THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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16th District

BILLION PER MONTH.
One year ago, the Federal public debt was $4 billion; today it is moving toward $2 billion. Nine months hence it is estimated to be $1 billion. Notwithstanding the increased taxes which became effective on October 1st, it is estimated that in the fiscal year 1943 which begins on July 1, 1942, and ends on June 30, 1943, expenditures may reach $4 billion while revenues will be about $1 billion. That leaves a deficit of $20 billion. This $20 billion must be borrowed in the form of notes and bonds and will be added to the public debt. Thus an $80 billion national debt is definitely in sight as a result of defense spending. Is that the top? It is doubtful. When will this enormous spending stop? The answer is—when peace is restored to the world and huge defense outlays are no longer needed for our security.

PURELY PERSONAL
On Sept. 18, 1941, the author—this columnist spoke on the floor of Congress and outlined a six point program for unity. That brief speech was much publicized. If it requires any clarification, why not the old fashioned method of catechism whereby youth took elementary instruction in religion by means of questions and answers. Do you believe there should be an end to hate? Do you believe that criticism should be fair and temperate rather than explosive and colored? Do you believe that any official of the government, be he the President Cabinet member, Senator, Congressman or anyone else deserves a pat on the back for a job well done? Do you believe that since Congress by a vote of 260 to 165 passed the lease lend act and then by a vote of 336 to 55 provided 7 billion dollars to give it effect, should support it's own law? Do you believe that if the President makes and effort to keep the nation out of war, such an effort should be encouraged? Do you believe that after the President announced a policy as Commandor-in-Chief of patrolling and clearing the waters which he deems essential to our defense that we should thereafter back down and renounce that policy. Well, there you have it!

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DEFENSE OF THE U. S.
That's the official title of the lease-lend act. It gives to the President the right, in the interest of national defense to exchange, lease, lend or otherwise dispose any article of defense to any government whose defense he deems vital to our country. That's a very broad power. That act passed the House of Representatives on Feb. 8, 1941 by a vote of 260 to 165. Of those who opposed the act, 135 were Republicans. It became a law on March 11, 1941. On March 19, the House voted on a bill to provide Seven Billion Dollars to make this law effective. The vote was 336 to 55. Thus by a vote of 6 to 1, Congress decreed that the act to aid foreign countries whose defense was deemed essential to our country, should be made effective. One hundred four Republicans voted for the Seven Billion bill. Only 45 were recorded against the measure. Thus both parties in substantial measure are supporting the policy of aiding other nations in the hope of bringing a more speedy peace to the world. This week, Congress votes on another measure for 6 billion lend-lease funds. It is safe to prophesy that both parties will support this proposal in a substantial way.
HISTORY OF NEUTRALITY

About 15 years ago, as a result of the disillusionment over the last world war, a movement began to keep America out of foreign wars. To provide momentum to this movement, a Senate Committee spent many years investigating the munitions makers and piled up tons of sensational testimony. After 10 years or more of intermittent effort, Congress enacted the Neutrality Act of 1935. It provided that when a foreign war was in progress, the President should proclaim that fact and thereafter it was made unlawful to ship implements of war to fighting nations. This was the celebrated "arms embargo" clause. The Act also prohibited American vessels from carrying implements of war and forbade our citizens to travel on the vessels of belligerent countries. In May of 1937, Congress amended the original Neutrality Act. The act still contained a restriction on the export of implements of war but provided that where the export of certain materials and arms to certain nations was necessary to the peace and security of the U. S., this could be done provided such nations hauled it away in their own vessels and paid for it at the waters edge. This was the celebrated "cash and carry" clause. In November of 1939, an entirely new Neutrality Act was enacted. It is officially known as the "Neutrality Act of 1939." This is the Act which it is now proposed to repeal or modify. Much is said and written about the why and wherefore of repealing or revising the Neutrality Act but seldom are its provisions set forth for the reading public. You will find the act skeletonized in the succeeding paragraph.

WHAT DOES THE PRESENT NEUTRALITY ACT PROVIDE.

Here is a digest of the 20 sections which comprise the Neutrality Act of 1939:

Sec. 1. Whenever the President or Congress finds that a foreign war exists, he or Congress shall proclaim that fact.
Sec. 2. After such proclamation, it is unlawful for an American vessel to carry passengers, articles or materials to any country named in the President's proclamation. Moreover, no articles or materials shall be shipped to nations at war until title has been transferred to such foreign nation or agency thereof. American vessels are permitted to carry supplies and materials other than arms and munitions to the Pacific ports, ports on the Indian Ocean, the China Sea, certain ports on the Western hemisphere and on certain other waters.
Sec. 3. The President is empowered to define combat zones and prohibit American vessels and passengers from entering such zones.
Sec. 4. Exceptions are made for Red Cross vessels.
Sec. 5. Travel by American citizens on vessels of belligerents is prohibited except under certain conditions.
Sec. 6. After the President's proclamation has been issued, American vessels are prohibited from being armed.
Sec. 7. Financial transactions with nations at war is prohibited.
Sec. 8. Soliciting funds in this country by nations at war except for relief purposes is prohibited.
Sec. 9. Except for control of munitions thru the Munitions Control Board, the act does not apply to South American Republics.
Sec. 10. The President is empowered to forbid nations at war to use our ports.
Sec. 11. The President is empowered to forbid the use of our ports to submarines and armed merchant vessels of nations at war.
Sec. 12. This section creates a Munitions Control Board and provides that arms can be exported without a license.
Sections 13 to 20 inclusive deal with definitions, penalties, regulations and appropriations.