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

FREDERICK STILL PAYS. Frederick Maryland, one-time home of Chief Justice Roger Taney, of Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner, and of the celebrated Barbara Frietsche, lies about 50 miles east of Washington. On July 9, 1864 the Confederate General Jubal A. Early threatened to sack and shell the city (then 8000 population) unless it paid a ransom of \$200,000. The city officials protested but finally paid the demand by borrowing from the banks with a promise to reimburse the banks. The city has been paying ever since. Thus far it has paid \$331,000 in interest alone and it will be 1951 before the debt is discharged. Repeated efforts have been made to have Congress reimburse the city for these payments but Congress has refused.

EIGHTY ONE YEARS AGO. The civilian personnel of the Navy consisted of a Secretary, 42 clerks and 7 messengers. Today it consists of 288,000. In 1861, the Army personnel consisted of a Secretary, 92 clerks, 10 messengers and 5 watchmen. Today it exceeds 1,100,000. These figures are exclusive of military and naval personnel. So have we grown.

UNGLITTERED GOLD. The glitter has been removed from the gold. It is deemed less important in the war effort than Copper, Silver and other metals. Only 6% of the gold mined is used in industry. Thus came the order from the War Production Board to close the gold mines and utilize the miners in more important work. The order came unheralded and left 3000 miners and their families suddenly out of work. There is no glitter in that cold fact.

RED WARRIORS. Grandsons and greatgrandsons of red warriors who massacred the forces of General Custer on the Little Big Horn many years ago are now joining the forces of Freedom to demonstrate their prowess against the Axis enemies. The Sioux Indians in the Dakotas have an enviable record for both enlistments and inductions. Of our entire Indian population, 5490 have enlisted and 4116 have been inducted. This is about 7% of the whole Indian population of the nation. Our red warriors are back on the warpath.

EXIT INTERVIEWS. Homesickness is a common malady in Washington among those employed by government. The impact of haste and hurry, crowded quarters, high living costs and the problem of readjustment from a small to a large city culminates in homesickness and brings requests for transfers to some point closer home or finally results in resignation from government service. To meet this problem, the larger agencies of government have created a department of "exit interviews." Some patient and kindly person tries to ascertain the cause that lies behind the request of a person to resign or be transferred and often results in a readjustment which makes service more congenial.

RUBBER PLANTS. Five products of Dame Nature are now the special concern of government scientists and technicians because they produce rubber. The first is Kok-sagyz, better known as the Russian dandelion. In addition, there are Rabbitbrush, Goldenrod, Guayule, and Cryptostegia. Experiments with guayule are now under way on an extensive scale in the southwest states.

HARD FIBERS. Hard fibers like those extracted from hemp are essential to the manufacture of cordage and rope. War has seriously effected the supply because much of this fiber was imported from the Pacific islands. What to do? The answer is to produce our own fibers. A project is already under way for the production of 300,000 acres of hemp in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky in areas suited to its culture. This will require about 70 hemp mills employing from 6000 to 8000 persons.

TAX COLLECTORS. The new Revenue Act of 1942 which is in process of completion by Congress means more taxes. More taxes mean more tax collectors, investigators and clerical aid. The Bureau of Internal Revenue advised Congress that the new tax act would require an additional 5428 persons in the collection unit, 102 in the intelligence unit and 5 in the administrative unit, making a total of 5533.

HIGH AND LOW MALAY. One of the tasks of the Office of War Information is to devise broadcast programs which are transmitted by short wave to people in all sections of the earth including the islands in the Pacific. Obviously these broadcasts must be done in language which those people will understand. Included are programs designed for the people in the Malay peninsula. This presents a problem. The more educated people of Malay speak what is known as High Malay. Scholars have been found who can do this work. The great majority of Malaysians however speak Low Malay and scholars who are familiar with this language are extremely scarce.

HELICOPTERS. Helicopters are those strange looking planes with huge windmills on top which can take off and land in a small space and can virtually stand still in air. In other words, they can hover in a small space for a long time. The Coast Guard is experimenting with these contrivances now for coastal patrol work.