GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE. In 1937, the Home Owners Loan Corporation, central office in Washington with thousands of employees, set aside $40,000 of their administrative funds, set up a laboratory, engaged some doctors and nurses and began to make medical service available to the employees in the HOLC at a moderate sum per month. To an inquiring Congress, they justified the legality of this expenditure on the ground that the HOLC had broad powers and that the health of the employees had a direct bearing upon the efficiency of the HOLC in operating its business of making loans to home owners and managing collections and property. The alphabetic designation of this movement was GHA for Group Health Association. Employees were signed up and the GHA began to expand. One of their physicians was a young man named Mario Scandiffio. Dr. Scandiffio was a member of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. The Society felt that Dr. Scandiffio's activities in the GHA were unethical and not in accord with the principles of the Society. A Committee from the Society investigated these activities, filed charges against him and at a closed meeting, Dr. Scandiffio was expelled and also forbidden to use the hospital facilities in the District. The expulsion caused a furor. Threats and counter-threats were made. The matter was aired on the floor of Congress late one afternoon and then followed threats of action to revoke the charter under which the Medical Society operates. The whole matter is now a-brewing and will flare up again. It has more than local significance because it is part of the national controversy now raging around the whole subject of both voluntary and compulsory health insurance and hospitalization.

SHORT WAVES AND LONG DISTANCES. Most every owner of a radio set with a short wave device knows that by means of short wave he can pick up police calls and other short wave broadcasts. But short wave now presents far more interesting possibilities. Recently, Secretary Ickes and John L. Louis made broadcasts from the U. S. to Europe and particularly England by means of a short wave program devised by the British Broadcasting Company. The Columbia System and the World Wide Broadcast Corporation are now sending short wave programs to South America. Germany, Italy and other European nations are now employing short wave to broadcast propaganda to South America. If developments in this field continue, any nation engaged in a controversy with some other nation can use the short wave to air its side of the trouble to the people residing in the other country.

TAKING PROFIT OUT OF WAR. Ever since the World War, a variety of bills have been introduced in both Houses of Congress to bring about universal draft of men, money and resources in the event of another war and to take all profit out of war. None of these bills have been enacted into law. Now comes a possibility of taking the profits out of war in connection with the Revenue Act of 1938 which is pending in the Senate. It will be proposed as an amendment to the Revenue Bill and will provide that in the event of war, income tax rates on individuals will be raised from 4% to 10% in the normal tax bracket and from 6% to 8% in the surtax bracket. Corporation rates will start with 30% on undistributed income which is less than 5% of the adjusted net income to 77% where less than 23% of the income is distributed. In the case of a single person earning $150 per month with no other exemptions than the legal $1000 exemption, he would pay Uncle Sam well over $100 in income taxes and in the case of a person whose net income was $50,000 per year, the good old Uncle Sam would step in and take away 4/5 of it. That's what might be called taking the profits out of war with a real vengeance.

THE SILVER LINING. Soon you may be able to sing, "Every can has a silver
living." Ever since the advent of canned foods, we have had to depend on that thin coating of tin on the inside of a can to preserve the food therein and prevent spoilage. But tin is high in price and very scarce. Most of the world's supply of tin is located in one or two South American countries, in the Dutch West Indies, and a very limited supply in Alaska. Moreover, tin is controlled by a foreign monopoly and for years we have been trying to find a substitute that would serve us in industry as well as in the manufacture of munitions of war. After much experimentation, it has been found that cans coated with a film of silver that is but 1/1000 of an inch thick may do just as well. It is germicidal and non-corrosive and soon we may be eating foods from silver-lined cans.

STRIPPING THE MINERS. In recent years, mining coal by the process of "stripping" the earth that overlays a seam of coal, bids fair to strip thousands of miners of their jobs. The process is simple. Engineers enter a coal field, take borings, determine the thickness of the coal seam, the quality of the coal and the amount of overburden. They reckon that from 10 to 20 feet of earth can be profitably removed for every foot of coal underneath. A plant consisting of a steam, gasoline or electric shovel together with a loading apparatus is set up. The earth is scooped up and deposited to one side. Then the coal is scooped into cars, washed, and marketed. Last year in Illinois, more than 7 million tons of coal were produced by the stripping process. Whereas a miner in a shaft mine can produce 4½ or 5 tons of coal per day, the production per man in strip pits will run as high as 15½ tons per day. Strip mining is producing some tragic results. Jobs for thousands of miners are being scooped away, leaving hardship and despair. Thousands of acres of land are being wasted for centuries to come. The taxable value of land is being destroyed. Coal reserves are being wasted and the landscape made unsightly. Here is a problem that requires attention from our legislatures for they alone have proper authority to deal with this question.