



BULLET-PROOF DOCK—On Israel police sergeant sits in the glass-enclosed prisoner's dock where former Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann will sit during his trial in Jerusalem, Israel, beginning April 11. The dock in the Beth Ha'am courthouse has been enclosed with bullet-proof glass to protect accused-mass-murderer Eichmann. A guard will sit directly behind Eichmann in the enclosure, never leaving his side. (UPI Telephoto)

First 70 Days in Office Are Successful Ones for Kennedy

Washington (CQ) — After 70 days in office, President Kennedy is doing all right — statistically speaking.

Here are some scores, as on a brief Easter recess:

—The President has filled more than 200 top government posts with minimum criticism of his appointees; most of them have been confirmed by the Senate, none rejected.

—He has laid the bulk of his program before Congress, in a series of 15 messages.

—Congress, in turn, has enacted three of 16 measures to which he assigned priority; six of the remaining 12 have been passed by one or both houses.

By comparison, President Eisenhower got off to a slow start in 1953. On March 31 of that year, the Republican-controlled 83rd Congress had approved two of 19 Presidential requests, rejected one, and taken no action whatsoever on 11.

Communications Lag

As Congressional Quarterly reported at the time, "cooperation between President and Congress may have been hampered by crossed-up 'communications' between an inexperienced White House staff and a Republican majority unaccustomed to responsibility. No such problem seems to have troubled President Kennedy.

All is not smooth, however, as a closer look shows. The three measures enacted — a temporary program of unemployment benefits, a feed grains program, and U.S. membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development — emerged from Congress substantially as requested. But other major items on the President's priority list have run into trouble.

—Minimum Wage: Asked to raise the minimum wage of \$1.25 per hour and extend coverage to 4.3 million additional workers, the House voted instead for \$1.15 and 1.3 million new workers. The 216-203 vote was considered a major Administration setback.

Senate Holds Back

—Aid to Children: The President asked Congress to make children of unemployed parents eligible for aid under the regular program for dependent children. The House did so promptly, March 10, but no action has been scheduled by the Senate Finance committee.

—School Aid: The President's request for a three-year, \$2.3 billion program of grants for school construction and teachers' salaries is bogged down by the parochial school controversy. Grants to religious schools would be unconstitutional, says the President; if parochial schools are excluded, say Catholic leaders, they will oppose any program.

—Health Insurance: The President wants to add medical benefits for the elderly to the social security insurance system, but there is no evidence that the 87th Congress is ready to approve what the 86th rejected.

Other major Presidential requests haven't been assigned

ed to any priority, as yet. But several of them are clearly "must" legislation and just as clearly headed for trouble.

—Foreign Aid — Congress has been asked to authorize

THE COURT HELD

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Same Offense Nets Man Acquittal, Conviction

Bartkus was accused of robbing a federally insured savings and loan association. However, the jury in the federal court found him not guilty. The F.B.I. then turned over to Illinois state officials all the evidence it had against Bartkus, and the state court convicted him of robbery. Bartkus appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, claiming that his conviction by the state court, following acquittal in federal court, was a violation of the U.S. Constitution's prohibition against trying a man twice for the same offense.

The Court Held: Conviction Affirmed. The Constitutional prohibition against "double jeopardy" would prevent the federal government from trying a man for the same offense after he had been previously acquitted by a federal court. However, where the same act violates both state and federal laws, the state may prosecute and convict even though the defendant was previously acquitted by the federal court. (Bartkus v. Illinois, 359 U.S. 121, 1959).

This column of general legal principles is presented by the Willamette University College of Law. It is not to be taken as legal advice. Slight changes in the facts may change the outcome of a case.

a five-year, \$7.3 billion "open-end" program of development loans, the funds to be borrowed from the treasury rather than appropriated. Given the strong opposition in Congress both to foreign aid and to any form of "backdoor spending," the President's request faces a rough time.

—Housing — Topping a 10-point housing proposal is a four-year, \$2.5 billion program of grants and loans for urban renewal — a priority objective for big city Democrats, but one that is generally opposed by Southerners and Republicans. Even the President's supporters agree that opposition is mounting.

—Highways — Faced with a \$12 billion gap between income and the cost of completing the 41,000-mile interstate highway system, the President wants Congress to extend the 4-cent gasoline tax and raise taxes on trucks — whose howls can be heard from every section. What Congress will do is anybody's guess.

—Postal Rates — President Kennedy is expected to follow President Eisenhower in asking for higher postal rates to cancel an operating deficit estimated at \$850 million next year. Democrats ignore the Republican's plea; whether they will honor a similar request from their own leader remains to be seen.

President Kennedy is the first to acknowledge the roadblocks confronting his legislative program. As he put it March 15, "I recognize that there are important and powerful and well organized interest groups in this country which oppose all of these programs." However impressive his first 70 days in office, it seems, the next 100 hold as much portent for defeat as for success.

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- Chester Hubbard, 2451 Lyman Ave., Medford
- Alfred J. Larson, 822 Minnesota.....Medford
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