

Even Election Activities Fail To Slow Interim Committee Work

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 68th District
 Not even the fact that 1960 is Election Year, so that those of us seeking re-election must, understandably, devote some effort to the June Primary, slows down the tempo of our interim committee activity. The echoes of the final gavels on our 1960 sessions scarcely died away in the legislative halls before new schedules of meetings were set up. It looks as though May will be a busy, as well as merry month for many of us.

In addition to the multitude of topics assigned to interim groups of both houses in 1959, they will have to study and report on a number of new and complicated matters referred to them by the 1960 special session.

SOME OF these new items were the subjects of bills which did not emerge successfully from committee hearings during the session. Some were subjects of resolutions adopted on various matters which do not have the force of law, but which do state our legislative consensus of such matters.

Though there was considerable agitation for its inclusion, the touchy subject of water development was not put on the agenda for the special session, so statutory measures relating to it could not be introduced and acted upon. However, a number of resolutions on water were introduced in both the Senate and Assembly, and many of them were referred to interim group for study.

THEIR COMBINED scope is broad enough to open the whole statewide water problem to re-investigation. The Assembly interim water commit-

tee is proposing a series of meetings throughout the state during the remainder of the year, and has set up the first in San Francisco early in May.

Higher education will probably keep the education and fiscal committees of both houses quite occupied for some time to come. An entire series of measures are up for review, including several recommendations of the liaison committee on the master plan for higher education. The matter of additional state support for local district junior colleges is one topic. State paid scholarships for students at public junior colleges is another. Provision for subsistence grants on top of basic scholarship amounts is a third subject in this category. Special scholarships for graduate students is still another. Attention will also be paid to the performing of extension and field services by state colleges.

THE GOVERNOR himself has given an important assignment to a couple of our interim committees. In the closing hours of the special session he transmitted to us reports by two different study groups on streamlining our state government, with the request that they be studied by our membership with an eye to action in the 1961 session.

He made no recommendations at the time, but pointed out that in the 30 years since the last reorganization the state budget has increased 20-fold to \$2.5 billion, the number of state employees 6-fold to 115,000, and the total population 3-fold to 15 million. The Assembly committee on government organization has scheduled a first hearing on these reports for the latter part of May.

THE SENATE interim committee on judiciary is planning an extensive series of hearings, starting in May, on a number of important matters which have been referred to it for investigation. Narcotics, juvenile delinquency, handling of auto damage suits by the courts, and proposals to further restrict use of "loss leaders" by retail merchants make up a pretty impressive list of matters to be studied.

Individual California citizens, as well as the organizations with which they are affiliated,

will have ample opportunity to voice their opinions on these and other topics during the months to come.

Cause of Mass Fish Die-Off at Salton Sea Unknown

Cause of the recent die-off of several thousand small gulf croaker and lesser numbers of young sargo and corvina in the State Park area along the north shore of Salton Sea is not known, reports the Department of Fish and Game.

Garden Checklist

By California Association of Nurserymen

1. When first buds start forming, feedings in the rose garden bring bigger and better blooms in May. Ample water is just as important.
2. Plant dahlias and gladiolus. Begonia seedlings will show up in nurseries this month.
3. Check irrigation basins around citrus. Soil should be mounded to keep water from direct contact with the tree.
4. The list of annuals for planting this month is long as your arm. Check nurseries for ideas.
5. Bait for snails and slugs. Spray for aphids, thrips and leaf hoppers on roses. Insect control is easy when you start before they do.

Coaches Needed at McMaster Park

Fathers interested in coaching teams in a boys' softball league being organized at McMaster Park are asked to attend a meeting at

the park at 8 p.m. Wednesday. Play in the league for boys from 7 through 11 years of age is slated to begin May 14.

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New Smog-Control Laws Become Effective in Mid-July in State

By RICHARD RICHARDS
 State Senator

The new state smog-control program, as finally enacted by the Legislature, will become effective in mid-July, 90 days after receiving the Governor's signature of approval.

At that time machinery will be set in motion for the testing of motor vehicle contaminant control devices which, upon being certified, will ultimately be required on all new cars sold in California.

AS I HAVE previously noted, in my opinion this is one of the two major achievements of the 1960 session. The second is the master plan for higher education which creates a new state college board, a coordinating council on higher education, and spells out the respective functions of the state university, the regional state colleges, and the junior colleges.

A school scholarship program was broadened to provide, over a period of years, for double the present number of scholarships to state and private colleges awarded to outstanding high school students.

Three new state colleges were approved, including my own bill to create a South Bay State College in the southwest area of Los Angeles County.

A proposed boost of \$2,550,000 for textbooks issued by eastern publishers who refuse to lease their plates to the state printer, was rejected, although a compromise was reached whereby some of these texts may be made available.

Outside the field of public education, another significant piece of legislation was the bill to curb questionable practices, misrepresentations and so-called "ten-percent" deals in connection with second-trust deeds in the home building industry.

ADDITIONAL funds were voted for narcotics law enforcement. Other legislation creates a narcotics law study commission.

At the request of a number of incorporated cities, especially in Los Angeles County, permissive legislation was enacted authorizing cities to establish pedestrian malls in downtown shopping districts.

MOST OF THESE measures were enacted in the special session that ran concurrently with, and a few days beyond the Regular 1960 Budget Session.

All in all, it was a busy session and, in my opinion, a highly productive one considering the brief time allowed by the state constitution for sessions in even-numbered years.



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