State Education Problems Given Serious Thought

By VINCENT THOMAS Assemblyman, 68th District Giving our California youth the full education advantages needed to enable them to cope with the complexities of the space age is no simple task. Ten years ago the crux of our problem in this field lay in the elementary schools. Today it lies in the high schools. Tomorrow it will be in our colleges and universities, but tomorrow is with us now, as we Legislators know only to well.

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In the 1959 session we carefully hammered out the legislature framework of a master plan for higher education, so that over the next generation we can supply the necessary classrooms, equipment, and instructors within the limits of our resources. In this legislature, and in the contract of the services of the necessary classrooms, equipment, and instructors within the limits of the necessary that the services of the necessary contracts of the necess our resources. In this legisla-tion we provided boundaries to separate the functions of the junior colleges, the state col-leges, and the University so as to minimize duplication and competition between institu-tions.

WE ALSO separated administration of the state college system from the department of education, and put it in the hands of a newly created board of trustees, effective this coming July 1. This was designed to give these schools the same forward looking, broad guidance and academic freedom now given the University. now given the University.

Some idea as to the size and some idea as to the size and growth of our state college system can be obtained from the proposed budget for next year. A total of slightly more than \$77 million is requested for the 14 operating state colleges and the three new ones authorized in 1960. Enrollment is estimated at the equivalent. is estimated at the equivalent of 77,000 full-time students.

A SUBGROUP of the Assembly ways and means committee, in a recent hearing on proposed appropriations for the board of state college trustees, was told that by 1975, enrollment in these colleges is expected to hit 200,000, or almost a three-fold growth in 15 years. Expenditures for current oper-Expenditures for current oper-ations are expected to grow almost as fast, to some \$227 million, according to available estimates.

If our state college system is to be expanded with maxi-mum economy and efficiency it is our responsibility to make sure that adequate preparation is made now to carry on the work. That is the reason much of our interest is concentrated on the budget for the trustees. The pattern set in the first year of full operation will be followed in years to come.

THE AMOUNT requested is slightly more than \$1 million. In his report, our legislative analyst directs attention to the fact that the total asked for salaries, operating expenses and equipment is more than twice that for this year's similar costs in the existing divi-sion of state colleges. But there is no doubt the board of frus-tees has given much broader responsibilities than those dele-gated to the division.

In connection with financing

In connection with financing the state colleges, the analyst makes a recommendation of considerable importance which is slated for further intensive study. That is, that student fees for attendance be increased again. Pointing out that the percentage of regular session percentage of regular session costs paid by student fees fell from 28 in 1949-50 to an estimated 8½ per cent in 1960-61, he recommends another increase of \$4 per student year,

HE CITES statistics which show that at this higher figure, the fees are far lower than the average for 64 state colleges and universities, \$217. Such a raise, he estimates would enable a reduction of \$357,000 in the amount of state tax money. the amount of state tax money needed from the general fund for the state colleges.

College trained people are a resource vital to the continued health and expansion of our California economy. Our state college system must be improv-ed and enlarged to do their part in meeting our needs.

Money is what you'd get on beautifully without if only other people weren't so crazy about it. — Margaret Case Harriman.



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