



TENT CITY RESIDENTS—Grandma Georgia Mae Turner lives in Tent City at Somerville, Tenn., with three of her five children and three grandchildren. They were among those evicted by white farmers from their sharecropper jobs. The whites say 50 Negroes, all related, moved into tents for "publicity purposes." The Negroes said they were faced with eviction for registering to vote. (UPI Telephoto)

Kennedy's Leadership Will Decide Power in Congress

Washington—UPI—It will not be an all moonlight and mandate for President-elect John F. Kennedy in the Democratic-controlled 87th Congress.

But the new chief executive, backed by legislatively astute Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson in the session ahead, holds the key to the scope of his congressional problems after his Jan. 20 inauguration.

The new Congress will have the first test of its internal disorders shortly. Then, when both houses are organizing, liberals must make their moves to achieve any meaningful rule reforms.

Speaker Sam Rayburn has the toughest problem to resolve—how and whether to liberalize the Rules Committee which, through a conservative coalition, has blocked action on much liberal legislation.

In the Senate, liberals who want to curb filibusters and win stronger representation for their areas on Democratic policy and steering committees, are expected to win some ground on the latter half of that program, and probably without a fight.

Greater Representation
The new Senate majority leader-designate, Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, thinks the big northern industrial estates are entitled to greater

representation in the leadership councils.

Kennedy's personal power will be measured by the legislative pros in how firmly he picks up the reins of presidential influence at the outset. At his disposal will be the immense power of the presidency, an almost limitless line of political credit on which he can draw if he applies it wisely and in behalf of legislative projects which have broad public backing.

An early available weapon for him to use as he sees fit will be job patronage.

Another will be the extent to which he places his personal leadership on the line for the things he asks individual members of Congress to support. Most students of Congress feel that if Kennedy provides strong leadership, he is likely to get strong support.

Early signs indicate Republicans will be split on the question of employing the coalition technique to block Kennedy administration legislation.

Senate liberal Republicans, in particular, don't want their party to swing to the right through a policy of obstruction. Former House GOP Leader Joseph W. Martin Jr. (Mass.) also has served notice he will not join in any line of obstruction for its own sake.

Nevertheless, on some issues the familiar Republican-southern-Democrat coalition will be in operation.

Kennedy already has a forepromise of difficulty on his announced objective of providing broader medical aid for the aged under the Social Security tax payment plan. Sen. Robert S. Kerr (D-Okla.) who fathered the limited medical aid bill which became law last summer, has announced he will oppose any Social Security payment approach.

Kennedy will find that some other Democrats who supported him in his presidential campaign, as did Kerr, will veer away from specifics of his legislative requests.

But he is likely to benefit from the in-fighting on the Republican side, where Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the leading GOP conservative at this point, intends to continue battling to give his party the conservative outlook.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon, removed from the congressional scene, will have to keep his political fires alive from the outside—and through other legislators. New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, the other top GOP contender for the presidency in 1964, must devote most of his efforts to assuring his re-election as governor in 1962. This gives the normally conservative Republican leadership in Congress more operating room than their liberal colleagues would like to see.



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