

WSM BROADCAST
June 15, 1947

Good Morning Friends:

Those of you with a sweet tooth have long since known that sugar is rationed no more. Secretary Anderson's announcement lifting sugar from ration controls was pleasant news indeed to the housewives who have been straining their points and measuring their cups. It should have been no great surprise, however, to those who have been watching the steadily improving sugar supply situation. In fact, Secretary Anderson had said several weeks ago that sugar might be taken off the restricted list in June. The Secretary won from the International ^{Council} Emergency Food Control Council a larger allocation of the world's sugar supply which made possible the lifting of controls. This new allocation gives 7,150,000 tons of sugar, and that's enough to sweeten many a tooth.

There was an interesting partisan by-play about lifting sugar rationing that I think you might find amusing.

Knowing ^{that} the sugar supply had materially improved, and that sugar rationing was coming to an end, the Republican controlled Congress had hurriedly whipped up a bill in Congress to bring rationing of sugar to an end. ~~In the afternoon of last Tuesday~~, Representative Charles Halleck, the Republican Floor Leader in the House of Representatives, announced that on the next day he would call up for passage the Republican bill to stop ^{sugar} rationing. ~~of~~ sugar. There is no doubt but that it would have passed overwhelmingly. Immediately after this announcement, the Democratic leader, Representative Sam Rayburn, got in touch with the

Secretary of Agriculture and told him that on tomorrow the Republicans are going to pass a bill ending sugar rationing. I understand that you are going to lift controls ^{soon} anyway, so why do you want to fool around and let the Republicans get credit for doing it? Well, in about two hours the Secretary of Agriculture had acted, and sugar controls were off at midnight. So the next day when Congress met to take up the bill to end sugar rationing, sugar rationing had already ended, and there was no need whatever to pass the bill, or even consider it, *and* You can imagine that ~~some fellows~~ ^{the} ~~had~~ sort of a silly feeling. *They had*. Suffering from this discomfiture, the Republicans made a lot of speeches claiming credit anyway for the ending of sugar rationing. We forced their hand, ¹¹ one speaker after another said. After listening to all of this debate for a while, Mr. Rayburn arose and expressed his *truly* regrets that the discomfiture which his colleagues were suffering, ^{because} ~~they~~ ^{had} ^{the} ^{will} ^{say} ^{Rep. G. L. T.} ^{sugar} ^{the} ^{house} ^{wishes} wondered what ~~they were~~ ^{complaining about} and said that he was reminded of a Mutt and Jeff comic strip that he read some thirty years ago. As he told it, Mutt and Jeff were seated at a table, and there was a steak before them. Jeff carved the steak and gave Mutt the small piece; whereupon Mutt said, you have no table manners at all. Now if I had carved the steak, I would have given you the large piece and kept the small one myself. Jeff replied, Well, you ~~have~~ ¹¹ got it, ^{anyhow}, so what are you complaining about? *everybody laughed* The Congress laughed, and this ended the argument about who killed ~~the~~ Cock Robin of sugar rationing, and the Congress turned to

other business.

During the week, the House of Representatives passed a bill containing appropriations for the operation of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The TVA has been an outstanding success. When it first started, there were many Doubting Thomases who said it wouldn't work, who said that we were but pouring money down a rat hole. Well, where are those Doubting Thomases now. The TVA is a going concern, furnishing electricity to an area of 7,000,000 people, providing flood control, and making the Tennessee River navigable; and at the same time, experimenting in and producing the finest fertilizer available in the entire world.

This year, that is this fiscal year which ends on the thirtieth day of this month, the TVA has made a net profit of better than 20,000,000 ~~and~~. Of that net profit, the TVA will pay into the Treasury 10,500,000. The remainder, \$9,500,000, has been used to make additions to and improvements of the TVA power facilities. The TVA has now earned a net profit totaling approximately 100,000,000. A portion of this \$100,000,000 profit has been returned to the Treasury, but a greater portion of it has been reinvested in an expansion of the ~~TVA facilities~~ ^{now} going concern. This has increased the value of the TVA, until about one-fourth of the entire TVA power investment has now been paid for out of net profits. This has not only made the TVA more valuable, but it has increased its earning capacity, ~~for investment~~.

In 1940 the TVA power program made a net profit of \$6,000,000. In 1941, it rose to \$7,000,000. In 1945 it made a net profit of \$8,000,000. In 1946 it was up to \$17,000,000, and now this year, it is a little above \$20,000,000. So, again I ask, where are

here → those Doubting Thomases who said we were pouring money down a rat hole?

The Congress is nearing a completion of the budget for the next fiscal year, so during the coming week, the Republicans will make claims for making large reductions, and the Democrats will say that a lot of the claims are phoney and bogus. This Congress has made cuts, and I have helped make some of the cuts. But the big cuts have come in the wrong places--in ~~the~~ ^{and} national defense, in the farmer's program, in the ~~the~~ ^{and} veterans program.

At the beginning of the session, the Congress passed a resolution promising to cut the President's budget by \$6,000,000,000.

Now, as House action on that budget has been nearly completed, cuts of about \$1,500,000,000 have been made. This is a far cry from the \$6,000,000,000 promised.

But claims will be made for much more services than this. These, however will mostly be booking actions of importance only to serve as points of argument for the Republicans, that they have made enormous cuts, and for the Democrats to say, phooey, look at these, they are not real cuts, just phoney claims.

Well, President Truman is back in the Capital, and I understand is ready to veto the Tax Bill tomorrow. The House is scheduled to vote upon the question of over-riding the veto (that is passing the bill by a two-thirds majority, the President's objection notwithstanding) on Tuesday. ~~It is expected that the President will act on the~~ Labor Bill also within the next few days. If he vetoes these two bills, it promises to put to an end much of the small amount of co-operation that has existed between the President and the Republican Congress. ~~Of all things the Republicans wanted most to do during this session, it was to cut taxes. That was the very first bill introduced.~~ It was fought bitterly by Democrats through both Houses of Congress, but finally passed. It is generally thought here that there are not enough votes to pass the bill over the President's veto. So, their disappointment is keen.