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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
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OUR FIRST VENTURE IN AFRICA.

As you read of Yank action on the African Front, examine the map and find Dakar. Just below Dakar you will find Sierra Leone. Below Sierra Leone you will find Liberia, a free Republic patterned on our own form of government and founded thro the efforts of patient, humane Americans about 126 years ago. It was in 1816 that The American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Color of the United States was organized in Washington, D. C. and undertook with borrowed funds to establish a colony on the west coast of Africa where free negroes might make their home at a time when slavery still flourished in the United States. In 1847, the Colony felt strong enough to establish its own government and thus the Republic of Liberia was born. Its area is about that of the State of Virginia and contains about 2,000,000 people. Its capital is Monrovia, named after President James Monroe. Because of internal troubles, the United States supervises the collection of customs in Liberia. Thus we have had an interest in one portion of Africa for more than a century.

STEVENSON'S The Name.

His name is Stevenson. He's a big powerful chap who used to be a stevedore, loading and unloading ships. He is able and ambitious. In due time he became Secretary of the National Association of Stevedores. He knows ships and shipping. The War Shipping Administration commanded his services and placed him in charge of the loading and unloading of vessels operated by the War Shipping Administration. There came to his attention the Better Government Contest of the Washington Post with a request for suggestions to improve governmental efficiency and save money for the taxpayers. Out of his long experience, it occurred to Stevenson that some of the drum-heads which are built on hoisting winches were never used. It has been the custom to build these extensions on ship hoists for the purpose of wrapping ropes around them for the hoisting of acrgo. Since this was the custom, it was continued. But Stevenson observed that three out of four were never used. Then why build and install the three. He suggested they be eliminated. The suggestion was adopted. This will save 2400 pounds of iron on each ship. With 1000 ships to be built, it will mean a saving of \$680,000. It will also mean additional savings. It is evidence of what alertness in government can accomplish. Hat's off to Stevenson.

THE JUDICIAL MIND.

In the face of a hugh wheat crop in 1941 and a growing supply which the Department of Agriculture feared might seriously impair prices, it suggested and Congress enacted an amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act whereby a farmer who undertook to market more than his allotted share of wheat would be subject to a penalty of 49¢ per bushel. To deduct 49¢ from the price would, of course, completely destroy all incentive for marketing excess wheat. But this law was enacted in May of 1941 to apply to wheat which had been seeded in the fall of 1940 and when the validity of this penalty was carried to the Supreme Court of the U. S., this question of a penalty enacted in 1941 in its application to wheat which had been seeded 8 months before was presented and here is what the Court said: "The penalty is incurred and becomes due on threshing. Thus the penalty was on an act of the farmer committed not before but after the passage of the law, and had he chosen to cut his excess wheat and cure it, or feed it as hay, or reap it and feed it with the head and straw together, no penalty would have been demanded. Only when he threshed and thus made it a part of the bulk of the wheat overhanging the market did he become subject to penalty. That's worth reading again.

FROM OKIES AND ARKIES TO TANKS AND PLANES.

Several years ago, the House of Representatives created a special committee to investigate the interstate migration of people. The committee was the direct result of the problem which develops when families in Oklahoma, Arkansas and other states were stranded by the depression and loaded what household effects they had into the family fliyver and started in the direction of California and other western states. About that time, there appeared in both novel form and in the movies, John Steinbeck's realistic book called "Grapes Of Wrath" which dramatized this problem and so the names Okies and Arkies became well known terms for migrants from those states. This special committee had for its chairman Congressman John Tolan of California who did a very fine job on the investigation. Little did he or his committee realize however as they undertook this special task that before it completed its labors, it would be wrestling with a far larger problem in the form of manpower with which to keep the nation's production lines staffed with necessary skilled help. Recently, this committee proposed an Office of War Mobilization within which would be created an Office for Manpower to handle both Selective Service for the army, military personnel for the Navy and manpower for the civilian industries of the country.