

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

COST-OF-PRODUCTION-BILL-FOR-FARMERS.

Apparently, there will be no action on the so-called Cost-Of-Production-Farm Bill introduced by 18 different Senators and 25 different Representatives. By a vote of 17 to 6, the House Committee on Agriculture in an executive session reported unfavorably on the bill. Hearings have been held for about two months. For at least a week, the measure was considered by the Committee behind closed doors. Committee action leaves but one other way to secure action on the bill and that is by means of a petition to discharge the Committee. That petition must be signed by 218 members. The Senate Committee on Agriculture reported this bill several weeks ago but it has not received Senate action. A petition to discharge the House Committee on Agriculture has been filed and has been signed by quite a number of members. Whether the 218 signatures can be secured is a question.

H. R. 94

H. R. 94 is the number of a Bill introduced by Representative Maloney of Louisiana which would require that personal endorsement of articles on the radio, when paid for would require that the endorser state that fact. It has all sorts of quaint possibilities; Fancy Gladys Gadabout, famous movie star taking a spot on the radio and saying, "I always use Crab Apple Brand Cosmetics because they are so soothing and refreshing to the skin. The Crab Apple Cosmetic Corporation has paid me \$869.24 for this endorsement." Or Mr. Marmaduke Marmalade, famous polo player saying, "I always smoke Sinus Brand cigarettes because they are kind to the nostrils and you won't find a sneeze in 7000 packages. The makers of Sinus cigarettes have paid me \$1542 to make this statement." Yes Congressman, your little measure is chock-full of humorous possibilities.

STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL WAR MINERALS.

Should this nation ever engage in another war, we want to be prepared to efficiently prosecute such a war. That means that we must have an adequate supply of those minerals which are not only essential, but indispensable to the manufacture of munitions and war supplies. These minerals are four in number. The first is manganese which is used in the manufacture of steel, dry batteries, paint, varnish and fertilizer. Small quantities are produced in this country but the principal sources are Russia, Africa, Brazil, and India. Experts recommend that we accumulate a stock of 554,000 tons of highgrade manganese ore. The second is chromium used in the manufacture of high grade alloy and corrosion-resisting steels. Production of chromium in the United States is only 500 tons a year and it is recommended that we develop a stock-pile of 250,000 tons. The third is tungsten ore used in producing high-speed tool steel. China, Burma, and Bolivia are the principal sources. Domestic production can supply only 25% of our needs in war time and a pile of 3350 tons is recommended. Tin, used in making bronze, tinfoil, solder, bearings and coating tinplate for cans is the 4th item. Experts believe we should have a stock of 85,000 tons on hand. A bill authorizing the acquisition of

those minerals has passed the House and is now before the Senate.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

"Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to it's jurisdiction." Such is the text of the equal rights proposal which a number of women's groups are urging as a constitutional amendment. The matter is now pending before the Judiciary Committee of the House of representatives. Herewith are some of the reasons advanced for the adoption of this proposal and its submission to the states for ratification: Oklahoma bars women from high public office. The Wisconsin Legislature has no authority to employ women. A majority of the states exclude women from jury service, either by express statutory provisions or by implication. Married women cannot carry on business in Florida unless a court inquiry discloses her competency. Georgia allows a husband to collect his wife's pay. In Nevada, where husband and wife own common property he can will away his half but she cannot even will her half to the children. In Kentucky, a wife cannot procure a divorce for drunkenness unless accompanied by proof of non-support whereas a husband can divorce his wife for drunkenness alone. This proposal has been advanced in Congress for years and is moving toward the action stage.

BREVITIES.

Congressmen met recently in one of the offices and rendered Swance River, My Old Kentucky Home and other gems from the pen of Stephen Foster to boost a Bill providing for a special postage stamp in honor of Mr. Foster. Sour notes were reported***** Civil Aeronautics Authority has tentatively fixed one way trans-atlantic air travel at \$375. The line forms at the right and don't push ***** Turkeys are now big business. Last year, 28,000,000 birds found their way to the market for a total of \$70,000,000. Lots of chopping there, folks! ** The Department of Agriculture has designated a Watermelon Committee of 12 members to administer the watermelon marketing agreement program. We know some folks who'd take that job for nothing **** Helen Hayes, one of the most talented actresses of the American stage appeared before the House Committee which is handling the bill to admit 20,000 refugee children and probably did a more convincing job than all the facts and figures that have been presented to the committee by saying in her magnificent way, "I just beg you to let them in." ***** The proposal for super-highways or master-highways is again taking on life in Congress since the report was made by the Bureau of Public Roads. It suggested 6 such highways, aggregating 14,336 miles and costing an estimated \$2,899,800,000. The Bureau believes that if tolls were charged, they would be inadequate to pay the cost of this program. A test-highway may be built between Washington and Boston to see how it works out.***