

A Question-Mark Congress

JFK Needs GOP Votes in Legislative Program

EDITOR'S NOTE — Congress comes back to Washington on Wednesday and the big question is how it will treat President Kennedy's cherished proposals in 1963. In this story a veteran Washington correspondent, the head of the Associated Press Senate staff, points out why the President will need some Republican help as well as Democratic.

By JACK BELL
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Kennedy apparently is going to have to depend on Republican votes if the hard-core issues of his legislative program are to get through the question-mark 88th Congress.

Although the Republicans have lost a net of three seats in the Senate and gained only two in the House in the new Congress, they retain what are likely to be the deciding votes on the fate of major domestic proposals the President is expected to make.

In foreign policy and defense matters, Kennedy obviously will continue in the last two years of his first term to enjoy the same kind of bipartisan support he was able to rally around him on critical issues in his first two years.

This doesn't mean, of course, that Republicans will accept silently all his decisions and actions in the Cuban crisis, even though he won what was widely acclaimed as a victory over Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in forcing the withdrawal of Russian missiles and bombers from the island.

Close Examination

Kennedy's policy on Cuba — obviously desiring the overthrow of Fidel Castro but hold-



Sen. Mike Mansfield

ing a tight rein on any invasion attempt — will come under examination in Congress. So also will his support of United Nations attempts to force Katanga back into union with the Congo.

Kennedy and Congress may have it out on the issue of the cancellation of the Skybolt missile. But here the President has the upper hand. Congress can vote funds to continue the program, but it can't force Kennedy to spend them.

It is in the field of purely domestic matters, however, that the President is going to have to rely on Republicans to supply critical votes.

No Rayburn Now

Nowhere is this better exemplified than in his attempt to prevent the shrinkage of the House Rules Committee from 15 members in the 87th Congress back to the 12 level — where a conservative coalition would have iron-clad control over which presidential proposals would reach the House for a vote.

The committee was boosted

to 15 two years ago by a 217-212 vote in which 22 Republicans supplied the administration with its victory. Only 18 of those Republicans are back this year.

The administration needs all of them and more because its 1962 strength among Southern Democrats now is more suspect than usual.

It does not have the late Speaker Sam Rayburn to wheel and deal for its cause. As an example, it does not now know how many of 14 Texas Democrats who voted for committee enlargement in 1961 can be counted on to go along now that there is no Rayburn to persuade them.

Republicans are not expected to make a party issue of the rules committee fight. There resides in the minds of some members the suspicion that the GOP would like to make it close but lose. The party then would escape responsibility for what happens to the program.

Kennedy has jumped into the house fight with both feet. He has laid his prestige on the line with some strong declarations such as "we are through if we lose" in the effort to clear the track there for his program.

Some members of Congress don't agree with his dire prediction that his program would be emasculated by a 12-man committee. Others think that even if the President gets a 15-member group, he still will face stormy sailing with controversial proposals.

Vocal Chords Tuned

In direct contrast to his involvement in the House, Kennedy thus far has kept hands off the bubbling issue of a change in Senate rules. This threatens to start the Senate on its way with one of those time-consuming filibusters that de-

fect the law-making process at its argumentative worst.

A bipartisan group of senators has announced an attempt will be made to change the present rule which requires a two-thirds majority of those voting to cut off debate. They want to substitute a bare majority for this.

If it got the chance, the Senate might agree to permit three-fifths of those voting to curb debate. But Southern opponents already have tuned up their vocal chords for talk that could last several weeks.

The attitude of Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana is that the Senate hasn't got much to do at the start of the session anyway, so this may be a good time to let the talk go on.

The House, in fact, will have to face up first to some of Kennedy's major legislative proposals because they involve revenue matters which can originate only in that body.

The President, wise in the ways of legislative procedure from his experience in both the House and Senate, already has started compromise maneuvers in an effort to get the individual and business income tax reductions he considers essential to keep the economy moving and avoid a rise in unemployment.

GOP Serves Notice

Instead of making the tax reduction retroactive to Jan. 1 as he first proposed, Kennedy now plans a step-by-step reduction that could run from \$5 billion to \$10 billion. He wants it linked with tax law revisions that would close some loopholes.

At best it will take months of bargaining and trading to get any tax bill passed. Congressional Republicans already have served notice they will oppose any cuts that are not accom-

panied by reductions in spending.

Conservative Democrats, led by Chairman Harry F. Byrd, D-Va., of the Senate Finance Committee, entertain similar views.

This controversy is likely to be heightened when the President submits a new budget calling for more than \$99 billion in spending for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Hiding piggy-back on this budget will be a fat target for congressional arrows, a prospective minimum \$6-billion deficit for the new year.

Kennedy will defend the spending increase on the grounds that most of it will go for defense, space and added interest costs on the rising federal debt. He has made strenuous efforts to pare domestic outlays to prevent the budget total from soaring to the \$100-billion level, a round figure critics could bounce about in their inevitable charges that he intends to become the greatest spender in history.

If Congress follows the usual script, there will be much fulminating about the size of the budget. This will be followed by nearly unanimous voting for the tremendous arms and space appropriations the President is asking for. Foreign aid funds, on the other hand, will be under hot fire.

There will be much ado about cutting back civilian spending. This will be followed early next year by the quiet voting of supplemental money to restore the funds laboriously hacked away in the 1963 session. The result may well be a hair-curling deficit for the new fiscal year.

Same Old Issues

Kennedy will be knocking on Congress' doors with some unsolved problems. Probably they will be packaged a little more palatably, but fundamentally



Sen. Harry Byrd

they will involve the same old issues.

The President asked the preceding Congress for a five-year \$5.7-billion aid-to-education program, which was not to include help for church or private institutions.

Kennedy is not expected to change his position that federal outlays for church schools would violate the constitutional concept of separation of church and state. He has no desire to stir anew the religious issue of the 1960 presidential campaign.

The 87th Congress came close to compromising Senate-House differences over federal aid for college classroom construction. The 88th may be able to find an acceptable formula for this particular measure.

The Senate probably will be willing to vote again to provide aid for secondary schools. Whether such a measure, and a program for assistance to medical and dental schools, ever will get to the House floor may depend on what happens in that body's rules committee.

Kennedy will be back with a refurbished proposal to finance

health care for the elderly through Social Security taxes. He got a body blow in 1962 when the Senate rejected the plan by a 52-48 vote.

But the late Sen. Robert S. Kerr, D-Okla., who helped engineer that administration defeat, will not be around. And the November election made some changes, adding the net of three Democrats in the Senate.

Pretty Option Clauses

The administration feels confident of Senate approval of a revised medical care measure, prettied up with option clauses favored by some Republicans. But both the House Ways and Means Committee and its rules group represent roadblocks that might be insurmountable for this legislation.

Kennedy and his aides are laboring mightily to find some kind of farm program Congress will accept. They feel that although his 1962 tight controls program was rejected, some progress was made in solving the feed grains price support problem. But dairy supports still pose major difficulties.

There seems to be some doubt that the President will revive his proposal for creation of a Department of Urban Affairs, killed emphatically in the 87th Congress. If he does, Democratic leaders will give it another whirl. But they won't be too surprised if it is defeated.

For the cities, Kennedy will offer a mass transportation plan that might get approval in one form or another. For nature lovers, there will be a wilderness bill, the fate of which will be uncertain.

The President is likely to push for youth employment opportunities and for an attack on adult illiteracy. He could suggest a domestic version of the Peace Corps.

If the current longshoremen's strike and New York Newspaper's strikes last much longer, particularly after Congress convenes, there are bound to be more and more public demands for stiffer labor laws to deal with big strikes.

Variety of Alternatives

Kennedy is reported undecided at the moment whether to open up the labor legislation "Pandora's box," always a high-

ly controversial subject matter. He may suggest, however, changes in the Taft-Hartley law emergency strike procedures, such as the President's labor-management policy committee has recommended. Generally these would provide a greater variety of alternatives in efforts to head off big strikes, compared with the rigid court injunction procedures provided in the present law.

Kennedy worked up quite a reputation during the 87th Congress as a fast man with suggestions. He had about 200 of them. This indicates that whatever happens the new Congress is not likely to feel neglected for lack of presidential proposals and attention.



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TV Trying for Look Into House Committees

EDITOR'S NOTE — The television camera, long barred from House of Representatives committee sessions in Washington, may soon get a chance to poke its lens in on the doings. Some representatives, envious of television publicity gained by the Senate colleagues, are teaming up with the television industry in an effort to end the camera ban.

By JOHN BECKLER
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Television is making a strong bid these days to win acceptance in one of the few houses in America where it is still barred — the U.S. House of Representatives. Through a drumfire of public statements and through private talks with house leaders the industry is seeking permission to focus its cameras on actual sessions of House committee hearings.

It finds it illogical, not to say

intolerable, to be denied a privilege now extended to other news media. It particularly cites the uneven treatment reflected by the fact that telecasting has long been permitted on the Senate side of the Capitol.

A good many House members, too, hunger for the instant publicity of a televised hearing. They envy senators who have had easy access into the homes of their constituents through such spectacles as the crime hearings of Sen. Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., the labor racket hearings of Sen. John L. McClellan, D-Ark. and the dramatic clash between the U.S. Army and the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis.

What television has been up against in the House is the stern opposition of the late Speaker Sam Rayburn, D-Texas. This, because of Rayburn's immense prestige, has assumed the aura of tradition since his death in 1961.

When Speaker John W. McCormack, D-Mass., in his first days as Rayburn's successor last session, was asked to authorize live television of committee proceedings, he disposed of the matter simply by stating:

"The chair thinks that Mr. Speaker Rayburn's opinions were well considered and the chair intends to follow those opinions until such time as the House . . . provides for a different method of proceeding."

The Rayburn opinions that McCormack referred to were handed down in 1952 and 1953 in response to formal requests by members for a ruling on the authority of House committees to let their sessions be televised.

On each occasion Rayburn held, in essence, that the rules of the House are the rules of its committees; the rules of the House do not authorize televising of its proceedings, therefore the rules of the committees don't either.

In making such a ruling, especially in 1955, Rayburn apparently took little notice of two points raised by members



Rep. John McCormack

pressing for televised hearings, namely:

• That the House rules are merely silent on the question; if they don't authorize televising of sessions, neither do they prohibit it.

• That under the same rules House committees were permitted to televise their session in the 1953-54 session by Speaker Joseph Martin, R-Mass., and many did so.

But the fact is, neither Ray-

burn nor the pro-television members have ever based their stands merely on the House rules.

Rayburn, who entered the House in 1913 and served as its speaker longer than any other man, felt the strong pull of its history in his bones, and found abhorrent the suggestion that lights, cameras and other trappings of television invade its honored halls and turn its deliberations into some kind of a show.

Rep. George Meader, R-Mich., who has been trying for 10 years to open House Hearings to television, summed up what may be the majority view of House members when he said the other day:

"I think the power of the House has been adversely affected by this denial of a means of getting its point of view before the American people. The House has not kept pace with the growth of the country. It should adjust itself to the present day."

"After all, the President uses television at his press conferences to get his side of the story across, and sometimes attacks Congress. And the Senate has been able to show itself in action. I think the House has

suffered in getting public acceptance because of the ban on television."

Meader has introduced resolutions in previous Congresses amending the House rules to authorize each committee to decide whether it wants to televise its hearings. He has another one ready to drop into the hopper the day the new session convenes.

Although the Rules committee will have to approve Meader's resolution if it is to get to a vote in the House, the key man in the industry's hopes for ending the Rayburn ban is McCormack. There is little likelihood such a sweeping change in the rules would be adopted without the speaker giving assent.

Leroy Collins, president of

the National Assn. of Broadcasters, has urged McCormack to take a favorable view of the issue, and the television reporters who cover the House for the networks went to Boston to plead their case with the speaker personally before the Jan. 9 reopening of Congress.

Whatever the outcome this session, it seems inevitable that television will triumph some day. As the old patriarchy who have ruled the House this century gradually slip from positions of power, the quill pen and snuff box tradition loved by Rayburn is bound to pale. Congress is becoming more and more susceptible to the argument that television is here to stay.

Square Dance Classes Set

The Willamalane Park District next week will start square dances for adults and grade school age children.

Adult beginner classes will be offered on Mondays from 8 to 10 p.m., beginning next Monday. Cost of the class is 75-cents per couple per evening. Mr. and Mrs. William Cyphert will instruct.

Junior intermediate classes for elementary boys and girls who have completed a beginner's class will be held on Wednesdays from 8 to 9 p.m., beginning next Wednesday. Cost is 25-cents per person for in-district students and 35-cents for those residing outside the district. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Heil will instruct.

Both classes will be at the Memorial Bldg., Eighth and North A streets in Springfield. Registration should be made the first class night.

Savings Bond Sales Down

WASHINGTON — Sales of E and H Savings Bonds declined but the cash value of all such bonds owned by Americans advanced a billion dollars last year, the Treasury reports. Cash sales for 1962 amounted to \$4.28 billion, 5.7 per cent under 1961. Total E and H bond investment for the year, counting accrued interest, was \$5.65 billion. The total for 1961 was \$5.93 billion.

At the year's end, the cash value of all outstanding bonds in both series stood at just under \$45.5 billion, a record and up a billion from 1961. Bonds worth \$464 billion, including \$754 million in interest on E bonds, were redeemed during the year.

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