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

SONG OF THE CORN.

"Heap high the farmers wintry hoard,
Heap high, the golden corn;
No richer gift was ever poured
From out our lavish horn."

It's the song of the corn. Long ago, school children echoed that refrain the harvest season. But on occasion, the golden corn sheds its romance and becomes a problem. Normal yield is about 2½ Billion bushels. The supply carried over from one crop year to another varies. For the five years from 1931 thro 1935 it averaged 2½ million bushels. In the years from 1936 thro 1940 it averaged 377 million bushels. This year, it is estimated that the carryover on Oct. 31, 1941 will be 800 million bushels. In addition to the 160 million bushels or more which the commodity credit corporation now owns, there are 302,000,000 bushels under loan. If a glad and generous Nature proves beneficient in the crop year 1941 and the hybrid strains yield as high as expected, we shall have a vast store of the golden corn. Foreign markets for the lard, bacon, pork chops, hams, salted meat and other varieties which hogs produce from corn have been steadily diminishing. The impact of a greater supply on a curtailed market may prove to be a disturbing problem.

PEANUTS TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT.

Goober gos have come into their own. The production and marketing of peanuts is suddenly of national interest. So says Congress in a bill which recently passed the House. The lowly toothsome goober takes on dignity. From the 1,900,000 acres devoted to peanut culture come 800,000 tons. They say it's too much and that the vast production has caused low prices. Perhaps it is due to the fact that we are forsaking the glories of peanut brittle and peanut butter. Perhaps we're less bucolic than in other days when a romantic Sunday afternoon consisted of munching peanuts as one walked with a bewitching creature clad in organdie or chiffon and popularly known as "one's best girl." Perhaps those Thursday evenings one walked around the square with his girl and munchied peanuts as the band played is no longer fashionable. Maybe baseball crowds have lost their zest for this succulent peanut. Perhaps we need a "Peanut Week" to restore Mr. Peanut to that aristocracy he once enjoyed. In any event, Mr. Peanut is in distress and now Congress has decreed that there be a marketing quota for him so the price can be restored. Yes sir, the production of peanuts is now a matter of national interest.

THE PIFFLETREE

"Red Ink."

Red Ink is a symbol. It symbolizes loss. When a company renders a balance sheet which shows a loss, the figures are shown in red ink to readily convey the fact that there was a loss instead of a profit.

"In the red" has thus become a stock expression. It is not only a stock expression but a habit as it relates to the fiscal affairs of the government. Thus a plentiful supply of red ink is kept on hand. For the present fiscal year, the red ink cost will be $64.2. This represents 8000 small four-ounce bottles costing $2.40 and 3800 pints costing $402. A thousand pints of this provocative and revealing red fluid will be used in the nation's capital and the remaining 2800 pints are for use in offices and agencies outside of Washington. Oddly enough, when purchased by the pint, red ink is 3¢ per pint cheaper in Washington than elsewhere. Perhaps that results from greater consumption. Red ink and red tape have become veritable institutions. But to the person who is color blind, they hold no terrors.
This month, Charles Evans Hughes, Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court and at one time, Governor of New York and candidate for the Presidency begins his 11th year as Chief Justice at the age of 78. He is vigorous in mind and body. He is the son of a Baptist minister and has been attending Calvary Baptist Church since 1910 when he first came to the nation's capital. This church was founded during the Civil War. When Chief Justice decided to make this his church home and the day was appointed for his admission to membership, he walked to the front of the church and there found himself standing with a Chinese, a washerwoman and a small boy. How appropriate were the words of the pastor on that occasion when he said, "Before the cross the ground is level."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA vs ARLE BROOKS.

On January 10, 1941, Arle Brooks, a young man aged 31 stood before the Hon. George A. Welsh, Federal District Judge in Philadelphia. He was under indictment for failure to register under the Selective Service Act. It appeared that Brooks was born in Texas, graduated from Texas Christian University, studied at Chicago University and Chicago Theological Seminary and at a Quaker school for social and religious study. For several years, he worked among Italian children on the West Side in Chicago, as a relief case worker in Texas and also with the Texas Prison System. Later he became associated with the American Friends Service Committee as a social worker. The testimony showed that he was not a draft evader because he sent three notices to proper authorities that he could not for conscience sake register. To the Court he made a short address stating among other things "I believe in and have worked for the brotherhood of man which is the highest form of democracy. I have worked with children of the slums in Chicago. I have worked with transients, with relief people and prisoners in the state of Texas and with sharecroppers in Mississippi. Conscription is a denial of the democracy for which I have worked." The District Attorney then stated that he and the prisoner had become good friends. He was persuaded that Mr. Brooks objection to registration was clearly a matter of conscience. He then asked the Court to impose a substantial sentence. Said the Court, "I believe you to be entirely conscientious ... I am going to sentence you; it is hard for me to do it but it is my duty, and I feel like Pontious Pilate ... I admire the strength of character which causes you to make this choice when you believe it is the right view ... this is your conscience and it is your duty to obey it even if it brings physical pain or death ... but you stand as having defied this law and that law carries a compulsion and I am going to give you a year and a day."