

The Indianapolis Times

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

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PAGE 16 Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1949

Owning and publishing daily by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214 W. Maryland St., Postal Zone 4. Member of the Associated Press, National News Service, N.E.A. Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Price in Marion County, 25 cents a copy for daily and 100 for Sunday; delivered by carrier daily and Sunday, 10c a week; weekly, 10c a copy; monthly, 10c a copy; weekly, 10c a copy; and daily, 10c a year; daily 25c for a year; Sunday, 10c a month; all other states, 10c a copy; Canada and Mexico, 10c a month; United States, 10c a copy.

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Dine Right and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Persistence Pays Off

WHEN the Community Fund's annual drive came to its official terminal date just a little short of the goal, this year it would have been easy enough to quit and let the fund fall short, and there wouldn't likely have been a word of criticism from anybody.

It just happened that Bill Kuhn and the campaign team he had built this year weren't the kind that quit.

They stuck by the original terminal date alright, officially. But taking a note from the legislature they stopped the clock and went right on plugging at the campaign.

LAST week, a good month after the time set for them to stop, they came through with a victory. For the first time in four years, and for only about the sixth or seventh time in Community Fund history, they had met the campaign goal.

Because they did Red Feather agencies will be able to run all through 1950 on the budgets planned for them instead of having to cut corners and trim down services. They don't have lush budgets to start with and any slice they have to make, however thin, always takes away from Indianapolis community services that the city can ill afford to lose.

This has been one of the outstanding campaigns of the 30 years of Indianapolis Community Fund history, and the congratulations of the whole town have been well earned by Mr. Kuhn and the 7000 workers who helped him make it a success.

Russia and Africa

THERE is some irritation in Britain because a mission from Nigeria, one of its African colonies, will attend the Communist-sponsored Conference on Human Relations in Prague and later visit Moscow.

This concern is understandable.

Nigeria, in the very heart of Africa, seems as remote from Soviet influence as any area in the world. But Moscow overlooks no bets in its plans for world empire. And the tactics it has employed with some success in Asia are likely to strike pay dirt in Africa, too.

THE Soviets regard colonial territories as one of the vulnerable spots in the capitalist front, and all such areas are under Communist attacks of varying intensity. As usual, the Communists are making common cause with native nationalism, and colonial imperialism is failing to meet this challenge.

The Cominform journal in Bucharest recently commented with favor upon Nigeria's first political strike. It was a minor railway stoppage, lasting only four days. But to the Soviets it was the first break in an area where communism is just beginning to feel its way.

It should not be too late for Britain to enter into a real democratic partnership with its African colonies. But it must be done before Moscow sells them a phony bill of goods.

358 Billion Cigarettes

IF YOU were born before, say, 1905, chances are you will remember hearing cigarettes denounced as "coffin nails."

Smokers of them—especially if they used the tailor-made variety—risked being considered depraved characters and candidates for untimely ends.

Well, the Department of Agriculture has just estimated that 358 billion cigarettes will be smoked in the United States this year.

That's almost seven cigarettes a day each for every man, woman and child in the country. And, since some men, more women and many children still don't have the habit, the average consumption by those who do smoke is much more than seven a day.

IN THE last four years, the department says, the rate of cigarette smoking in this country has been double what it was in the five years just before World War II. Cigarette exports—estimated at 21 billion in 1949—are roughly four times what they were before the war.

Meanwhile the average life span of the American people keeps getting longer. But this, it readily may be conceded, doubtless is in spite of, rather than because of, the constantly increasing use of "coffin nails."

What Would It Cost?

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BRANNAN, speaking at Sacramento, Cal., has denied that his celebrated farm plan would cost the government \$19 billion a year.

"I'd like to nail down the fantastic estimate that, if all American farmers were subsidized at the rate suggested for milk producers, the administration proposals would cost \$19 billion annually," he said.

The estimate is reported to have been made by an economist at the University of Illinois.

SINCE, as Secretary Brannan pointed out, \$19 billion would equal the average total annual cash receipts of all farmers in the last 10 years, his assertion that the plan would not cost that much probably is justified.

But what the Brannan plan would indeed cost would be much more pertinent information, from the standpoint of Congress and the taxing public. And the country is still waiting for Mr. Brannan to supply that information.

Canned Coffee

NOT long ago a coffee expert said hoarded coffee wouldn't keep, even in vacuum cans.

Now comes an expert in the can business who says coffee in vacuum cans can be kept fresh indefinitely.

"That statement," he asserts, "is entirely erroneous. . . . The one sure way to keep coffee as fresh as the day it is packed is to package it in the vacuum can."

Well, coffee may keep, and cans may keep it.

But if the stocking and hoarding of coffee goes on without reason, that's not good. Excess buying of coffee, just to store away in the back cupboard, does two things: it ups the price, and it downs the supply.

POLITICS . . . By Charles Lucey

GOP Clash on Platform Seen

Trouble Expected Over Drafting Party Gospel

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—A proposal by National Republican Chairman Guy Gabreski that the party hammer out a shining new badge of party principles gives promise—if all facts are honestly consulted—of a scene of violence and carnage.

The idea is that, with an election just past in which the GOP didn't do so well and another ahead 'o which it hopes to do better, it's time to come up with an affirmative program that will win friends. Mr. Gabreski labels it a "restatement" of party principles.

But there's another reason behind the Gabreski proposal. It concerns raking up enough bucks to keep the party organization going. Some big party contributors have been singing this song:

"Why should I give? Tom Dewey and the rest of you kicked away victory in 1948. We're tired of underwriting defeat. Are we merely going to condemn of 'me too' the Fair Deal? Why can't the Republican Party get a positive program of its own?"

Dangers Seen

BUT party leaders see a certain danger in trying to write a new gospel because there is a basic Republican split on many issues. There is the question of whether the testament should be general or fairly specific. Sen. Robert A. Taft and others think if it is general it wouldn't amount to much. But some other leaders say that when you get specific and start promising—that's dangerous, too.

Chairman Gabreski has been barking defiance at the Truman program in a tour of the West, contending its aim is to promote a U.S. socialism. At times he has flirted with the old Smoot-Hawley high tariff idea, denounced Democratic boshism and machines and criticized some phases of foreign aid.

A good part of the moneyed wing of the GOP wants an all-out attack on the Fair Deal and the welfare state and doesn't at all like Republican friendliness to some measures—public housing and health bills, for example—which are favored even by Sen. Taft.

Needs Rebuilding

BUT in New Jersey the re-elected Gov. Alfred Driscoll, as holder of the major GOP victory in the recent election, may have some right to talk, won't settle for anti-Truman opposition alone. Nor will Harold E. Stassen, who says that "clearly the Republican Party needs a tremendous lot of rebuilding if it is to serve the people of America."

And Gov. James H. Duff of Pennsylvania wants that our party has to more closely understand the problems of the average guy."

In many respects such men as these do not think in the mold of Mr. Gabreski. But how to reconcile the opposites in a statement of principles?

In 1948 Tom Dewey did considerable to make the platform adopted at Philadelphia a product of advanced rather than deeply conservative GOP thinking. His right-hand man, Elliott V. Bell, and Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts had much to do with the actual drafting.

Gov. Driscoll is bluntly telling the Republican Party it must stop being the "party of expediency, quit switching to match what it thinks is the public fancy."

'Me-Tooing'

"ONE thing that riles me," he said, "is this talk that the Republican Party mustn't be a 'me too' party. It all depends on what you're 'me-tooing.' If it's the Ten Commandments, then 'me too.' If it's the preamble to the Constitution, then 'me too.' If it's a strong national defense without wasting money, then 'me too.'

"But when Mr. Truman comes out for socialized medicine, then the Republican Party has an issue on which to put up a real battle. And we've got to let the people know we want decentralization of government and make them see why home rule is vital for this country."

He said his state has made progressive reforms the national Democratic administration hasn't matched—civil liberties, a sickness benefit insurance program, housing and a guarantee of veterans' loans.

Timing of a new party policy statement is uncertain—presumably it will be after Congress has assembled in January, when GOP Congressmen are able to report on what the folks back home are thinking.

FRiENDS AND FLOWERS

Friends and flowers are kindred things. Richness in possession each one brings. Some by their fragrance ease all care. Others so refreshing by . . . just being there.

The world would be desolate without any flowers. To cheer weary souls and banish dark hours, But what of a world the sage contends What would it be . . . devoid of friends?

—ANNA E. YOUNG, 3547 N. DeQuincy St.

EUROPEAN POLITICS . . . By Marquis Childs

Tragedy of France

PARIS, Nov. 22.—Before the present "government" of Premier Georges Bidault was formed, France was 19 days without a government.

Most Frenchmen appear to have accepted this state of comfortable anarchy with a philosophic shrug. After all, they say, has not France always been an individualistic nation, resentful of the powers exercised by the judge and the tax collector?

How long the present feeble patchwork of a government will last is anyone's guess. It may fall tomorrow. Or it may last until after the Christmas holidays.

As Bidault, who is typically French, said himself at a recent luncheon, he just happened to walk into the office of President Vincent Auriol when the search for a compromise premier had reached a desperate stage. Any one of 42 million Frenchmen might have walked in at that moment and found himself tapped for the job.

But despite the philosophy of the French individualist, there is tragedy in the fact that this country has produced no political leadership since the end of the war. Nor does it seem likely to produce any. Even the multi-colored figure of Gen. Charles De Gaulle is receding into the distance with only a clause of right-wing Socialists to keep the hero-worship going.

The fear of Germany is directly related to the worsening relations with Britain. Back of the strife over whether Britain does or does not intend to collaborate in integrating Europe's economy is a deep suspicion of British strategy in the event of another war.

MANY of the French I have talked with express the fervent hope that America will take a stronger line to bring the French and British together. This can only be done, they say, by direct participation of America in both the economic and military councils of Europe. The time has passed,

Harry Gets His Christmas List in Early

Hoosier Forum

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

Thanks to Democratic Council

By Edward M. Bennett, Public Relations Director, American Veterans Committee.

As state public relations director of the American Veterans Committee, I wish to thank Mayor Freney and the six Democratic members of the City Council in behalf of my organization for standing behind their campaign promises and voting an Indianapolis Public Housing Authority into existence.

I realize that a terrific amount of influential pressure was exerted by the opposition to see that this measure was defeated, and to stand up to such pressure groups and vote the way your conscience dictates, for the good of the people, most certainly separates the statesmen from the politicians. I am quite sure that those of us who have fought for public housing and have finally seen it materialize will not forget the people who voted it through when we go to the polls in '52.

Fishing for Red Votes?

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

I just wonder how many of your readers noticed the contrast in action by the head of the New Deal-Fair-Deal apparatus in China?

Consul Angus Ward, our United States official representative in Mukden, has been arrested and imprisoned—and probably by now dead—for over a month, and all the head of this nation does is to write notes, just as Woodrow Wilson did more than a score of years ago, and with equal results. But within a matter of hours after a Nationalist China war vessel fired a little too close to one of our naval units, our consulate had been closed and recognition withdrawn from the only recognized government in China.

Could it be that anti-Communist Harry is not so anti-Communist as he would have us believe? Could he be fishing for those Red votes, just as his predecessor did?

'World Needs Comedy'

By Spike Dragan

The world today is badly in need of laughter. Lots and lots of laughter from deep down in the bellies of the human race.

Hollywood and the movie industry could help out in this respect.

Instead of the phony love matches, the murdering gangsters and the incredible hoey that flashes across the screens, I suggest a reversal.

Let's have some darn good comedy. Clean and wholesome pie throwing comedy of the Mack Sennett days.

I watched recently the bygone days screened to a howling crowd that came to see "Down Memory Lane."

The show has actors that most moviegoers have heard of, but never have seen. Hollywood stars during the days when Los Angeles was an interurban ride away.

Maybe these artists and their style of comedy are gone forever. Let us hope not. Come to Hollywood, dig up a few and let's have a few laughs.

'Security for Workers'

By Carl H. Ramer

The same caution used in crossing a street should indicate to both parties concerned in the recent strike that less and less is gained by no production.

The need for a definite but variable wage scale based on the cost of living is a caution. This last strike could have been averted simply by adding a slight wage increase based on the cost of insurance or pensions. These vary too.

The American Federation of Labor and CIO unions have quite capable employees who could handle this part of the employees' security. In this manner, employees who change jobs or get laid off do not lose the money paid in on old-age security or insurance.

Obviously any manufacturing company going out of business is a poor prospect for security. On the other hand, the unions are here to stay and would be interested in the workers' security. So the unions should be entrusted with all insurance and pensions money.

This would leave the employers entirely free to devote their time and energy to business. It would leave the unions free to secure the workers' security.

So They Say

THE basic source of our strength as a nation is spiritual. We believe in the dignity of man. We believe that he is created in the image of God, who is the father of us all.—President Truman.

UNTIL the generation that was engaged in this war has passed out of the picture . . . we are not going to be able to make a good democracy out of Germany.—Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D.) Wyoming.

IN spite of all man's genius, he has never been able to master the art of living with himself.—Dr. Ralph J. Bunche.

BRANNAN PLAN . . . By Earl Richert

Farm Cost Mystery

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Tain't so. The Brannan Plan won't either cost the government \$19 billion a year, says Secretary Brannan.

Not more than a handful of people knew that anyone had estimated the Agriculture Secretary's controversial farm plan could cost as much as \$19 billion annually until Mr. Brannan chose to denounce the estimate in a speech in Sacramento.

"And while we're talking about costs," he told the national Grange convention, "I'd like to nail down the fantastic estimate that if all American farmers were subsidized at the rate suggested for milk producers, the administration proposals would cost \$19 billion annually."

He didn't name the source, but an ad said the \$19 billion figure came from a University of Illinois economist and was made public by the university.

MR. BRANNAN, in presenting his plan to Congress last spring, talked about giving consumers milk at 15 cents a quart, with the government making direct payments to milk producers which would keep their income up to or above present levels.

Farm Bureau President Allan B. Kline estimated at the time it would cost the government \$2.4 billion a year to do this on milk.

The same rate of subsidy spending on other items such as pork, butter