

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

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION. More than 100 bills are pending in the House Committee on Immigration, dealing with every phase of the matter. The large number of bills reflects the widespread urge for further restriction on immigrants. However, there is much confusion on the subject. When Washington was President, we had a population of 4 million; today we have in excess of 125 million. Two factors contributed to growth, namely excess of births over deaths and immigration. In 1927, births exceeded deaths by 961,000. Highest net immigration in any one year was 1910, when after making allowances for aliens who were admitted and then deported, more than 800,000 remained. In the early days we had plenty of available land, we wanted to grow, we had no unemployment problems, and we welcomed newcomers from foreign shores. Today, we have millions out of work. Also we have an extreme radical element and the problem is to restrict further immigration, assimilate aliens who are here, and to deport undesirables. Under the quota law, 150,000 people can migrate to the U. S. in any one year. In addition, certain relatives of those now here, students, professors, ministers and people who were born in Canada, Mexico and the south and central American countries are admissible outside of the quota. To curtail immigration, proposals now pend to curtail quotas by 60%, restrict the comings and goings of Canadians, Mexicans, and other people from western hemisphere countries, clamp down on deserting alien seaman who come here, check up on visitors who came for a definite stay and forgot to return. Second part of the problem deals with the naturalization of 5½ million aliens who are not now citizens. The third part of the problem calls for aggressive action by the Department of Labor in deporting undesirables who preach subversive doctrines. In 1933, deportations reached 20,000. In 1934 it dropped to 9000. Some of the most hardened criminals in the U. S. cannot be deported because of loopholes in the law. Interest in immigration problems emphasizes the fact that we are fast developing the nationalistic spirit.

POTATO TAX. Maine, New Hampshire and the Carolinas are potato producing states. Cuba also produces potatoes. When the reciprocal trade treaty became effective a few months ago, reducing the tariff on Cuban potatoes shipped to the U. S., Cubans promptly deluged us with potatoes. In fact Cuban potatoes in eastern states were selling in grocery stores at a price which was less than production cost in eastern states. Potato farmers promptly demanded protection. There is now pending a Potato Adjustment Program, making allotments to potato states and to potato farmers based on production in former years. Potato eaters will pay a tax ranging from 30¢ to 45¢ per bushel if this measure becomes law, out of which potato farmers will be paid for adjusting production.

WAR PROFITS. On April 6, 1917, the U. S. declared war on Germany. On April 6, 1935, just eighteen years later, while the city of Washington was celebrating Army Day, and troops from Fort Meyer were parading on Pennsylvania Avenue, the House of Representatives was voting on the McSwain bill to take the profits out of war. Everybody seemed to favor this measure. It seemed sound and effective. It gave the President authority to freeze prices on all articles and things, provided for adjustments, gave the President power to draft everybody between the age of 21 and 31 (the unorganized militia) gave him power to comander and control all industry, gave him power to license every form of business, and authorized him to set up boards, commissions and agencies to carry out his authority. Closer reading of the bill, developed some strange things and a fight began. In the language of the bill, it gave the President dictatorial power, not only in war but at anytime when Congress declared an emergency. Remembering the number of emergency measures passed by the previous Congress, it became apparent that under the bill as written, Congress could declare an emergency and the President in his judgment could conscript labor between the ages of 21 and 31 and put them to work on PWA projects at \$1 per day. Moreover, under the bill as written, if Congress declared an emergency, even tho no warclouds loomed on the horizon, the President could take over every factory, mine, power house and national resource in this country. A barrage of amendments promptly began and when all was said and done, the author of the bill did not recognize his own child.

NEW TOWNSEND BILL. The first Townsend measure introduced by Rep. McGroarty of California provided for a 2% transactions tax on all transactions out of which \$200 per month was to be paid to every qualified person 60 years of age or over. That measure still remains in the House Committee on Ways and Means. On April 1, Rep. McGroarty introduced a new Townsend Bill. In a general way, it provides for a 2% transactions tax, defines what is taxable, provides the method for collecting such tax and places it in the U. S. Treasury to be known as "United States

citizen's retirement annuity fund." Every citizen, 60 years of age or over, whose income is not over \$200 per month is eligible. However, instead of authorizing a stated or definite pension, the new act provides that after the cost of administration of the act plus any reserves necessary to protect pensions that might have been deferred has been set aside, the balance of the money shall be divided by the number of applicants who have filed for and are eligible to a pension, so that each person shall receive a pro rata share of the funds so raised. Estimates vary as to what the amount of such pension might be. Obviously, if business is good and there are many transactions, the amount of tax collected would be greater and the pension would be larger. In times of depression, the pension would be smaller. These estimates range from \$50 to \$100 per month.

TEXTILE STRIKE. Francis J. Gorman, small, but aggressive Vice President of the United Textile Workers of America has his office at 606 Bible House, New York. In a letter to members of Congress he intimates that "if these conditions continue (in the textile industry) a strike must come at a not far distant date." Reason for the pronouncement is that the NRA Board recently issued an order to curtail production of textiles by 25% for the next three months. This order will reduce the average weekly wage from \$12 to \$8 and add to unemployment. It is a bit revealing to note a recent report issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (a government agency) with respect to cotton textile workers in which it is stated that while hourly wages for workers is 60% above that of July of 1933, the weekly earnings are the same now as in 1933, and the real earnings of male workers are lower. In simple language, that report states that if the hourly wage in 1933 was 30¢, today it is 48¢ but at the end of the week there will not be any more money in the pay envelope than there was in 1933 and that what money is in the pay envelope will not buy as much as it would in 1933. Government reports can be rather startling, if properly analyzed.

FARMERS CROP LOAN. The \$60,000,000 emergency crop loan is now available and loans are being made. Loans will be made to farmers who cannot procure credit from other sources, and only in an amount necessary to cover cash cost of seed, fertilizers, supplies, and feed. Limit is \$500 to any one farmer. This money cannot be used for purchase of machinery or livestock or for the payment of debts or taxes.

FATHER COUGHLIN'S BANKING BILL. It was anticipated that when Father Coughlin of Royal Oak Michigan reduced his monetary and banking ideas to concrete form and had it prepared in the form of a bill to be submitted to Congress, that it would be an extremely radical proposal. It did not prove so radical after all. It was introduced by Rep. Sweeney of Ohio on March 4th. It provides for the creation of a Bank Of The United States, governed by a Board of 48 directors, one from each state, all of whom shall be elected by the people for a period of 12 years at the same time that they vote for Congressmen and Senators. Eight of the directors shall retire every two years so that it becomes a revolving Board. The Federal Reserve Banks are to become branches of the Central Bank. It provides further for a 100% reserve behind all demand bank deposits, and for the stabilization of purchasing power by the gradual purchase of government bonds thro the issue of additional currency.

PERSONALITIES. Congressman Burdick of North Dakota batches with his secretary and a North Dakota Indian on a little farm in Maryland. Senator McAdoo age 72 and Senator Capper age 70 are inveterate dancers and are seen often on Washington dance floors. The German Ambassador, Dr. Hans Luther invites his friends in on Saturday night for an informal "At Home" with the announcement that it's Book Beer Night.