

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

MODERN ILLUMINATION. One can go to a liquor store in the nation's capital and purchase gin for as little as 70¢ per pint and whiskey for 90¢ per pint and up, manufactured in modern distilleries and warranted to be carefully distilled but apparently, there are hardy souls with adventurous palates who deem such inspiration to be too high brow and prosaic. This week, U.S. agents arrested a hardware dealer in Washington for selling paint remover as a beverage. This paint remover will remove paint and lacquer and can be used for lamp fuel. The dealer informed at least three thirsty customers that when placed in a flat pan and lighted, the impurities would burn out of the liquid. It could then be filtered or strained through a loaf of bread and drunk. Fancy all that trouble in a land where hundreds of millions of gallons of liquors are in storage and with several hundred thousand taverns and liquor stores to meet the needs of the thirsty. Here is high adventure.

ALL IS NOT OK IN OKLAHOMA. Some months ago, the Social Security Board, took Oklahoma off the old age assistance list and refused to contribute Uncle Sam's share toward the payment of old age pensions in that state. Oklahoma Senators and Congressmen waxed indignant and called for an investigation. They got it. This week the Board announced results of its investigation. They were truly amazing and worthy of the best political traditions of a Tammany Hall. Of the 13,500 recipients of old age pensions thus far checked, the Board found that 1000 dead persons were on the rolls. Another 1000 were owners of property in excess of state standards and therefore ineligible to pensions. Another 500 did not meet age requirements. More than 25% of the 13,500 were dropped from the rolls as ineligible. The Board ordered that all payments made to those who were ineligible for pensions must be returned to the U.S. before unrestricted payments will be resumed. Pensions to 1000 dead persons proves that they believe in immortality in Oklahoma.

PATHOS AND POLITICS. Pathos and political reality can be so casually intermingled. For instance. In 1936, it seems that Arthur B. Jenks, Republican, elected to Congress from New Hampshire by 17 votes. His opponent, Mr. Alphonse Roy filed notice of a contest. A special committee of the House of Representatives took testimony on the matter and reported to the House that Mr. Jenks should be unseated. The House, with superb sportsmanship, thought a further investigation should be made and directed the investigating committee to go to New Hampshire and look into the matter. It was not until Thursday, June 9th, 1938 that the report of the committee was submitted to the House for action. The committee reported that Mr. Jenks should be unseated and that Mr. Roy should be seated. The Committee however was divided. The matter was debated for three hours before the full membership of the House. At the end of the debate, two questions were presented for a vote. The first was as to whether Mr. Jenks should be unseated. The second was as to whether Mr. Roy should be seated. When the roll was called, Mr. Jenks was declared to be not entitled to his seat.

The moment that the speaker announced the result of the roll call vote, Mr. Jenks ended his term as a Member of Congress. He at once left the chamber of the House while the full membership stood and applauded. He had served almost the full term, made many friends, enjoyed the fellowship before the blow fell. There was touching pathos as he left the chamber, unseated by a vote of his colleagues with whom he had served.

THE NOT SO POOR PRUNE. The prune is a fruit but the word "prune" has become a term of moderate reproach. For a generation we have heard the epithet "poor prune" echo in the land. Let's see. Some years ago, Congress authorized the establishment of the Commodity Credit Corporation, a government agency with a capital of \$100,000,000. In the last five years, this agency made more than \$700,000,000 in loans to cotton, corn, dates, figs, peanuts, turpentine, rosin, tobacco, and prunes. A few months ago, Congress authorized the Corporation to figure up its losses and deduct them from the capital investment and then report how much money it would take to put its capitalization in shape. Recently, the Corporation reported losses of \$94,000,000, whereupon Congress appropriated \$94,000,000 so that the Corporation would have an unimpaired capital of \$100,000,000. Of the losses reported, about \$92,000,000 was on cotton, only \$2000 on corn, \$1,000,000 on turpentine. There were no losses on prune loans. Who said "poor prune."

BRIEF BITS. Forty five per cent of the radios used in Tunisia in North Africa are made in America ..... rumor has it that Mexican revolutionists have been seeking the service of experienced American airplane pilots ..... State Department has promised to revoke the licenses of pilots who undertake to fight with such revolutionists ..... Congressman Wene of New Jersey, owner of one of the largest chicken hatcheries in the country has hit on the idea of chicken dinners thruout the state in his campaign for Governor of that state ..... in a huge painting of the Baptism of Pocohontas hanging in the rotunda of the Capitol, the artist painted one of the Indians with six toes ..... all in one evening at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington and in fact within the space of an hour, you might have witnessed the following incidents: James Farley standing on the sidewalk in animated conversation with a Congressman from New York .. Benny Cohen and Tommy Corcoran rushing into the lobby ... Mr. Cohen taking sudden leave ... Mr. Corcoran joining Governor Murphy of Michigan in earnest converse ... Senator Guffey in the lobby talking with newspaper men ... Governor Earle, David Stern, David Lawrence, Matt McClosky and other Keystone celebrities coming down the elevator after a peace parley .... glamour and mystery.

HAPPY THOUGHT. In these troublous times, how about going back to W. S. Gilbert of Gilbert-Sullivan fame who created those delicious bits of nonsense such as Pinafore, the Mikado, Pirates of Penzance and a host of others:

On fire that glows with heat intense  
I turn the hose of common sense  
And out it goes at small expense.