

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT  
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen  
16th District.

9-21-40

TO PROTECT LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

The history of the Republic embraces a careful and sustained effort to ever protect liberty of conscience. The Constitution, recognizing that members of various faiths object to swearing an oath, makes provision that they may make an affirmation. The Bill of Rights to the Constitution prohibits Congress from making any law to establish a religion or to prohibit the free exercise of religion. In this same spirit, the recent conscription act protects those who are conscientiously opposed to war or military service. A person who is a conscientious objector may so declare and thus be classified. If the local draft board deems his objection unfounded, he may take an appeal. The matter shall then be investigated by the Department of Justice which shall make a report and recommendation on it's findings. Conscientious objectors may be assigned either to non-combatant service or to other public service. Thus is the tradition of free conscience preserved.

TIME'S TOLL.

In April 1917, 6 Senators and 51 Congressmen voted against war. Of the 6 Senators only Norris of Nebraska still remains. Gronna, Lane, LaFollette, Stone and Vardaman have embarked on the eternal journey. Of the 51 Congressmen, 32 are deceased. Knutson of Minnesota alone is serving in Congress today. Six of the 51 came from Illionois. Of these 6, only Fred Britten remains Lundeen of Minnesota who served in Congress in 1917 and voted agsint the war resolution, lived to see the world engulfed in another war and then met death in a frightful air crash over the Alleghanies. Such is time's toll.

OIL TREES.

Cotton exports are diminishing. The deep south where cotton is a cash crop seeks other crops. One such crop is the tung tree. It produces nuts from which tung-oil is extracted for use in paints. For thousands of years, China has produced tung oil But inferior quality, uncertain production, and war have stimulated American interest in this product. Waste land and hillsides are adapted to growth of the tung tree. About 180,000 acres in the south are now devoted to this crop. The United States uses about 80% of world production of tung-oil and produces less than 2% of it's requirements. An estimated 1,000,000 acres are available for this new industry. It takes about 5 years of developement work to make the first crop of oil.

DO YOU OWE THE BANK.

Washington, Nov. 27, 1803.

Sirs:

If my note for \$558.16 payable the 15th of December is still in your hands, I should be very glad if it could be either postponed awhile or paid by monthly portions, as I find I shall be very hard pushed during the next month. If however it is gone out of your hands I shall endeavor to make provision for it if possible. Accept my friendly salutations and best wishes.

(Signed) Th. Jefferson.

BOX SCORE.

The present major political parties date from 1860. In that 80 year period, Republicans won 14, Democrats 6 of the 20 national elections. Republicans had 13, Democrats 3 Presidents. (If one counts Cleveland's second term separately, it would be 4). The three Democratic Presidents (Cleveland, Wilson, Roosevelt) each had two terms. For 56 of the 80 years, the elephant occupied the White House, the Donkey 24.

THE GENTLE ART OF COMPROMISE.

Maybe it was Aesop or Marcus Aurelius or some other person who remarked that half a loaf is better than no bread and thus expressed the moving spirit of compromise. No where could one find a better illustration than in a bill passed by the United States Senate in June which prohibited and provided a penalty for the shipment of prison-made goods in interstate commerce. When the measure came to the House, it struck out the Senate language and substituted it's own proposal. In the main, it was like the Senate bill except that it excepted farm machinery, binder twine and farm products from the provisions of the bill. The net effect would therefore be to stop all prison made products from moving in interstate commerce except for the above mentioned items. A few days ago, a committee of members from House and Senate sat down to compose their differences. The Senate insisted on making the prohibition on prison goods absolute. The House insisted on the exceptions which had been written in the bill. After much debate and discussion, the conferees finally agreed on a bill which carried but two exceptions. One of these was agricultural commodities and the other repair parts to farm machinery, Each side gives a little and takes a little. It is the art of compromise, without which so much legislation would no doubt fail altogether.