

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
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A WORD OF APPRECIATION.

The Congressional Front is in it's 11th consecutive year. Editors and publishers have been generous in according it space. The author is profoundly grateful. We are mindful that the limitations on pulp paper have made it necessary for publishers to ration space in many cases. We want to cooperate. To that end, the Congressional Front will be mindful of the need for brevity. We gladly make this column as compressed and selective as possible.

DID YOU TURN IN A TIRE?

Were you one of those who turned in idle tires. Perhaps you would like to know the score. Through January 2, 1943, 10,242,612 tires were turned in. Chicago had the highest score as a tire station and accounted for 1,400,000. A few of the tires can be used in their present condition, a few can be repaired, about 50% are suitable for scrap and the balance requires re-capping.

DEBT

It's a hideous but realistic subject. Congress will be asked to raise the debt limit to 210 billion. In 1800, the national debt was but 82 million, in 1865 about 2 1/3 billion, in 1918 about 23 1/2 billion in 1932 about 22 1/2 billion. In 1942, Congress passed one appropriation bill which was almost as large as the entire 1932 public debt. Interest on the debt for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 1943 will be 3 billion. If the debt reaches 200 billion, interest for one year at 2 1/2% will be 5 billion. Interest alone would be greater than all the revenue of the government in any year prior to 1940.

GOVERNMENT LEARNS FROM INDUSTRY.

Uncle Sam owns hundreds of thousands of trucks and motor cars. There is lack of uniformity in servicing these cars and the oil and gas consumption is enormous. Some months ago, the Budget Bureau studied the practices of owners of large fleets of trucks and cars and set up a formula for oil changing and the use of filters. It is expected that next year, this will save 750,000 gallons of oil. That is 3,000,000 quarts. That's a lot of oil. Thus does Uncle Sam learn from private industry.

BEFORE AND AFTER SPENDING

The Budget Bureau in the Executive Office of the President employs 560 people. It's job is to aid in estimating the amount government should spend in a year. Cost of this service is about 2 1/2 million dollars. After the money is spent, it is the job of the General Accounting Office to audit the expenditures. It employs 12,712 persons and spends 26 1/2 million. Thus it costs about 10 times as much to audit national expenditures as it does to estimate how much shall be spent.

FIRST WORLD WAR II BONUS.

First plan for a bonus for honorably discharged service men and women of the second World War has reached the desks of Congressmen and Senators. It calls for the issuance of a \$7800 bond, bearing 3 1/2% interest to every serviceman after discharge. The bond, will be placed in the hands of Trustees appointed by the President and approved by the Congressman. The bond would remain in trust for 7 years. Certain percentages of the bond could be used before that time for education, or the purchase of a home, business or farm. Doubtless this is the first of many proposals.