

# CONGRESS ST. PROGRESS GIVES MAYOR BOOST

## Prospect Is Wonderful, He Decides

BY HAL FOUST

*(Picture on back page)*

Mayor Kennelly, with a couple of his top men, looked over the Congress st. expressway work yesterday and said that the improvement to Chicago so far is great and that the prospects for the future are wonderful. He was enjoying the sunshine of the first December day and his heart was warm with Irish optimism.

"Just wiping out slums, that alone has made the work worth-

while to date," said the mayor. "And we've gone far enough with the construction that any imagination can foresee the revitalization of the near west side, which means so much to Chicago."

Virgil Gunlock, commissioner

of public works, and the city's chief engineer, Dick Van Gorp, agreed.

### Bridge Steel Arrives

Kennelly watched a derrick swing 63 tons of red painted steel into position for the Congress st. bridge over the Chicago

river, in front of the postoffice. The girder had been fabricated in Gary and delivered to the site by barge.

Gunlock said the bridge will be finished on schedule, in about two years. Van Gorp showed the mayor nearby excavations that have been started for the east approach, with its ramps connecting with the lower level of Wacker dr. still to be built.

"Wacker dr. will be finished as a two level thoroughfare as far south as Congress about the same time the bridge is completed," said the engineer.

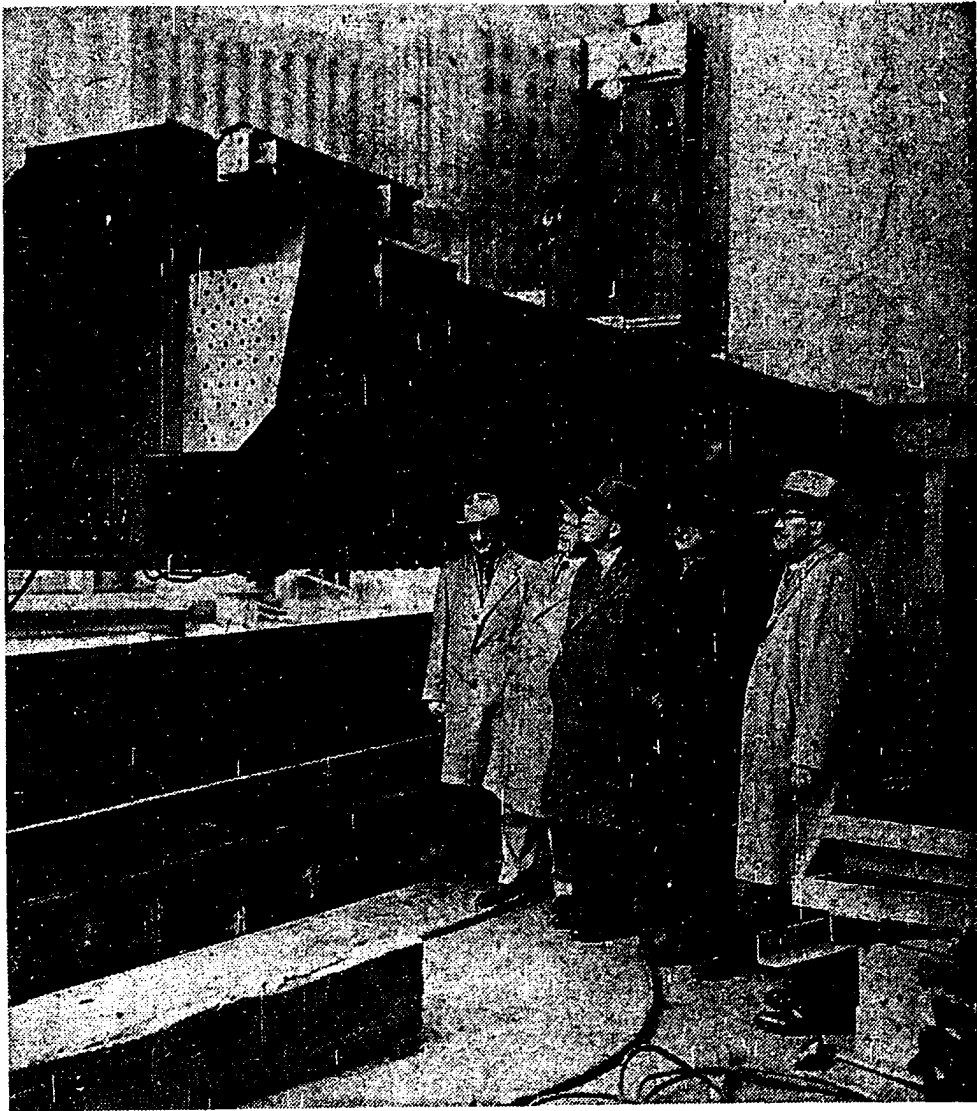
### Tour Continues

The party headed west, crossing the river on Harrison st., turning north in Canal st. to pass under an almost completed Congress elevated highway, a steel trestle in rust proof red paint still bearing the contractor's name. West in Van Buren, the inspection turned south under Congress again in Desplaines st. The broad trestle was decked to the east. To the west the steel trestle awaited paving of the concrete roadway.

"The winter isn't going to

shut down construction," Gunlock told the mayor. "There is so much work to do, the excavations and the caissons, for example, can't be stopped by cold weather."

# —Place First Girder for Congress Bridge



[TRIBUNE Photo]

**First girder of Congress expressway bridge going into position yesterday. Left to right: Engineers Stephen Michuda and Richard Van Gorp, Mayor Kennelly, P. H. Combs, and Commissioner V. E. Gunlock.**

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