

Regulation Needed to Assure All That a Pound is Really a Pound

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

When you stop to think about it, it's wonderfully amazing how well our world gets along on the basis of trust in the honesty of our fellow mortals. Even that device called "money," which is the medium of exchange in practically every commercial transaction, is based upon trust in the government which issues it. Without this confidence, modern business and our stan-

dard of living could not continue for more than a brief period.

Experience over the centuries of history has indicated, however, that it is necessary to erect legal bulwarks to support and protect this confidence, and to provide penalties for those who might seek to profit illegally. Unless laws for these purposes are properly enforced, trouble between buyers and sellers can grow out of hand.

ONE IMPORTANT area in which the earliest governments were called upon to establish standards trusted by both buyer and seller is weights and measures. Laws to make sure that a pound is a pound to both parties in a sale, a yard is a yard, a quart a quart, go back far in history. Precise fixing of the measurements involved has become an exact and complicated science.

Under our California law, these and other weights and

measures are spelled out with reference to official federal standards. Enforcement of compliance is by cooperative state-county action, in which county "sealers" of weights and measures periodically test all measuring devices used in merchandising goods.

IN THIS DAY of "pre-packaged" goods, in which practically everything sold to the housewife or other ultimate consumer is packed in containers by the manufacturer or

processor, an important duty of the sealers is to verify that such containers actually do enclose the weight or measure of goods which is declared on the packages. The law authorizes a sealer to order off sale any package containing a lesser amount than stated, until it is re-marked with the correct figure. This enforcement procedure has been a great protection for consumers.

Present state law on this subject authorizes the director of the department of agriculture to adopt necessary regulations governing the procedures to be followed by sealers in determining whether

packages offered for sale do contain the stated amount of contents. He is specifically authorized to establish by regulation necessary tolerances for packaged commodities to allow for "normal deviations" in weights arising from commercial packaging operations.

ABOUT A YEAR ago, regulations were proposed which included certain provisions for such tolerances in packing some commodities. These proposed regulations were opposed for this reason by the state consumer counsel and spokesmen for union labor. A bill was also amended so as to eliminate only the establish-

ment of tolerances. It was referred to interim committee for further study.

The amended measure was brought up for rehearing at a recent meeting of the Assembly interim committee on agriculture. The committee was informed the testing and control procedures in the proposed bill are practical and will enable the sealers to do a better job of protecting consumers against misleading statements of weight or measure on packaged commodities they buy. Other hearings on the bill are planned, at which the consumer viewpoint will be more fully explored.

CHP Chief Issues Tip On Driving

If you're an average driver you don't like:

- Accidents
- Tickets

"When you violate a traffic law, you become susceptible to both," pointed out Highway Patrol Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden.

"On the other hand, drivers can effectively 'kill two birds with one stone' when they comply with law. They not only reduce the chances of having an accident, but they eliminate the possibility of receiving a citation.

"The wisdom of this course is borne out by statistics. Last year, more than four-fifths of the 103,239 fatal and injury accidents in California involved a traffic violation.

"In 1960, nearly one million motorists received citations from the Highway Patrol."

"A decrease in both can be accomplished by the single act of driving within the law," he said.

Church Men Slate Dinner Meeting Talk

Dr. Fred M. Judson, minister, humorist, and inspirational lecturer, will speak to the Calvary Baptist Men's Fellowship Monday evening at a dinner meeting at the Fellowship Hall of the church, 2818 Manhattan Beach Blvd.

A one-time Santa Monica councilman and former trustee for the University of Redlands, Dr. Judson is currently pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church, Santa Monica. He will speak Monday on the topic, "Let the Fire Fall." The event is scheduled to open at 6:30.

The Rev. H. Earl Kuester, pastor of Calvary Church, will speak at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services Sunday on the topic, "Family at Church Sunday." The sermon will be keyed to the October attendance advance underway at the church.

Ruth Meinen, missionary from Assam, will speak at the 7 p.m. service Sunday, relating the challenge of service for Christ on the foreign mission fields.

FUNDS FOR BUDLONG WORK SET

A \$6,000 allocation for a roadway improvement project on Budlong Avenue from 204th to 208th Streets in the Torrance-Carson area was approved by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace said work will be scheduled by the Los Angeles County Road Department pending the completion of previously scheduled projects. The improvement will consist of constructing pavement in the center portion of the roadway to complete the pavement improvements.

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