YOUR LEGISLATOR AT WORK!



By VINCENT THOMAS 68th Assembly District

When your legislature is not n session in Sacramento, the several one-house and joint interim committees have been et up to carry on their work of investigating the many problems which may require legis-lative action. Despite the pressure put on most legislators by he forthcoming primary election on June 3, many of us will be devoting a good deal of our time during the next few weeks to the activities of these nterim groups.

During the month of May, at east 16 meetings of Senate, Assembly and joint committees will be held at various communities around the state. About half of the members of ach house are members of hese groups, and will partici-bate in the hearings.

The subjects to be investi-gated at these hearings range from inspection fees on agri-cultural minerals, through cost illocations and reimbursement on water projects, to an in-restigation of negotiations be-ween the Dodgers Baseball Liub and the City of Los Angeles. The places where meet-ings will be held include towns like Bishop and Buena Park, as well as larger cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles and

San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

These interim committees play a very important role in the efficient and equitable operation of your California legislature. They enable us to do something that it would be well-nigh impossible to chieve in any working session of our two houses. That is, to study the matters before us with great thoroughness and in small detail. They also permit as to hear all sides of a controversial issue, and give us a better opportunity to separate facts from arguments.

In a working session of the legislature, each of us is likely to be so intent on putting across the particular bills of importance to him and his disrict, that facts, and sides of sues, get assigned unusual alues. Their worth becomes hought of more in terms of he varied compromises needed o get desired legislation passed and approved by the Covernor. Sometimes, as the late unlamented water battle wed, compromises are not easily reached

To put it still another way, the interim committee is one way of putting the perform-ance on the road, and bringing the legislature to people all over the state. Not all our citiens have the time, nor can afford to travel to Sacramento o inform us of their views on legislative proposals of importance to their lives, businesses, standards of living.

The interim committee is the method by which we bring the legislature in action to the people, giving everyone who takes advantage of it a full opportunity to state his case and get it in the written record. In this way, the interim committee saves both money and time for the citizen tax. committee saves both money and time for the citizen tax-payer. It also protects him from having enacted laws which have not been completely thought out in their drafting, laws which might not be for the general good of all California.

So the next time you see

So, the next time you see in the newspapers an an-nouncement that a particular interim committee is to meet near your home, remember that it is doing so at least partly as a convenience to you as an important factor in the whole legislative process. Its members, of course, are also interested in passing the best, most forward looking laws for our great state.

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