

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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LEND-LEASE.

This is the story of lend-lease in compressed form. So much has been written on the subject It taxes the memory. The high-lighted facts may help to provide a more definite idea of what it is, what has been done and how it is administered The original act became law on March 11, 1941, and was extended on March 11, 1943. When introduced in early 1941, it accidentally bore the bill number of 1776 and was heralded as a second blow for liberty It has functioned a little more than two years In general, the law authorizes the President to make planes, tanks, guns, ammunition, vessels, machinery, supplies and food available to nations whose defense the President deems to be vital and important to our own defense Under this broad language, aid could therefore be extended to many nations.

IT ALSO WORKS THE OTHER WAY.

Lend-Lease works two ways. While we provide supplies and equipment to the united nations and to those whose defense is deemed vital to us, such countries also make provision for our armed forces in every possible way In Africa, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere, other nations have supplied our soldiers and our forces with food, cement, rails, cranes, camouflage, flour, butter, sugar, jam, fruit, vegetables, locomotives, coal, barb wire, concrete mixers, blankets, radio equipment and many other items When the day for a final accounting arrives, we shall credit them with items supplied to us and some kind of a balance finally developed.

FUNDS AND EXPENDITURES

Public funds with which to carry on lend-lease operations were made available in two ways. The first was by direct appropriation of money to the President for this purpose The second was to make funds available to the Army, Navy and Maritime Commission and permit them to transfer a limited amount of their money or their equipment and supplies for this purpose This means that our armed services and Maritime Commission could transfer ships, planes, munitions and supplies to other nations where and when needed. Thus far slightly over 18 billion in cash has been appropriated and additional authority to Army, Navy and Maritime Commission to transfer not to exceed 36 billion in goods and services was provided This makes a total of 54 billion available for lend-lease purposes On May 22, the House passed another lend-lease bill containing an appropriation for 6 billion plus so that total aid of all kinds that would be available would be about 60 billion dollars.

COUNTRIES AND KINDS OF AID.

Forty four countries and possessions are eligible for lend-lease aid. It includes all the republics in Central and South America It includes Great Britain and the dominions It includes Poland, Greece, Belgium, Ethiopia, China and Russia Lend-lease bookkeeping carries 10 categories of supplies or items namely ordinance, aircraft, tanks, vessels, equipment, machinery, agricultural commodities, services and repairs etc.

SAMPLES.

Samples of aid will run like this Planes and trucks for China A specific item is 13,000 trucks to improve transportation facilities in China To Russia goes all sorts of equipment and food. The food situation in Russia has been described as desperate because the enemy took over the Ukraine province which is Russia's bread-basket Food to the value of 600 million went to Britain in 1942 as compared with a normal export of only 98 million in a single year. Steam and Diesel generators have also been sent to Russia. Clothing, food and implements have gone to North Africa to put the 16,000 000 natives back on a self-supporting basis if possible Spare parts for farm machinery are supplied to Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain in the hope that it will increase food supplies and save valuable shipping space Machine tools go to Australia for the same reason. Repairs to foreign vessels made in our shipyards are also charged to lend-lease Thus does lend-lease become a huge international swapping operation.