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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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GENIUS OF NECESSITY

In 1941 the motor car production of one of the large automobile manufacturers will reach a total of 2,082,422. The effect of national defense requirements on automobile production can be readily seen is when one realizes that for the calendar year 1942 this same company will be permitted to manufacture only 950,956 cars, the effect of this reduction on employment, automobile wholesalers and dealers, service stations and other businesses identified with the motor car industry can be readily seen. Defense has, indeed, stimulated the genius of industrial engineers and compelled them to adopt new designs and new techniques in order to produce quality cars and at the same time economize on metals which were heretofore used but which are now available only in limited quantities. New designing will make it possible for this one company alone to save more than 14 million pounds of aluminum, 6 million pounds of nickel, 92 million pounds of zinc, 5 million pounds of chromium, 55 million pounds of copper, 35 million pounds of lead and 3 million pounds of tin. Such is the genius of necessity.

THE GENERAL IRONY OF TIME

The day was Monday, December 1, in the Year of Our Lord 1941. The place was the Appropriations Committee Room of the House of Representatives. A meeting was in progress. Nearly the entire membership of the Appropriations Committee was present. A guard was at the door. Every person in the room had been carefully checked in. Also in the room were officers from the War Department. They were on hand with charts and figures to apprise members of the Appropriations Committee of the latest facts concerning our defense effort. Figures were presented on the production of tanks, planes, guns, ammunition and other war materials. Figures were also presented to show the amount of defense materials on hand. The whole discussion centered on war activity. On the wall of this room hangs a picture showing Continental Memorial Hall in Washington, D. C. in the year 1921. This picture contained nothing more than the seating arrangement in that hall and bore this intriguing title "SCENE OF THE WASHINGTON DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE OF 1921". Here is the general irony of twenty years.

THE SIDE DOOR TO INFLATION

Price control legislation can be only partially effective in curbing inflation so long as laws now on the statute books permit inflationary tendencies which are at variance with the purpose of a price control law. Ever since 1934 the Secretary of the Treasury under a mandate from Congress has been purchasing silver and must continue to purchase silver until the amount of silver in our monetary system is in the ratio of one to three to the gold in our money system. Since 1934 the Treasury has purchased nearly 2½ billion ounces of silver for which it paid more than \$1,300,000,000. Nearly \$1,000,000,000 worth of these purchases have been foreign silver. After silver has been purchased, it is compulsory that silver certificates, commonly known as one dollar bills, must be issued against such silver. These silver certificates then go into circulation and since they increase the available money supply, they have a definitely inflationary effect, Inflation control,

therefore, requires that this Silver Purchase Act of 1934 be repealed yet repeated attempts year after year to have it repealed have failed because Representatives from silver producing states have consistently opposed repeal.

A BILL TO DIMINISH CAUSES OF LABOR DISPUTES

The bill dealing with labor disputes in the performance of national defense contracts introduced by Representative Smith of Virginia passed the Congress by a majority of 116 votes. Section One contains definitions. Section Two makes it unlawful for a defense employer to lockout his employees or for the employees to strike until thirty days after notice has been given to the Secretary of Labor. Section Three makes it unlawful to strike until after a secret ballot has been taken under the supervision of the United States Conciliation Service. Section Four makes it unlawful for a defense employer to use discrimination in encouraging or discouraging membership in a labor organization unless he is under a contract to do so. Section Five makes it unlawful to use violence or intimidation in preventing a person from accepting or continuing in employment. Section Six makes boycotts and sympathy strikes unlawful. Section Seven lodges the enforcement of this measure in the District Courts of the United States and provides certain penalties. Section Eight provides for the annual registration of labor organizations including the name, address, names of officers, fees and dues charged or received and other information. Section Nine calls for annual registration. Section Ten denies benefits to labor organizations who fail to register. Sections Eleven to Nineteen inclusive give legal authority to the National Defense Mediation Board and provides the procedure and jurisdiction whereby labor disputes in defense industries should be mediated and arbitrated. One section offered as an amendment makes it unlawful for persons who are not bona fide employees of a defense employer to engage in picketing. Another amendment provides that any labor organization which permits Communists and Bundists to hold office in such organization shall cease to hold a status as a labor organization under the National Labor Relations Act.