Note to Editors. The Congressional Front this week appears unusually long but this is due to the fact that we have sought to set out in some detail the contents of the anti-strike bills now before Congress so that readers may know exactly what is involved.

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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
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STRIKE LEGISLATION
The situation which was provoked by the action of John L. Lewis developed a new demand for anti-strike legislation in war time and that demand crystallized almost immediately in the form of a bill introduced in the U S Senate, known as S. 790 which passed the Senate on May 5, by a vote of 65 to 16. It is commonly known as the Connally Bill (Senator Connally of Texas) and was immediately sent to the House Committee on Military Affairs for consideration and action. Perhaps a summarization of the Connally Bill will be useful and informative.

THE CONNALLY BILL.
It is really an amendment to Section 9 of the Selective Service Act of 1940 which originally gave the President power to take over and operate a war plant where the war effort was being impeded or obstructed. This bill enlarges and expands the power of the President to take over plants and facilities and to operate them through any designated government agency on the same terms and under the same conditions as were in effect before a work stoppage took place. This in effect freezes wages and conditions. However, the bill also empowers the Federal agency which operates a plant or mine to apply to the War Labor Board for a change in wages and conditions or permits the employees to make such an application to the War Labor Board. The bill also makes it unlawful to aid, instigate, or bring about a strike or lock-out while any plant, mine or facility is being operated by the government, and provides a fine of $5000, or imprisonment for a year, or both, where a person is convicted of so doing. One provision of course deserves emphasis. For an employee to quit work or to refuse to continue to work or to accept employment is not considered a violation of the act. In addition, the bill expands the powers of the War Labor Board to take jurisdiction of labor disputes, to make decisions with respect to wages and other matters in controversy. The decision of the War Labor Board would then be subject to review by the Courts. The vital part of this bill therefore is Section 4(a) which makes it unlawful to coerce, instigate, or induce any person to interfere by strike or lock-out or slow-down or to aid a strike, lock-out or slow-down which interferes with the operation of any plant, mine, or facility in the possession of the government.

ACTION BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
The Connally Bill was then considered by the House Military Affairs Committee which on May 12, reported an altogether different measure. The Committee struck out all of the provisions of the Connally Bill and substituted a new measure which in effect is a modification of the so-called Smith Bill which was passed by the House on December 6, 1941. That measure will probably come to the House for action sometime after the 18th of May.

ANALYSIS OF THIS HOUSE BILL
Section 1 defines a war contract, war contractor, employer, employee, labor organization, labor dispute, and other terms. Section 2 makes it unlawful for a contractor to stage a lock-out or for employees to strike until 30 days after notice has been given to the Secretary of Labor of an intention to strike or effect a lock out. (Note that this section does not outlaw the right to strike after 30 days notice.)

Section 3 makes it unlawful to strike until after a strike ballot has been taken under the supervision of the U S Conciliation Service and the result of the ballot has been certified by the Secretary of Labor and made available for public inspection. (Note that a strike is not made unlawful if it is supervised. Strike ballot has been taken.) Section 4 makes it unlawful to use force and violence in prosecution of any person from working or accepting work with a war contractor. It also makes it unlawful to assist any person's house for the purpose of inducing any person to work or to abstain from work for a war contractor. It also makes it unlawful for one or more persons to meet at or near the plant of a war contractor for the purpose of inducing any person to work or to abstain from work for the war contractor.
purpose of inducing any person to work or to abstain from work unless
the persons doing so were bona fide employees immediately before the
labor dispute began. It also makes it unlawful for the employer to
nurk anyone to use force or threats in interfering with peaceful
picketing during a labor dispute relating to wages, hours or working
conditions or to rights of collective bargaining. Section 5 makes
"sympathy" strikes or "jurisdictional" strikes or boycotts unlawful
where the purpose is to compel a war contractor to comply with the
demands of a labor organization or to compel such a war contractor to
recognize one labor organization as against another. Section 6, gives
Federal District Courts th. power to enforce this act by injunction
against violations or threatened violations. It also makes a person
liable for damages by civil action to any person who may have been
injured as a result of a violation of the act and deprives a person
violating the act of his status as a labor representative under the
National Labor Relations Act. Section 7, requires the annual registra-
tion of any labor organization whose membership consists of employees
of a war contractor. Such registration statement must state forth the
name of the organization, officers, committees with which it deals, in-
itation fees, dues, assessments, limitations on membership, number of
paid-up members, date of last election of officers, election methods,
the vote for and against each candidate, for office, date of last
detailed financial statement furnished to its members, the method of
publication or circulation of such financial statement, copies of the
constitution and by-laws, and copies of all financial statements. Sec-
tions 8 and 9 expand the power of the War Labor Board to deal with
labor disputes and is similar to the Senate Bill. Section 10, gives
the Chairman of the War Labor Board the power to issue an order prevent-
ing any person from calling a strike or storing a lock-out after a labor
dispute has been a strike to the War Labor Board and such order cannot
remain in effect longer than 60 days after its issuance or no longer
than 5 days after the Board makes a decision, whichever is the sooner.
The Attorney General is given power to enforce the orders of the Board
at that hour, ain, for a employee to quit work or refuse to continue
to work or to accept work is not regarded as an illegal act. Section 11
gives the War Labor Board power to make necessary rules and regula-
tions. Section 12 authorizes any government agency which is operating
a plant in possession of the government, or the employes thereof to
petition for changes in hours, wages and conditions and the Board may
order such changes. Section 13 makes it unlawful to instigate or aid
a strike or lock-out or interrupt the operation of a plant which is in possession of
the government and provides a fine of $5000 or imprisonment for one
year or both for any violation of this section.

SUMMARIZATION
Real controversy centers around Section 13 which makes it illegal to
instigate or aid a strike or lock-out in a plant which is in possession of
the government and provides a fine of $5000 or imprisonment for one
year or both for any violation of this section.
INVESTIGATORS.

For the first time in the history of the Congress, the committee had a staff of investigators to explore FSA activities and make a report. Among other things reported by the investigators was that the Farm Security Administration was (1) over-organized (2) spending too much on home management services (4) carried too many engineers (5) branched out contrary to the intent of Congress (6) that regional administration was overdone (7) duplicating work of the Farm Credit Administration and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (8) spending too much on publicity (9) and other items where efficiency and economy could be effectuated.

COMPARISON.

In the first 6½ years of it's existence, the Farm Security Administration disbursed $576,000,000 in loans and grants and expended $275,800,000 for salaries, travel and other expenses. In round figures this means that about $1. was expended in salaries, travel, and expenses for every $2 that was loaned or granted. This picture was sufficiently persuasive to cause the committee to recommend that the activities of the Farm Security Administration in reduced form be preserved but that they be transferred to an agency which already existed to handle farm credit functions.

WARNING.

A year ago, the committee formally criticized the FSA for making excessive loans to individual borrowers, for carrying on an unauthorized land purchase program, for carelessness and inefficiency on the part of certain employees and for experiments in collectivist farming which resembled the collectivist practice in Russia. Thus the action taken by the appropriation committee in dealing with the Farm Security Administration was not sumptuary or capricious but rather was based on an abundant amount of information and testimony.