

# Rep. Boykin Suggests Vets' Housing Meeting

Mobile Congressman Tells Register President Thinks Well Of Idea Formed By Him, Two Other Members

Rep. Frank Boykin of Mobile reported Thursday he and two other members of Congress had suggested a national conference on veterans' housing problems to President Truman and that the President "thought well of the idea." Boykin said he and Sen. Mead of New York and Rep. McCormack of Massachusetts discussed the matter of providing housing facilities for veterans and proposed a conference of housing officials from counties and cities throughout the nation.

## Conference Needed

"I think such a conference is needed in order that veterans may receive more attention in the housing field," Boykin declared. "The officials attending the conference could get a good idea of the national picture and could see better how to adapt broad principles worked out nationally to local situations."

Boykin also reported he has attended numerous meetings in Washington as one of the conferees on the ship sales bill and he feels a satisfactory plan for disposal of surplus vessels can be worked out.

## Future Of Ships

"Our government has more ships than the rest of the world put together," he pointed out. Our wartime shipbuilding program was one of the most gigantic undertakings in this nation's history. Now we must decide what we are going to do with all the ships we have built, now that the war is over."

No new obstacles to plans for passage of legislation to implement the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway proposal have arisen, and speedy approval of the water development is expected when it comes before Congress early next year, Boykin said.

## Engineers Approve

Now that the project has been approved by the Army engineers, who recommended that \$116,941,000 be spent on it, major obstacles seem to be out of the way, Boykin asserted.

The Tennessee-Tombigbee proposal, which calls for construction of a 27-mile canal linking the two rivers in Northwest Alabama and Northeast Mississippi, would be "the greatest thing that ever happened to Alabama," Boykin declared.

## Other Projects Seen

This waterway is one of a list of several slated for Alabama. Others include the \$60,000,000 Alabama-Coosa project, the \$6,750,000 Alabama lock and dam, Warrior and Tombigbee developments costing \$6,750,000, and smaller projects at Bayou la Batre, Bayou Coden and Dauphin Island.

If approved by Congress, the Tennessee-Tombigbee development would be almost twice as large as any other project included in the postwar construction program of the Mobile Army engineers district.