

6-MONTH NOTICE IN RIGHTS BILLS

Kennedy Clamping Down On Schools

By JOHN CHADWICK

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Kennedy administration asks Congress today for legislation to hasten desegregation of all racially segregated public schools.

Every school board operating a racially segregated public school would be required to adopt a desegregation plan within six months and file it with the secretary of welfare.

SIX BILLS READY

The school desegregation proposal was among six civil rights bills ready for introduction by Sen. Joseph S. Clark, D-Pa., and Rep. Emanuel Celler, D-N.Y. The six-point program is geared to carrying out the civil rights pledges of the 1960 Democratic platform.

Last September, President Kennedy, then the Democratic presidential candidate, appointed Clark and Celler as a committee

of two to put the platform promises on civil rights into legislative form.

The desegregation plans would have to provide for "first-step compliance" not later than the start of the 1963-64 school year. They also would have to spell out the time and manner in which desegregation was to be achieved in each class and school.

FEDERAL AID

Federal technical and financial assistance would be given under the bill to desegregating school districts. Provision also would be made for court enforcement in case school boards violated the duties imposed on them by the legislation.

Another of the Clark-Celler bills would make the Civil Rights Commission a permanent federal agency with strengthening fact-finding powers. The commission is due to expire Sept. 9.

Other bills would:

1. Empower the attorney general to bring civil injunction suits in the federal courts to prevent the denial of any civil rights on grounds of race, color or creed. The attorney general now has authority to file such suits only to prevent denial of voting rights.

2. Provide administrative and judicial remedies for persons subjected to discrimination by business firms or labor unions in hiring, firing or promotion.

3. Eliminate the poll tax as a requirement for voting in federal elections.

4. Eliminate literacy tests as a requirement for voting.

When Kennedy appointed Clark and Celler he said the purpose was to have comprehensive legislation ready for introduction as soon as Congress convened in January.

Since taking office, however, Kennedy has not called on Congress for civil rights measures—on which Southern and Northern Democrats are sharply split—but has given priority to legislation in other fields.

Clark and Celler said in a statement: "We will do our utmost to push for prompt hearings and favorable reports to both houses on the bills."

They said Kennedy already has taken, by executive order, "a number of far-reaching steps to promote civil rights, particularly in the field of equal job opportunity in government employment and in government contract work."

Except for a move to extend the life of the Civil Rights Commission, the general expectation in Congress is that any real scrap over civil rights legislation will be deferred until next year.