The Clue that Trapped the Heirs of Huey Long

ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 7, 1939, a hot tip came to the city desk of the New Orleans States, evening newspaper sister of the famous Times-Picayune.

When a truck drove up before a half-built house in the suburbs and began unloding window sash, the States’ photographer was hiding behind a hedge. The picture he got clinched off a string of grain feeders that blew hundreds of Louisiana politicians out of the public trough.

For the license plate proved that the truck belonged to Louisiana State University—and the half-built house belonged to the wife of a colonel on the governor’s staff. Just a step in the bucket of graft that the political heirs of Huey Long had been passing around for years. But the first case that could be proved—liberated—arrested.

That night 64-year-old Jim Crow, the States’ fighting editor, sat down on his bed and sobbed—recollections from months without sleep in the front-line editorial trenches. “At last we get a break!”

With the feet near his, the feeders kept popping around the covering longers. These men committed suicide; more than 200 faced federal and state indemnities. It had been a great news, but thanks to the battling Picayune papers, it was all over.

They’re in the great American tradition, the dig-ged old Times-Picayune and the rip-roaring, rough-and-tumble New Orleans States. They have a line behind them that reaches back to Ben Franklin and Sam Adams and Tom Paine.

When Jim Crow strides around his office, dictating editorials at the top of his level lungs, Greely and Durr keep step with him. Politician and

The world of right and wrong dressed in shades of gray. The pepper-and-salt of ordinary human nature...the prophetic confession of the ruin...the unprepossessing garments that can hide a clean white motive.

Investigating that gray crowd-pictures, penetrating its disguises, throwing a searchlight here and an X-ray there, is part of Times’ job. Times quotes its reporters and correspondents again and again: “What’s behind this? What’s behind it? Give us the background.”

But over and above this is the sense of heightening responsibility that characterizes these times, as it has other periods of crisis. These days are big for every possible scrap of fact, every line of expert and inexpert opinion is on the table. Times editors will rise the last train home, trying to decide what’s right, who’s right, and how to let the people know it.

Judgments arrived at this way are not infallible, for nothing human is. But they are genially approachable. Essential to people who share their ardors—stimulating to people who don’t. And backed by the courage of conviction.

This is one of a series of advertisements in which the editors of Times hope to give all the readers of this newspaper a clearer picture of the work that the Editors of

Friday, March 8

Watches • Diamonds • J e w e l r y
Watch and Jewelry Repair
A Speciality
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GILBERT RYDER
357 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON

The weekly newsmagazine

CALENDAR
FRIDAY, MARCH 8
5:00 P.M. Hobby Shop Meeting—Boone 2-170.
7:00 P.M. Poeting vs. Columbia—Walker Win.
8:00 P.M. Swinnan vs. W.P. L—University Club Pool.
8:00 P.M. Debate on Eliza Hall, Gambleday Conservatory of Music.

THE TECH
SATURDAY, MARCH 9
2:00 P.M. Gym Team vs. Dartmouth—Walker Gym.
2:00 P.M. Inter-class Track Meet—Boos’ Track.
3:00 P.M. Freshman Swim Team vs. Wrens—Away.
4:00 P.M. II Circulo Italiano—East Lounge.
8:00 P.M. Chinese Student’s Club—Graduate House.
8:00 P.M. Walker Staff Dance—North Hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10
4:00 P.M. Popular Science Lecture—Boone 10-430.