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

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT vs. J.P.'s. It may be that in one particular, a Justice of the Peace may have more authority than a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and it comes about in this whimsical fashion. A charming Washington widow, inspired by the resurgence of Spring and the Cherry blossoms was thinking of matrimony and decided that she would like to have bachelor Justice McReynolds perform the ceremony. Whereupon the staid Justice who specializes in minority opinions, expressed some doubt as to the authority of a Supreme Court Justice to perform such a ceremony. Perchance it will be referred to the solemn Attorney General for an opinion and that worthy may hold that no such authority exists. Take heart, ye J.P.'s!

GOLD-STERILE AND NOT SO STERILE. What about this gold business? It's a long story but here goes. Back in 1933, Congress enacted a law under which the President was empowered to call in all gold. Coining of gold into gold pieces for Christmas presents stopped. It became illegal to have more than \$100 worth of gold in your possession. All gold dug out of the ground in Alaska, Nevada and elsewhere was sold to the Government. Uncle Sam paid for it with a check drawn against his account with the Federal Reserve banks. This process reduced Uncle Sam's bank balance so he fixed that by recording all gold bought as an addition to the gold certificate fund, held by the Treasury in the name of the Federal Reserve System and let the Federal Reserve Banks credit him with having deposited this gold to his account. That way, the dear Uncle could eat his cake and have it too. He could buy gold and always have the same bank balance which is nice work if you can get it. Theoretically, this gold belonged to the Federal Reserve Banks, but actually it was gathering dust in Uncle Sam's vaults and couldn't be touched except to pay off a bill to some foreign country like Spain or Ecuador. In 1936, the experts hit upon an idea that was an idea. It was very simple. Why not sterilize this gold. After paying for the gold with a check, why not issue interest-bearing Treasury bonds, sell them to the public and use the money to replenish the checking account instead of crediting this gold to the credit of the Federal Reserve banks. The gold could then be listed as Uncle Sam's property, put in a separate account, labelled as "inactive" and thus this gold would not get into the nation's money stream and become a temptation for inflation. No sooner said than done and thus was gold desterlized. Of course, there was the little difficulty that issuing Treasury bonds to buy gold hiked up the interest-bearing national debt for a lot of gold stored in vaults. It was like buying a dead horse, but even dead horses might become sterile. Moreover, this happy process held down the credit base and restrained inflation. But now comes 1938 and with it comes headaches in the form of depressed business and unemployment. The experts decide that the "sterile" gold ought to be "de-sterlized." How? Simple enough. If they want to put a billion dollars in gold into the money stream to stimulate business, just take a billion dollars worth of gold certificates (nice fresh, crisp, newly printed ones if necessary), deposit them with the Federal Reserve Banks to the credit of Uncle Samuel and draw checks against this deposit to retire the Treasury bonds that had been issued to pay for gold heretofore. What happens? The folks who hold these interest bearing Treasury bonds now get nice new checks for them. This makes the national debt go down. The folks who get these checks take them to the bank over on the corner and deposit them. Thus the bank's reserves go up. This increases the bank's lending power. This increased lending power now makes inflation possible and makes prices go up. So what?

ECHOES FROM THE PAST. We quote from the Book of Rules of a Department Store issued in the year 1854. "Store must be opened promptly at 6:00 a.m. and remain open until 9:00 p.m. the year around. Store must be swept, counters, base shelves and show cases dusted. Lamps trimmed, filled, and chimneys cleaned; pens made; doors and windows opened; a pail of water and scuttle of coal must be brought in by each clerk, before breakfast, if there is time to do so and attend to customers who call. Any employee who is in the habit of smoking Spanish cigars, getting shaved at a barber shop, going to dances and other places of amusement, will most surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his integrity and honesty. Each employee must pay not less than \$5 per year to the church and attend Sunday School every Sunday. Men employees are given one evening a week for courting purposes, and two if they go to prayer meeting regularly. After 14 hours' work in the store, leisure time must be spent in reading good literature."

A KIND WORD FOR POOR DOBBIN. Do you recall the days when fire wagons were horse drawn and what solicitude both children and grown-ups felt for these noble steeds? Remember what a thrill it was to loiter around the fire company headquarters and see these animals and the thrill of seeing them fly through the streets in the direction of a fire? And do you remember also that as these horses reached retirement age, what a controversy raged when it was suggested that these horses be sold as too old for further usefulness? That same thing is true of Uncle Sam's horses and mules. When they pass the useful age, they are advertised for sale and sold to the highest bidder, with no questions asked as to what will happen to them. Recently a representative from Ohio has introduced a bill in Congress requiring that such old horses and mules be either destroyed or put to pasture. This measure has developed considerable support and hearings will be held thereon in a short time. But as we think of humane treatment for horses and mules that have served faithfully and are now too old to pull a load, what about the adequacy of pensions for people who have also served and are now too old to pull society's load?