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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.  
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen  
16th Illinois district.

MILK. In 1933 there were 26,000,000 milch cows in the country - equal to the population of the 24 largest cities in the U.S. In 1929, income from dairy products for farmers more than 1 4/5 billion dollars. In 1932, that income had dropped to less than a billion. Falling prices is the answer. A singular fact - too much milk for the farmer resulting in prices that are too low - not enough milk for the consumer at prices that seem too high because income has shrunk. A strange jumble. The remedy - build up income so that the average consumer can buy his requirements of milk, cheese, butter, ice cream and other dairy products and the surplus will disappear. Another approach would be a change in present standards of moisture for butter and butterfat for ice cream. If the permissible moisture content in butter were reduced, it will absorb millions of pounds of extra butter, now in storage. Prices would doubtless go up a bit but the fact remains that the consumer gets more butter for his money and the farmer finds an extra market for cream which in turn increases his buying power and makes him a better customer for the things produced in factories. Ice Cream, for instance may contain from 31% to 56% of air. Reducing the air in ice cream makes it a richer food and creates an additional outlet for cream. Here again, the consumer gets more for his money and the farmer's buying power of factory-made products is increased.

INDIANS. A very comprehensive legislative program for the future care of our Indian wards has been drafted in a bill styled in the Wheeler-Howard Bill. It has been variously called the Indian New Deal, the Indian Bill of Rights and the Indian Square Deal. The Indian Commissioner and many others who are authorities on the problem of the Indian in his relationship to Uncle Sam have spoken and written copiously in favor of the bill. It is therefore singular that Congressman Hastings of Oklahoma, full blood Cherokee Indian who has been in Congress 18 years and who voluntarily retires this year, is opposed to the bill. Likewise Joseph Brooks of the Sioux Tribal Council, Joseph Bruner, Chief of the Indian National Confederacy, Jesse Lyons, Chief of the Onondaga's, Joshua Jones, Chief of the Six Nations, Winslow Courto of the Mission Indians, Delos Lonewolf Chief of the Kiowas, Apaches, and Comanches, Levi Walker of the Klamath Indians, and Adam Castillo of the Mission Indians. Apparently, the Indians are not intrigued by the Wheeler-Howard Bill.

FIREARMS. In conformity with the drive on crime, the Congress passed the National Firearms Act which seeks to prevent traffic in machine guns, sawed off rifles and shotguns, and machine gun silencers and mufflers. To that end a tax of \$1000 is imposed on manufacturers and importers of the above style weapons, \$300 on pawnbrokers, and \$200 on dealers. A transfer tax of \$200 on each such weapon is also imposed. One intriguing provision of the bill is that within 60 days after it becomes law, every possessor of a sawed off rifle, shotgun or a machine gun must register it with the Collector of Internal Revenue under penalty of a fine. Pistols and revolvers are not included in the term "firearms."

THE SENATE. They burned out a few legislative bearings this week. Mind you, they passed 241 bills in four hours. That's one a minute. What kind of bills were they? Private pension bills, private relief bills for people to whom the government is indebted (you know that Uncle Sam cannot be sued) a bill to Establish National Archives, a Bill to make the renowned war hero <sup>Sergeant</sup> York a Major, a Bill to print additional sets of the Writings of George Washington, amendments to the Criminal Code, exempting property of Patriotic Organizations from taxation, protecting sea lions in Alaskan waters, the acquisition of land for wild life and fish refuges, to incorporate a National Association of Libraries, loans to those engaged in the fishing industry, investigation of the sale of milk and dairy products, Code of Laws for the Canal Zone, bills authorizing the construction of bridges across navigable streams, and scores of other purposes. One a minute is something of a record.

BOTTLES. The House passed a bill giving to the Secretary of the Treasury, authority to regulate the size, kind, and markings on liquor bottles and also authority to control and regulate the use and sale of second hand bottles. Reason? There is some snitching. Liquor is being sold in bottles that are one or two ounces shy of being a pint or a quart. The second reason is that those who are still engaged in the illicit liquor traffic are paying as much as 20¢ each for liquor bottles which have the name of some popular brand like Canadian Club, Old Taylor, or Old Crow blown in the glass. All they need do is fill it, stick on a label and a counterfeit stamp and presto, you can fool even the most discerning dealers. Recently, 3 tons of labels were confiscated in New York, representing every conceivable brand of good liquor. They were so cleverly forged that even experts had difficulty in telling the genuine from the counterfeit.

FILIPINO CURRENCY. Six hectic hours, interlarded with acrimonious debate and sharp personalities, were spent on a bill which had for it's purpose, the restoration to the Philippine Islands of 23 million dollars. It seems that on January 31st, 1934, the Philippine Islands, had on deposit in American banks a fund of 56 million dollars which was the currency reserve for their money system. This has always been considered as the equivalent of gold. When the Gold Reserve Act was passed in January, devaluing the gold dollar, this money, like all gold was devalued from 100¢ to 59.06¢ to the dollar and it is contended that the Filipinos thereby lost 23 million. It was felt that the U.S. was morally and equitably obligated to make restoration to the Filipinos. Opponents contended that nobody had as yet proposed to make a similar restoration to American citizens in our own country who were similarly penalized. The bill carried. The vote was reasonably close. The important thing is that the bill is eloquent testimony of the difficulties and dangers that are encountered in tampering with the monetary system.

GRAFT. Yesterday Robert D. Kohn, former President of the American Institute of Architects, and Director of Housing for the FWA has resigned. He immediately left the city of Washington. As Director of Housing, Mr. Kohn passed on housing projects for which the FWA had set aside 20 million dollars. The FWA however has a Division of Investigation in charge of a competent investigator. This division found that on one project in New York, appraisals on land values had been approved for an amount which was 8 times greater than what the President of the corporation, which asked for the loan, swore that it was, even in 1929 when values were higher than at present. It was also reported that unusually large fees and commissions had been paid. The Investigators told Mr. Ickes. Mr. Ickes looked into it and without more ado, Mr. Kohn, resigned and decamped. (Excuse the sermon but it does seem positively vile that human selfishness and greed must still seek to feed upon the despair of millions of other people who are jobless and distressed.)

TIN. Since George Washington's day, less than 1500 tons of tin has been produced in this country. Only 86,000 tons are produced annually in the entire known world and of that amount the U.S. uses considerably more than one half. Most of it comes from the Malay States, Burma, and the Straits Settlements, down on the other side of the world. Britain controls most of it. The price has always been high because of this foreign monopoly. We need tin for a variety of uses, including munitions of war. Therefore a resolution was introduced to appoint a House Committee to investigate the tin situation and the possibility of securing tin in partial payment of war debts. After this committee has investigated and accumulated additional information, we will still be precisely in the same state that we were before the investigation, namely, dependent on other nations for tin. Another angle to this situation is that Japan is buying scrap, all over the world and accumulating tin. Can it be that she is storing munitions for the future. Japan's action, has driven the price of scrap tin to \$23 per ton which makes it almost impossible for four large de-tinning plants in this country to operate. These plants reclaim about 27% of all the tin that is imported into the U.S. Possibly the most important aspect is that any effort to bargain with foreign countries for tin will relax our scientific efforts to find a suitable alloy substitute. It was thro the cutting off of our supplies in the past that resulted in synthetic camphor (we were dependent on Japan for Camphor), sulphur (all our sulphur came from Sicily), salvarsen and dyes (these came from Germany) rayon (this came from France and Germany) and many other products. Perhaps our tin shortage and dependence on other nations may result in more determined efforts to locate deposits of tin in this country or in chasing chemists into the laboratories to find a substitute in a test tube.

RAILROAD PENSIONS. Congress passed the Crosser Bill providing for pensions for railroaders at age 65 and for their retirement. It is a cooperative venture under government supervision. Railroads will contribute 60 million and the employees 30 million. Pensions begin at age 65 if there has been 5 years of service, or at the end of 30 years service, irrespective of age. No pension shall exceed \$100 per month. It is expected that 50,000 employees will be retired as soon as the law becomes effective and thereby afford jobs for 50,000 who are now unemployed.

CONSTITUTION. Sol Bloom, Congressman from New York, who by the way was born in Pekin, Illinois took a million dollars and sold George Washington to the country thro songs, books, writings, memorials, pageants, busts, portraits and what not. Congressman Bloom is now about to sell the Constitution to this country. It will be a long-drawn-out observance, extending over many months, beginning in 1937. It is the 150th anniversary of the formulation of that historic document. In view of the alleged disregard of the Constitution by the so-called brain-trusters, the observance should call forth many a choice bon mot.