

# Chapel Still Opposed to State's 'Tax and Spend' Finance Program

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL  
46th Assembly District

Early in the 1959 regular session of the State Legislature, economy-minded Democrats and practically all Republicans fought Governor Brown's big tax increase program because we said that the higher tax rates and new taxes proposed by Governor Brown would create a needless surplus.

Time has shown that we were right. Recent estimates from Brown's own administration shows that there will be a surplus of more than \$70 million by June, 1960, and by 1961, the surplus will reach at least \$134,000,000.

newspapers.

The beaches and parks program is far behind where it would have been if Governor Brown and his henchmen had not shifted money from the tideland oil revenue fund to a fund set aside to promote the California Water Plan even before the people had a chance to vote on this gigantic spending program which so far does not guarantee the people of Southern California one drop of water but promises us only the privilege of paying taxes and passing on to our children and grandchildren a heavy bond burden which will be lifted only after everyone in California is dead and buried.

health program.

Incidentally, the State's own reports on the mental health program show that its bene-

fits are "inconclusive," which means that even its strongest supporters can not swear that it is doing the job it is supposed to do.

Since the Governor argued early in 1959 that the new taxes, all of which I voted against, were necessary to avoid a deficit, it logically follows that with a surplus, we should do either one of two things:

1. Reduce taxes;
2. Find places to spend the surplus.

Your opinion on this subject affects your own pocketbook. Write to me at P. O. Box 77, Inglewood 5, Calif., and tell me how you think I should vote on this important issue during the March, 1960, budget session.

Also, please write a firm but polite letter to Governor Edmund G. Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento 14, and tell him Assemblyman Chapel suggested the letter. I am sure that he is glad to have pen pals because he ran on a platform of doing what the majority of the people want and here is a golden opportunity for you to raise your voice.

During the 1959 regular session of the California Legislature, the Brown tax program increased State revenue as follows:

1. \$73 million increases in individual income taxes;
2. \$8 million increases in inheritance taxes;
3. \$76 million in taxes on beer, cigarettes and horse racing;
4. \$74 million in unemployment insurance taxes; and
5. \$25 million in workmen's compensation taxes.

As a result the people of California now pay an average State-and-Local tax per person of \$238.50, which is the highest in the United States.

Do you like this tax program of Governor Brown and his followers in the Legislature or are you sufficiently annoyed to write to the Governor? While you are about it, also write to State Senator Richard Richards, State Building, Los Angeles, because he voted for the Brown program. I voted against all tax increases and new taxes.

Instead of offering to repeal some of the new taxes and lower the rate on the old taxes, Governor Brown has suggested several ways to spend the huge new surplus. His argument is that the surplus is not really a surplus but merely a bookkeeping entry which can be taken care of by a big new spending program, something like the WPA that Franklin D. Roosevelt had under his slogan of "tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect."

Personally, I have never been able to understand how a man gets elected on a record of constantly raising taxes and finding ways to spend the people's money, unless the public enjoys punishment or does not read the

Governor Brown has hinted that perhaps the surplus money could be used for a mental health program. He forgets to tell the people of California that during the 1959 general session he vetoed a bill which would have permitted the State to increase its aid to those counties which had boosted their own local mental health programs.

Whether you like mental health programs or not, the point is that it is inconsistent for the Governor of California to veto a mental health appropriation bill in 1959 and then turn around in 1960 and say that he does not want to repeal or reduce taxes, but use the surplus for the mental

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