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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT  
by  
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JOURNAL FOR A WEEK

In the week beginning July 21 the greatest highlight of the week was the message of the President delivered to Congress on July 21, in which he requested an Army of unlimited size to serve for an indefinite period. On that same day Congress recognized the tumultuous protest which came from the wheat areas of the country and passed H.R. 5300 which has for its purpose a modification of the penalty provisions on wheat in certain hardship cases where small yields or small acreage are involved. On July 22 the House passed the Defense Highway Act of 1941 authorizing the construction of a strategic network of highways supplemented by access roads, off-street parking lots and flight strips along the highways for the landing of airplanes. This measure authorized an appropriation of \$262,000,000. On Wednesday, July 23, the House considered a number of bills dealing with postal workers including one measure which provides a longevity bonus of \$100 per year after ten years of continuous service to the Federal Government and an additional \$100 for each additional five years up to the thirtieth year of service. The net effect of this measure would be that a postal employee who had worked for the Federal Government for twenty-five years would receive an annual bonus of \$400 after the twenty-fifth year in addition to his regular base pay. On Thursday, July 24, the House considered a supplemental appropriation bill which provides more than seven billion dollars for additional requirements for the Army, the Navy and the United States Maritime Commission. The largest items for the Army were 443 million dollars for clothing and supplies, 347 million dollars for the Signal Corps and 204 million dollars for the Air Corps. This bill carried 698 million dollars for the United States Maritime Commission in furtherance of a program which embraces the ultimate construction of more than 1200 vessels. Within the next few months it is expected that cargo vessels will be completed at the rate of one per day. This measure also carried 35 million dollars for the construction of a new War Department building on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. Objection developed to this item. The Committee in charge of the bill withdrew further consideration until Monday. These are the highlights of the legislative week and embrace authorizations and expenditures exceeding seven and one-quarter billion dollars. The President's message was followed by the introduction of a bill for a Congressional declaration of an emergency under which draftees might be kept in service for more than a year. The Floor fight on that measure will probably begin on the fourth day of August.

THE SOVIET JOINS UP.

In normal times, it is not customary for foreign embassies and legations to inform Congress of what is happening in their countries. Their functions are essentially diplomatic and commercial and contacts are made thro the State Department. But the war has changed all that. Believing that the Congress and the country should be informed of what was taking

place overseas, first one country and then another began to publish and supply a digest of information. First came the Nazi's with what was known as the German Library of Information. Then came Poland and Czecko Slovakia with bulletins. Later came Norway and China. Latest addition to the bulletins which now appear regularly is that of the Soviet. It is issued by the Soviet Embassy in multigraphed form about 10 pages in length and contains a variety of treatises. Included in the list of articles are those on Parachutists And Glider Pilots In The USSR, Bulgaria Under Germany's Heel, Soviet People Praise Stalin's Appointment As People's Commissar of National Defense, together with recent war communiques.

#### THE ILLINI COUNTRY.

The State of Illinois has enjoyed membership in the sisterhood of the United States for 123 years. In 1820, but two years after admission to the union it's population was but 55,211, substantially one half the population of the city of Peoria. Today it's official population by the census of 1940 is 7,897,241. From 1810 to 1820 the population increased by 349%. In the following decade it increased by 185%. From 1830 to 1840 it was 202%. From 1840 to 1850 the increase dropped to 78% but turned up to 101% between 1850 and 1860. Thereafter with but one exception, there has been a steady decline in the rate of increase in population and in the last ten years amounted to but 3.5%. Deaths, lowering birthrate and departures accounts for this gradual decline in the rate of population increase. In 1820 Illinois had but three cities. Today it has 208. Perhaps the most interesting trend in Illinois population is the continuing increase in the number of people who reside in cities and the declining percentage of those who reside in rural areas. Just 100 years ago, only 2 out of every 100 persons in Illinois resided in the cities. The other 98 were classified as rural. From that time on, the gravitation toward urban life has continued until in 1940, 74 out of every 100 people reside in the cities and but 26 in the rural areas. This trend has great industrial and economic significance.

#### CHANGE BEGETS CHANGE.

Suppose you operated a distillery? Suppose you place a barrel containing 49 gallons of spirits in a warehouse and left it for 4 years? Suppose at the end of 4 years, the barrel contained but 42 gallons? Suppose the Government made you pay internal revenue taxes on the number of gallons which were originally placed in the barrel? You would then be paying tax on 7 gallons of spirits which you did not have and could not sell. Believe it or not as brother Ripley would say, that's exactly what happens. Thro evaporation and outage, the number of gallons of spirits in a barrel diminish with the years. Sixty years ago, Congress took cognizance of this fact and established by law what is known as the Carlisle Allowance (named after Congressman John G. Carlisle of Kentucky) which permitted distillers a credit of 7½ gallons for loss over a period of three years. This loss allowance has been gradually increased until it now amounts to an allowance of 13 gallons per barrel on spirits stored for 80 months and 13½ gallons for any period over 80 months in warehouse. This formula has been in existence for many years but conditions change and there is now a demand to change the formula because it is estimated to cost distillers \$6,000,000 a year in losses in excess of those for which allowance is made. Today, barrels used in the distilling industry are

larger and  
have a longer stave. Hence losses are greater. The white oak staves in use today are more porous than those of two generations ago. This increases loss. Years ago, barrels were made by hand and the staves were "rived" by hand which partially sealed them. Today, barrels are machine made. This is another loss factor. Finally, spirits are stored in heated warehouses today which increases evaporation. The distilling industry is asking Congress to relieve it of the burden of internal revenue taxes on spirits which they do not have because they have gone with the wind.