

Session Groping

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By VINCENT THOMAS Assemblyman, 68th District As this is being written, our budget session is beginning to gather momentum. Subcommit-tees of both houses have prac-tically completed their review of budget segments assigned to Ucally completed their review of budget segments assigned to them, and the main fiscal com-mittees are starting to take up the many non-controversial items passed along to them by the subgroups. Items in which our legislative analyst has rec-ommended cuts, or those which have aroused conflict will be have aroused conflicts, will be

have aroused conflicts, will be considered later. The tempo of our special session is slower. Three new items, were added to the agenda, bringing the total which we may consider up to 52. But it has not been possible to draft bills in advance before their subject-matters were in-cluded in the agenda. As a re-sult, many items have not yet been introduced in bill form, including the touchy topic of Senate reapportionment.

ONE MATTER high on our priority list is correction of laws passed at the 1961 session in which defects have come to light. When the state restau-rant act was revised at that time, a blow was inadvertently struck at a famous American affair, the potluck supper. Any organization serving such a meal with guests present was required to meet the full standards of a commercial res-taurant. Two bills have been introduced to exempt such sup-pers from this restriction. Another 1961 act required that all public school pupils be given polio shots. The law has been interpreted to require shots for all adults sent to driv-ing schools by traffic judges, but a bill has been introduced to correct this.

THE CAMPAIGN to outlaw THE CAMPAGEN to outlaw-or strictly limit draw poker has resulted in the greatest number of bills on any subject which have been tossed in the special session hopper. No less than nine bills and four con-stitutional amendments relat-ion to the metter have been stitutional amendments relat-ing to the matter have been put before us. We have a wide choice of action, ranging from making it a misdemeanor to deal or play draw poker, through all kinds of measures which would increase local con-trol over the game or limit the size of polar parlors, to one which would increase local con-trol over the game or limit the size of polar parlors, to one swhich would increase local con-trol over the game or limit the size of polar parlors on a sliding scale from 5 to 100 per cent, depending on their size." The three Assembly commit-tees to which these alternatives have been referred for study should have some interesting sessions.

AN INTRIGUING item on the agenda which has only recent-ly begun to attract attention is one under which we are au-thorized to consider. "legisla-tion relating to the acquisition of property for state water purposes." Under the present law, when construction of a state dam or reservoir requires relocation of a public or pri-vate utility, the state must pay all expenses of the reloca-tion. It has no option to work out a satisfactory substitute in-seed of rebuilding the utility. The problem which caused the item to be put on the agenda is the need to relocate an 18-mile logging railroad beagenda is the need to relocate an 18-mile logging railroad be-cause of the Feather River Dam. Legally, the road is a privately owned public utility. Reconstruction costs are esti-Reconstruction costs are esti-mated at between 58 and 59 million. The state administra-tion believes the law should be so changed as to give it some flexibility in negotiating a mitchild substitute for falces suitable substitute for reloca-

THE POSSIBILITY that such change might involve a

threat to private property in other areas has been raised, so storm clouds seem hovering on the horizon. A bill has been introduced to put California daylight sav-ing time on the same schedule as other states at the June rather than the November elec-tion, so the change could be made this year. The difference has been raising comment for

has been raising comment for some years.

"Maybe our State Depart-ment ought to mail hhrush-chey one of those business cards reading 'Have Guns Will Travel.'"—Louis Nelson Bowman, King City (Me.) Tri-County News.