

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

LONG BEFORE THERE WAS A WAR.

Long before there was a war, the Congressional calendar of the last Congress contained a host of measures dealing with war and the problems of war. That Congress began on January 3, 1939 and adjourned 25 days before war was declared. Yet, it was entirely war conscious. Scan this list of measures which were introduced: (1) A resolution to define aggressor nations. (2) Requesting the President to call a conference on the limitation of armaments. (3) A bill to prohibit conscription for overseas service. (4) A bill for the conscription of property in time of war. (5) A bill to control industries and exchanges in time of war. (6) A bill to draft high officials and executives in time of war. (7) A bill to keep America out of war. (8) A resolution serving notice that Congress will not declare war. (9) The Peace Bill of 1939. (10) Establishment of a Dept. of Peace. (11) Bills to take the profit out of war (there were 14 such bills). (12) Neutrality policy in the China-Japanese war. (13) Extension of the Neutrality Act. (14) Prohibition of loans to foreign belligerents. (15) Draft of the use of money in time of war. These are but a part of the many bills introduced which deal with some phase of war and it is interesting to observe how war-conscious this Congress was long before the war began.

GENTLE BOMBER.

Everyone who closely follows aviation affairs knows, or knows of, a charming, engaging, and clever lady who bears the name of Laura Ingalls. She is one of 17 lady fliers in this country. She holds a license from the Civil Aeronautics Authority from which all pilots must hold a license. She flies everywhere, in any kind of plane, in all kinds of weather. She would rather fly than eat. Because of her devotion to flying, her wealthy, socialite family has virtually cut her off. Recently, Laura flew into an official air-pocket, took a sharp dip, and has had difficulty in righting the old ship. There is in Washington, a restricted area over which planes must not fly. Included in this area is the White House. There is also a CAA regulation which forbids dropping "objects" from the air. Laura flew over this restricted area recently and dropped peace leaflets from her plane. Forthwith, Laura was cited to appear before the Civil Aeronautics Authority and show cause why her license should not be revoked for a violation of the regulations. The case is now pending. Laura will soon know. Laura admitted that she knew of the regulation but did not consider a peace leaflet to be an "object."

RED FACES.

The National Labor Relations Board administers the National Labor Relations Act which assures to workers the rights and benefits of collective bargaining without interference, restraint or coercion. It has a staff of more than 700 employees. Its orders, hearings, bulletins, documents, briefs, and statements makes a sizable printing job. Much of this printing work is done by a private printer in Washington. The other day, an organizer for the printing crafts arrived in the Capitol and ordered a strike at the plant where the NLRB work is done. Reason: While this print plant operates under a closed shop contract, it is alleged that one-half of the force employed in the composing room are receiving about one-third of the regular scale of wages. Hence, a strike. Could it be that some faces are red?

SUPREME COURT HAS A BIRTHDAY.

On the first Monday of this month, the Supreme Court resumed for business. Only 8 of the 9 Justices were present. Justice Pierce Butler, who was appointed by President Harding in 1922 is seriously ill, and could not attend. The first order of business was to recess and proceed to the White House to express official respects to the President. This is a sort of birthday year for the high court. It was in September 1789 - 150 years ago - that Congress created the Supreme Court with 6 Justices, 4 Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal and 13 Federal District Courts. The number of Circuit Courts has been increased to 10, the number of District Courts to 84, the membership of the Supreme Court from 6 to 9. But the pattern of the judicial branch of the government endures, even as it was established 150 years ago.

THEY KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

Approximately 160 members of the House and Senate are war veterans. They know what it's all about. Rep. Izac of California holds the Congressional Medal of Honor. Rep. Edmiston of West Virginia holds the Distinguished Service Cross. Senator Tydings of Maryland, also holds a DSC. Rep. Miller of Connecticut lost both legs in the last war and attends sessions in a wheel chair. Yes, Congressmen and Senators know something of war.
