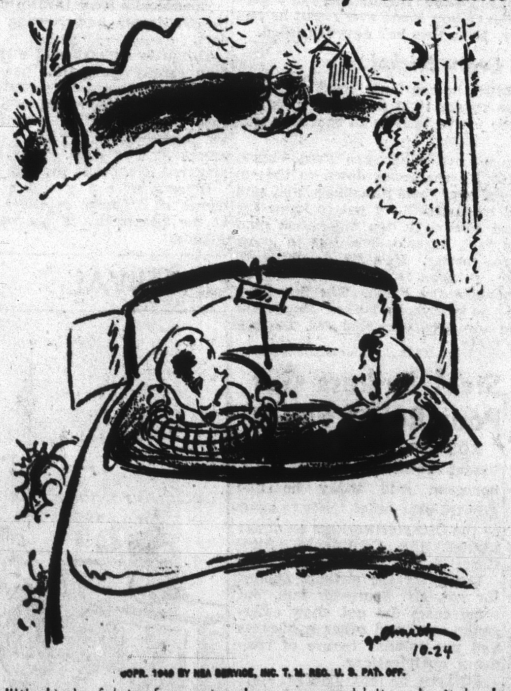
Of course it's common knowledge that newly-arrived foreigners are swamped with calls from phony charities, fast-talking salesmen peddling all sorts of strange merchandise, and from social climbers. But the baroness just refers you to her card which announces her enterprise, when you ask for details about these matters. The card says she is "offering information on Washington customs and etiquette; all questions relating to social life; charities; protocol; correspondence; shops."

In spite of the social melee of Washington, the baroness thinks that there is more of an attempt to observe strict protocol here than in the other capitals of the world. In the process, she says, some pretty serious blunders are committed.

In the way of social advice to individuals, which she also sells, the baroness offers a free rule-of-thumb guide. "When in doubt," she says, "do the kind thing." "All protocol and social custom has been built on the theory of doing the kind thing," she explains. On the important social question in Washington of what to do with crashers at big parties, she offers the following gratis advice to hostesses:

"Let them crash."

SIDE GLANCES — By Galbraith



"It's kind of late for us to elope—we couldn't make it back home for dinner!"

NATIONAL DEFENSE . . . By Jim G. Lucas

Army Sets Example?

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—The Army has offered its record to show the Navy and Air Force how to behave as members of a national security team.

In effect, Gen. J. Lawton Collins, Army chief of staff, says no service can expect to have an easy time of it. He says it has been—and will be—tough on everybody. The Army, he says, has taken its share of tough decisions without complaining. What's more, he says, it still believes in unification.

Unification, he pointed out, originated with the Army. Army men took the lead "even though we realized that we would have much less to say about our own affairs."

They were willing to give up part of their power, he said, "because we felt that only by integrating direction of the Armed Forces could an efficient team of land, sea and air provide maximum security at minimum cost."

Split in Half

AS SOON as unification became law, he said, the Army was split in half. It gave up its Air Corps, which became the Air Force. That involved surrender of tactical planes, loss of transports needed to move its airborne divisions.

"We did this," Gen. Collins said, "with our eyes open. We did it on the theory that we were part of a team for national security."

The decision to surrender command of tactical airplanes, he said, "was not arrived at without doubts and misgivings." But it was done.

"Had the Army insisted on retaining its own tactical air arm solely for close support missions, an inevitable duplicate . . . would have followed," he said. "The Army, therefore, willingly agreed."

He said the Navy and Marines were unfair when they try to create the impression they have taken all the hard knocks.

"We also have had to operate on limited funds for anti-aircraft, and for research and development in the guided missiles field, as well as in the procurement of new and modern equipment," he said.

Lack of Money

"ONLY recently, en route home from Japan, I stopped at the Army's Detroit tank arsenal for a few hours. I saw our proposed changes in tank design. These plans are splendid. They show we have the know-how to produce top-notch tanks exceeding those of any potential enemy. One element is lacking—money. But we take this in stride without complaint. We haven't cried 'conspiracy' and we won't."

Gen. Collins pointed out that the Army recently recommended establishment of airborne, air tactical support, air defense and amphibious training centers under the joint chiefs of staff. But the proposal was rejected. Again, he pointed out "we do not charge conspiracy."

"Whether we were right or wrong, the fact is that our proposal was not accepted by the Navy and air members of the appropriate committee," he said. And that was that.

He pointed out that the Army recently suggested transfer of its water transport to the Navy. The joint chiefs approved. The proposal was made, he said, "in the interest of economy."