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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
16th District.

THE BUDGET. Whenever an individual or family undertakes to estimate income for a given period, then estimate expenses, and seek to make the two balance, such operation might be referred to as making a family budget. By law, the Federal Government operates in similar fashion. It is mandatory that it make a budget. This budget is prepared by order of the President, the work being done by the Director of the Budget and his staff. When all schedules are completed it is printed at the Government Printing Office and then becomes a guide for Congress. This printed Budget is 870 pages in length. It is composed in fine print and looks like a mail order catalogue. It is always accompanied by a message from the President to Congress. In essence it is a mathematical picture of what the Administration expects to collect by way of revenue, from what source, how much it expects to spend, what for, what deficit there will be if any and where it expects to obtain the money for the deficit. Simplified, it can be reduced to four divisions. I. Receipts. (These are estimates of what revenue is expected from tobacco, cigaretts, liquor, incomes, inheritances, estate taxes, gasoline, canal tolls, stock taxes, etc.) II. Expenditures. (These are estimates of what it will require to operate the White House, Congress, the Courts, the Army, the Navy, Interest on National debt, the Departments of Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, etc., Relief, the newly proposed public works program and all other agencies of government). III. The Deficit. IV. Means of Financing Deficit. (Whether the deficit will be financed by borrowings, new taxes, etc.) The Budget covers one fiscal year. Uncle Sam's fiscal year runs from June 30, 1935 to June 30, 1936 so that the appropriations made by Congress to cover the budget estimates will be for the governmental program starting in June of this year. The Budget is essentially simple in pattern but represents much painstaking work and covers every item of expense from the President's salary to the purchase of a law book for a minor court in the Hawaiian Islands.

FIGURES. The following will be easy to remember and gives a picture of what is ahead. Uncle Sam expects all forms of revenue and processing taxes to run close to 4 billion. Against that, he expects to spend (1) 36½ million to run Congress, Courts and Executive Dept. (2) About 800 million to run the various Cabinet Departments (3) About 800 million for the Army and Navy (4) 700 million for Veterans (5) 1500 million for interest and retirement of principal on our national debt (6) 4600 million for Recovery and Relief which includes Agriculture, Unemployment Relief, Public Works, Rivers and Harbors, etc. Total expenditure is estimated at 8500 million. Deficit is estimated at 4500 million. To cover this deficit, Uncle Sam will borrow from the people by selling them government bonds. The National debt will then reach about 34000 million dollars. Anent these dizzy figures, it is interesting to recall that when Uncle Joe Cannon was Speaker of the House and some citizen expressed alarm at the first Billion dollar Congress, Uncle Joe's retort was, "Sir, this is a billion dollar country."

OLD AGE PENSIONS. Within a few weeks Congress will pass some form of old pension legislation. The nature of the legislation has not yet been determined. It is safe to prophesy that it will pass unanimously. The following facts serve to emphasize how scrambled and diverse, state old age pensions have been. Twenty eight states and 2 territories (Alaska and Hawaii) have old age pensions laws. In 25 states, pensions are mandatory. In 5 states they are optional. In 15 states, pensions begin at age 65, in 13 states at 70, in one state at 68 and in 1 state (Wis.) at 60. In 7 states, the state furnishes all the money for such pensions, in 14 states, the county pays all, in 9 states county and state share the cost. Seventeen states require 15 years residence before one may be eligible for a pension, 8 states require 10 years, 2 require 20, 1 requires 5 and one requires 35. In some states, funds with which to pay pensions are raised by general appropriations, in others a per capita tax ranging from 50¢ to \$2.00 is levied. Washington pays pensions from taxes on horse racing and Pennsylvania from revenues derived from the state liquor business. All states require citizenship as a qualification for pension; in

21 states, a pensioner must have been a citizen for 15 years. The rate of pension also varies. Hawaii and Indiana pay \$15 per month. Most states pay \$1 per day. Mass. and New York have no limit and pay on the basis of need. In 6 states, one may have as much as \$3000 worth of property and still receive a pension. The amount ranges from \$1000 to \$3000. Other states make exemptions of income, so that one may have an income ranging from \$100 a year in Iowa to \$400 a year in Kentucky and still receive a pension. There are sex distinctions also. Alaska pays \$35 to men and \$45 to women. Some states also pension women at 60 and men at 65. Whatever action is taken by Congress, one of it's objectives will be to effect uniformity in all states in such requirements as age, residence and citizenship requirements and amount of pension paid. (NOTE: Old Age Pensions are here to stay. If I were an immigrant, I would be sure that I was a citizen in good standing or definitely on the way to citizenship. Lack of it would automatically debar one from a pension.)

THUMB NAIL SKETCHES. Rep. Fuller of Arkansas was born in Prophets-town, Illinois. Rep. Colden, member from San Pedro, Calif. was born on a farm in Peoria County, Rep. Taylor of Colorado was born at Metamora and is now one of the House leaders. Rep. McGroarty of California, newly elected, is 72, and is the poet laureate of California by action of the legislature. The House expects him to interlard his speeches with his own poetry. Rep. Burdick of N. D. in the biography which appears in the Congressional Directory informs the House and the world at large that he is an author of his historical sketches and also played right end on the championship Minnesota football team in 1902 and 1904. Rep. Patton of Texas and Rep. Utterback of Iowa disclose that they were both born in log cabins. Huey Long has been practicing law for 19 years. Congressman Dunn of Pittsburg who lost his left eye by accident at 12, and his right eye at 20 while wrestling in a Newsboy's Home in Pittsburg, has introduced a bill asking for 100 billion with which to relieve unemployment. (One hundred billion is a lot of money.)

JITTERS. Have you noticed recently that the stock, bond and commodity markets have the jitters? If the Lindbergh case did not take so much space, you might find out more about it. It's the "Gold Clause Case" before the Supreme Court. Years ago a man bought a railroad bond. It was a B&O bond. It matured and was payable in 1938. The B&O, well managed road, has the money, wants to pay now, and so called the bond. When issued years ago, the bond carried a clause that it was "payable in gold." At that time gold was valued at \$20.17 an ounce. Since then the Congress, at the instance of the President devalued gold, so that the gold dollar is worth but 59.06¢. Following that, the Treasury began buying gold and putting the price up until gold reached \$35.20 per ounce. If that bond is payable in gold, shall the owner receive payment on the basis of \$35.20 or on the basis of \$20.17? That looks like an insignificant and harmless matter to decide and yet, if the Court decides that he is payable in gold on the basis of the number of dollars that it now takes to buy an ounce, and that ruling is applied to the billions of dollars of outstanding government, railroad, corporation and realty bonds, it will involve 70 billions of dollars. It involves our economic fate. For sheer importance, it dwarfs anything that has come before the Court in a generation, and yet, receives scant attention. It's a little acorn from which a tall oak may grow. You see now why markets have the jitters.

AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS. To and including November 30, Illinois has received the following AAA benefit payments. 3 1/3 million for wheat, 17 1/2 million for corn-hogs and \$ 483.95 for tobacco. Didn't know we had tobacco farmers in our state.