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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District

EMERGENCY POWERS.

On the opening day of the Neutrality debate in the Senate, a resolution was adopted requesting the Attorney General to advise the Senate as to what powers are available to the President under his proclamation of a national emergency and what powers the President has under existing law in case of an emergency or a state of war. The Attorney General advised that compliance with the resolution would require legal opinion from him and that under the precedents of his office, he could not give such an opinion. He did however list many laws which by their own terms give emergency and war powers to the President, quite aside from whatever power the President has under the Constitution. This resolution raises an interesting question and we believe a partial listing of the powers of the President and of the Congress in respect of war, and foreign policy would be of interest.

POWERS OF CONGRESS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

1. Lay and collect taxes, pay debts and provide for common defense and general welfare.
2. Regulate commerce with foreign nations.
3. Declare war.
4. Grant letters of marque and reprisal, make rules concerning captures on land and water.
5. Raise and support armies.
6. Provide and maintain a Navy.
7. Make rules governing land and naval forces.
8. Provide for calling forth the militia.
9. Provide for organizing army and disciplining militia.
10. Make laws to carry into effect all the foregoing powers.
11. Power to make rules concerning territory of the U. S.

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER CONSTITUTION.

1. He is Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy and of the militia when called into the service of the U. S.
2. Power to make treaties with advice and consent of the Senate.

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER STATUTES.

1. Suspend operation of Titles I and II of the Sugar Act.
2. Power to order nurses, Reserve Officers, Retired Officers and others to active duty.
3. Power to purchase supplies without advertising for bids.
4. Take possession of transportation systems in time of war.
5. Prohibit transactions in foreign exchange etc.
6. Restrict imports from any country which restricts U. S. imports.
7. Refuse clearance to vessels.
8. Suspend trading on national security exchanges for a period not exceeding 90 days.

9. Take over power houses, dams, conduits and reservoirs for any purpose.
10. Take certain action with respect to credit expansion when an emergency requires credit expansion.
11. Suspend the provisions of law relating to the 8-hour day on work covered by contracts with the U. S.
12. Broad powers with reference to the Army, Navy, shipping etc.
13. Suspend or amend the rules and regulations on communications by radio or wire.
14. To apprehend, restrain, secure and remove all alien enemies above the age of 14 years.
15. Commandeer plants and place compulsory orders for war supplies.
16. Close, dismantle or authorize government control and use of radio stations.
17. Many other powers which are contained in more than 100 statutes.

SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T BUY TIME.

On October 1, 1939, the new code of the National Association of Broadcasters became effective. It provides among other things that, "Time for the presentation of controversial issues shall not be sold, except for political broadcasts." This does not bar any person or group from using the radio to ventilate his or their views on any controversial subject. It merely means that time cannot be bought for that purpose. Broadcasters expect to donate time for such discussions, having proper regard for the physical and time limitations under which they operate. The principal reason assigned for this provision is that a person or group of persons with available financial means might buy up all available time on the air and so monopolize the discussion of a controversial public question and give the public a one-sided and distorted presentation of the issue.

POST OFFICE - TURNSTILE OF DESTINY.

Four thousand postmasters and their families descended on Washington to examine mailing gadgets, air mail pick-ups, stamp collections, hear the nation's number one Postmaster Mr. Farley, know each other better and discuss their common problems. They learn and we learn that a post office is something more than a post office. It is a turnstile to destiny. It is an instrument which brings joy and despair, faith and gloom, failure and success, happiness and sorrow, and measures the comings and goings of human destiny. The postmaster at Hollywood knows what star is in the ascendant, what star is waning and won't tell. A Montana postmaster with 300 Indian families and 10 white families for patrons must write letters, wrap packages and be chore boy to his folks. The post office in Chinatown in San Francisco, operated by a Chinese knows how American Chinese support their native land with funds. Ranking lady postmaster is Mrs. Briggs of Los Angeles with 4300 employees.

THE LIGHTER MOMENTS.

When Senator Downey of California, in the course of the neutrality debate suggested the invasion of Florida for the purpose of illustrating his remarks, Senator Pepper of that state was lead to say, "Instead of it being necessary to meet them in such case with a military or naval force, they would, like their predecessors in past eras be so enamored of the beauty of the State that they would lose all hostile design and remain as fine citizens of our country, (Laughter)."