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

THE ALCOHOL FRONT.
There are about 550 million gallons of whisky in storage. Manufacture of whisky will probably cease entirely by January 1943. All still capacity will be devoted to making alcohol. War Production Board’s first estimate of alcohol requirements for powder production and other uses was 275 million gallon. This has been upped to 540 million gallon because it is expected that 200 million gallons or more will be used in the production of rubber. It means that all distilleries will be operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Small distillers who can not produce alcohol with a proof in excess of 140 degree are now permitted to ship larger distilleries where such alcohol can be re-distilled to 190 degrees.

THE RUBBER FRONT.
First estimate of rubber production in this country by synthetic methods was 400,000 tons. This has increased to 800,000 tons. It is now expected that it will be increased to 1,000,000 tons. More than 200,000 tons are to be produced from alcohol. This might be alcohol derived from fruit, from grain, or as a by-product from synthetic processes. By far, the largest portion will come from petroleum and petroleum gases. This is known as the Buna S type of synthetic rubber. Where rubber is derived from petroleum, the factories will be located near oil refineries to save overhead charges and transportation costs. Locations have already been selected in Illinois, California, Indiana, Texas and Louisiana.

THE TARIFF FRONT.
Under the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934, the U. S. Tariff Commission and the Committee For Reciprocity Information make studies of our trade and trade relations with other countries and then proposed a schedule of duties that might be reduced in return for concessions from other countries. This agreement is then embodied in a so-called trade-treaty. About a score of such treaties have been negotiated. Another such treaty with Mexico is in process of preparation. There is much controversy about it because it proposes to reduce the present duty on fresh vegetables. Tomatoes might be taken as an example. In the crop year 1940-1941, Mexico exported about 83,000,000 pounds of tomatoes to the U.S. It is said that the cost of producing vegetables in Mexico plus delivery to Chicago or New York markets is about 5.66¢ per pound. The duty is 3¢ per pound, making a total delivered cost of 8.6¢ U.S. growers contend that the cost in the U.S. of producing and delivering a pound of vegetables to market is 8.9¢ per pound so that with a 3¢ duty, other nations still enjoy an advantage. They are earnestly protesting any cut in the duty on vegetables.

GOVERNMENT JOB FRONT
Virtually all positions in the Federal Government, whether in regular agencies or in war agencies, are today under civil service. A short while ago, the War Production Board announced that all positions would be filled thru the Civil Service Commission. The Commission therefore will not only handle the qualification of persons for such work but
their recruitment to service as well. In the last fiscal year, the Commission examined more than 2 million persons, issued appointments to 250,000 persons, fingerprinted 526,000, made 50,000 character investigations, received 7 million communications, issued 30 million informational pamphlets, and received 4,000,000 visitors at the Washington and regional offices.

**THE FISCAL FRONT.**

Gross public debt including those obligations on which interest and principal are guaranteed by the U. S. is now over 70 billion dollars; Government spending now averages about 115,000,000 per day; there is slightly over 11½ billion dollars in circulation outside the Treasury; our gold stock now totals slightly over 22 3/4 billions dollars; bank deposits for all banks now exceed 7½ billion; authorized war program 161 billion; total sales of war bonds 5½ billions;

**THE RATIONING FRONT.**

Section 1(e) of the Emergency Price Control Act which became law on January 30, 1942 gives the Price Administrator authority to buy, sell, store or use any commodity in such manner or on such terms as he deems necessary to secure maximum production of such or to supply the demand therefor. This contains authority to ration in order to make the supply go around. Hence sugar rationing. Also gas rationing in 17 eastern states. It is now proposed to extend gas rationing to the entire country. Soon there will be feelers to test out public reaction on the rationing of certain items of food and clothing. Office of Price Administration now has a staff of 3500 employees. They are requesting from Congress funds to employ 75,000 or more. It will become the biggest, most powerful agency in all government.

**WAR RISK INSURANCE FRONT.**

Congress last week increased the insurance reserve of the War Shipping Administration from 40 million to 250 million dollars. Reason for the increase—sankings. The report filed on this bill by the House Appropriations Committee contains this significant line as proof of the seriousness of the Atlantic shipping situation: "At the rate losses are occurring the fund is estimated to be liable for a little more than a ship a day, and on the basis of estimated claims payments, it will require approximately $20,000,000 average appropriated funds per month over premium receipts to meet the obligations."