In the compulsory military training bill as reported to the Senate appears this language: "No person liable to service in such forces shall be permitted or allowed to furnish a substitute for such service;" In this day and age, such language would hardly appear necessary in a legislative proposal. It comes as an echo from the dead past. On March 3, 1863, Congress enacted and President Lincoln signed a Bill called "An Act Enrolling And Calling Out The National Forces And For Other Purposes" which became known as the Civil War Conscription Act. It contained a clause to the effect that "Any person drafted or notified to appear may on or before the day fixed for his appearance furnish an acceptable substitute or he may pay not to exceed $300 to a person authorized by the Secretary of War to procure a substitute." Thus it was possible for one liable to conscription to buy his way out by procuring a substitute. Imagine such a thing happening in this country today.

Last week, Congress passed a measure to register and regulate investment companies and investment advisors. Some statements have at one time and another been made to indicate that this and similar pieces of legislation have been enacted for the purpose of protecting the investor of small means. That is only partially correct. Quite often, investors of substantial means also need a bit of protection. As an example, let us submit the case of Mr. Charles Kettering, Vice President and Research Director for General Motors Corporation. Mr. Kettering is one of the great inventors and research men of our times. He came to Washington and testified before the Securities & Exchange Commission that in 1930 he purchased 40,000 shares in an investment company for the sum of $260,000 which he paid in cash. He was also made a director of this same investment company in which he bought this substantial interest. He stated very freely that he knew nothing about investment companies and thought they were subject to regulation and supervision just like banks and insurance companies. He said also that being a busy man, he could not attend directors meetings. He felt that his investment of $260,000 gave him participation in a wide range of securities. Things began to happen to the investment company where Mr. Kettering had his money and of which he served as a director and when the company was finally liquidated, Mr. Kettering realized about $20,000 on his investment. His loss was therefore about a quarter of a million dollars. It would appear that Mr. Kettering is a great inventor but not the greatest of investors.

Ancient Rome had a great navy. That is to say that it was great as measured by the standards of that day. In the middle ages, Spain sent a great armada to destroy England. Spain's navy was considered the world's greatest up to that point. Then came the British Navy to police the seven seas. It was long regarded as one of the foremost navies. But now comes our country with a naval building program, which when completed will in truth and in fact be the world's greatest navy. It will consist of 701 useful ships totalling 3,547,700 tons. It will include 35 battleships, 20 plane carriers, 88 cruisers, 378 destroyers, 180 submarines and 13,000 planes. What nation or combination of nations can match such a floating armada?
The President's request for legislation to call the National Guard into active Federal service means of course that the Illinois National Guard would be included. So often we take the National Guard for granted and it might not be amiss to set down a few observations concerning our own state troops. The original Constitution of 1818 made provision for a State Militia. In 1819, the Illinois legislature passed an act to create the Illinois Militia. In 1877, another act was passed to create the present system and while this has been amended from time to time to conform with Federal requirements, it constituted the basis for our present National Guard. Six companies of Illinois militia fought in the Mexican War. Six companies of Illinois Militia known as the First Brigade, Illinois. Volunteers also fought in the Civil War. Today, the National Guard of Illinois conforms to certain Federal requirements in return for which certain Federal funds are available. In round numbers, it amounts to something less than two million dollars annually. As of November 1938, the Illinois National Guard consisted of 742 commissioned and warrant officers and 9464 enlisted men. These were distributed among infantry, field and coast artillery, engineers, air corps, cavalry, signal corps, quartermaster corps, medical corps, ordnance department and a state detachment. The Guard is housed in 55 armories scattered over the state and has in addition 3 camps and 20 target ranges. The Guard is patterned on Regular Army units and is under state control unless called into Federal service by the President. Hats off to the men of the Illinois National Guard. They are the men who have given a stated portion of their time for years to be trained in the use of weapons and in the art of defense in case of an emergency. They are not only our neighbors. They are a part of us.

A feature story appearing in a Washington newspaper on Sunday July 28th concerning Agriculture Secretary Henry Wallace said that he greatly enjoys walking on the grass in barefeet. It brings to mind a Member of Congress who likes to play golf in barefeet and who experienced some embarrassment as a result of this proclivity. Some weeks ago, he started for the golf course about 5:30 in the morning but instead of waiting until he arrived there, he removed his shoes in the car and was driving along one of the main avenues of the nation's capital minus shoes and socks. Unfortunately, he was exceeding the speed limit and a ubiquitous traffic policeman who was abroad early in the morning overtook him. While quizzing him about an infraction of the law, he observed the absence of footgear. The officer then made a few choice remarks about a person who would drive a car in that manner. The Congressman could scarcely reveal his identity, knowing what lampooning he would receive from his colleagues and the newspapers and was summarily escorted to the precinct police station. At long last, he disclosed his identity and explained his weakness for barefeet to the officers. But the story did not get abroad. Otherwise, he might have been listed as another Sockless Jerry Simpson who was elected to Congress from Kansas in 1891 and who attended the sessions without socks.