

Need for County Lobbyist Questioned by Legislator

A lobbyist is one hired to influence legislation on the city, county, state or federal level. The name is derived from the word "lobby," meaning a hall or entrance way and based on the fact that lobbyists, who are more elegantly called "legislature representatives," have no place to stand and wait except the halls, lobbies and outcroppings of public buildings. Most of them are paid salaries several times as much as the wages paid the people they are hired to influence.

For example, in Sacramento, lobbyists hired to attempt to influence the Legislature are paid a minimum of \$12,000 per year if they are lobbyists of the third grade; \$16,000 per year if they are lobbyists of the second grade; and from \$25,000 per year up if they are lobbyists of the first grade. Such of these represents only one client or organization and it should be noted that in many instances, they are paid on a retainer basis.

A SPECIAL GRADE of lobbyists are the "job lot" or "ambidextrous" lobbyists. Each of these men represents from two to thirty organizations and normally receives at least \$800 per month, year in and year out, plus expenses, from each of the clients. Some of these men are very greedy and take jobs from clients with conflicting interests. In general, they should be regarded with caution.

Some, but not all, lobbyists are lawyers. There is no reason why a lobbyist has to be a lawyer except that his clients are more impressed. When it comes to writing bills (prospective laws), the lobbyist gives the rough draft to some legislator, who gives it to the legislative counsel for preparation and submission to the Legislature.

Most lobbyists are honest. Some are extremely dishonest. A few represent churches. At one time the Christian Science Church had two lobbyists, one representing the northern half of California and the other

representing Southern California. The Seventh Day Adventists themselves have three lobbyists although they are not in Sacramento most of the time. The Roman Catholic Church has one man who is in Sacramento during the entire session. He is a very intelligent man who in his own quiet manner reflects credit on his church.

The City and County of San Francisco has one lobbyist. He is affable, industrious and always on the job to get every thing he can for San Francisco. In addition, he is frank and honest. For example, he will tell me without hesitation when the interests of San Francisco conflict with those of Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County has no lobbyist in the strict sense of the word. It has two or more practitioners who are Deputy Clerks of Los Angeles County but they are not given the authority of a lobbyist for San Francisco. When I want to know what Los Angeles County thinks about a bill, I must chase down these men and ask them. They are not authorized to seek out the legislators and tell us their position. We must go to them.

This creates a demand from some quarters for a lobbyist for Los Angeles County. The idea is sound but no legislative advocate for Los Angeles County can adequately represent us unless he represents with authority the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors plus all the cities in Los Angeles County. If he represents only the Supervisors, he will not be able to do his full duty because we have many cities, each with its own problems.

It is better to have no legislative advocate for Los Angeles County than to have one who does not represent both the cities and the county. I am especially aware of this because I represent the incorporated cities of Inglewood, Los Angeles 45 (the portion known as

Westchester, Playa del Rey (part of the City of Los Angeles), El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, the Hollywood Riviera (coastal section of the City of Torrance), Palos Verdes Estates, Portonese Bend (county territory), Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Avalon and the whole beautiful Santa Catalina Island, and many parcels of County territory, such as Lennox.

Your ideas on this subject are invited. Write to me at Post Office Box 777, Inglewood 45, California, until January 1, 1955. Thereafter, write to me at Assembly Chambers, State Capitol, Sacramento 14, California.

Three Local Men Pass Bar Examination

Three Torrance-Los Angeles residents have passed the bar, the State Committee of Bar Examiners announced this week.

Among the newly sworn 600 new California lawyers are Bruce Alan Berkman, 26801 Lenola Drive, Lenita.

Robert H. Short, 5108 Paseo Pablo, Torrance, and Bernard E. Smith, 204 Hickory Ave., Torrance.

Tartar Teen Talk

Carol Johnson—FA #5302

Much planning is going on for the annual Student Council sponsored Christmas Formal. The theme this year will be "Winter Nocturne." The Hollywood Stardusters will supply the music from 8:42 until 11:45 on Dec. 12 in the Civic Auditorium.

DOES ANYBODY have an extra can of food? This is the question that is being put this week. Everyone in the Student Body is to bring a can of food to school. This food will

be given to YMCA project of the Navajo Indians of Arizona.

THE BOYS and Girl's Leagues are sponsoring a joint and call on Friday. It promises to be a fine Christmas and call by the looks of the assortment of talent that has signed up. Anybody that felt they would like to perform in front of the Student Body could sign up.

EVERYONE in our school is extremely proud of our cross country team that took first

R. G. Leech Gets Bank Promotion

R. G. Leech of 803 Teri Avenue has been appointed assistant cashier of California Bank, it was announced today by Frank L. King, president.

Leech is assigned to the city place in the Bay League. We also are looking forward to the standing they take in the California Intercollegiate conference.

division at the Head Office in Los Angeles. He entered banking as an employee of the Torrance National Bank in 1939 and was named assistant manager when that bank was merged with California Bank and became the Torrance Office in 1954. His assignment to the city division came in 1957. A native of Torrance, Leech attended Loyola University. From 1947 to 1953 he was manager of the Torrance Lumber Company. During World War II he served with the U.S. Navy.

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