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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
(By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen)

Wyoming Utah Nevada, Delaware and New Mexico each have two Senators but only one member in the House of Representatives. The Constitution guarantees to each state two Senators but Representatives are to be selected on the basis of population, excluding Indians not taxed. The 13th census taken in 1910 is still the basis for apportionment, providing one Representative for each 211,877 people or major fraction thereof.

REFORESTATION WORK. One of the difficulties in connection with the new Reforestation Act is the apportionment of the enlisted men to various states. Illinois rates 15,500 men according to population but only two camps of 200 men each will be established in the state. The reason is that we have no national or state forest domain. The remaining 15,100 must ultimately be sent to other states and here looms the practical difficulty that other states want their own men employed. For this reason the writer has urged upon Major Stuart, Dept. of Agriculture, the designation of additional projects in Illinois such as Spring Lake.

ARMS EMBARGO. The resolution, seeking discretionary power for the President to join with other nations in placing an embargo upon sale and shipment of arms and munitions as an affirmative peace measure was hotly debated in the House for two days. All the leading constitutional lawyers of the body joined in the discussion. The principal contention against the bill was that, the laying of an embargo might constitute a violation of neutrality as to warring nations and bring this country into a state of war and that it was a sort of backdoor entrance to the League of Nations. The basic argument in behalf of such power is that it constitutes an affirmative move in the direction of peace.

WAR DEBTS. The various debtor nations still owe us approximately $11\frac{1}{2}$ billions. The original debts were scaled down in amounts ranging from 29% for Finland to 75% for Austria. The reduction on England's debt was 30% France 60% and Italy 80%. Fifteen nations still owe us. The average interest rate on the balance due varies from less than $\frac{1}{2}$ % to 1% for Italy to 3.32% for Rumania.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS accredited to the U. S. have colorful names. For instance, Senor Toniente Coronel Don Ricardo Miro from Argentine, Captain Nobile Luigi Notarbartolo dei Duchii Di Villarosa from Italy. The eskimo pio however goes to the Philippine consul at Seattle. His name is Goon Dip.

MORTGAGE REFINANCING FOR HOME OWNERS. This measure will probably be considered this week. It sets up a Home Owners Loan Corporation, with authority to issue 200 million in capital stock and 2 billion in bonds, the bonds to run for 18 years at 4%, interest unconditionally guaranteed by the U.S., bonds to be sold for cash or exchanged for mortgages. Bonds are tax exempt as to principal and interest. The Corporation is authorized to exchange bonds for mortgages and also to make direct loans. Loans or advances on mortgages shall not exceed 80% of the appraised value of the property, shall be amortized over a period not to exceed fifteen years and can be repaid monthly quarterly, semi-annually or annually. The interest rate will be 5%. The act also provides for chartering of Federal Savings and Loan Associations, where needed, and the Treasury is empowered to subscribe to the stock of such Associations, but not to exceed \$100,000 nor in any event more than one half of that paid in by other shareholders.

FARM MORTGAGE REFINANCING BILL. The bill passed the House this week and now goes to the Senate for deliberation. It provides for the refinancing of farm mortgages that were made by the Federal Land Banks and Joint Stock Land Banks and also provides for direct loans to farmers. For the purpose of refinancing mortgages, new advances shall not exceed 50% of the land value plus 20% of the value of permanent insured improvements, such advances to include all prior indebtedness. The interest rate shall be $4\frac{1}{2}$ %. In the case of direct loans made by the Farm Loan Commissioner under this act, the mortgage, including all prior indebtedness shall not exceed 75% of the farm property and in no case shall a loan in excess of \$5000 be made to one farmer. The interest rate is 5%. This portion of the act includes not only a farmer but one whose principal income is derived from farming operations. The act also provides for the refinancing of mortgages on drainage land over a period of 40 years at reduced interest.

SPEAKING OF BANKS, you heard about the newsflash announcing that \$25,000 worth of bonds of a Mexican Bank had been stolen. Police were notified to be on the lookout for the robbers because the janitors lunch was wrapped in the bonds.