THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
By Congressman Evelett M. Diksen
16th Illinois District.

RECESS

On July 8th at 6:30 p.m., both Houses of Congress completed action on a resolution which provides for a recess until September 14th unless sooner re-called by Congressional leadership. Members will return home to their folks. They will return to appraise conditions. They will assess public reaction to Federal programs and functions. They will give aid on governmental problems and then return to meet the new problems which confront the Congress from time to time. While Congress as an institution has been in continuous session for 3½ years, the present 78th Congress began its labors on January 6, 1943. Here is set out a partial summary of its labors in that six months period.

GENERAL LEGISLATION.

(1) Provided for an increase in the public debt limit to 210 billion dollars
(2) Authorized the merger of Western Union and Postal telegraph facilities
(3) Enacted a modified pay-as-you-go tax bill which will bring individual taxpayers current in their tax payments and produce additional revenues
(4) Provided for the recruitment of a farm labor supply
(5) Authorized additions to the strength of the U.S. Navy
(6) Enacted the War Disputes Bill to deal with strikes
(7) Provided for the vocational rehabilitation of veterans of the present world war
(8) Provided authority and funds for flood control aid in the mid-western states
(9) Extended the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation
(10) Expanded the Federal Housing program in defense areas
(11) Extended the life of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act
(12) Provided overtime pay for Federal employees.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Total appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1943 and extending to June 30, 1944 totalled slightly less than 115 billion dollars. This includes in round figures
(1) $5.0 million for the Department of Agriculture
(2) $55 million for the District of Columbia
(3) $5.0 billion for the independent establishment including such agencies as the Maritime Commission, the Veterans Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority and others
(4) $1.37 billion for the Department of Labor and the Federal Security Agency
(5) $28 million for the legislative branch
(6) $12.5 million for the Judicial branch of government
(7) $59 million for the War Department
(8) $27.5 billion for the Navy Department
(9) $33.5 million for the state department
(10) $102.5 million for the Department of Justice
(11) $8.5 million for the Department of Commerce
(12) $20.1 million for the Treasury Department
(13) $899.5 million for the Post Office Department
(14) $6.3 billion for the civil functions of the War Department
(15) $6.5 billion for loan-lease purposes
(16) $3 billion for the war agencies such as GSA, OWI, BEM, and others
(17) $300 million for interest on the national debt
(18) The balance for war and navy deficiency items and for other purposes.

INVESTIGATIONS.

Congress also authorized and now has in progress a broad series of investigations by special committees of Congress. These investigations relate to
(1) Farm Security Administration
(2) Federal Communications Commission
(3) the Civil Service System
(4) Small Business
(5) War Department expenditures
(6) Navy Dept. Expenditures
(7) Production and distribution of farm products
(8) Subversive activities
(9) Administrative orders and regulations in the Executive branch
(10) Expenditures for public housing
(11) Conditions in U.S. territories
(12) A general investigation of field activities and expenditures by all government agencies.

L'ENVOI.

With this issue, the Congressional Front will also recess until September 14th. To the Editors and publishers we express our gratitude and appreciation for its publication. We trust that it has proved informative and useful.