

Early-Rising Representative Boykin Starts Seventeenth Year In Congress

By WILBUR JENNINGS

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The "first man in Congress every morning" marked his 16th year on Capitol Hill last week.

Rep. Frank Boykin of Mobile, 66-year-old dean of the Alabama congressional delegation, won the "first man" tag soon after he came to Washington one hot and humid day in July, 1935, and set out to find a house for his wife and five children.

Other congressmen pinned it on him because he was the first man to reach his office each morning.

Last Wednesday, when Boykin celebrated the beginning of his 17th year, he was up and his wife had served him coffee by 3:50 a.m.

Others who belong to the Boykin early-to-work club include Rep. Robert Doughton of North Carolina and Rep. Tom Murray of Tennessee. They follow Boykin by as much as an hour, however.

A cannon in Arlington National Cemetery is fired daily at day-break, and Boykin says he has made it a point to be up and dressed by that time.

Such an early riser naturally gives his secretarial staff plenty of work. He has dictating machines in his hotel suite and in his office.

His secretary 34 years, Alphonse Lucas of Mobile, is on the job at 7 a.m. Incidentally, Boykin says Lucas should have been a congressman.

Boykin's early rising once made him a contact in the House office building corridor that resulted eventually in moving several textile plants from Pennsylvania to Alabama.

Boykin's family is now "married," and he lives with his wife at the Washington Hotel, on upper Pennsylvania Ave.

He had a party to celebrate the beginning of his 17th year in Congress. A congressman from every state was present to wish him well.

Here's what a few said:

Rep. Colmer (D, Miss.)—"We congratulate the Mobile district upon keeping this most popular member of the House in the Congress for nearly two decades. Frank's popularity and influence are only exceeded by that of his charming wife who influences him."

Rep. Andrews (D, Ga.)—"If you want something done, get Boykin to work on it."

Rep. McMillen (D, S.C.)—"Boykin works day and night, more than any other congressman."

Rep. George Andrews of Montgomery, whose district adjoins Boykins' said "we have worked together like brothers for our section."

Tom Johnson, formerly of the Alabama Power Co., kidded Boykin about the Mobile district getting a rayon plant that Huntsville wanted.

Boykin became dean of the Alabama delegation with the retirement of Sam Hobbs of Selma.

The Senate has before it the largest single military construction program ever submitted to Congress. It calls for an overall outlay of \$5,768,720,000, of which Alabama would get \$64,688,630 for six projects.

Quick Senate action is expected since the Defense Department has

said that the program should go forward as quickly as possible. The House passed the bill last week.

The Alabama projects:

Fort McClellan—Troop housing, training facilities, Women's Army Corps center, chemical corps school and supporting facilities and utilities, \$23,333,250.

Camp Rucker—Troop supporting facilities and utilities, \$1,387,380.

Anniston Ordnance Depot — Storage and operational facilities, and utilities, \$11,182,000.

Redstone Arsenal—Troop housing, training facilities, research and development facilities, supporting facilities, and utilities, \$15,584,000.

Craig Air Force Base At Selma — Airfield pavements, airfield lighting, operational and storage facilities, utilities, \$1,822,000.

Brookley Air Force Base At Mobile—Airfield pavements, operational, aircraft maintenance and storage facilities, utilities and land acquisition, \$11,380,000.

The four million dollars approved by the House and seconded by the Senate appropriations committee for the Demopolis lock and dam in the current fiscal year was one of the targets of an amendment by Sen. Douglas (D, Ill.) last week.

The Douglas measure would have wiped out the item. But his amendment was defeated.

Douglas told the Senate the project "would merely allow longer barge trains to move over the already existing waterway. It can be easily postponed."