

# Background for Naming State Committees Told

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL  
**Assemblyman, 46th District**  
 According to procedure, the Speaker of the Assembly is elected at the beginning of each session. Actually, the important election of the Speaker takes place at the opening of the long general session, which is always in an odd-numbered year, such as 1959, 1961, 1963, etc.

Once elected at the beginning of the general session, the Speaker is almost always re-elected at the beginning of the short, budget session, which meets during the even-numbered years, such as 1960, 1962, etc. Therefore, the real fight, if there is one, starts before the first Monday in January of an odd-numbered year.

**THE SPEAKER** of the Assembly needs 41 votes to be elected. These votes can come from either political party or both. Some Republican Speakers have been elected only with the help of Democratic Party members, even when the Republican Party had an overwhelming majority in the assembly. One reason why some Republican Speakers had to obtain Democratic Party votes to get elected even with an overwhelming majority of Republican Assemblymen present was that for many years there was a determined effort to elect a Speaker from either northern or southern California, regardless of the man's personal merits.

Those members of the Assembly who agree in advance to support the candidate for Speaker, who later get elected, constitute the panel from which the Speaker chooses the chairmen of the various committees. He must pay some attention to their qualifications, hence all 41 who signed up

first are not appointed chairmen of committees because there are not that many committees in the assembly. However, those who are not in the list of the first 41, have never been appointed chairmen of Assembly committees, according to my records.

**THE METHOD** of appointing committee chairmen in the State Senate is entirely different. There, seniority and ability are essential qualifications, with the major emphasis upon seniority.

During my 12 years as member of the assembly, 46th District, I have been a member of three key committees. The most important is Revenue and Taxation. The second most important is Public Utilities and Corporations. The third most important is Transportation and Commerce. For nearly four years, I have been a member of the Assembly Committee on Legislative Representation which is supposed to regulate the lobbyists.

**ACTUALLY**, this committee has very little power because the laws regulating lobbyists are so full of loopholes that almost anyone can become an accredited lobbyist if he registers and pays a very small fee. Incidentally, lobbyists for religious and charitable organizations do not pay the fee. I never wanted to serve on the "lobby" committee and have tried unsuccessfully to resign, but I am still on it. My reason for not wanting to serve on the lobby committee is its almost complete lack of authority.

Several times I have attempted to enact legislation providing more control over lobbyists. Once I introduced my own bill. It was passed out of the

"lobby" committee unanimously, but was killed on the Assembly floor. The same year, I induced a Democrat to introduce a longer bill which contained the exact wording of my own bill. His bill was passed out of the "lobby" committee and killed on the floor.

**FOR TWO YEARS**, I served as chairman, Assembly Committee on Public Utilities and Corporations. During the same period, I served as chairman,

Assembly Committee on Marine Affairs (Harbors and Beaches). During the two years before that, I served as vice chairman, Joint Committee on Marine Affairs. This consisted of both state senators and members of the assembly. I was assigned the job of screening all bills introduced on beaches and harbors in both house, preparing my own bills, and writing the final report, which was published as a State document.

During the two years that I was chairman of the Assembly Committee on Public Utilities and Corporations and at the same time chairman, Assembly Committee on Marine Affairs, I personally wrote the official, final report of both of these committees and these reports were published as official State documents.

**FOR TWO YEARS**, I served as one of the few members of the assembly on the Joint Com-

mittee on Transportation Problems, the chairman of which was the very able Sen. Randolph Collier of Yreka, a Democrat. As a member of this committee, I wrote the provisions for the San Diego Freeway and with the help of the State Division of Highways and the Inter-City Highway Committee, the San Diego Freeway is being completed ahead of schedule.

Other important committees

on which I have served (at least two years on each) are Education, Finance and Insurance; and Manufacturing, Oil and Mining. However, as stated before, through my nearly 12 years I have spent most of my time on three committees: Revenue and Taxation, Public Utilities and Transportation, and Transportation and Commerce. The reason is that these three committees have been extremely important not only to the whole state but to the 46th Assembly district.

"A word to the wise is redundant."—Virginia Gaskill Pennsburg (Pa.) Town and Country.

## Bynum Wins Class Post At Whittier

Raymond Bynum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Bynum, 1103 Patronella Ave., was recently elected temporary vice president of the freshman class at Whittier College. He will serve for six weeks.

Bynum, a political science major, is a graduate of Torrance High School where he served as student body president, senior class president, and commissioner of athletics.

## Torrance Optimists Visit Home for Boys

The Optimist Club of Torrance visited the Optimist Home for Boys at 6957 N. Figueroa St., on Monday, Sept. 24. Club members spent two hours touring the facility. Thomas Gaines, assistant superintendent of the Home, along with four young residents, Garry, Johnny, Johnny, and Tom, conducted the club on this tour. The facility includes study and recreation rooms, a modern kitchen and dining room, a fully equipped gymnasium and recreation areas, as well as dormitories for the boys.

The Home is licensed to accommodate 57 boys and is at full capacity most of the time. The boys range from 10 to 17 years of age and are at the home to gain assistance and to have time to solve some problem.

**HIGH POINT** of the evening was spent in the nonsectarian chapel. This small and beautiful chapel has eight stained glass windows by Judson Studios. Each window was sponsored by a group or an individual in memory of someone who had a great love for boys. Each window has a significance related to boys and problems and the solution of their problems.

There are six Group Supervisors assisted by full time specialists in athletics, education tutoring, and general program direction. The Home has extensive psychology and sociological services available.

justifiably proud of a number of our graduates, some of whom are active Optimists and one boy, in particular, that graduated from this school who is now a director of the school and a leading Optimist in the Hollywood area."

R. K. Petrat, president of the club, gave Gaines a check for \$250. This is the usual amount annually budgeted for the Boys Home.



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