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*Poetry For Children*  
 "I'm just as big for me," said he,  
 "As you are big for you."  
 There is a world of wisdom in the somewhat scornfully given answer by the little elf man, when somebody expressed surprise at his diminutive size.

So it is also with poetry for small children. It may sometimes seem too simple—too obvious, but it is just as important, just as necessary in the life of a child as poetry for older readers, perhaps even more so as it forms the foundation for more mature appreciation in the future.

Most children are not born lovers of poetry, even if they seem to have a natural sense of rhythm. But this sense of rhythm, with the proper exposure to good poetry may eventually result in a genuine and happy appreciation of the greatest works. This simple poetry, however, must be the true authentic poetry, not cheap imitation, and there is no excuse for ignoring that since poems from Mother Goose, poems by Stevenson, Rosetti, Carroll and a multitude of others are accessible to anyone.

Intuition, imagination and various kinds of human emotions combined with beauty of form is poetry's gift to the child. To receive the fullest enjoyment from poetry one ought to read it aloud. It is with poetry as with music; very few are able to enjoy the reading of music. One must play it and hear the tones.

There is no one pattern for developing the sheer joy and delight in poetry, which ought to be the privilege of every child and which would shed so much color and light over childhood days. A few suggestions, however, might be helpful, and your Public Library will be happy to assist individually.

- For Smaller Children*  
 "Mother Goose."  
 "Everything and Anything"—Aldis.  
 "Sung Under the Silver Umbrella"—Associated for Childhood Education.  
 "Treasury of Verse for Little Children"—Edgar.  
 "Here We Come A'Piping"—Fyleman.  
 "Book of Nonsense"—Lear.  
 "Sing-Song"—Rosetti.  
 "A Child's Garden of Verses"—Stevenson.  
 "For Days and Days"—Wynne.  
*For the In-Between*  
 "Around the Toadstool Table"—Bennett.  
 "Under the Tent of the Sky"—Brewton.  
 "A Child's Day"—De la Mare.  
 "Sing For Your Supper"—Farjeon.  
 "Poems of Childhood"—Field.  
 "Fairies and Chimneys"—Fyleman.  
 "When We Were Very Young"—Milne.  
 "Tirri Lira"—Richards.  
 "Silver Pennies"—Thompson.  
 "Rainbow in the Sky"—Untermeyer.  
*For the Older Ones*  
 "The Poet's Craft"—Daringer and Eaton.  
 "Peacock Pie"—De la Mare.  
 "Poems for Youth"—Dickinson.  
 "Branches Green"—Field.  
 "Songs of Youth"—Kipling.  
 "Rhymes of Childhood"—Riley.  
 "Home Book of Verse for Young Folks"—Stevenson.  
 "Stars Tonight"—Teasdale.

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## This Week In Washington

By Ralph E. Church  
 Representative, 10th Congressional District

Washington, D.C., Feb. 3 — With an estimated oil production of 22 million barrels in 1938, Illinois has rapidly become fourth in rank of the 24 oil producing states—Texas, California, Oklahoma and Illinois. In view of this development, making oil an important commodity of our State's economy, it automatically becomes the duty of the Illinois Senators and Congressman, regardless of their districts, to give special attention to all factors in national legislation pertaining to and affecting this particular product. After all, the people of Illinois have no one at Washington except their Senators and Congressmen to look after their special interests.

Illinois has a general interest in the Reciprocal Trade Agreement program, shortly to be before Congress for renewal. We recognize that what will benefit or adversely affect the nation as a whole benefits or adversely affects our State. But, naturally and justifiably, we have certain special interests in this program where the important products of our State, agricultural and industrial, are involved. We cannot here discuss each and every product; but because of an unusual feature of the program as it pertains to oil, as well as Illinois' new interest in this product, a discussion of this commodity in connection with the Reciprocal Trade Agreements seems merited.

On four products—coal, oil, lumber and copper—Congress has placed special excise taxes on importations. They have been singled out for special treatment, independent of the Tariff Act. While the Tariff Act does not require renewal by Congress, these particular excise taxes do. In other words, Congress sought to deal specially with these four products and to retain control over the importations of them.

When the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act was enacted in 1934, giving the President the power to raise or lower the tariff 50 per cent, it was understood in Congress that the Act did not give him the power to touch these four temporary excise taxes. In fact, both the House and Senate Committee Reports on the bill contained this sentence: "It should be carefully noted, however, that the President is given no right to reduce or increase any excise duty." Moreover, during the debate on the floor of the Senate, Senator Pat Harrison, (D), of Mississippi, in charge of the bill, made this statement: "It will be noted that, so far as tariff rates are concerned, the President has the power to increase or lower them 50 per cent; but as to excise taxes, they may be continued. It was the intention of those who framed the legislation, and of the House in passing the bill, that they would be frozen; in other words, they might not be modified."

Notwithstanding this and other clear evidence that Congress did not intend any changes made in the excise tax on oil, the President and the State Department have proceeded to make reductions. It has been said by two Senators, both of whom favor the reciprocal trade program as a whole, that reduction or excise taxes by the Executive constitutes "a serious and substantial breach of faith with the Congress."

This "breach of faith" in changing excise taxes as distinguished from the general tariff law has had and will continue to have an adverse effect on Illinois oil producers. In 1939 we had in the United States an exportable surplus of something like 200 million barrels. Yet the President and the State Department entered into an agreement with Venezuela, which does not expire until Dec. 15, 1942, whereby large importations of oil have been made. In 1939, for instance, the imports of oil from Venezuela amounted to 56,000,000 barrels. And there is the very interesting fact that Venezuela oil importers are solely three big companies, two American and one Dutch. (Standard Oil of New Jersey, Gulf and Dutch Shell).

It has been contended that the oil imported is not competitive, being of a different quality. But the facts do not show that to be the case. It has also been argued that these importations, resulting from a reduction in the excise taxes, have reduced consumer cost. As a matter of fact, the price of crude oil is higher for the 7 year period prior to the imposition of the excise taxes than since their enactment.

Regardless of the merits of the case, the President and the State Department having taken steps absolutely contrary to what Congress intended, when the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act comes up for renewal it behooves Congress to make the law definite. This is but another illustration of the kind of thing that takes place when there is a delegation of power and Congress is not careful in making the statute "air-tight" to prevent the administering agency from exercising more power than it should.



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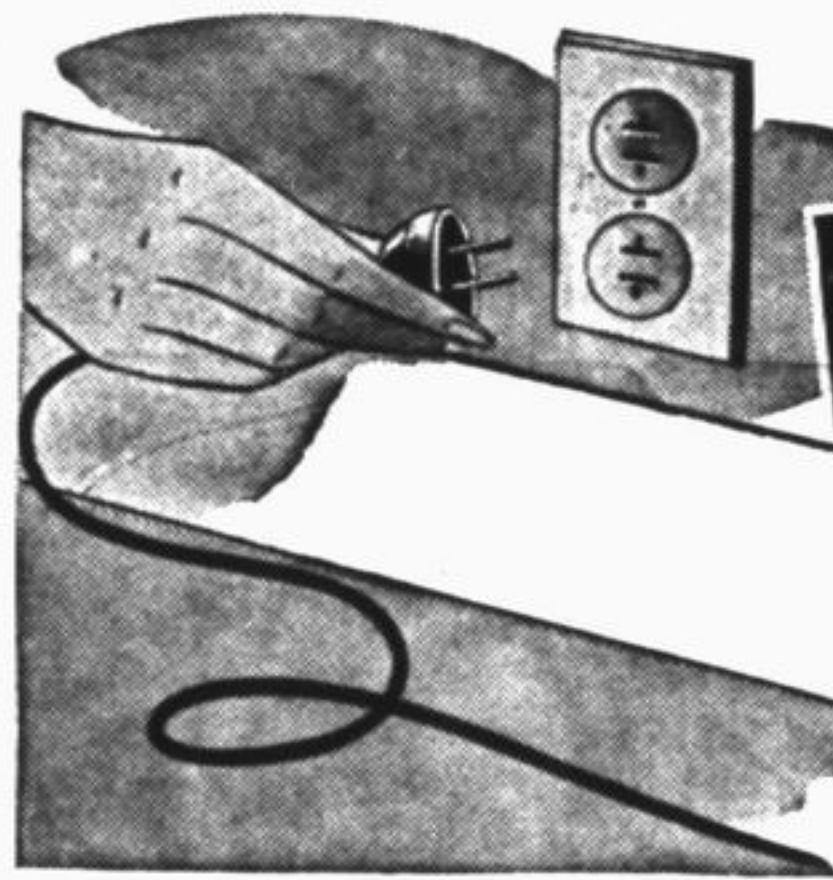
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