

Sacramento Report



By CHARLES CHAPEL

Assemblyman, 46th District

Anti-Narcotic Law

In a letter dated Dec. 1, 1953, Governor Goodwin J. Knight said to me:

"I have your letter requesting that I place the subject of penalties for sales of narcotics to minors on the agenda for a Special Session to run concurrently with the Budget Session, and I have received quite a number of requests, most of them in the same language. You are, of course, aware of the problems of the Governor calling a Special Session or placing items on such a call.

"I will be glad to give consideration to your request when the time comes to consider whether a session is to be called, and if so what items are to be placed upon it.

"I do agree with you that our narcotic traffic is one of our most serious problems and one which we should use every means of suppressing."

Many civic leaders with whom I have discussed this subject agree with me that if enough people write to Governor Knight, asking him to place my anti-narcotic bill on the agenda for March, 1954, he will do so. Petitions and formal resolutions are not necessary. A simple letter signed with your name and address is sufficient.

Rapid Transit

The Assembly Committee on Transportation and Commerce, and the Assembly Committee on Public Utilities are two of the standing committees of which I am a member. Both of these standing committees have subcommittees on rapid transit and I belong to both of those. Last week we met in two full-day sessions at the State Building in Los Angeles and listened to thousands of words of testimony regarding rapid transit problems in general, the monorail, the duo-rail, bus lines, freeways, etc.

Everyone present, including members of the Assembly and reporters from the five metropolitan Los Angeles newspapers agreed that the owners and managers of bus lines have succeeded in the past in checking off any legislation which would attempt to solve the problem of traffic in Los Angeles County. The officers of bus lines had the nerve to tell us that they should be exempt from state and local taxation, that existing stations should be built for them out of State funds, and they should be permitted to raise rates without giving notice in advance and without anything more than a very perfunctory hearing before the Public Utilities Commission.

It is perfectly apparent to anyone who has studied the subject that we do not have any workable plan for mass rapid transit in Los Angeles County. In all testimony, the bus men avoided the word "rapid" because they want buses and only buses to haul people. They realize that a demand for rapid transit means a limitation on their power to get rich at the expense of the bus riders.

Fare Increases
Stanley Lanham, vice-president, Los Angeles Transit Lines, admitted in his testimony that his bus line had received six fare increases in about six years, that the number of passengers hauled had decreased, and the dividends paid to stockholders had increased. In other words, the fare increases were used partly to increase dividends, but the service was worse. He also admitted that he and his associates had fought strenuously against any attempt to set up a master plan for mass rapid transit in Los Angeles County.

Jesse L. Haugh, president, Metropolitan Coach Lines, admitted that his company had acquired the Pacific Electric Company under peculiar financing conditions which reminded me of the old "Get Rich Quick Wallingford" stories in the Cosmopolitan Magazine. It is a long but interesting story that I shall relate in another issue.

Bible Clubs
Mr. Harold W. Kennedy, County Counsel of Los Angeles County, tells me that it is legally impossible for Bible classes, Bible clubs, or other organizations featuring religious teachings to be held on school property, either during or after school hours. This announcement is in response to many inquiries from readers.

Aluminum Utensils
Some door-to-door salesmen are telling housewives that aluminum cooking utensils are bad for health and should be discarded. This is an untruth. Send the names and addresses of salesmen spreading this false information to the Better Business Bureau, Forum Building, Los Angeles.

How to Write Me
Please send all mail to Post:

mailing address. The next regular session of the Legislature is in March, 1954. At that time my address will be Assembly Chambers, State Capitol, Sacramento 14, but meanwhile please use the Inglewood address. When I am out of town attending hearings, the mail is forwarded to me by the Inglewood Postmaster.



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