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Chapel Brands Efforts to Hike Pay for Judges as 'Salary Grab'

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL

Assemblyman, 46th District
All of the judges in California want us to raise their salaries during this session of the
Legislature. They have a lobbyist registered to represent them, and I am informed that he is especially busy working on Assemblymen and Senators who are lawyers for the very simple reason that no lawyer in the California State Legislature likes to vote against a salary grab for judges.

There is always in the mind of every lawyer-legislator the fear that if he does not vote for the salary boost, every judge will know about it and eventually some unprincipled judge will "get even" when the lawyer-legislator appears in court.

During the nine years that

I AM VERY willing to admit that years ago judges were not all paid well but today they receive handsome salaries and privileges. Giving them another pay boost this year is especially obnoxious because it is another excuse to raise taxes, all of which are aiready too high on the national, state, and county levels.

One argument proposed by the proponents of the salary boost for judges is that "a high paid judge is less inclined to become dishonest."

The fallacy in this argument is that honesty cannot be insured merely by paying high salaries. None of the judges are having any trouble getting enough to eat, hence there is no reasonable fear that they will steal loaves of bread to feed their starving grandchildren.

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ANOTHER ARGUMENT in favor of raising the pay for judges is that it will "attract to the bench a higher type of lawyer." This argument is a peculiar one because most people assume that most judges on the bench now are men of great legal and moral caliber. Perhaps those advancing this argument have in mind lawyers not already on the judicial bench. If this is the reasoning, it, too, falls flat because I personally know that there are in Los Angeles County alone at least 10 qualified lawyers waiting for each of the judges to die or retire so that they can have an opportunity to receive the prestige, glory, salary, and incidental benefits of a judge.

IF ANYONE who reads



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