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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
by Congressman Everett M. Dirksen.
16th Congressional District.

VIRGINS SEEK CONGRESSMAN.

That title may be a bit misleading so we should hasten to explain that the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands recently passed a resolution petitioning the Congress to so amend the organic law of the Islands as to provide them with a Commissioner in Congress. They point out that Hawaii and Alaska have delegates and that Puerto Rico and the Philippines have Resident Commissioners and therefore they feel entitled to representation. They also pointed out that self-appointed spokesmen for the Islands too often provide misinformation rather than information. Their unanimous choice for the position of Commissioner is former U. S. Senator William H. King of Utah who served on the Senate Committee on Territories.

OPACHE.

A Washington Department store, charged with violating price ceilings stated by way of defense that OPA rules and regulations applying to department stores now fill 5 volumes with a total of 13,423 pages of fine print making a total of 11,275,320 words. It alleges that it has had 80,000 forms printed to be filled out for OPA inspection. It also submits that it now employs a special staff of 27 persons at a cost of \$40,000 per year who do nothing but follow up OPA rules. As an example, it points out that on a single shipment of fancy pillows costing \$162 and made up of 104 patterns and designs, it required the services of 1 employee four full days to check and post prices. It is what might be called the OP ache.

FLY (OR FEATHER) IN THE MILK.

When the Office of Defense Transportation asked that milk deliveries in New York City be cut from 6 to 7 days a week to 3 days a week, the New York Milk Wagon Drivers Union protested on the ground that the number of drivers would be reduced from about 10,000 to 5,000. Thereupon a Commission made up of employer, employee and public representatives was called in to arbitrate and if its finding is unanimous, the War Labor Board will probably sustain the finding and thereby sustain the demand of the Office of Defense Transportation. One question involved is whether drivers would have to be hired even if there was no work for them to be done. This is what is commonly known as "feather-bedding." So maybe it's a feather in the milk.

UNCLE SAM - LAND OWNER.

Since Pearl Harbor, the U. S. Government has acquired 64,369 parcels of land and is in process of condemning another 57,000 totalling 12,000,000 acres. This vast area is equal to the combined area of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, District of Columbia and four-fifths of the State of New Jersey. It is stated that an additional 18,000,000 acres will be needed for the war program and that the total of all land purchases will exceed in area the entire New England states. One of the acute problems created by this vast purchase program is the dispossession of farmers who must go elsewhere or retire from the land.

FARMERS - READ THIS.

On October 1, 1942, the Office of Price Administration (Rationing Division) issued an order restricting the slaughter and delivery of meat which applies to packers, custom slaughterers and farmers alike and the substance of that order is this: A packer who kills 500,000 pounds or more in a 13 week period can deliver only 70% of the beef and 75% of the pork for civilian use which he delivered for the same quarter of 1941. In the case of a farmer, he can slaughter whatever he needs for his own use. As for slaughtering and delivering pork and beef to others, he may kill and deliver only as much beef, pork, mutton, and veal as he slaughtered and delivered to others for the same quarter of 1941. That is to say that if in the last 13 weeks of 1941, he slaughtered and sold to the public 6 hogs, 6 cattle, 2 calves and 1 sheep, he can slaughter and deliver the same amount but no more for the last 13 weeks of 1942. He must keep a record thereof for OPA inspection.