

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

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

Steel companies manufacture munitions and death dealing instruments. They are supposed to exult when war comes on the theory that it means profits and dividends. They have been the object of many investigations regarding war profits. In the light of all this, what do you make of this paragraph from the annual report of one of the largest steel companies in the United States: "In the latter part of the year the course of business was influenced by the outbreak of the war in Europe. It seems appropriate to state that quite aside from the humanitarian and moral issues, war orders represent only a fleeting prosperity and war business is certain to result in a disruptive shifting of our economy. War is certain to cause a destruction of capital that can not be replaced for years, and of lives that can never be replaced. The management of this corporation is convinced that the first requisite for the attainment of a lasting prosperity is peace and the prospect of enduring peace."

OUR VENTURE IN CROP INSURANCE.

As you are doubtless aware, Uncle Sam insures crops in a limited way. That is to say that in 1938, the principle of insuring a yield to a farmer against the hazards of bugs, insects, hail, drouth and other hazards was tried out on wheat. By paying a premium, either in cash or in the form of wheat, a farmer may obtain insurance from the government and if the crop fails, he gets the difference in cash or grain between what the actual yield was and what the yield should have been. This year, 170,000 wheat farmers in 1300 counties in 30 states availed themselves of insurance on 6½ million acres of wheat. This insurance covered a production of 70,000,000 bushels. It has been deemed to be successful on wheat and it is now proposed to insure 2,000,000 cotton farmers against the hazards of boll weevil, pink bollworm, drouth and other things which might injure or destroy the cotton crop. Cost to the Government of insuring wheat was about \$5,000,000. It is estimated that not to exceed \$6,000,000 would be required to finance an insurance program on cotton.

ETHEREAL ROAD TO KNOWLEDGE

The air waves are laden with knowledge. The Government uses these uncanny vibrations in the ether to further the cause of education. The U.S. Office of Education which is a division of the Federal Security Agency has set up a Federal Radio Education Committee. This Committee supervises the preparation and presentation of radio programs dealing with educational subjects. For 4 years, these programs have been going out over the air lanes on the network programs. They are carefully prepared and covered a host of subjects such as Biography, Children, History, Industries, Literature, Latin America, Government, Conservation etc. Most of the programs are dramatized. When the program is over, the script which has been prepared is placed in what is known as a Script Exchange. Recordings are made of the programs and these too are deposited with the Script Exchange. All have been catalogued. These scripts and recordings are available to schools, colleges and other qualified groups and may be borrowed from the Office of Education for as long a period as four weeks.

There is no charge for this service. Thus, this ethereal course in education may be borrowed. Hundreds of such scripts are now available and are being widely used.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE SENATOR HATCH.

Wasn't it Socrates who said there were but 7 basic jokes and that the multitude of jokes one hears are but variants of these 7 themes. Similarly it might be said that the basic problems of the world are few and simple and that they recur from generation to generation in different forms. Take for instance, the bill now pending in Congress to make politics pure and clean by prohibiting persons who are on the state payrolls and whose salary in whole or in part comes out of the Federal Treasury from political activity. The idea is to make them attend to their duties and to refrain from political activities. What an enormous amount of debate there has been on that subject recently. And then it develops that just 100 years ago, there was bitter debate in Congress on the same subject. A bill was pending in Congress just a century ago which provided that: "No officer, agent, or contractor of the U.S. shall, by the contribution of money or any valuable thing, or by the use of the franking privilege or the abuse of any other official privilege or function, or any threats or menaces, or in any other manner intermeddle in the election of any member or members of the House of Representatives, Senate or of the President or Vice President." In 1840, they offered the same arguments offered in 1940. Such is the endless pattern of our nation.

AN ISLAND 15 TIMES LARGER THAN ILLINOIS.

That's some island! But figure it out for yourself. Greenland has an area of 850,000 square miles while Illinois has an area of 56,000 square miles. It's in the headlines because it belongs to Denmark and Denmark has been taken over by Germany. What policy should we pursue under such circumstances in order to preserve our neutrality and at the same time prevent hostile operations in and around our own hemisphere. Greenland is large but not so important as its area indicates because 75% of the island is an immense ice field. The total population is 16,600. Of this number 16,200 are Eskimos and the remaining 400 are Danes. Principal exports from Greenland consist of fish, blubber, hides and skins, virtually all of which are produced by the Eskimos. The only other export of importance is cryolite. Cryolite is an earthy substance which is mined. It is used as a fluxing agent in the production of aluminum, glass, enamel, and pottery. Virtually all the cryolite mined goes to Denmark, Canada and the United States.

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES.

VII. - Dr. Herbert R. Marshall - Democrat.

What? You never heard of Dr. Herbert Marshall of Charleston, Mo.? Well, neither did over a hundred million other people but he's a candidate just the same. Dr. Marshall says he is a candidate. That's proof enough. Recently his cards have been passed around in the Congressional offices. It's about the size of the regular election card. In heavy letters at the top appears the statement "I Am A Democrat." Below that follows the admonition to "Vote for Dr. Herbert Marshall of Charlestown, Missouri, for President Of These United States." On the reverse side appears this statement: "Dr. Herbert Marshall says this is a great and critical moment facing the world today and I am determined to do my utmost to assist in avoiding further suffering, and I intend to spend the rest of my active life trying to help solve the world's problems.... You will find me on the side I think is right no matter whether it is popular or unpopular or whether it wins or loses votes. That's what I call a statesman. I can end the depression in a very short time and in the long run everybody will be benefitted and happy." Dr. Marshall is also President of the Golden Rule Club. This is all we know about Dr. Marshall but he's a candidate for the Presidency.