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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.  
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GREETINGS. The Congressional Front is back. In fact, it's having a birthday. It was born during the special 100 day session of the 73rd Congress in 1933. It is five years old, but in a manner of speaking this is it's first birthday because this is the first special session since the Front was born. The Front likes criticism. Among, the criticisms that came to us was one to the effect that it was a bit too long. We agree. Accordingly, it will be held to more readable length. In conformity with past pledges, we shall strive to make the Front constructive and informative and keep it free from partisanship. To the editors who so kindly accord it space, we again express our sincere thanks and gratitude.

KICK-OFF. Drop of the gavel on 12:00 noon. Monday November 15th 1937 was like the kick-off at a football game. For a moment all is quiet, tense, and uncertain. Came a reading of the President's proclamation, summoning Congress into special session, followed by the chaplain's prayer. The roll was called. It disclosed that some 50 members were absent. A Committee was appointed to notify the President that Congress was in session and ready to receive any communications. A moment later, a messenger brought the message from the President. Before it was read, resignations of some members were tendered and five new members were sworn. Then came a reading of the message of the President by the clerk of the House. The message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed. Then arose Sam Rayburn of Texas the Majority Leader and asked unanimous consent that when the House adjourn, that it adjourn until Thursday. Some member objected. Members bantered back and forth. Rep. Lamneck of Ohio requested time to talk for an hour on wages and hours. Some member objected. He then requested two minutes. It was granted. Thereafter he talked for two minutes on wages and hours and under the rules was permitted to insert the rest of his long speech without it's having been delivered. A member from Oklahoma announced the death of a colleague from Oklahoma and offered a resolution that the House adjourn as a mark of respect. So, the House adjourned.

SECOND DAY. It took only a few minutes to read the Journal of Proceedings of the Day before. Again Sam Rayburn the Majority Leader asked consent that the House adjourn. Again there was objection. Then the Leader made a motion that the House adjourn. Those who favored adjournment were asked to stand until counted. While the counting was in process, another member insisted that a yea and nay vote be taken. So the roll was called to determine whether the House should adjourn. It took forty minutes to call the roll and by a vote of 218 to 120 the House moved to adjourn.

WHY THE DELAY. Congress was summoned to consider a five point program. The five items in that program are the (1) Farm Bill, (2) Wages & Hours Bill, (3) Government Reorganization, (4) A Regional Planning Bill calling for TVA's and (5) Anti-Trust Legislation. The bills to effecuate this program are not ready. That's a short but conclusive answer to a big question.

THE FARM BILL. House Committee on Agriculture is meeting twice every day seeking to perfect a farm bill. The President has suggested that any farm legislation be made to pay it's way. If benefits are to be paid for crop reduction, those benefits must come from taxes. What kind of taxes? That question has not been settled. There is a present prospect that another processing tax will be submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means. Like it's predecessor, it will be levied on packers, bakers, milk products processors, corn products plants, distilleries and others and will be reflected in higher prices to the consumer. There is some prospect of a farm bill next week. The strategy will be to pass some kind of a bill in both House and Senate and then send it to a Conference Committee of both Houses where the "real" bill will be written. These Conference Committees have often been referred to as the "Third House" of Congress.

WAGES & HOUPS. A Wage-Hour Bill known as the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed by the Senate on July 22 and then referred to the Labor Committee of the House. The Labor Committee held hearings, reported a bill with many amendments and asked for a special rule from the Rules Committee for it's consideration. That Committee, consisting of 10 Democrats, 4 Republicans refused to grant a rule and thus the bill has been languishing in that Committee since August. On the second day of this session, a petition was filed to bring the bill to the floor. The petition requires the signatures of 218 (majority) members. Thus far 105 have signed. If necessary signatures are obtained, the bill could come up on December 13th. It's fate is now in doubt. Meanwhile Rep. Lamneck of Ohio has introduced a short Wages, Hours, & Child Labor Act which makes substandard labor conditions, oppressive wages, oppressive workweeks and Child Labor and unfair method of competition and gives the Federal Trade Commission the authority

to investigate and remedy the condition.

POLITICAL PARADOX. When the Senate adjourned in August, it was agreed that when they returned, the Farm Bill should be the first order of business followed by the anti-lynching bill. The farm bill was not ready. Senators Wagner of New York and Van Nuys of Indiana there upon moved to take up the Anti-Lynching Bill. Southern Senators at once began a filibuster against the motion. To head off the anti-lynching bill, every effort is now being made to bring some kind of a farm bill to the Senate floor. Five members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture including the Chairman, come from the deep South.

WHEEZE OF THE WEEK. On Thursday Nov. 18, Senator Barkley, Majority Leader in the Senate recessed the Senate with the admonition that they get down to work. Senator Connolly of Texas, who was filibustering against the anti-lynching bill promptly asked. "What Work?" The galleries roared.