

6/13/36

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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TRY THIS ON YOUR PIANO. That phrase seemed to be the current slang of a few years ago to express the challenge of "I'd like to see you do it." We'd like to see some of the boys, who a short while ago, were so handy in removing denaturants from alcohol to make them partially safe and palatable to drink, remove the latest combination of denaturants. Back in the Prohibition days, all manner of processes were used. Alky was re-cooked or filtered thro sour milk or treated in other ways. Each time they found a new way, Uncle Sam would get busy and trot out a new denaturant. Latest additions to the list for denaturing are Formulas No. 11 and 13. To denature under formula 11, you add 3 parts of Pintol-K, 3 parts of ST-115, 1 part Gasolino, 1 part Hydronal or $\frac{1}{2}$ part Agdite to every 100 parts of ethyl alcohol. Under formula 13 add 4 parts ST-115, 2 parts Methyl Isobutyl Ketone, 1 part gasoline and 1 part Hydronal or $\frac{1}{2}$ part Agdite to every 100 parts of gasoline. Would be difficult enough to denature the names of these compounds, let alone the alcohol.

THE NAME "SPEAKER". Whence comes the term "Speaker" of the House? Why not call him Chairman or Moderator or Presiding Officer since his function is to preside over a deliberative body? The derivation dates back to English days. It is more than 700 years ago that the Common people of England, beset with heavy taxes and oppressive laws, met at Runymede, drew up what is known as the Magna Carta or Great Charter and prevailed upon King John to recognize their rights and their petitions. Until that time, they had no voice in governmental affairs. As English parliamentary government developed, the common people, when preparing demands upon the King, would designate one of their number to "speak" to the King for them. He was their Speaker and as the House of Commons developed, the presiding officer continued to be designated as the Speaker. In our form of government, the House of Representatives patterns to a great degree after the House of Commons and is generally referred to as the popular branch of the national legislature or Congress. We adopted the term Speaker and it has persisted ever since as provided in the Constitution. In England, the Speaker is still a non-partisan presiding officer. In our government he is essentially a party leader, selected by the majority party to assist in enactment of the administration program.

ALL THAT GLITTERS is not gold and all that bears a fancy foreign name may not be of foreign origin or manufacture. Ladies wear gowns with high sounding Parisian names that were made in New York or Chicago, shoes with ritzy names that were produced in St. Louis, or perfume themselves with delicate scents, bearing unpronounceable names, which emanated from San Francisco. Now, we shall be able to drink wines with high-tone monikers, borrowed or adapted from all the wine making nations, when as a matter of fact the product will have come from California, New York or one of the other wine producing states. A section in the Liquor Tax Administration Act, which will soon become law provides that no Government agency or official by rule, decision, regulation or otherwise shall deny the right to use geographical foreign names in designating brands or types of wines made in this country. Hence, out of the valleys of California and from the hills of New York will come beverages bearing such delectable names as Port, Sherry, Burgundy, Sauterne, Haut Sauterne, Rhine, Moselle, Chianti, Chablis, Champagne, Tokay, Malaga, Madeira, Marsale, Claret, Vermouth, Barbera, Cabernet, Saint Julien, Riesling, Zinfandel Medoc, Cognac and the like.

VANITY, VANITY. "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity" sang the psalmist in Ecclesiastes generations ago. Perhaps it's vanity, or an overwhelming conceit which prompts men in public life to do dizzy things and go in for "stunts" after the manner of a certain member who recently went in for a series of exploits such as wading in the pool at Rockefeller Center, New York and leaving empty beer bottles and a sack of mothballs at the White House. Former U.S. Senator Vardaman of Miss., a man of distinguished ability used to drive thro his state with a team of white oxen to indicate his belief in white supremacy; Magnus Johnson of Minnesota, who served both in Senate and House used to wear overalls in the Senate to show his love for the people. Rep. Herrick of Okla. came to Washington years ago, offered himself in marriage as the prize for the winner of a bathing beauty contest, wound up tending a Maryland still at \$15 per week and then landed in jail. Former Rep. Shoemaker had a mania for punching taxi-drivers and be a headliner at every event where violence was in order. There have been many, but suffice to say that to virtually all the members of Congress who are here for the serious business of finding a solution to the nation's pressing and disturbing problems, these antics are nauseating.

BOON TO BLIND. Believe it or not but "talking books" are here. Who is there who does not like to have some good reader read aloud? Who that does not find joy in listening to the restful lilting cadences of beautiful poems as they are read aloud, or to the deathless thoughts written by men with profound minds? Well, they're here, these talking books, now being distributed for the blind. They are but electrical machines with special records on which long recordings are made. The machines are distributed under the supervision of the American Foundation for the Blind and the records are lent free by the Congressional Library and distributed thro some 28 branch libraries, one of which is located at Jacksonville. Already 175,000 records, embracing 165 titles are available for distribution and year by year there will be additions to the list. A complete version of the Old Testament is now available in talking book form. We fancy that as time goes on, talking books will not only provide a new world for the blind in the form of literature but will develop a great appeal for others who like to "be read to."

CHAOS IN COAL. Many years ago, wood was used as fuel in the iron smelters of England. The wood supply was exhausted so they were compelled to use coal. Water in coal mines made it necessary to be forever indulging in the backbreaking labor of pumping them constantly by hand. A Scotchman named Watt observed all this and thought there must be some other power to do it. Earlier in life, the dancing tea kettle lid in his mother's kitchen intrigued him. Out of all this was born the steam engine to pump water from the coal mines. Coal - iron-steam. From that magic trinity came steamships, locomotives, steam power in factories, industrial revolution. Time marched on. So did progress. So did invention. Came then electricity to make inroads on coal. Today 11% of our power and energy comes from electricity. TVA, Grand Coules, Bonneville, Boulder Dam and other hydro electric projects, many of them financed by Federal funds will make inroads on the use of coal. Came petroleum. In 1910, we produced but 175 million barrels, in 1934, a billion barrels. Now we have oil burners, oil burners locomotives, oil burning steam ships, Diesel engines, all of which take away from the market for coal. Came natural gas. Today there are 8 million consumers of natural gas, 50,000 miles of underground pipe lines for gas. In 1935, we produced 1765 billion cubic feet of this new fuel. All of which cuts into coal. Today there is greater efficiency in burning coal. In 1913, it took 1083 tons of coal to produce a million units of electric energy. Today it takes only 661 tons. Railroad now get greater efficiency from coal than in former uses. All that takes less coal. Despite these inroads, coal is indispensable. We still mine hundreds of millions of tons annually. We still have 500,000 coal minors. Theirs is a hard lot, in an industry beset with keen competition from without and by instability and over-expansion from within. What to do? Congress will again wrestle with that problem when the revised Guffey Bill comes before it.

INDIANS. Indians, as a race, are in a class by themselves when it comes to legislation. Congress enacts more laws for Indians than for all other racial groups together. The reason is apparent. Indians are wards of the government. Everything pertaining to their welfare such as Indian schools, irrigation of Indian lands, payment for Indian lands ceded to the U. S. under Indian treaties and a host of other things all require constant and special legislation. Hence, there is seldom a legislative day that does not see some Indian bill enacted into law. It may be of interest to observe that there are about 332,000 Indians in the U.S. scattered in every state in the union. Delaware has but 5 while Oklahoma has 92,000. In round numbers California has 19,000, Oregon 5,000, Wash. 11,000, Nevada 5,000, Arizona 45,000, New Mexico 30,000, Montana 15,000, North Carolina 17,000, South Dakota 22,000, North Dakota 8,000, Minn. 11,000, Wisconsin 12,000, Michigan 7,000, New York 7,000. When Indian legislation is being considered by Congress which is of importance, it is quite customary for Indian chiefs with their wide hats and sunburned faces to sit in the gallery and give close attention to the proceedings. Illinois, by the way, has about 500 Indians.