

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

2-26-38

CRUSADE AGAINST CANCER. Years ago, scientists hailed the possibilities of that strange substance known as radium, in their fight on that dread malady cancer which still slays its thousands annually. But it was both scarce and expensive. Years ago, it took a million pounds of pitch-blended ore to produce a gram of radium and hence the cost was \$125,000 per gram. Since then it has dropped to \$25,000 per gram. Meanwhile, scientists, including the experts in the Bureau of Standards in Washington were experimenting with the possibilities of x-rays -- those strange rays discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen, a German physicist about 45 years ago, which pass thru ordinary substances and make it possible to make photographs of the body to locate diseases. Dr. Taylor of the Bureau, discovered that x-rays give off radiation similar to that of radium. But these radiations contain different wave lengths. Some of them are long and do not penetrate tissue very deeply and hence might cause severe burns. Others are short and do penetrate. If the long waves could be filtered out and facilities were developed for measuring the dosage of short waves up to a million volts or more, the x-ray tube might well displace radium in the treatment of cancer. Thus, in government laboratories, men are toiling to refine the strange Roentgen rays in the hope that some day, the scourge of cancer may be banished.

WHY ARE YE FEARFUL. "O, ye of little faith," sang the Apostle centuries ago. It's a pertinent question in troublous times when Spain wars with itself, Japan presses her conquest of China, Hitler bloodlessly subdues Austria, England comes to an agreement with Italy and eases the war pressure, Rumania goes Fascist, and the United States contemplates a naval expansion program. Go back just 100 years and let your quaking faith be bolstered. France, in addition to war with Mexico, was having insurrection at home and repeated attempts to assassinate the King. In Austria was insurrection and the Emperor fled. In Hungary was revolution. In Canada was a commercial crisis and rebellion. In Spain, a long-drawn war was in progress between the government forces and those of Don Carlos, the pretender. In Egypt was rebellion. China was the scene of violence and rioting, not to speak of a war with Britain in which the latter captured Hong Kong. England, in addition to her Chinese War, was having serious trouble in Ireland. In the United States, one of the worst panics of all time. So here we are in 1938, one hundred years later, with the same countries, same troubles, same kind of wars, same crises, same problems.

GUESS WHO SAID THIS. "Improvement in farm income can not be obtained from effective cooperative marketing alone, but requires in addition that production be brought in line with consumer demand. There are two ways of dealing with agricultural surpluses - prevent them and control them.... Regulation of production is fundamental to the prevention of surpluses.... In other words, the objectives of cooperative organization among farmers must be indeed not only the control of the remarketing of their own products but also the exercise of some influence on the quantity and quality of commodities produced for the market." Who did you say? Wallace? Nope. Roosevelt. Nope. It is part of the first annual report made to Congress by Alexander Legge, Chairman of the Federal Farm Board on December 4, 1930.

DISTRESS DON'T BREED INGENUITY. There is a popular notion that distress provokes ingenuity and that hard times stimulate inventiveness. To the extent that necessity compels us to adapt ourselves to new circumstances and conditions, this may be true but it is hardly true that hard times stimulate the human mind to find new inventions and devices. Best proof of course is the U. S. Patent Office. Applications for patents ran as follows during the last decade: 1928 - 88,482

applications; 1929 - 87,039; 1930 - 91,430; 1931 - 84,097; 1932 - 73,465; 1933 - 59,408; 1934 - 56,095; 1935 - 56,832; 1936 - 59,809; 1937 - 63,772. Note how applications increased in the halcyon days of late 1929 and 1930, how they progressively decreased as we slid into the trough of the depression, and how they started up as we began to recover from the intensity of the depression in 1937.

FEBRUARY'S THREE EMANCIPATORS. February marks the anniversaries of three great emancipators - Washington, who emancipated three million Colonists from the tyrannies of King George III, Lincoln, who emancipated five million slaves, and Susan B. Anthony, who brought political liberty to fifty million American women. Born on February 15th, 1820, she died in 1906 at the age of 86, but has received scant honor. The world was her platform and she never quailed or tired. She endured rebuffs, abuse and indignities and jail sentences in behalf of her cause of votes for women. The 19th amendment to the Constitution is for her a fadeless memorial. Shortly after the Civil War, she headed a Committee to wait on Horace Greeley, powerful New York editor, who was chairman of a constitutional convention charged with the task of revising the Constitution of the State of New York. Susan Anthony asked for political equality for women. "Miss Anthony," said Greeley, "You know that the ballot and bullet go together. If you are ready to vote, are you ready to fight?" Quick as a flash, she retorted, "Yes, Mr. Greeley, like you did in the last war, at the point of a goose quill."

INCOME TAX. March 15th is a funereal day for several million people. It is the deadline date for filing income tax returns. It is the day on which Uncle Sam takes his share of the net income for the previous year. Perhaps one reason why payment of this tax gripes the taxpayer is that he cannot see, feel, hear, or experience what he is getting for his money. In the case of local taxes, one can sally forth and look at the bridges, policemen, firemen, streets, and schools that he gets for his money. In the case of the Federal income tax, the benefits seem more remote. Some wit has suggested printing the income tax blank in bright colors bearing cartoons of G-Men, battleships, PWA projects and the like to make the tax more palatable. It has even been suggested that premiums be offered such as a free ride on a submarine for payment in full on the due date. While these suggestions are facetious, it might not be amiss to suggest that a statement of the budget summary be printed on the back of each income tax blank, showing expected revenues for the next fiscal year, estimated expenditures for all purposes, the amount of the deficit, the amount of the national debt, and other pertinent information.