FEBRUARY 16, 1961 THE TORRANCE HERALD **Legislators Try** To Halt State's **Obscenity Mills**

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL Assemblyman, 46th District

Republican Louis Francis member of the Assembly from San Mateo, has introduced five bills designed to curb and control the dangerous and immoral pornographic publishing business that corrupts the minds of immature young-sters, many of whom do not know the difference between normal and abnormal conduct. The bills by Assemblyman Francis are aimed at the pub-lishers, distributors, trans-porters, and salesmen of in-decent literature.

. . . NO ONE know the exact extent of this filthy business but it has been estimated by experts that it amounts to sev-eral million dollars annually in California, especially in Los Angeles County.

Angeles County. Assemblyman Francis esti-mates that more than 75 per cent of the dirty literature fails into the hands of those under 18 years of age, and that most of the stories and pictures are selected to ap-peal to minors because they are naturally curious about sex and are more susceptible than adults.

. . . ONE BILL prohibits the knowing exhibition, sale, and other transactions involving obscene books, magazines, pho-tographs, motion pictures, other enumerated types of mater-ials, and any other article which is obscene. It defines "obscene" as follows:

Swiss Steak

Pork Roast

Pork Steak

Ground Chuck

Short Ribs of Beef

ulder . . . Tasty Eastern Pork

Loan tender pork that melts in your mouth.

Boneless Stewing Beef

"Whether to the average person applying community standards, the dominant theme standards, the dominant theme of the material, taken as a whole, is to prurient interests, that is, a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex or ex-cretion, and the material goes beyond customary limits of candor in description or repre-gentation of such matters."

. . . ANOTHER bill by Francis provides special penalties ap-plicable to furnishing obscene material to a minor with in-creased penalties for second or subsequent offenses. It fur-ther neurise that a condition or subsequent offenses is full ther requires that a condition of probation for a second or subsequent offense be the serving of a minimum fail sentence or the payment of a prescribed minimum fine. Still another bill by America

prescribed minimum fine. Still another bill by Assem-blyman Francis makes it a criminal offense to use a mi-nor to do or assist in doing an act prohibited by laws re-lating to obscene matters. This prescribes penalties, with in-creased penalties, with in-creased penalties for second and subsequent offenses. It requires that the convicted person be fined or imprison-ed, or both, as prescribed as a condition for probation granted for second or subse-quent offenses.

A FOURTH bill by Francis makes it a criminal offense to require a person as a con-dition for receiving any other publications for resale, to re-ceive for resale any obscene matter, and prescribes stiff penalties for violations. In plain English, this is aimed at distributors of books and maga-zines who force the retailer to the an entire group of publi-. . . zines who force the retailer to take an entire group of publi-cations when he only wants decent literature.

The fifth bill in the series by Francis provides a proced-ure for an injunction to be secured against the prepara-tion or distribution of obscene matter. Similar legislation is already effective in New York



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and other states.

THE BILLS against pornog THE BILLS against pornog-raphy are strongly supported by many women's clubs, church groups, professional as-sociations, and civic clubs. The hidden opposition comes from those who stand to lose tremendous amounts of mon-ey they are now making from the publication, distribution and sale of dirty literature. The open opposition comes

The open opposition comes rom people "fronting" for The open opposition comes from people "fronting" for those making money from fil-thy material, and some ideal-ists who sincerely believe that the proposed legislation might lend to infringe on the free-form of the press. Obviously, the answer is that the ideal-bet cometings conficus percent ists sometimes confuse person-al liberty with personal li-



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