



LARRY L. STEPHENSON, Navy fireman, is visiting his mother, Mrs. Lucille Christianson, 3033 Shasta Way, after a tour of duty at sea aboard the fleet tug USS Mataco, including stops at Hong Kong, Japan, Okinawa, Pearl Harbor, Midway and the Philippine Islands. He will report to San Diego Jan. 17. His ship is undergoing service and will go back to sea when repairs are complete. Stephenson has been in the Navy 13 months.

Welfare Program Has High Priority In Kennedy's Legislative Program

By JACK BELL
AP Political Reporter

WASHINGTON (AP) — History may tie the tag of "the welfare Congress" on the 87th meeting of the nation's lawmakers if President-elect John F. Kennedy gets his way.

In advance of its actual submission after his inauguration, Kennedy's legislative program is taking shape as one aimed at bettering the economic and social status of millions of Americans.

While he hasn't laid down any specific priorities, Kennedy has said he wants speedy action on measures to provide medical care for the aged, aid for education, housing, minimum wage and aid for chronically depressed areas.

The president-elect has talked of easing interest rates, revising the labor laws, spurring economic development, and expanding national resources projects.

In the controversial field of civil rights he is tied to a platform declaration for congressional passage of a measure to clothe the attorney general-to-be, his brother Robert, with authority to bring federal injunction suits to enforce school desegregation.

This and some other proposals face tough and possibly successful opposition in a Congress the Democrats nominally control but where a coalition of conservatives of both parties has a great deal to say about the final form of legislation.

Outside of Congress, Kennedy has promised executive action to improve the condition of certain

segments of the population. He said repeatedly in the presidential campaign there was much a president could do by the stroke of a pen, such as ending segregation in federal housing programs, furnishing moral leadership and calling a conference of Southern moderates to recommend measures for civil rights progress.

The Kennedy program for aid to education has not taken final form. He supported a bill passed by the Senate in the 86th Congress for a two-year \$1.66-billion program for school construction and grants for teachers' salaries.

The House passed a four-year program authorizing \$1.3 billion for construction only. The two houses couldn't agree and the bill died. Whether Kennedy is any more successful as president than as a senator in promoting a teachers' pay measure remains to be seen.

The new president will have a fight on his hands in proposing a medical care program for the aged, financed through Social Security taxes. Sen. Robert S. Kerr, D-Okla., already has served no-

he will oppose a tax-financed proposal as a substitute for the state-federal program passed by the last Congress.

Republicans are lining up their forces to battle an expected Kennedy recommendation for an increase in the minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour, with an expansion of coverage to another five million persons, mostly in the retail trades.

Republicans can be expected to contend that a minimum wage boost now may only increase unemployment. They are not alone in their opposition. For example, Sen. Fulbright, D-Ark., takes a similar position.

Kennedy's bill to help depressed areas may carry around \$400 million in federal grants and loans to encourage new industries in areas of chronic unemployment. It probably will call for retraining of miners, railroad workers and others who have lost their jobs permanently.

Kennedy is expected to back a housing bill geared to spurring this lagging industry with lower interest rates and easier terms for credit purchases. In the past

he has supported urban renewal programs. There is some doubt on the course the new president may take in the complex field of labor law reforms.

The platform on which he was elected pledges the new president to seek repeal of the Taft-Hartley law provision which authorizes states to pass right-to-work laws. But it seems questionable to most observers that this will get a high priority—if any—in the rush to legislation providing broader welfare benefits.

These benefits could include a new department of urban affairs, to handle mounting problems of city dwellers, as well as some kind of central agency pointed at giving consumers a break.

These two projects still are in the speculative stage, however. Most associates think Kennedy will wait until he gets the feel of the presidency and plumbs the economic situation thoroughly before making any such proposals.

SAME OLD CHARGE

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Seaman Emery Newbern, who has battled on his own behalf against more than 200 drunk arrests, failed to show up Monday to argue his drunk appeal case at the opening of the State Supreme Court. Reason — he was in jail in San Francisco on the same old charge.

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DRIVE-INS LEND SUPPORT

CARBONDALE, Ill. (UPI)—Local businessmen got added support Tuesday in their drive to have Southern Illinois University relax its ban against letting students drive cars.

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