

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

SUPREME COURT DECISION TOUCHES ALL BUT TWO OFFICES.

The recent Supreme Court decision under which states may tax Federal salaries and Uncle Sam may tax state salaries affects all but two offices in the United States. These are the office of President of the United States and those Federal Judges who were appointed before the decision became effective. Reason is that under the Constitution the compensation of the President and the Judges shall not be diminished during the period for which elected or during their continuance in office. Incidentally, the decision may have some singular effects. It proceeds on the theory that official salaries were always taxable and hence states may go back and tax for prior years. Unless the Congress and the states by legislation, prevent the retroactive effect of this decision, it would be possible for states to collect for many years back on Federal salaries and for the Federal Treasury to collect for back years on state officials. Carried to the full limit of authority, such action to collect for back years would wipe out the savings of thousands of people.

AT LONG LAST - A NEW COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Several years ago when the term of John R. McCarl as Comptroller General expired, the vacancy was never filled and has continued vacant until this week. The President has appointed Fred H. Brown of New Hampshire, former big-league baseball player, lawyer, and former U.S. Senator. Thus ends another chapter in the struggle between Congress and the President over reorganization of the executive agencies of government. The Comptroller holds office for 15 years and cannot be removed except by Congress. After the McCarl term expired, came the Reorganization Bill and the effort to abolish the Comptroller and substitute an Auditor General instead. The proposal failed. Recently came the new Reorganization Bill. It is now at the White House for signature. This bill says nothing about the Comptroller General. The vacancy has been filled. The Comptroller will therefore continue to check on Government departments, supervise the collection of debts which are due the United States, and advise departments whether they are obeying or violating the law in the expenditure of public funds for certain purposes.

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES

It is the business of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization to check on the movement of people across our land borders. It requires a large immigration patrol to perform this service. About 53,000,000 persons, the equivalent of 40% of our population move across the borders every year. Substantially half of these are citizens who go

to Canada or Mexico and the other half are Canadians, Mexicans and others who come thru the ports of entry into the United States. About 30,000,000 cross the Canadian border annually and about 23,000,000 cross the Mexican border. Of course, this total reflects the same persons who may cross the border many times a year. It is impossible to estimate how many of them trek to larger cities and remain in the U.S. but the Department is of the opinion that the number is comparatively small.

BROAD PICTURE OF IMMIGRATION

Our unemployment condition plus the interest in un-American activities plus the effect of the rise or fall of population on our national economy has heightened the public interest in the subject of immigration so that figures presented to Congress in connection with the annual appropriation bill for the Department of Labor are rather stimulating. In the 10 years from 1820 to 1850, slightly over 150,000 immigrants came to the U.S. From 1850 to 1890, it jumped to 599,000. The number continued to increase in each decade until in the years from 1900 to 1910, 8,795,000 persons came to this country. This is nearly a million more than the entire population of the state of Illinois. In the next ten years it dropped to 5,735,000. In the decade from 1920 to 1930 it dropped to 4,107,000. But now look what happened. In the eight years from 1930 thru 1938, the total was only 374,677. If this continues, any increase in population must result from excess of births over deaths. If at anytime the birthrate should decline to the point where it was balanced by the deathrate, it would mean that our population had become stationary. This in turn means a decrease in the number of children and an increase in the number of older persons. The effect of this condition upon a Social Security program would be incalculable.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU.

Even the manufacturers of looking-glass have their troubles. About \$9,000,000 worth of mirrors are sold annually. Some mirrors are of plate glass, some of sheet glass. Deceptions seems to have crept into the trade in advertising the quality of glass in mirrors. Some mirrors have been advertised as shock mirrors when in fact they are not shock proof. It appears also that the mirror industry has it's troubles over rebates, bribery, discounts, illegal price discriminations and other practices and as a result, the Federal Trade Commission has drafted a code of fair trade practices for the looking glass industry which will probably be put in effect in a short time. The mirror men are now reflecting on the advisability of adopting these trade rules.