The Congressional Front
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen
16th (Ill) District
-------------------------------------------------------------

EPIC NOVEMBER

November 1944, becomes an epic month. There is Thanksgiving to stimulate gratitude for our blessings. There is Armistice Day to remind us of obligations born of death and sacrifice. There is a war-time election to test our interest in the process of self government. Truly an epic month.

CONGRESS

The Constitution makers provided that every two years, one-third of the 96 Senators and all the Representatives go before the people for approval or disapproval of their stewardship. Thus, in all States but Maine (where the election is held in September) hundreds of candidates will be on the ballot. It is an interesting group and eloquent of its all inclusive characters.

THE NAMES.

The names bear witness to America as a true melting-pot. A glance reveals such names as Van Guilder, Budny, Tallefsen, McGlinchey, Grasso, Dombrowski, O'Toole, O'Konski, Lujan, Fernandez, Otjen, Gillaghly, Bushyhead, Hruby, Uczciwesek, Domenjean and Zaborskie.

FIRST NAMES.

First names of candidates are distinctive and colorful. There is Estes, Ranulf, Lue, Padjo, Noah, Sid, Oles, Yona, Halvor, Phelim, Wat, Fortunat, Aime, Jed, Quayle, Thor, Olaf, LaVerne, Zebulon and many others.

NICK-NAMES.

Men become well known thru nick-names and often, people know them by no other application. They therefore carry the nick-name on the ballot. There is a "Granny", "Runt", "Bill", "Doc", "Mike" and others.

WOMEN.

At least 30 women are candidates for Congress this year. Oddly enough (or is it) a number are candidates on the Socialist ticket. Even staid old Virginia has a woman candidate on the Socialist ticket.

PARTIES.

To many people the word "party" denotes Democrat or Republican. Yet on Nov. 7, 1944, candidates for Congress are filed on the following party tickets: Republican, Democrat, Socialist, Progressive, Prohibition, Socialist-Labor, American-Labor, Independent, Independent-Republican, Jeffersonian, Fellowship, Farmer-Labor, Commonwealth Federation, Liberal, Constitutional Government, and Good Government. One other has a colorful name. It is "Victory Without Hate" and has one candidate in New Jersey. That makes 17 parties. They should surely embrace all shades of thought.

SELF-GOVERNMENT

Self government is the art and the right of selecting those who shall make, enforce and interpret the laws under which we live. Those laws are the rules of the game we call "Living". Its development took thousands of years. Its vitality depends on the intelligent use of the ballot. Let us use it.