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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen

LINCOLN'S CHURCH. There's a current song, "Did you ever see a dream walking?" You say, "How silly." In the same spirit, may I ask, "Did you ever see people, standing, shoving, jostling, to get into a church and hear a sermon?" Empty churches might belie that possibility. I saw it at the little New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where Lincoln, Jackson, Fillmore, John Quincy Adams, attended church. It's the same little, old church without alteration and the auditorium, the overflow room, the balcony, the outside steps were filled to overflowing. It's a regular occurrence. Why? I cannot answer that. Other preachers are equally magnetic, even better than Dr. Sizoo, the minister. Others are more magnificent. Others more formal or less formal. Lincoln, also attended prayer-meeting here, sitting in a darkened room, with door ajar, so that he might listen without having people stare. Three boys discovered large footprints in the snow at the back door of the church, one Wednesday night, watched the following Wednesday night and the great Emancipator's secret was discovered. Another incident: Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, became head of the Pullman Car Co. A laboring man, came from Denmark and obtained a job. Was advanced and received an increase in pay. With that increase, he educated his sons, one of whom is Dr. Sizoo, the preacher at Lincoln's church. Another incident: Not many years ago, Lincoln's nieces donated the money to purchase new bells for this church and the bells were cast by the Hank's family, who have been bell-casters since time immemorial. Lincoln's mother was a Hanks. The sentimental inter-relationships of history are inspiring indeed.

\$31,098,504.00. That's a tidy sum. It represents the appropriation for the Interior Dept. for the next fiscal year, in addition to 15½ million regularly and permanently appropriated for that purpose. Mr. Secretary Ickes presides over the destiny of the Interior Dept. and looks after national parks, Indians, bears, irrigation, Alaska, Hawaii and what not. For salaries, books, investigations, etc. in the Secretary's office, \$1,165,285. For the General Land Office (surveys, maps, registries, etc.), \$788,000. For the Bureau of Indian affairs, (we have reservations for Navajos, Piutes, Blackfeet, Kiowas, Apaches and 80 other tribes who require schools, policing, supervision, payments under tribal treaties, irrigation assistance, medical service, etc.) \$16,269,915. Bureau of Reclamation (including Boulder Dam but no additional funds for further reclamation work when the Dept. of Agriculture is seeking to take land out of cultivation), \$860,750. Geological Survey (including surveys of lands, streams and mineral resources) \$1,303,060. National Parks, Buildings & Reservations (includes national parks, cemeteries, memorials and public buildings in the national Capital) \$6,319,640. Office of Education (including vocational education in agriculture and vocational rehabilitation) \$1,222,800. For Government of the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii and the Virgin Islands, \$1,113,168. For Howard University (this is the outstanding University for negroes in Washington, D. C.) \$605,000. Some wag once remarked that there was so little coordinated effort in Gov't that the Secretary of Commerce looked after the polar bears, the Secretary of Interior looked after the brown bears and the Secretary of Agriculture looked after the cinnamon bears. Fortunately this has been changed.

INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF GOLD FUND. In 1932 Great Britain established what is known as the Exchange Equalization Fund, capitalized at 750 millions of dollars. Smart financiers took this fund, sold Pound Sterling and bought dollars. What happened? Create a demand for dollars and the exchange value remains firm or goes up. The dollar went up and the pound down. This happened at the time England deserted the gold standard. The pound, normally \$4.86 in value went down to \$3.50. Ordinarily commodity prices would rise under such conditions but the Equalization wizards managed to control prices and prevent them from getting out of hand. Apply this set up to business. An English shoe manufacturer makes shoes to sell for one pound whether in England or the U. S. If he sells his shoes in this country for \$4.86, converts the receipts into gold, has it sent back to England and converted into pounds, he gets one third more for his shoes than at home. With that one third, he can pay the American duty on shoes and still undersell American manufacturers. The natural result is that because of this trade advantage through smart money manipulation. Great Britain and other countries allied with her monetary system have been able to carry on their export business at the expense of the American manufacturer and consequently at the expense of the American workingman. The fact that the American dollar bought 33 1/3% more in Britain than in the U. S. because of exchange values tempted many American dollars to buy abroad. A Temporary benefit perhaps but at the expense of American recovery. The 2 billion fund established in the Gold Reserve Act and obtained from the profits accrued to the gold now in the Federal Reserve vaults but to be taken over by the Federal Treasury, will enable the President and the Treasury to take a hand in exchange manipulation and seek to bring back some of these lost advantages to American industry and American labor.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT. The proposed transfer of the Naval Fleet from the Pacific to the Atlantic will require 3,148,000 barrels of fuel oil and cost \$3,709,740. A bill has been introduced directing the use of President Roosevelt's portrait or likeness on all new silver and currency of \$1 denomination. More than 2 million people, the majority of whom are children visit the National Smithsonian Museum annually to view exhibits valued at 130 millions of dollars. A total of 116 cadets flunked and were ousted from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point this semester. Sparrows have become such a nuisance in the National Capitol and have caused so much expense that a midnight gas attack will be made to exterminate them. General John A. Sutter, discoverer of gold at Sutter's Mill in the days of '49 and who was one of the wealthiest men in America died in complete poverty and obscurity in a rooming house, in Washington, D. C.

SENATE JOKESTERS. Senator Nye told this one. A visitor to an art gallery was captiously and caustically criticizing paintings. While criticising a particular work of art, one of the artists asked, "Why do you criticize so freely? Are you an artist? Do you know anything about it?" Unabashed the visitor said, "No, I'm not, but I don't like it. Just don't like it." "Well what business have you to criticize" continued the artist "if you're not a painter?" "Humph!" snorted the critic. "I'm not a hen either, but I certainly know when an egg is rotten."