

# Machinery Begins to Roll As 88th Congress Examines Tax Cut

By FRANK ELEAZER  
 United Press International  
 Washington - (UPI) - It got a late start, and nobody knows when it will finish, but things are looking up for the 88th Congress. The national legislative machine is finally beginning to roll.

Even since last January the professional pessimists, and also the Republicans, have been proving regularly that nothing much, good or bad, would come out of this Democratic congress. And for a long time, nothing much did. But now the picture is changing. Not even Charlie Halleck of Indiana, the GOP House leader, is currently willing to label it a do-nothing Congress.

That does not mean that all is coming up roses for President Kennedy and his Democratic congressional leaders. But it's a fact that administration forces no longer are singing solely the blues.

One thing that gave their spirits a lift was the action of the House Ways and Means committee in drafting an \$11 billion tax cut which has a good chance, even at this late date, of final enactment before Congress quits for the year.

**Civil Rights Quandry**  
 The other sine qua non of this session, as far as the president is concerned, is a meaningful civil rights bill. As of today, committees on both sides of the capitol are still tearing their hair over what to do about that.

The problem is not so much what these committee members want to see in the bill, but what Democratic strategists figure they can pass through the House and more important in this case - through the Senate, where a southern filibuster will have to be broken.

A congressional consensus on civil rights is yet to take shape. Many members for one thing still are looking for some clear reading of the national temper. Democratic leaders are satisfied, however, that something has to be done and will be done at this session of Congress to protest against race discrimination in various fields.

The nuclear test ban treaty with Russia and Britain, another top priority item, is still under scrutiny but seems assured of ratification by the Senate.

If this Congress should adjourn with nothing more than a tax cut, a civil rights bill and the test ban under its belt, Democrats will call the session a good one. But it begins to be obvious that, despite the slow start, a good bit more than that will have been done by the time the final bell sounds.

Republicans naturally profess to see each passing week as further proof that Democrats can't be trusted to manage the nation's affairs. They twist the Democrats daily. They demand to know what became of Mr. Kennedy's promised leadership to get the country moving again.

When Democratic House Leader Carl Albert of Oklahoma was announcing the program for last week, Rep. H. R. Gross (R-Iowa), a perpetual burr under the leadership saddle, wanted to know what plans had been made to celebrate Christmas.

Albert said none, but in event the House is in session that late, he will put Gross in charge of the Yule observations. Whereupon, Rep. Clarence J. Brown, Ohio, another Republican skilled with the needle, volunteered the hope that Albert would pick somebody else.

Gross is known hereabouts as the last of the big savers, and Brown said putting him in the Santa Claus role would surely mean a pretty skimpy Christmas for all.

Despite this kind of continuing badinage over what

Gross called the "snail's pace" of Congress, Albert lately has been able to keep the House members more or less busy, and at last major hurdles are being, or about to be, crossed.

**Status Told**  
 Status of major legislation in Congress reads:

Tax cut - House Ways and Means committee has approved a \$11 billion cut. House to act after Labor day. Senate awaiting House action.

School aid - Federal aid to colleges, medical schools, expanded aid for vocational schools, all passed by the House, all still in committee in Senate.

Foreign aid - House has approved annual aid authorization somewhat trimmed below what Kennedy wanted. Still in committee in Senate. (Appropriation bill still to come.)

Medicare - Nothing done yet either side. House Ways and Means plans hearings later this year.

Mass transit - Federal subsidies to improve city rail, bus and subway service. Senate has passed it. House Banking committee has approved it.

Youth employment - Kennedy wanted new \$100 million Youth Conservation Corps for community work in forests, parks, local civic projects. Senate has passed it; House Education and Labor committee has approved it.

Domestic Peace Corps - President asked new organization of a few thousand skilled volunteers to carry out work in this country similar to Peace Corps projects overseas. Senate has passed it. Still in committee in the House with no prospect of action this year.

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## Decision Expected In Air Service Case

Spokane - (UPI) - The initial decision in the Spokane area air service case is expected from Thomas L. Wrenn, Civil Aeronautics board examiner, sometime next month.

The case involves the mandatory stop at Pendleton, Ore., by United Air Lines.

George Shoemaker, Spokane attorney, said he had received no official indication when the decision would be announced, but if Wrenn follows his usual timetable it should be ready in September. Shoemaker represents local interests in efforts to have the so-called Pendleton restriction lifted.

**MAN HELD**  
 Yakima, Wash. - (UPI) - A former Klamath Falls, Ore., man, Billy Joe Hodges, 32, was held Wednesday in connection with the fatal beating of a transient Monday night.