

Proposed Switch in Medi-Cal Could Shake Up County Brass

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — An unexpected turn of events in proposed financing of the state's Medi-Cal program could shake up county governments and property taxpayers with all the impact they felt a couple of years ago when the notorious AB59 welfare bill went into effect.

There's a big difference this time, however. The counties were more or less "sucked into" AB59, which had been authored by Philip Burton, the liberal San Francisco Democrat who now is in congress.

But if the counties get stuck on a bigger share of the costs of Medi-Cal, it will be with their eyes wide open and with considerable kicking and screaming.

This situation is this. The Medi-Cal bill was approved in 1965 and included some

amendments by Assemblyman John G. Veneman, R-Modesto, which guaranteed the county governments that their share of costs would be based on the level of medical care costs in 1964-65.

AS EVERYONE knows, such costs have jumped sharply, much of it because of the federal Medicare program. For the current fiscal year, in fact, the costs under the state Medi-Cal program are \$34 million higher than the 1964-65 ceiling.

Veneman introduced a bill, AB583, to provide state funds to get the program through the balance of the present fiscal year. And it would have continued the policy of the state picking up the full "excess costs" — the costs above the 1964-65 level.

But the senate finance committee amended Veneman's bill in a late-night session last

week, providing that the state and counties would share these excess costs on a 50-50 basis. They are estimated to be \$44 million for the 1967-68 fiscal year, or \$22 million each for the counties and the state.

THE COUNTIES say this will be a direct burden on the property tax payers. It will could cut into whatever tax relief is provided in other legislation this year.

It could have been worse, of course. The senate finance committee first considered amendments which would have required the counties to pay all the excess costs.

The County Supervisors Association of California, understandably, is viewing with alarm. Its board of directors were in Sacramento Monday to take a policy action on this new development. That's the same day the bill was up for passage in the senate.

No one expects that the finance committee's amendments will be accepted verbatim by the assembly. It had passed Veneman's bill with the provisions for the state to continue paying the excess costs.

THUS WHEN the bill returns to the assembly for approval of senate amendments, the lower house probably will refuse to accept the changes. This would throw the measure into a free conference committee of the two houses.

The horse trading would begin then. At this point, the CSAC doesn't want to budge an inch from its position of having the state pay the entire excess costs. But there no doubt will be efforts to work out some form of compromise, with the counties required to pay some part of such costs.

ANN LANDERS



Mayor Has a Problem

Dear Ann Landers: I was elected mayor of this town of 1,700 people by a write-in vote in 1965. It is my first public office, and I am inexperienced in the ways of politicians.

Some Federal-State bureaus want to spend \$60,000 to restore an unneeded airport runway. I hold that since the other runways can handle the traffic easily this expenditure would be a waste of money. I want to turn the \$60,000 back to the public treasury.

I am told that this would be foolish. The word is, "If we don't take the \$60,000 some other town will." I feel this is the same as saying, "Let's rob the bank because it's going to be robbed anyway."

Please help me resolve this ethical problem, Ann Landers. Is it right for our town to accept Federal taxpayers' money, assuming the facts are precisely as I have stated them? I look to you for guidance. — Richard S. Morrison, Mayor of Delta, Utah.

Dear Mayor Morrison: If any of my readers run into Diogenes, I hope they'll send him to Delta, Utah. There he will find an honest man.

It is heartening to know, in this age, when larceny (both petty and grand) is defended as "a way of life" that some people are still concerned with ethics.

Unless a committee of five Delta businessmen can produce evidence that the runway is needed — or will be needed because of future growth — turn the money back to the government.

Dear Ann Landers: Ten years ago my husband and I had a terrible argument, and I locked him out of the house. He went to his mother's and she persuaded him to stay two weeks "to teach me a lesson."

I'm happy to say we worked out our difficulties, and our marriage is now a very good one. Recently my mother-in-law, in a joking manner, reminded us of the incident (in the presence of other members of the family) and said she would do it again because "it is a mother's duty to protect her children at all times."

Our son is being married in a few months, and I would like to know how to handle the situation if his wife locks him out of the house and he tries to come home to me. Should I let him in?—BLOOMFIELD HILLS

Dear Bloomfield: No. Tell him to go home and settle his domestic problems with his wife. The mother who tells her children (son or daughter), "If things don't go well, you can always come home," does them no favor. Countless separated and divorced couples would have pulled up their socks and learned to live together if they had no alternative.

Dear Ann Landers: I am enclosing an Associated Press item. Dateline: Corpus Christi: "A 19-year old Go-go dancer who does a topless act plans to marry between acts—still topless. Her maid of honor will also be topless."

"The justice of the peace who agreed to perform the ceremony said, 'I never question the dress of the people who ask to get married. My job is to get them married.'"

And people say you make up letters! Why would you have to when there are so many dingbats running around loose?—SHOCKED READER

Dear Reader: Why are you shocked? Somebody was bound to do it! Don't you know people will do anything? My mail proves it.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the Press-Herald, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Your Second Front Page Press-Herald

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BOUND FOR NEPAL . . . Four West High students check out a microscope which the West High Student Council has purchased for students in a high school in Nepal. The microscope will be sent to Ram B. K. Shrestha, headmaster at the Azad High School, who visited West High for several days last January. Checking out the microscope prior to wrapping it for shipment are (from left) John Black, secretary of athletics; Larry Waldruff, vice president of the student council during the fall semester; Dom Occhipinti, sophomore class president; and Jan Parks, secretary of correspondence. (Press-Herald Photo)

Tests for Deputies Scheduled

A special one-day testing program has been scheduled Saturday in an effort to recruit more than 200 new sheriff's deputies for Los Angeles County.

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess said the test would begin at 8:30 a.m. in Room 493, Hall of Administration, 222 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles.

Young men 21 to 35 years of age who meet the prescribed physical standards may take the civil service examination. Written tests will be scored immediately and the successful candidates will be given an oral interview on the same day.

Beginning salary for deputies is \$641 per month, with an increase to \$677 after six months.

Agent Promoted

Peter R. Sadlier has been promoted to assistant district manager of the Torrance office of American National Insurance Co.

COUNT MARCO

Rotten News for Lazy Wives

When American women say to me, "My husband lets me sleep late in the mornings," or "My husband always serves me breakfast in bed," I can't help being amazed that you can twist such a gesture into the fatuous assumption that he does it because you're something special.

To hear your husbands laugh about it, one would think their reasons are hardly motivated by generosity. As one explained, "I had to do it. My stomach just couldn't take it any longer, seeing her slop around the kitchen looking like some overloaded garbage scow."

"It's no effort, really, getting her breakfast and taking it to her. I just pretend I'm a farmer whose job in the morning is to slop the pigs;

then I can sit down by myself and actually enjoy my coffee and newspaper."

Bless their hearts, these American husbands of yours do have a delightful sense of humor.

To those of you who resent this picture of the average wife and would like to deny it, I'll reveal another source besides your beasts.

This woman, for example: "I'm a house-to-house saleswoman and I have never seen such unkempt women in all my life as those who answer their front door.

faults, their children, their state of health.

"I must say you have a good point that I didn't see till I started this job."

Perhaps you think I'm being crude or rude by reporting accurately how others see you, but believe me, I do so only because I have your interests at heart. Give yourself a break by giving your beast a break.

I defy any one of you to prove it takes longer to slip a neat cotton dress over your head than it does to slip into some sloppy, unappealing robe so old it wouldn't even make a good dust rag. The mornings are the worst time of day for most American husbands, because their minds are starting to work on the problems they know they will face on the job.

HE'LL KEEP TRYING

Sergeant Puzzled by An 85-Year-Old Gadget

What is it?

A Redondo Beach Air Force officer has been asking that question for the past seven years about a five-inch brass tube which he bought at an open-air British market.

S/Sgt. Peter A. Larsen, of 2510 W. 185th St., Redondo Beach, bought an antique in 1960. Sergeant Larsen, an administrative specialist on the management team at Air Force Space Systems Division in El Segundo, calls the antique "A curious object."

THE OBJECT is a five-inch brass tube filled with fluid. A tiny metal reel-like affair floats in the fluid. The reel descends in seven-and-a-half seconds past a 1-to-24 scale in Egyptian Arabic numerals. "I have asked everyone from the Smithsonian Institution to my neighbors, but no

one can tell me what it is," he said. "I bought a beautiful old jewel box in Cambridge when I was with the Air Force in England. Then I found it was stuffed with curious keepsakes."

"There are several intricately carved figurines, a hand-made necklace of curious stones, some seeds wrapped in faded blue paper, and this what-ever-it-is." The what-ever-it-is came in its own fitted case. A note pasted inside said, "Taken from Arabi Pasha's army after Tel El-Kebir."

THE SMITHSONIAN Institution informed Sergeant Larsen that Ahmed Arabi Pasha led a revolt that was crushed by the British Colonial Army in 1882. They could not identify the gadget. From this Sergeant Larsen assumes that it was the souvenir of a veter-

eran of the 85-year-old battle.

At first, he said, he was only mildly curious about it, being more interested in the seeds. Once he considered planting them. "But guess I was scared off by memory of Jack and the Beanstalk," he said. As the years passed, frustration in identifying the gadget increased his interest until it is now his chief hobby, the sergeant said.

AFTER ASSIGNMENT to Space Systems Division, he hoped the aerospace engineers might figure out its purpose. But they proved better at launching space boosters than identifying antiques.

"All I know for sure," he said, "is that it is at least 85 years old. I intend to keep searching for the answer for another 85 years if necessary."



WHAT IS IT? . . . Air Force S/Sgt. Peter A. Larsen, of 2510 W. 185th St., Redondo Beach, points to a case which contains a five-inch brass tube with a tiny metal reel-like float. A note on the case reads "Taken from Arabi Pasha's army after Tel El-Kebir." Sergeant Larsen purchased the item seven years ago in a British open-air market and has been trying since to determine just what he bought.

Musical To Open At North

"Where Is the Mayor," a musical play depicting the confusion which follows a student take-over of city hall, will be presented at North High School tomorrow through Saturday.

Performances are scheduled at 8 o'clock each evening in the school cafeteria. Tickets may be purchased at the school.

Members of the cast include Debbie Jonas, Christy Gilson, Judy Moore, Pam Baumgardner, Lina Tandy, Frank Damiano, Chic Daniels, Norm McCracken, Tim Gilliam, Linda Salisbury, Bill Hill, Kay Malini, Cathi Shimmmin, Kathy Caminiti, Sheri Martelaro, and Richard Young.

A 10-member chorus will provide the musical background.

Edward Nupall, drama teacher, is general director.