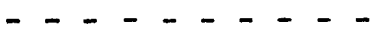


THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
By Congressman Everett M. Dirkson
16th District



At 12:00 noon, January 6, 1943, the gavel will fall. The Clerk will call the new Congress to order. The roll of members will be called. The oath will be administered. The 1st session of the 78th Congress will get under way. A Speaker and other officers will be selected. Committees will be organized. The Congress will then recess until January 7th. At noon on that day, the President will appear to deliver his annual message on the state of the union. Hundreds of bills will be dropped in the legislative hopper. The Committees will meet as quickly as organized. The legislative wheels will be set in motion. It will be the 6th Congress under President Roosevelt. It's the greatest number in our history under a single President. That's because of the 3rd term. It will be a bit different than the 73rd Congress of 1933 - the 1st under President Roosevelt. In that Congress, there were 313 Democrats and 117 Republicans, in the House. The Administration had a majority of 196. In the Senate were 36 Republicans, 59 Democrats. In the new Congress, there will be 222 Democrats, 208 Republicans and 4 members from minor parties. If, on a certain controversial issue, Republicans and minor party members voted solidly, it would take but 10 Democrats to defeat an administration proposal. In practice, it does not work quite that way. Death, illness and other causes will keep members from the floor and only rarely is a full membership present. This means that for working purposes, the two major parties will be about evenly divided in strength on the floor of the House. It will be salutary for the nation. There will be 106 new members in the House and 13 in the Senate. Of the 106 new members, 41 will be Democrats, 64 will be Republicans and 1 will be of the Farmer Labor party. Oldest Congressman in point of service will be A. J. Sabath of Chicago who begins his 19th consecutive term. He came to Congress in 1907. Oldest Senator will be Ellison "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina who begins his 34th year in the Senate. Controversy, attrition, worry, pressure will take its customary toll and as members pass away during the session, the ratio of parties will change. In 1930, the 72nd Congress convened with 220 Republicans and 214 Democrats. The Grim Reaper intervened to shape national destiny and Republican deaths during the session, made it possible for the Democratic party to organize and take control of the House. There has been one Republican death since the election on November 3rd. Such are the fortuities of public service and human destiny.

PERSONALITIES

The new Congress brings new personalities. It loses a Will Rogers and gains a Will Rogers, Jr. Will Rogers of Oklahoma was defeated. Will Rogers, Jr., son of the famous cowboy humorist and a movie star in his own right comes to Congress for the first time. William Miller of Connecticut who lost both legs in the World War I, returns to Congress. Clara Boothe Luce, playwright, author and wife of the publisher of Time, Life and Fortune will be among the new members. A new negro comes for the first time in the person of William Dawson of Chicago. It will be an alliterative body. There will be a Carl Curtis, Jed Johnson, Ross Rizley, Cliff Clevenger, Hal Holmes, Mike Monroney, Percy Priest, Will Whittington, Mel Maas, Phil Philbin, Sid Simpson, Harold Hagen and others. There will be 7 women members - one each from Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Connecticut. It will be a cross section of America.

SORRY, BUT WE'RE JUST FRESH OUT OF SIRLOIN STEAK.

We are a meat-eating nation. Savory sirloin steaks, toothsome pork chops, succulent fried ham to go with a brace of eggs, barbecued ribs, tempting roast beef - these and others are the center piece around which the American meal is based. And thereby hangs a tale. They're to be rationed. What are the mathematics of rationing meat anyway? Well, here's what the statistics indicate. We have about 700 million pounds in storage. The soldiers and sailors who do hefty work and need plenty of meat, and the allied countries to whom we supply meat will need about 6 2/5 billion pounds. This will leave about 17 4/5 billion

pounds with which to feed the 130 million people back home. But that won't be enough because the folks back home have been feeding better this last year and they'll be wanting 20 $\frac{4}{5}$ billion pounds. Now the question is: How are you going to make 17 $\frac{4}{5}$ billion pounds of meat do the work of 20 $\frac{4}{5}$ billion pounds. You guessed it! It will be rationed so everybody will get some. This would, if equally distributed, provide about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per week per person. How is it elsewhere? Best figures indicates that in England the weekly ration of meat is 31 oz, Germany 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. France 9 oz. Holland 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, Belgium 5 oz, Italy 5 oz.

WAR PATTERN IN STYLES

On November 13, Economic Stabilizer Byrnes issued an order to the War Production Board which read in part as follows, "undertake a vigorous program of simplification and standardization of production and distribution, not merely to eliminate frills and wasteful practices, but wherever necessary and advantageous to concentrate on the production of relatively few types of goods of standardized quality, design, and price." Read that again and ponder. Can you imagine what would happen if there were but five styles of dresses, three kinds of hosiery, two kinds of suits, to pick from. All the joy of shopping and bargain hunting would vanish. Here indeed is a crisis of the first magnitude.

PLANES VERSUS SHIPS

Will heavy cargo planes ultimately drive surface shipping from the oceans? We think not. Consider these comparisons. A vessel of 13,000 tons displacement, of the better and faster type now used in the maritime service can make the journey from San Francisco to Australia - a distance of 14,000 miles - in 60 days for the round trip, carrying 6400 tons of freight each way. Total operating cost for a round trip would be about \$120,000, including \$9,000 for fuel and \$15,000 for labor. A four-motored plane, such as is now in use can make the round trip in six days. To haul 6400 tons, both ways, by plane would necessitate 21,000,000 flight miles, about 18,000,000 gallons of gasoline, 3,500 persons including pilots and cost more than 29 times as much. With this vast difference in cost, trans-oceanic cargo by air will for some time be limited to articles of high value or emergency items where such cost differences can be absorbed.