

Administration Bumps into Civil Rights Ghost Haunting Congresses

By YVONNE FRANKLIN
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Washington (Special)—On most social welfare legislation, the Kennedy administration seems to bump into the civil rights ghost which haunts every Congress. It did so again last week when brother Robert Kennedy testified on brother Jack Kennedy's Youth Conservation Corps bill before brother Ted Kennedy, along with other members of the Senate Labor subcommittee.

Attorney General Kennedy, in panel with cabinet members Willard Wirtz, Labor; Stewart Udall, Interior; Or-

ville Freeman, Agriculture and Anthony Celebrezze, Health, Education and Welfare, sat before the Senators and deftly fielded questions on a YCC bill similar to one passed by the Senate last year.

That will die in the House Rules Committee because anti-Negro chairman Howard Smith of Virginia did not like the fact that Negro and white boys would be "mixed", as he said, in the YCC camps. Southern power being what it is in Congress, the Kennedys chose not to fight for the bill; and this year it is before Congress again without an anti-discrimination clause.

Not An Answer

The two-part bill is not, as the cabinet officers explained, an "answer" to the problem of the idle, jobless youth; but is a small part of a many-faceted program to meet what Wirtz called a "crisis in employment" for the postwar babies now coming into the job market as well as crowding the schools.

Part one of the bill is a YCC which would take 15,000

boys the first year and 60,000 thereafter, aged 16-22, and put them to work on federal and state conservation projects in state and national forests and parks for six months to two years. The second part calls for up to 50,000 boys and girls who would be trained for public service jobs in the cities.

The lone Republican present, Sen. Winston Prouty of Vermont, had done his homework on the bill and asked some New England flinty questions on many aspects of the program. The five Democrats, including young Ted but excepting chairman Joe Clark of Penn., had done little preparation and asked few questions. Prouty had the field to himself, and he needed the Kennedys for not including an anti-discrimination clause in the bill.

Wasn't Necessary

Robert Kennedy, who has a buzz-saw voice, rasped back that he didn't think such was necessary, that it would be a "hindrance." What he did not say was that southern Democrats, sensitive to further

threats to segregation, hold the key on so many bills that the Administration refuses to offend them with civil-rights riders.

Kennedy said he thought the civil rights issue should be met "head-on" and not "through the back door." He promised that before the session ended that the Administration would have civil rights legislation to present to Congress. When Prouty accused the Democrats of lack of action on civil rights bills, per se, Kennedy retorted that more had been done than in the previous eight years under Eisenhower.

Prouty warned that the civil rights subject would rise to haunt the Democrats in the Senate again when the bill was voted on—a forecast of noise to come by Republicans on civil rights as an embarrassment to the Administration whose neck is bowed low by the albatross of southern domination of committee chairmanships, which hampers the movement of Kennedy bills.

Prouty quoting from the

report of the Civil Rights Commission on the progress of desegregation, noted that 70 per cent of the federal money for education in the South went to segregated schools; and in six states no Negro institutions received fellowships under the National Defense Education Act.

He said that of \$18 million spent by the Department of Agriculture on education, not one cent was allocated to Negro schools; and that the Atomic Energy Commission spent \$1.3 million in seven southern states, but no Negro institutions benefited. He listed many more instances of discrimination to Negro institutions in the South.

Prouty reminded Kennedy that former HEW Secretary Abraham Ribicoff had stated that he had no legislative authority to withhold funds from school districts which practice segregation. Then, after listing the discrimination toward Negroes in education in the South, and pointing to discrimination against Negroes who cannot use hospitals in the South which are constructed by federal funds, under the Hill-Burton Act, Prouty asked, "In view of these facts, don't you feel an anti-discrimination amendment is fully justified?" Kennedy said no.

Notes Action Taken

Kennedy, however, noted the action which the Administration had taken to compel integration in the South. He said that a suit had been filed to end discrimination at a hospital constructed of federal funds. He said that more action is contemplated. The government has also filed suit to compel integration of schools receiving federal money for impacted schools—which are overcrowded schools caused by military installations. Because of this, no one knows whether southern leaders in Congress will support social welfare measures that they have in the past.

Sen. Lister Hill, a past supporter of such legislation and the powerful chairman of the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee, a past sponsor of school bills and the Hill-Burton Act, is incensed that the Kennedys are using the federal courts to try to force areas to desegregate schools receiving federal impacted aid money.

He has warned that other southerners, like himself, may withhold support from bills because of their fear of further federal interference with their segregated pattern of life—using the lever of federal funds to obtain compliance.

Honor Society To Initiate 53 Students Monday

The 27th annual initiation of Torch Honor Society at Medford High school will be held Monday, March 4, and 53 honor students will be taken into the organization. All are members of this year's Junior class.

The initiates are Sharon Baize, Chris Bartels, Marilyn Boehn, Steve Blackhurst, Dick Breeden, Bonnie Bingley, Chip Buffington, Arlene Carter, Judy Chastain, Tom Clark, David Collins, Elaine Davenport, Gary Dawson, Angus Duncan, Carolyn Eagleton, Barbara Edmonds, Dwight Ellis, Kathy Foley, Greg Gandee, Bruce Hess, James Jewett, Sandra Joyce, Sue Kagy, Wayne Kelsor, Don Kengla and Kay Kent.

John Lampkin, Diane Landis, Sarah Madden, Richard Millhollin, James Moyer, Gayle Offenbacher, Chris Rasmussen, Nick Rasmussen, John Sanderson, Lois Slessler, Chester Smith, Ron Stokes, Mary Stong, Allan Taylor, Carl Voegtly, Sally Wakefield, Marilyn Watkins, Edward Welch, Linda Wilkes, Craig Williams, Darlene Wilson, Judy Wilson, Ken Winkfield, Jim Wise and Jane Zier.

Music on Program
The program for this year's initiation will include music by the high school string ensemble, talks by Todd Jones, president of this year's Torch Honor group, Martha Graham, Kay Ruck, Sherri Smets, all Torch Honor society officers, and David Warren and Howard Haugen.

Otis Swisher, president of the Medford classroom teachers, will give the lecture of the evening. His subject is "C is for Average."

Garner Hauptert, student body president, will award pins to new members.

Mrs. Frances Ruck of the Medford high school faculty, is advisor to this year's Torch Honor society.



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