

6/21/41

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT

by

HON. EVERETT M. DIRKSEN

16th Ill. District

SAVING DAYLIGHT ON NATIONAL SCALE

Unlike Joshua, Congress has no power to make the sun stand still, but it does have power to fix time. It used this power during the World War and placed the entire Nation on a daylight-savings basis. By an act passed in 1918, it marked the Nation into five zones, namely, Eastern, Central, Mountain, Pacific, and Alaskan. These correspond to the seventy-fifth, ninetieth, one hundred and fifth, one hundred and twentieth, and one hundred and fiftieth degrees of west longitude.

Except for the Alaskan zone, you will note that each zone is separated by 15 degrees of longitude to correspond to 1 hour of clock time. Congress delegated the Interstate Commerce Commission to define the various zones and then placed them all on a daylight-saving basis. Three bills are now pending in Congress to do the same thing. The Federal Power Commission is making a study of the matter to determine how much electricity would be saved by such a move - all of which proved that even Old Man Time may be enlisted in the cause of national defense.

SOME FISCAL COMPARISONS

Pending in the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives and steadily moving toward consideration on the floor is one of the most gigantic tax bills in world history. It will constitute an effort to produce more than three and one-half billion dollars as partial payment on the enormous defense expenditures which are now being incurred to make this country ready for any eventuality. The existence of the pending bill has stimulated comparison between tax revenues, debts, and income between the United States and Great Britain, and the following figures which are derived from an authentic comparison compiled by the joint committee on Internal Revenue taxation, and issued as a Government publication on May 21, 1941, may be of interest. Net debt of Great Britain, in all forms, national, state, and local is approximately 63.8 billions as compared with sixty-seven billions for the United States. British per capita debt is \$1,357, whereas in the United States it is \$493. British national income is 122.3 billions as against 95 billions in the United States. British per capita income is \$475, compared with \$699 for the United States. British internal revenue tax receipts for the fiscal year 1940-41 is 5.6 billions, compared with 5.4 billions for the United States. Income taxes in Great Britain are as follows: On a net income of \$800 a single man pays \$130, a married man \$52; a part of this, however, is to be refunded at the end of the war because it constitutes the so-called purchase tax. On a \$900 income a single man pays \$159, a married man \$81. On a \$1,000 income a single man pays \$188, a married man \$110. On a \$1,200 income a single man pays \$265, a married man \$164. On a \$1,600 net income a single man pays \$444, a married man \$324. On a \$2,000 income a single man pays \$624, a married man \$504. The refund on this tax, because of so-called purchase tax reduction, would be \$106 for a single man and \$126 for a married man. Truly here is an onerous tax.

THE GEOGRAPHY MAKERS ASSEMBLE

Did you ever hear about the Scotchman who refused to buy an atlas until was over? Which reminds us that the map makers are in convention in the Nation's Capital. It includes official government mappers from Canada, Mexico, South America, and the United States, and they will discuss the complex problems of mapping which have been raised by the war. How, for instance, will new maps show Greenland and indicate our interest in view of the treaty signed with the Danish Minister, whose authority to negotiate over Greenland was challenged? What about Greece and Crete? When the present push in Syria terminates what will new maps show concerning these areas in the eastern Mediterranean? It is a fair bet that as the map makers assemble for tea they will wish for the days when the world remained put.

THE BATTLE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE IS ON

Was it Job who said, "Oh, that mine enemy would write a book." Were Job alive today he might amplify that a bit by saying, "Oh, that mine enemy would write a book, issue a statement, make a speech or write an article for a magazine or for the press." What we mean to state is that in connection with the battle now brewing over the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power project, everything that has ever been said or written by any person or group now opposed to this project is being hauled out, dusted off, reprinted, and laid upon the desks of Congressmen and Senators. Statements and speeches made by railroad executives a generation ago are now being reprinted in quantities to show that at that time they were not opposed to the idea. Statements by Harding, Coolidge Hoover, and Taft are now being reprinted to indicate their approval of the project. All this is the groundwork for the debate which will take place if the project should be favorably reported and laid before Congress. Not a day goes by but that the mailman brings literature on this subject. Noses are being counted to determine who is for and who is against. The campaign to secure congressional approval and funds for the seaway has all the earmarks of a campaign of military strategy. It will be a billion-dollar fight when the issue is finally joined. Hearings on the bill are now in progress.

MEN PASSING THROUGH TIME

How often we say, "Time flies." Students of relativity say that it is not time but mankind which flies. They say it is not time that passes away, but, rather, that humankind passes through time. A glance at these figures of the last World War, made pertinent by the present conflict, gives substance to that statement. In round numbers, it is estimated that in 1952, 3,460,000 veterans of the World War will be living. In 1962 the number will be reduced to 2,516,000. By 1972 to 1,119,000. By 1982 to 164,392, By 1992 only 563 will still be alive, and by 1996 there will be but 1. Thus after the elapse of 44 years, according to the mortality tables, which are based upon many years of human experience, 3,458,421 men, ranging in ages from 45 to 99, will have marched through time, and the traditions which they kept alive must be fostered and nurtured by those who follow,