Here is a panoramic picture of what is happening in the field of national defense. MONEY - this Congress has provided $1 1/3 billions in direct appropriations, $2 4/5 billions in contract authorizations and $2 3/4 billions of commitments to provide for 369 additional vessels for our second Navy. MANPOWER. For the military established, the Regular Army is increased to 375,000 men, the National Guard to 345,000, the Selective Service to 695,990 and the number of Reserve Officers on extended active duty to 55,592. The Navy is increased to 170,000, the Marine Corps to 34,000 and the number of reserve midshipmen, naval reserve men and Marine Corps Reserve Officers to 16,000.

EQUIPMENT. For the Army, provision is being made for automatic rifles, tanks, artillery, ammunition, gas masks and 25,000 planes. For the Navy, the program is under way for 292 combat vessels, 57 auxiliary vessels, 10,000 planes, the recommissioning of overage or decommissioned vessels, the provision for industrial plants and facilities, and the use of new naval bases. There you have the present enormous defense effort in a nutshell.

EIGHTY TWO MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF GROCERIES.

It is difficult and sometimes bewildering for mortal mind to fully comprehend the immensity of a program of preparation for a new army. It's like setting up housekeeping for the first time. You might want to hang a picture on the wall and find that you didn't have a hammer. Or you might want to saw a broken limb off of the tree in the back yard and find that you have no step ladder. The army must make provision for all of the items both little and big that will at sometime or other be needed. In setting up the new army, it will require about 82 million for groceries, and another 165 million for clothes. There must be 10 1/2 million for various supplies and over 11 million dollars worth of cooking equipment. Electricity will cost millions and likewise fuel for winter. Extra horses are required and the 19,902 horses which the Army proposes to buy will cost about 3 1/2 million. One large item to cost about 107 million will be an additional 78,000 motor vehicles. Keeping house for a million men is an enormous job.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE CENSUS.

Census figures are fascinating. Each unit stands for a person. Where they live, why they move, and the effect of their movement on the social and economic structure of our country are of vast importance. In 1790, our population was 3,929,214. In 1940, the preliminary estimate shows 131,909,881. In 150 years, immigration and the excess of births over deaths has increased our population by more than 127,000,000. But the rate of growth has slowed materially. From 1800 to 1810, the population increased by more than 36%. Ever since that time, growth has declined. By 1890 when Benjamin Harrison was in the White House, our growth for that decade had dropped to 25%. In the period from 1910 to 1920 it dropped to 15%. The 1940 census indicates that growth for the last ten years was but 7%. Here one sees the effect of such forces as the restriction on immigration and decline in the birth rate. What does it all mean? It means that business, old and new, must take into account this decline in growth in its sales efforts and in prospective expansion. It will have an effect on tax collection and improvements in villages, cities and towns. It will ultimately affect the location and expansion of schools. It will touch every segment of our lives.
WORLD'S BIGGEST HIRING JOB.

Registering 16,000,000 and hiring of 1,000,000 young men for army work constitutes the world's biggest peacetime hiring job and will cost $24,000,000. The registration will cost about $340,000. Then comes the task of selecting those who are to serve. This includes making out all necessary forms, giving written instructions, making examinations, providing travel allowances. What the soldiers refer to as "paper work" in the army and which includes forms, instruction books and that sort of thing will cost nearly 1½ million. That's a lot of bookkeeping. Travel will cost 2¼ million. It is expected that the average travel for the selectees will be 100 miles at 2¢ per mile. Provision is made for 1½ million telegrams. Telephone and telegraph expense is estimated at a little over 1 million dollars. There will be 6500 draft boards and 231 appeal boards for which the rent, light and fuel expense will be nearly 4 million. Furniture and equipment will take another 2½ million. Finally, the clerks and board members who must handle the job will cost something over 3½ million. Thus this vast hiring task will take over $24,000,000.

CENTRIFUGAL AND CENTRIPETAL FORCES.

A centrifugal force like that embodied in a revolving wheel throws things away from a common centre; centripetal forces are those which drag things toward a common centre. Both of these forces have operated in the dispersion of people in the State of Illinois. First came the centrifugal force which scattered people over the state in small settlements. Then came the centripetal force to suck them toward large centres of population. This force accounts for cities like Chicago, Peoria, Rockford, and others. The 1940 census figures for Illinois indicates a recurrence of the force which decentralizes population. Generally speaking, the larger cities in Illinois showed the smallest percentage of growth in the ten years just past. Largest gains were in cities like Brookfield, Dixon, Eastoline, Elmwood Park, Highland Park, Jacksonville, Kankakee, Pekin, Sterling and Wilmette. These are cities in the range of ten to 20 thousand population. Chicago gained but one fifth of 1½ while the counties around Chicago which are within easy reach by auto, elevated or suburban train made substantial gains. Does this fact indicate the gradual decentralization of people from the larger centers of population? To what extent do taxes and metropolitan problem account for this scattering of people? It would be interesting to know.