

POLITICAL CONTRAST . . .

# The 88th Congress and The Kennedy Program

## REPUBLICAN

by mark anderson

The timing of the Cuban crisis helped make the 88th Congress numerically little changed from its predecessor. In the House the Democrats dropped four and Republicans gained two. The Senate is a 67-33 rubber stamp with a Kennedy profile.

Opposition to Kennedy's legislation is rising, however. The 261-174 House breakdown would seem to provide the Administration with the same close votes on key issues, there is a revival of the Republican coalition. This phenomenon stems from last election's surprising GOP strength in the South. Dixie representatives will be far less inclined to vote liberal (even for Kennedy patronage) this session for fear of a voter's shift to the more conservative Republicans.

One of the earliest battles will be over the House Rules Committee which acts as a clearing house for bills from other committees on the way to years ago the Administration and Sam Rayburn managed to add two Democrats and one Republican to help liberal legislation. Unless the Administration can again do the same (without Rayburn) the Committee will revert to the original 12 members with conservative control. Power returned to Howard Smith, veteran conservative chairman who bottles legislation like milk, would, in Kennedy's term, "emasculate" his whole program. Even so, many Republicans may go along with the Administration so as not to provide Kennedy with a scapegoat to use in '64.

The Kennedy senior citizen panacea, Medicare, will be back for only the price of a stiff rise in payroll deductions plus socialization of medicine. Since Senator Kerr's death the chances are good the Senate will buy the stuff. Even if a bill gets out of committee there is only a slight chance the House will pass it. The Republican supported Kerr-Mills law should pre-empt any Administration compromise attempts.

Federal aid to education died in committee last year and will probably meet the same worthy fate. Chances for passage depend on changing approximately 37 House votes, the Rules Committee, and the ability of the bill's authors to avoid or resolve the constitutional state-church relation controversy. Con-



"NOW I WONDER WHAT'S IN IT."

## DEMOCRAT

by gary thompson

It is always interesting to do some speculating as to what will be new laws by the end of an upcoming Congressional session, and as the 88th Congress gets under way, it is particularly interesting to guess about the prospects of the Kennedy Administration's proposals as compared with last year.

There are several reasons to believe that the administration will not have as rough a time in this session as it had in the last.

The first reason is that on November 6 the voters of this nation gave the Democratic Party the greatest off-year election victory since the early days of the Franklin Roosevelt administration.

This should be interpreted as an endorsement of the present administration. Congress this year should recognize this and be more inclined toward a favorable position regarding the President's proposals.

The second reason is perhaps more important. President Kennedy has learned a great deal from his experiences with the 87th Congress. He and his cabinet members will not introduce as "radical" legislation as they did last year realizing that these may have been a little ahead of their time. Rather, compromises on such things as medicare, the farm program, and urban affairs will be sponsored and should be passed.

Generally speaking, there should be quite a bit more cooperation

with this Congress and the Administration, but the President certainly will not have clear sailing all the way.

One of the President's prime objectives this year is a pretty substantial tax cut. The chances are that he will get part of this, but not all he wants. The same holds true for federal aid to education and foreign aid. Kennedy will ask for quite a bit in these areas and will get part of it, but he is certain not to get all he asks for.

In other areas Congress and the Administration are already pretty well in agreement. Congress will undoubtedly approve Kennedy's record setting defense budget, it will appropriate funds for an Administration plan for aid to commuter transportation, and it will support an Administrative recom-

mendation to boost military pay.

All in all, we might say that while the 88th Congress will be far from giving President Kennedy a carte blanche on legislative proposals, the Administration should be able to get a good number of bills enacted into law by the end of this year.

## Nebraskan Applauds

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servatives will continue to oppose federal aid because of potential federal control and massive costs overlapping with state and local progress.

Tax deduction and reform is the only major new proposition facing Congress. Labor, business, economists, and the Administration all favor an \$8-10 billion tax cut to stimulate private investment and consumer spending in varying proportions. Democrats may push for a cut this year and another next (just before elections) along with some reform. Opposition will come more from deficit minded Harry Byrd of the Senate Finance Committee and Representative Wilbur Mills of the Ways and Means unit than Republicans in general.

Complications are in abundance. Skybolt, RS-70, the sordid Katanga affair, Senator Symington's defense stockpiling political sideshow, and a liberal push in the Senate to change the 2-3 vote to a majority required to cut off filibusters constitute a sampling.

In short, Republican strategy will consist of (1) blocking the irresponsibilities of federal aid to education, Medicare, and massive central government expansions, (2) participation in shaping a new tax program, and (3) supporting JFK's too few, too far between, and too late anti-Communist actions. The last will be supplemented with a forward strategy to contrast the Administration's vacillatory policy which allowed the Berlin Wall to be built, Laos to fall, anti-Communist Katanga be overrun by group of to no one, and which allows Castro to go on infiltrating South America.

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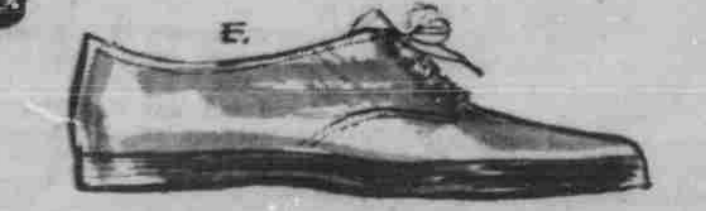
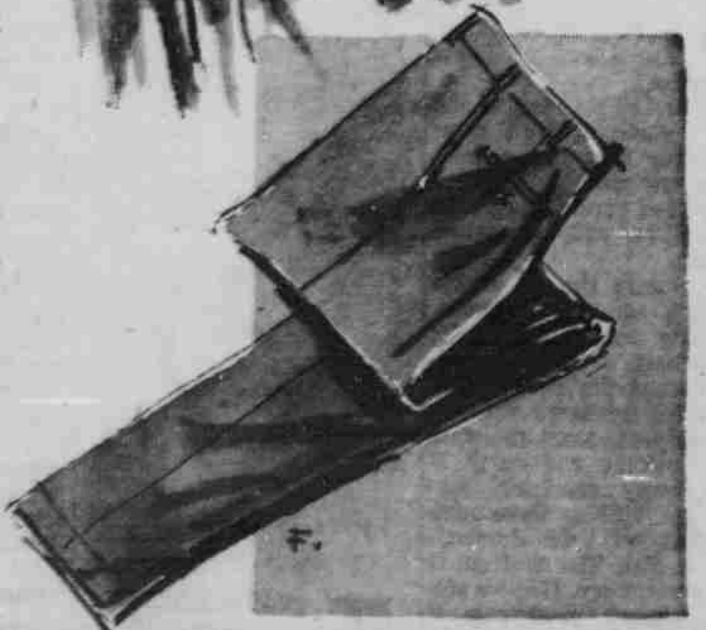
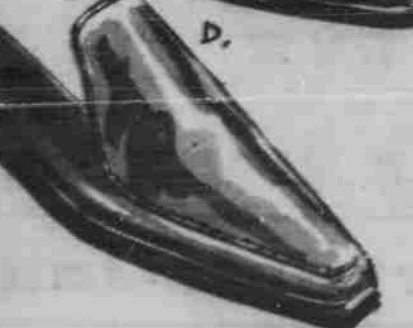
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