

# Kennedy Approves Calm Rights Show

WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP)—President Kennedy has given his blessings to the late-August civil rights demonstration planned for the national capital and says, "I look forward to being here."

This was the highlight of a Kennedy news conference Wednesday in which he applauded peaceful racial protests while decrying those which can lead to violence and bloodshed.

**THE SESSION** with newsmen—Kennedy's first in Washington in 8 weeks—covered a wide range of topics including:

—Business and taxes: The President said business is better than expected, tax receipts consequently have exceeded predictions and, as a result, last year's budget deficit totaled \$6.2 billion compared with a January forecast of \$8.8 billion. He said this bolsters his argument that a \$10 billion tax cut would boost the economy still further and eventually balance the budget.

—Cold war talks: Kennedy said he is "still hopeful" that the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union can achieve some kind of nuclear test ban treaty in the current Moscow talks. But he thinks talk of a possible summit meeting is premature, saying such a session is not "indicated or needed."

—Moon race: The chief executive wants a continued effort to put an American on the moon in this decade in order to show "the capacity to dominate space." He treated as inconclusive British scientist Bernard Lovell's report that the Russians may be losing interest in the moon race.

—Rail strike: Kennedy again urged the railroads and operating unions to settle their work rules dispute before a threatened nationwide strike July 29. He said both sides would be "much better off" to work things out themselves "and not depend upon the government to do it." If a strike comes, Kennedy said he will ask Congress to end it by legislation.

**IN TALKING ABOUT** civil rights, Kennedy scoffed at a claim by Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace that racial demonstrations have been Communist-inspired.

"We have no evidence," he said, "that any of the leaders of the civil rights movements in the United States are Communists. We have no evidence that the demonstrations are Communist-inspired. . . . I think it is a convenient scapegoat to suggest that all the difficulties are Communist."

Kennedy said those who complain about organized protests should "do something about the grievances" that prompt them. He suggested it is illogical to say,

"Don't protest," and at the same time assert, "We are not going to let you come into a store or a restaurant."

He said he sees the situation as "a two-way street."

**AS FOR THE** Washington demonstration, scheduled for Aug. 28, Kennedy said it shapes up as "a peaceful assembly calling for a redress of grievances" and undertaken through cooperation with the police.

Kennedy said "this is not a march on the Capitol"—something he suggested earlier would harm the cause of civil rights advocates.

In promising to be in the capital at the time, Kennedy added what amounted to a challenge to Congress by adding, "I am sure members of Congress will be here."

There has been some talk that the legislators might take a long Labor Day holiday — starting in late August.

Kennedy contrasted the planned Washington demonstration with those now in progress at Cambridge, Md., where there has been rioting and bloodshed.

Speaking of Cambridge, he said:

"They have almost lost sight of what the demonstration is about."

In such cases, he said, "I think the cause of advancing equal opportunities only loses."

**ON OTHER TOPICS,** Kennedy said:

—There is no need for more formal diplomatic contacts with the Vatican because there is no lack of two-way communication at present.

—He hopes South Viet Nam will resolve its religious disputes because the military situation there looks more hopeful and a stable government is needed.

—A trip to the Far East is something the President would like to undertake but he expects to be busy enough at home for some months.

—Red China seems bent on promoting nuclear war but Kennedy doubts the Soviet Union is anxious to face destruction by supplying the weapons that would be needed.

—The United States condemns the racial policy of the Republic of South Africa but doesn't believe in expelling countries from the United Nations.

—There is no hope of peacefully coexisting with a Soviet satellite, like Cuba, in the Caribbean.

# CHAMBER FIGHTS JFK RIGHTS PLAN

The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce has voted to oppose President Kennedy's proposed civil rights program.

In a resolution passed Wednesday, the board of directors said the legislation would discourage voluntary desegregation of businesses.

The directors found "particularly objectionable" the public accommodations section of the President's bill, which would require businesses to serve all customers without regard to race.

"The bill is calculated to narrow the role of voluntary action and to substitute the force of the federal government," the resolution said.

This poses "a grave threat to local responsibility and personal freedom which far outweighs any possible improvement in the opportunities of minority groups."

**THE DIRECTORS** of the 3,000-member chamber called for voluntary desegregation of Atlanta businesses in a May 29 policy statement. But they emphasized they were not "trying to tell any proprietor how he should conduct his business."

The May appeal to end discrimination "as expeditiously as good judgment will dictate" came after a month of Negro demonstrations and arrests at Atlanta restaurants.

A number of restaurants have desegregated in the past month. Fourteen hotels have agreed to accept a limited number of Negroes.

The board of directors said its resolution opposing the President's legislation is "consistent with its earlier stand for local and voluntary elimination of discrimination."

The resolution was adopted at a meeting attended by 20 of the 27 directors. The vote was not announced.