

# Fact-Finding Committee Hears Pleas for Stiffer Fire Laws

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District  
California's city-dwellers react with amazement and horror when forest fires strike hard at areas close to their homes, such as the recent holocaust in the Bel Air and Tujunga regions in the southern part of the state.

But, say fire prevention experts, urbanites take much

more calmly those fires which devastate rural areas. They tend to forget, it was said, that the natural resources of such areas are vital to their standard of living—the water, the timber, the wildlife, the soil, the flood protection assured by healthy vegetation.

**TOUGHER FIRE prevention**

laws and more stringent enforcement were recommended to the Senate fact-finding committee on natural resources at its recent meeting. A series of witnesses, prominent either in fire protection work or in conservation, were in close agreement that there is still much room for improvement in saving these valuable resources by preventing man-caused fires, rather than fighting them.

Figures reported to the committee indicated that the

principal types of man-caused forest fires include those resulting from careless smoking or use of combustibles, the arson cases, and those originating from illegal brush-burning without permit. Dried brushland, which runs into thousands of acres in all parts of the state, is commonly involved in the most damaging blazes. Five per cent of the forest fires create eighty per cent of the damage, according to the records. To illustrate how fast a fire disaster can

spread, one fire this year was cited which engulfed 19,000 acres in two hours.

ONE FAR-reaching suggestion advanced by a member of the group called for a flat prohibition of smoking, or even of lighting matches, in hazardous areas during critically dry periods. It was even proposed that the mere carrying of smoking materials or matches in such areas be made a misdemeanor. One witness reported that some coun-

ties, including Los Angeles, now have ordinances just as tough as these suggestions. It was declared that state laws for the purpose could be easily drafted for legislative consideration.

The fire chief of a large city told the committee that California now has some good fire prevention laws on the statute books. He maintained, however, that there is need for developing more cooperation with judges in putting real teeth into them. "All too often

a fellow who breaks a fire law gets only a \$5 fine which is then suspended," he said.

ATTRACTIVE but dangerous homes being built in the state's hilly and canyon areas also come under attack. The desire for "pretty" homes leads to fire hazards such as combustible roofs, leaving brush which runs right up to the walls, and inaccessibility to motorized fire apparatus. These factors produce really ugly situations when fire starts, it was pointed out. Home builders were urged to

give more consideration to access and water problems. Arson also came in for its share of serious attention. One committee member urged a stiffer search for, and crack-down on persons who start fires, especially in uninhabited areas. More publicity for such criminals was urged so the urban public can be better educated as to the dangerous and often fatal results of fires deliberately set. This problem is just as important as narcotics peddling, it was declared, and arsonists should be severely dealt with.



**HOSPITAL PATIENT**... Entertainer Mrs. Dixie Edwards cheers up hemophiliac victim Joseph Craft, 22027 Bolsa Ave., a patient in California Hospital at Los Angeles. The hospital will mark its diamond jubilee next year. It is the county's oldest private medical institution.

## Ex-Counterspy to Speak At El Camino Tomorrow

Herbert Philbrick will speak at El Camino College Friday evening at 8:15.

The ex-FBI counterspy, whose testimony in 1940 helped to convict 11 U.S. Reds, says, "I speak now as an ordinary citizen and businessman who has had an opportunity to gather some additional experience and insight into the forces at work around and beneath us."

"Each of us has his own life to live; but we should also give some of our time and attention to the most important single question and problem facing the world today—the menace of the Communist criminal conspiracy and how to defeat it," Philbrick continues.

Philbrick's intentions are to continue to battle the Communist threat to the United States, and his speeches are aimed at alerting citizens to the threat of Communist infiltration.

"I know what the Communists are out to do in the United States," Philbrick points out.

**HIS SPEECH**, one of the series which he is presenting throughout the United States, is "Cybernetic Warfare" and is intended to inform Americans "what the Communists are out to do."

Philbrick, author of the best-selling book, "I Led Three Lives," now owns and operates a country store in New Hampshire, where he lives with his wife, five daughters, and son.

Philbrick states that he is relieved to be free from the tension of living a triple life as businessman and father, secret "number" of the Communist party, and volunteer counterspy for the FBI.

Physically, the burden of his role was heavy. After a day at work he had to spend hours at Communist cell meetings, planning, writing pamphlets, and listening to endless indoctrination lectures.

WHEN HE finally was able to go home, he spent hours

hidden in an attic room, writing detailed reports to the FBI. Philbrick now has time and the peace of mind to indulge in his hobby, photography, and to play his Hammond organ, an enthusiasm shared by his wife and daughters.

In his lectures Philbrick continues to fight the Communist elements in the United States. Tickets for Philbrick's appearance at ECC are \$1 for the general public and 50 cents for students and employees of the college who present coupons from their activity books.

## Junior Acting Group in Debut This Weekend

The first appearance of a junior acting group, which had its beginnings in neighborhood garages under the direction of Terry O'Halloran, 5009 Via El Sereno, will be Saturday and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. in Chapel Theatre.

Their production will be Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and will be presented for three weekends. The cast includes Nancy Vogle, Morley's ghost; Doug Vogle, Scrooge; Terry O'Halloran, the three ghosts; Jim Michel, Tiny Tim; Dave Michel, Bob Cratchett; Emily Karr, Martha; Becky Palmquist, Mother; Sue Levannas, narrator; plus Linda, Jeri, and Mike Levannas, and Lee Nusbaum. Reservations for any of the three weekend performances may be made by calling FR 2-9636, or FR 8-9017 evenings.

Due to previous holiday commitments, the Allan Bratton Marionettes show will not be seen during the month of December, but will return to Chapel Theatre Saturday and Sunday afternoons, Jan. 6 and 7, at 2 p.m. when the fairy tale, "A Wish for the Moon," will be presented.

## Indian Forensic Teams Win Half of Contests

El Camino College's forensic team carried off a five win-five loss score after three days of debate at the recent Western States Tournament held at Fresno State College.

The team of Mason Wolpert-Pat Wiggins received a 3-2 score while the Dave Welch-Bill Buchanan combination had a 2-3 total.

Wolpert also received an "excellent" rating in his extemporaneous speech in individual competition.

At the tournament, which is the largest on the West Coast and represents some 70 colleges, universities, and junior colleges from 12 states, the forensic group met only one other junior college in its competition.

ITS OTHER eight opponents

were four-year schools. Five junior colleges were at the meet, which was sponsored by the Western States Speech Assn.

This score brings the college's total for this season to 40 wins with only 19 losses.

"The major profits that we derived from the tourney, besides the experience, was the chance to meet colleges outside the Southern California area and see how they are attacking and supporting this year's debate topic," Jerry Borden, forensic advisor at the college said.

The topic which college teams across the nation are debating this year is, "Resolved: That labor organizations should be under the jurisdiction of anti-trust legislation."

# the akron

### Men's Wool Sweaters from Italy

- no idle boast: you've seldom met their equal!
- thank the Italians... we discovered them in Italy... they're yours in a bulky breeze!
- rugged cable stitches and conventional stitches too... and we offer cardigans, zipper-fronts, shawl-collars, high V-necked pullovers, others!
- Italian flair in every precise line... full-fashioned in marvelous autumn colors... wheat, rye, white, fire, blues, olives, charcoal, ivy and on and on
- you'd expect to pay double this:

**8.99**  
sorry, no mail orders

### Coloured Burlap from India

- endless rolls... here from India... woven of tough, durable jute... in superb colors for you!
- a proud sew-it-yourself fabric... for draperies, skirts, upholstery, wall coverings, place mats, etc.
- a thundering herd of colors... tangerine, wheat, turquoise, antique gold, yellow gold, rust, autumn green, powder blue, chinese red, chartreuse!
- each roll is approximately 38 inches wide... and we'll snip all you need for

**39c yd.**  
sorry, no mail orders

### English-Tab Dress Shirts

- crisp cotton oxford cloth... and the clever collar which closes in a snap!
- the well-dressed classic... wash-and-wear... neatly detailed... sanforized... half-sleeved
- year-long favorites in sizes 14 1/2 thru 17
- colors? white, suntan or ice blue
- \$5 elsewhere

**2.59**  
2 for \$5  
sorry, no mail orders

### Decorator Hurricane Lamp

- a new concept in an old light... 16 stately inches tall!
- a glass sleeve on a colored stand... in mustard, ivy, orange, blue, powder blue, purple, white, black, lavender
- candlelight with a flair (flame?)... center one, match a pair, scatter several!

**1.89**  
sorry, no mail orders

### Typewriter from Holland

- now is the time for all good typewriters!
- standard keyboard (plus extra characters)...
- complete automatic tab system... margin sets
- 3-color ribbon control... spring steel keys... paper guide... paper holder... cleaning tools
- handsome tan or ivory
- in matching portable case

**49.99**  
plus f.a.t.  
sorry, no mail orders

### Buccaneer Mugs

- drink hearty, mates! fill the brimming cup with suds, ale, milk, malt, pirate's brew!
- big, hand-painted mugs... the fierce faces of famed freebooters!
- Jean Lafitte... captain flood... blackbeard... captain Kidd!
- ceramic cups for your liquor larder... gifts for your marauding friends!
- original price tag: \$2.95

**39c**  
3 for 99c  
sorry, no mail orders

### Christmas Poinsettia

- the color of the season... in vivid decorator poinsettias!
- bright red flowers and deep green leaves... sprigs 16 inches long
- emblazon your holiday table... add tropical complexion to your decor... weave several into an unusual wreath
- its beauty never fades... bright for yuletides to come!

**19c**  
sorry, no mail orders

### Rain Shoes for Women

- don't be caught wet-footed!
- carry these zippered cover-shoes in your purse... zip into them at the first raindrop!
- in silky black, smoke or clear... small, medium or large
- invisible non-slip soles... fits all heels... washable
- in plastic carry-case

**79c**  
sorry, no mail orders

### 10 Ft. Decorator Holly

- deck the hall!
- a cheerful streamer, 10 feet long... to border a window, drape a wintry door, fold into a wreath!
- artificial holly in yuletide green... loaded with red berries, of course!
- bright this season and for seasons to come!

**39c**  
10 ft. length  
sorry, no mail orders

OPEN DAILY  
9 A.M. to 9:30 P.M.  
SUNDAYS 10 to 7

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