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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT

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ANOTHER DOUBLE-HEADER HOLIDAY

When Thanksgiving Day was moved back by Executive Proclamation, there was a great hue and cry against the proposal. The effort ended in confusion. Some states observed Thanksgiving Day according to the calendar makers and others observed the new day. Some states had double-header Thanksgiving Days. But the whole undertaking proved abortive. It did not generate more business. It did not inspire more folks to do their Christmas shopping earlier and at long last there came an admission that later on the old Thanksgiving Day might result. But now comes a proposal which instead of providing two different holidays might result in two kinds of a holiday on the same day. We refer to Senate Bill No. 1242 introduced on March 27, 1941 designating the 4th day of July of each year as Democracy Day. Ain't that something? Imagine a nation-wide commingling of flags, festoons streamers, banners, and other holiday display some of which announces Independence Day and some Democracy Day. Imagine the folks across the street celebrating Independence Day while you observe Democracy Day. Imagine the Chairman at the community celebration announcing: "Mr. John Q. Citizen will now read the Declaration of Democracy." Imagine but you can imagine it for yourself.

U. S. S. R.

The present turn of events in Europe has stimulated interest in the resistive powers of the Soviet. It is still referred to as Russia but nowhere in the Constitution of the Soviet does the word "Russia" appear word "Russian" is used to describe one of the states of the Soviet Union. What about this Soviet Union? The National Geographic Society in Washington has just issued an up-to-date bulletin which describes the Soviet as $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the size of the United States with 193,000,000 people divided into 175 racial groups. It is estimated that this one country contains 21% of the world's coal, $6\frac{1}{3}$ billion tons of iron ore, and is second in the production of oil. In 1937 it produced more than 3,000 000 tons of manganese which is an essential defense item. It has an inexhaustible supply of timber and has a potential of 65,000,000 electric horsepower. It is the world's largest wheat producing country and seeded 102,000,000 acres in 1937. Compare that with 53 million acres in the U. S., 27 million acres in Canada, 13,000,000 in Australia and 19 million in the Argentine. It has extensive deposits of bauxite from which aluminum is derived. In addition, it is rich in gold, silver, platinum, zinc and other metals. It is truly a land of vast physical resources.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

The United States uses about 817,000 tons of rubber per year. The present rate of imports is about 1,000,000 tons per year. Normally that should leave us with a reserve of 183,000 tons at the end of the year. The Priorities Division of the Office of Production Management however has issued an order to cut the rate of consumption to 600,000 tons per year. This will be done progressively so that in December 1941, the manufacturers who use crude rubber will be able to secure only 80% of their averaged needs and requirements. Thus, the government orders control of a very essential commodity even when there is no shortage. You ask why? The principal reason is that rubber is all imported from other continents and the shipping facilities grow more uncertain with each passing week. This control obviously raises another problem. If only 80% of normal domestic requirements will be available to industry by December of 1941, it is fair to assume that prices on tires, hot water bottles, and other rubber items will advance. The answer is "maybe" because the Administrator of prices and civilian supply may step in and place a ceiling on the price of commodities made of rubber. Here you have a clear-cut example the problems of supply, demand and price control which springs from the defense program.

AGE 28 WOULD BE TOP.

The amendment to the Selective Service Act which Congress will consider on July 8th provides that men who on July 1st, 1941 or thereafter who are liable for training and service and have not been inducted into service AND WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR BIRTH SHALL BE DEFERRED FROM TRAINING AND SERVICE. One of the things discovered by the Selective Service System was that 52% of those between the ages of 31 and 36 were rejected as physically unfit and 36% of those between 26 and 30 were rejected for the same reason. Another factor is dependency. Of the 5,500,000 registrants who were classified up to March 31st, 3,700,000 or about 70% were given a III-A rating which means deferment because of dependents. Most of these were in the upper age group. On these grounds the Selective Service System recommended a reduction of the maximum age from 35 to 28. This measure would become effectively immediately after it's enactment.