

6/17/33

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
(By Congressman Everett H. Dirksen)

ADJOURNMENT. Adjournment for Congress is like the last day of school for young folks. After 13 weeks of this hectic, day and night session, with the thermometer now registering 100 in the shade (and this place is 10 feet below sea level. Pekin is about 450 feet above.) the pace in the last hours becomes maddening, so that they might go home. Saturday, June 10, was the day decreed for adjournment by the President. However, the President cannot adjourn Congress. Both Houses must vote to adjourn. On Saturday, the legislative day began at 10:00 a.m. and continued until 4:15 without interruption. There was recess until 6:45 for the annual Congressional ball game. (The Republicans won by a score of 18 to 16.) Session resumed at 6:45. There ensued 3 roll calls. Conference reports and last minute bills were rushed thru. There came a lull while waiting on the Senate, to agree to House Amendments to certain measures. On the Senate side, Senators LaFollette, Long, Reed and Borah, began to tighten their bolts and attack the elimination of the anti-trust provisions from the Industrial Recovery Bill, the elimination of the provision to make public income tax returns and the last minute presentation of the President's consolidation measure. At 11:15, the majority leader in the Senate saw the hopelessness of securing an adjournment sine die and moved to adjourn until Monday. On the House side, a motion to adjourn for the night had just been defeated when word came of the Senate adjournment. The last day of legislative school proved to be not the last day of legislative school, and bags that were packed preparatory to departure yet that night were once more unpacked.

WHY THE HASTE TO ADJOURN? The President has a reason. In fact, several reasons. On Monday the World Economic Conference begins at London. Norman H. Davis, Ambassador-at-large for President Roosevelt and Ambassador Bingham at the Court of St. James, rank high in this parley. They have already been under fire for stating publicly that our traditional policy of avoiding entangling alliances is ended. Mr. Davis was also on the "preferred list" of the House of Morgan. If these gentlemen say and do things at the parley that do not meet with the approval of the Senate, that body may determine to remain in session and watch the outcome of the parley. And the House cannot adjourn without the Senate. The Senate, as you well know, is jealous of its power as the legislative body which passes on and virtually determines our foreign policy. The President wants them out of session as the parley begins. Another thing. The debtor nations will on Thursday, June 15th, owe us another installment on the war debt. It amounts to 144 millions. The President may have a plan of dealing with them on the debt situation. If his plan does not meet with the approval of the Senate, the fur will fly. If the Senate is not in session, the President will have free play until next January. You can readily see now, why the President made a determined fight for adjournment on Saturday - and failed. The President has one powerful ally - the weather man. 95 in the shade is hot along the Illinois River, but it's impossible in Washington, because of the humidity and oppressiveness that goes with being below sea level.

ROCK CREEK PARK A drive thru Rock Creek Park on Sunday afternoon will convince anyone that all the money spent on preserving the outdoors for the people of this country is justified. This park is a half mile wide and probably 60 miles long. Thru its length flows a creek, the bed of which is filled with boulders and rocks. Along the winding stream are macadam roads and bridle paths. Thousands of benches, tables, chairs, rock ovens for frying steaks, etc., are scattered along the stream. Unlike most parks, no lawnmower snips its grass carpet and gives it that prin, formal look. It is in every sense, native and pristine. Just like nature made it. We sat on a huge boulder, at the edge of the creek, eating sandwiches. Ten feet away was a young man and a young lady, billing and cooing their song of love. Around us were families sprawled on the ground, reading, playing cards, eating. Perhaps 20 feet away was a family group with a wash tub filled with iced beer. Along the road, boys were playing ball. Children and grown-ups bathing. Mornings sitting on large boulders reading the Saturday Evening Post. Thousands of automobiles lining the road. Humanity communing with nature. It is estimated that on a Sunday 100,000 people are scattered along the 60 miles of this native park. Their own recreation.

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Cleansing the spirit of its frailties. Lifting birds. Rushing water with its diminuendo gurgle and its crescendo rushing over rocks and boulders. Tiny babies smiling in the shade. Laughing children splashing in the shallows. Majestic trees and wild flowers. This is the people's outdoors - their playground. There should be extreme punishment for him who despoils it.

TID BITS. Senator Borah attended the Southern Illinois Academy at Enfield, Illinois. Senator Dieterich was a member of Co. K, Anderson's Provisional Regiment during the Spanish American War. Congressman Major, who becomes the new Federal Judge for the Peoria, Quincy, Springfield District, has served four terms in Congress. He is 46. Congressman Sabath of Chicago was born in Czecko-Slovakia and Congressman Schuetz, also of Chicago, was born in Posen (now Poland). Congressman Keller of Illinois spent four years in Mexico among the revolutionists, recovering from tuberculosis. Two of Oregon's three Congressmen were born in Illinois. General Martin was born at Albion and Congressman Pierce was born at Norris.

BANK DEPOSITS. For a time it appeared certain that Congress would adjourn without passing the Glass-Steagall Bill insuring bank deposits, but the parliamentary snarl that resulted on Monday made it possible to call up the conference report on the bill and pass it in the House by a vote of 191 to 8. The bill in final form sets up the machinery for insuring the deposits in all banks, state and national, which elect to come within the provisions of the Act. Deposits up to \$10,000 are insured to the extent of 100%; from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to the extent of 75%; above \$50,000 to the extent of 50%. The bill also permits national banks to engage in branch banking in those states in which branch banking is permitted to state banks by state law. Perhaps the most salient provision of the bill provides for the divorcing of banks and their investment affiliates. This is aimed directly at institutions like the House of Morgan.

L'ENVOI. This will be the last news letter from Washington until January. Most of the major legislation during the special session of Congress has been discussed in a casual way. By way of recapitulation, I might say that the major bills passed during this session can be designated as the Emergency Banking Bill, the Economy Act, the Act to legalize beer, the Act providing for a Reforestation Army, an Act liberalizing the prescribing of medicinal liquor, the Emergency Relief Act known as the Wagner Act, the Muscle Shoals Act, the Securities Act, the Wagner-Poyser Act providing for the establishment of Employment Bureaus, the Bank Deposit Insurance Act, the Transportation Act providing for the coordination of the Railroads, and the Industrial Recovery and Public Works Act. This office will be very glad to provide copies of any of these laws on application. It will be a matter of great joy and delight to return home soon, and partake of the hospitality of the 16th District again.