

[October 11, 1941]

A DECLARATION OF WAR

Some legislator indicated sometime ago that he proposed to introduce a resolution calling for a declaration of war by the Congress for the purpose of having it voted down. At this writing that declaration has not been introduced and is not likely to be. It is interesting to examine the parliamentary procedure whereby such a declaration would be considered. If such a resolution is introduced, it is automatically referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House by the Speaker and the Parliamentarian. That Committee consists of fifteen Democrats and ten Republicans. If such a resolution were considered at all, it would most likely be done under a motion to lay the resolution on the table. It is not too much to say that such a motion would carry un-animously. The resolution would then be pigeonholed in the Committee. Not even the sponsor of such a resolution would be very apt to vote against a motion to have it tabled. He could, thereupon, file a petition with the Clerk of the House to have the Committee discharged from further consideration of the resolution in order to bring it to the Floor of the House. In our considered opinion not one single member of the House would sign such a petition. If such a resolution were offered as an amendment to an appropriation bill, it would be ruled out of order on the ground that it is legislation and cannot properly be included in an appropriation bill. If such a resolution were offered as an amendment to other legislation, it would be ruled out of order on the ground that it is not relevant or germane to such legislation. Here you have the story of what would happen to a resolution calling for a declaration of war.

THE BOOKS GET OUT OF KILTIER.

The Federal Budget is nothing more than a program of estimated receipts and expenditures. It is made up by the various departments of government in the Fall of each year. These estimates are submitted to the Budget Bureau. The Bureau examines the estimates, takes testimony on them, revises or approves them, submits them to the President. The President then submits them to Congress at the beginning of each session. Nowadays, things happen to budget estimates. New defense needs crop up from time to time. These needs are urgent. Defense agencies need more money. They present their needs to the Budget Bureau and the President. If approved, the President then asks Congress for these additional funds. Congress provides them in the form of supplementary or deficiency appropriations. So the national bookkeeping goes askew from time to time and the Budget Bureau must revise its program to show what the government balance sheet will look like. On October 5th, the Budget Bureau submitted its latest revision of the national balance sheet. For the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 1941, income was about 7.6 billions, expenses about 12.8 billion, deficit 5.2 billion. For the fiscal year which will end on June 30, 1942, income will be about 12 billion, expenses 24.7 billion, deficit 12.7 billion. The Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1943 is now in process of preparation. It needs but one comment. The deficit will be much greater. Why? Defense.

A NATIONAL PHYSICAL PROBLEM

The number of young Americans who have been rejected for military service because of physical disqualifications draws attention to the fact that here is a national physical problem, the answer to which must be found in the homes and communities of this country. Out of 586,942 examinations by draft boards prior to June 30, 1941, 94,865 or 16.2 per cent were rejected. In round numbers this means that one out of six who

were examined were rejected because of physical defects. Nervous and mental disorders accounted for more than 16 per cent of all rejections. Teeth accounted for approximately 13 per cent. Defective eyes accounted for almost 11 per cent. Hernia accounted for 4.4 per cent. This figure would indicate that 44 out of every one thousand who were rejected were suffering from rupture. Truly this is a national problem in which not only every young man and his parents but the community as well will have a vital interest.

BRAZIL

A chap named Amerigo Vespucci, after whom America is named is responsible for naming the largest republic in South America. Vespucci, established a small colony there in the year 1503 while he returned to Portugal with a cargo of dyewood called "brazza" from which Brazil derived its name. Its area is more than 200,000 square miles greater than the United States and embraces virtually the entire eastern half of South America. At the very eastern tip of Brazil at about 35 degrees west longitude is a city called Natal. Natal is a little over 1900 miles from Africa. It is the point from which American-made planes take-off for the South Atlantic hop to Africa for delivery to the allied powers. Natal therefore needs a first-class air base to service such planes for the long trans-oceanic journey. Brazil does not have the funds to improve this base. In consequence, the State Department has negotiated a lend-lease loan to Brazil, estimated at about 100 million dollars, a portion of which will be used for that purpose.