

Keppel Plans to Educate Educators

By MARY McGRORY

Star Staff Writer

Francis Keppel, commissioner of education, is embarking on a program of educating American educators about the new \$1.3 billion school bill.

The measure, which was signed by President Johnson on April 11, could affect 95 percent of the 25,000 school districts in the country. It is the first bill since 1948 to bring massive federal aid to primary and secondary schools, and it is the pride of the President, who wants to go down in history as a "teacher-president."

To Have Discretion

Sometime next week, tens of thousands of school superintendents, education officials and teachers will receive a glossy eight-page brochure, which the commissioner says is "a translation of a large and complex piece of legislation into English." It is called, from a

line in a Johnson speech, "The First World of These Times . . ."

When the bill passed the House of Representatives, Keppel met with state commissioners of education, who will have large discretion in the allocation of funds that are provided for their states according to population and income.

On Friday, he will meet in New York with superintendents of schools from cities of more than 500,000.

Beginning May 18, the commissioner and other officials of the Office of Education will make the rounds of nine regional meetings of state commissioners of education, and state and local school superintendents to explain the bill and also to get as many opinions as possible about the problems that may arise in its administration. The Office of Education expects to get considerable advice on the

writing of the many regulations that will have to be composed.

Also invited to these regional meetings will be a new group in educational circles, the heads of symphony orchestras and directors of museums. They will be involved heavily in Title V, which authorizes the expenditure of \$100 million for supplementary centers "to raise the quality of educational services already offered and to stimulate and assist in the development and establishment of exemplary elementary and secondary school educational programs to serve as models for regular school programs."

This provision, which is the most novel and far-reaching of the five titles, is the quality guarantee in the bill. Keppel says it will "bring the best of American culture into the schools."

Within the Office of Education, vast plans for reorganization and enlargement are being

formulated under the direction of a three-man team of senior experts from the Atomic Energy Commission, the Bureau of the Budget and the Civil Service Commission. They will suggest administrative procedures for the administration of funds through the federal-state-local procedures that are carefully outlined in the bill, so as to allay fears that Uncle Sam will become the real teacher in every little red schoolhouse in the land.

To Advise on Recruit

The three-man team also will advise on the best way to recruit rapidly the 300 or 400 additional workers who will be needed.

Some consideration is being given to the idea of taking the Office of Education out from under the protective cover of the Health, Education and Welfare Department and making it a separate empire.

Keppel is in constant meetings

with White House staff member over the thorniest aspect of the bill, which concerns civil rights. Under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, federal funds cannot be given to any segregated institution. The Office of Education may have a function as a "Junior Supreme Court," deciding if genuine or only token compliance with the act has occurred in certain Southern school districts, where segregation has been stubbornly maintained.