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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.  
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16th (III) District

ABSENTEEISM

Colonel Eddie Rickenbacker, after a harrowing experience in the Pacific referred to "absenteeism" as a waste of manpower. By this he meant those who for one reason or another absented themselves from work in the production lines in the factories of the nation. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that absenteeism ranged around 7 and 8% through October, 1942. In some shipyards it ranged as high as 20%. This means that 20 out of every 100 workers failed to appear for work in a given period. Their labor is as surely lost to the war effort as if they had never existed.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM DYSPHEMIA?

D-d-d-d-do you st-st-st-stutter? Better tell your Draft Board, So says Dr. Greene, Medical Director of the National Hospital for Speech Disorders. Scientific name for stuttering is dysphemia. Dr. Greene says there is an increase in the number of cases of physical break-down in the military service of those who stutter. Reason assigned is that stuttering is but a symptom of an underlying nervous disorder.

WARRIORS IN CONGRESS

Of 531 members of the House and Senate, 28 Senators and 161 Representatives are war veterans. Twenty Senators served in the Army, 1 in the Marines and 5 in the Navy. Of the 161 Representatives, 126 served in the Army, 31 in the Navy and 4 in the Marines. Two Senators and six Representatives served in the Spanish American War. Nine Representatives have done service in the present World War.

THE COLLEGE FRONT

Colleges and Universities, drained of male students as a result of selective service or enlistment in the armed services, face an uncertain future. The situation appears more hopeful now. Army, Navy and War Manpower Commission are making contracts with colleges to handle training programs. Already, more than 600 schools are handling such training projects. Others will be added. On the campuses of most of the 1800 colleges in the land, the Navy blue and the Army olive-drab will be a common sight.

MERGING THE BLUE AND THE OLIVE-DRAB

Do you remember the Postal Telegraph boys who wear blue uniforms and Western Union boys who wear the uniform with an olive-drab? It may be that by the action taken by Congress this week the blue will merge into the olive-drab. For many years Postal Telegraph has been losing money at the rate of \$400,000 per month and has received a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in the sum of \$9,000,000 in order that it might continue in business but losses continue since Postal does only 14 per cent of the domestic telegraph business in the country and some action was imperative to preserve its facilities and at the same time terminate continuing losses which would have eventuated in bankruptcy. Under the Anti-trust laws it was impossible for these two companies to consolidate and for this reason Congress has initiated a permissive statute under which the merger is permitted. The Act protects employees as well as whatever pension rights may have accrued. If this action is consummated, the little boy in blue will disappear and leave only the little boy in olive-drab. (As a result of manpower shortage the little boy in blue may become the little girl in olive-drab.)