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

CROP LOANS. Forty million dollars has been made available for crop loans and application forms are now in preparation. Applicants must furnish proof that they are cooperating with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in its policy of acreage control and reduction. Quoting from a release by the Farm Credit Administration, "FCA representatives will be instructed to make no loans to farmers who are planning to increase production."

WHISKEY LABELS. Effective March 7 for all domestic liquors and April 7th, for foreign liquors, the following label regulations on spirits will be effective: Labels must show name of maker, blender, or rectifier and contents. Can be labeled "Straight Whiskey" when it is straight whiskey of a proof between 80 and 110 when bottled; "Blended Whiskey" when it is a mixture of old and young straight whiskey or a mixture of straight whiskey with neutral spirit (ethyl alcohol) and contains at least 20% of straight whiskey; "Spirit Whiskey" when it is a mixture of neutral spirit and whiskey containing not less than 5% nor more than 20 % of straight whiskey by volume; "Imitation Whiskey" when it is distilled spirit containing "rye" or "bourbon" essence or other flavoring materials and color. Under the new regulations, it will be illegal to style a Whiskey "Kentucky Bourbon" if it's made in Illinois or "Maryland Rye" if it's made in Louisiana. Label regulations also apply to any advertising matter that may be imprinted on the package and to circulars that may be packed with the whiskey.

SUGAR. Sugar quotas are to the fore again. Figures disclose that more sugar is being produced than is being consumed. Price has been demoralized and growers and refiners are in difficulties. The President has asked Congress to fix quotas (that is the amount of sugar which outside areas may be permitted to sell in the U. S.) in order to stimulate reduction in production, improve the market price, and equalize the opportunities for producers and refiners in this country. Porto Rican, Hawaiian, Philippine, and Virgin Islands sugar enters this country free; Cuban sugar pays a tariff. Cuba is therefore at a disadvantage. New quotas therefore recommended by the President provide that Cuba shall be entitled to send us 350,000 more tons of sugar than last year, and the Philippines 210,000 tons less. Our own domestic beet sugar industry is given a quota of 1,450,000 short tons, and Louisiana and Florida cane a quota of 260,000 tons. Our domestic industry produces about 60 million dollars worth of sugar annually. Reductions in quota to our own producers will be compensated by a processing tax similar to that now in effect for corn, hogs, wheat, and cotton.

NRA. On March 5th, General Johnson will convene a meeting of business men and industrialists and employers in Washington for a three day session, to present a proposal for further reduction of hours under NRA schedules. There is a reason. There are 47 standing Committees in the House listed according to rule. Under Rule 24 of House procedure, standing committees are called to report any bills which may have been favorably reported by the Committee on or before the previous legislative day, after the disposition of the unfinished business on the Speaker's desk. Under this rule, there has been one call of Committees in the Special Session and one call during the present session of this Congress. The next Committee to be called will be that on Insular Affairs. It is number 20. Number 21 is Mines and Mining, No. 22, Public Buildings and Grounds, No. 23, Education, and No. 24 Labor. Committees on Insular Affairs, Mines, Public Building have little or nothing to report. At least not enough to occupy much time. The call goes to Labor which has ready to report, the bill providing for a 30 hour week in industry and business, with few exemptions. This bill has the endorsement of Madame Perkins, Secretary of Labor and the Labor organizations throughout the country. In fact, it has much support as the only summary way to extinguish unemployment, General Johnson perceives difficulty and must beat the Labor Committee to the "draw". This March 5th meeting will prove to be one of the most hectic and one of the most important since March 4th 1933. Incidentally, the President "goes on the air" on the night of March 4th. There may be a connection.

REVENUE BILL OF 1934. It is 254 pages in length. As to its complexity, scrutinize this quotation from the speech of Rep. Treadway, ranking minority member on the Ways and Means Committee " I recall that a few years ago, I once asked our expert, then Mr. Alex Gregg to explain in plain English what certain language in the law meant. He facetiously said, "Mr. Treadway, it cannot be explained in plain English!" This birdseye view may therefore be of interest. Total revenue of the U.S. for 1933 was 2.8 billions; for 1934 revenues are estimated at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  billions and for 1935 at 4 billion. (Figures are approximate.) Expenditures for 1933 were 4.7 billions, for 1934 estimated at  $10\frac{1}{2}$  billions and for 1935 about 6 billions. These expenditures are exclusive of amounts necessary for debt retirement under the sinking fund provisions which amounts to roughly one half billion annually. Our public deficit therefore for 1933 is 2.6 billion, for 1934 7.3 billion and for 1935 2.0 billion. Now the problem is on the basis of those estimated requirements to find enough money to effect some kind of a balance, and not add materially to the tax burden by new taxes. Of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  billion to be raised for the fiscal year 1934, 27% is

expected from income taxes, 42% from internal revenue taxes on Tobacco, liquor, estates, gasoline, checks and drafts, and excise taxes, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % from processing taxes, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % from customs and duties, and 6% from miscellaneous sources such as Panama Canal Tolls, proceeds from Gov't and foreign obligations etc. The estimated amount of 4 billion for 1935 does not differ essentially in percentages except that 31% is expected from income taxes. The following items will be taxed as items of miscellaneous internal revenue: Estates, Gifts, Liquor, Tobacco, Club dues, Theatre admissions, Stamp taxes on transfers, conveyances, playing cards etc, oleo, oil, brewers wort, matches, gasoline, soft drinks, electricity, ties, Inner tubes, trucks, autos, toilet preparations, furs, jewelry, watches, cameras, auto accessories, sporting goods, firearms, cartridges and shells, radios, candy and gum, telephone, telegraph and cable messages, pipe lines, safe-deposit boxes, checks and drafts. One new item calls for a tax of 5¢ per pound on sesame and coconut oil, to aid the dairy interests. The Committee believes that they have effectively plugged the holes in the old tax structure thru which there was a leakage of revenue on the part of large income payers.

THIS AND THAT. Congressman Fish of New York staged a one man filibuster. He asked unanimous consent to have inserted in the Congressional Record, copy of the telegram which Lindberg sent to the President. Consent was refused by a member of the majority party. Mr. Fish then served notice that he would object to every unanimous consent request that might be preferred that day. It happened that the order of business for the day was consideration of the Private calendar involving hundreds of claims for pensions, damages, from the U.S. and other items of private nature. It is the only procedure in the House for consideration of such matters. Mr. Fish continued to object. Business was deadlocked. Some member, seeing the futility of proceeding moved to adjourn. The motion carried. The House had been in session just one hour and five minutes. There is a Bankhead in the House and Bankhead in the Senate. They are brothers. Both come from Jasper, Alabama. Together, they prepared a bill, which has administration endorsement and seeks the compulsory reduction of cotton acreage and production to a 9 million bale annual basis. Emma Goldman, noted so-called "Red" who was banished 15 years ago, is back and will speak in the National Theatre in the National Capital next Sunday. She is gray but still vigorous. A four months old baby, abandoned here this week, will be the worlds youngest broadcaster. The baby will be induced to cry into the microphone, in the hope that the abandoning mother will hear her and reclaim the child.