

1/27/33

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

BACK AT THE FRONT. The Speaker's gavel will fall on 12:00 noon Eastern Standard Time January 3rd convening the 73rd Congress in regular session. By train, plane, auto, members are gradually rolling into the Capitol. First days and nights are being devoted to mountains of mail that have accumulated. Committee meetings are being scheduled. Bills are being whipped into final shape for introduction. Soon the legislative workshop will be operating full blast.

WINTER IN THE CAPITOL. This is the coldest winter in years - ten above zero - low altitude makes the cold damp and piercing. Children are coasting on the Capital lawn which slopes down to Pennsylvania Avenue. There is a tragic note in the night twittering of birds seeking refuge from cold on building ledges. Floodlights give the majestic dome a crystal glint in the cold night. Pennsylvania Avenue within the very shadow of the dome teeming with hungry, jobless, finding warmth in ten-cent restaurants. By ten o'clock, Washington streets are deserted on cold nights. Gaity is somehow frozen.

WASHINGTON NEWSPAPERS. Frank, fearless, conceal nothing, even tho it adversely affects the so-called privileged folks. Sample: Front page write-up with photos of socially prominent 24 year old daughter of a prominent physician, who with a prominent ensign in the navy, was gathered in by police at seven in the morning for speeding, intoxication, driving while drunk.

WHAT LEADERS SAY. Speaker Rainey, "Federal pay cut of 15% should be restored." Senator Norris, "Congress should pass a progressive inheritance tax to stop devising of larger fortunes from one generation to another and so distribute wealth." Senator LaFollette, "There should be an additional ten billion dollar public works program." Senator Wheeler, "Congress should remonetize silver at once in ratio of 16 to 1." Senator Huey Long, "There can be no recovery until the wealth is decentralized and redistributed into the hands of the many."

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ROOSEVELT'S MAIL. Since March the President has received 2 million letters. Recent daily average is about 11,000 per day. Figuring that the President can spend two hours daily on mail, averaging 20 letters per hour, your chances of having a letter to the President read is 1 in 278.

PROGRAM OF CONGRESS. First, a Liquor Bill for the District of Columbia. Then a series of taxing bills covering liquor, incomes, etc. Appropriations for the next fiscal year including about 2½ billion for ordinary expenses, 350 million for continuing CWA to May first, 250 million to continue the CCC another six months, approximately two billion more for Public Works, restoring the 15% pay cut in the Economy Bill to all Civil Federal Employees, modifying the Economy Bill as it affects veterans, additional legislation to speed up farm recovery, some additional legislation on money.

OBSERVATIONS. In 1780, Catherine The Great, Empress of Russia, refused to recognize the new United States because she disliked the representative form of Government, yet she appointed John Paul Jones, American naval hero as admiral of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea. Oscar M. Hartzell, American citizen who claimed to be an heir of the famous Sir Francis Drake Estate and sold several hundred thousand dollars worth of "interests" in the estate to aid him in financing the legal battle is now serving ten years for bilking American investors. One of the results of Ferdinand Pecora's investigations of Wall Street manipulators has been the voluntary revision of many income tax statements and the payment of an extra million dollars into the Treasury. Thus far the investigation has cost \$70,000.

GRAND SLAM. Senator Borah will soon re-introduce a bill to the effect that no Member of Congress, Senator, or Delegate, shall, while in office, receive any fee or render any service directly or indirectly to any person, firm or corporation in respect to any contract, claim, controversy, charge or accusation or any matter to which the Government is a party or has an interest, and to make it a felony for any Congressman, Senator or Delegate to act as attorney or counsel for any person or corporation or association engaged in commerce to which the regulative power of the Government extends. This means that any member of Congress or the Senate, who as an attorney, represents any railroad, utility, broadcasting company or other interstate enterprise which is subject to regulation, would be guilty of a felony and on conviction, could be fined and imprisoned. Since most of the members are attorneys, there should be a knock-down, and drag-out fight on this proposal. Consideration of the bill would probably disclose which of the Congressmen and Senators are now in the employ of railroads, utilities and other enterprises in the capacity of attorneys. Dramatic reading!

HAPPY NEW YEAR. May the year of 1934 bring to all the folks in the district and elsewhere an abundance of genuine happiness and old fashioned prosperity.