THE TORRANCE HERALD 28

Report Evidence Lacking in Sex **Lobbying Charge**

By VINCENT THOMAS Assemblyman, 68th District

Assemblyman, 68th Distret That legislative whipping-boy, the lobbyist, was again brought under the lash during our gen-eral session last spring. Not to be outshadowed by the sex andal then rocking British givernmental circles, our news-papers alleged that unidenti-tion, that's a bargain," he said. He added that the only reason the word lobbying has invidigyarnmental circles, our news-papers alleged that unidenti-lied California lobbyists had made use of illegal feminine companionship to influence legislation. An Attorney-Gen-eral's investigation made later turned up no evidence of truth in the allegation. Independently of this probe.

Independently of this probe, the Senate Committee on Legislative Representation an-nounced that it would make a full-scale study of lobbying, to determine among other things the level of current practice in the field, the effectiveness of the lower controlling legislative the laws controlling legislative advocates, and the desirability of making changes either in the law or its administration, or in the applicable rules of both Houses of the Legislature.

THE LAW which requires paid legislative advocates to compensation and expenditures was first enacted in 1949. It now contains a Code of Ethics, violation of which is supposed to bring revocation of the ad-vocate's credentials. The law requires registration with the Secretary of the Senate and with the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, but this procedure has been simplified, so that the legislative Analyst's office does the cleircal work connect ed with receiving registrations THE LAW which requires does the cierical work connect-ed with receiving registrations and monthly reports. Under the joint rules of both Houses, his responsibility is strictly limited to this "ministerial" function function

At its first hearing, the com-mittee heard from a number of witnesses, spokesmen from state government, as well as registered advocates the m-coluce selves.

selves. One of the Governor's sec-retaries reported to the group the chief executive's horror over the fact that registered lobbyists are estimated to have spent a total of \$1.3 million during the 1963 session. Say-ing that it is time to take a long, searching look at spend-ing by lobbyists, the Governor recommended that the law be amended to require them to report their contributions to elections campaigns of legislaelections campaigns of legisla-tors, as well as their Sacra-mento expenditures. He also said he believes the word "lobbying" has invidious con-notations.

THE STATEMENTS were promptly challenged by the Dean of the University Law the word lobbying has invidi-ous connotations is that people like the Governor keep saying

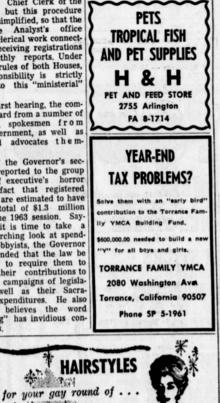
so. The lobbyists who spoke were unanimous that existing law serves the desired purpose very well, and argued against the suggestion of the Attorney-General that more detailed re-

porting of expenditures be required. The Legislative Ana-lyst reported that his office could handle any increased work the Committee might recommend very easily and economically.

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both Houses of the Legislature. Our State Constitution specifically defines bribery of a legislator a felony. Equally, it makes acceptance of a bribe by a legislator a felony, convic-tion of which also brings dis-enfranchisement in addition to other penalties. The Penal Code makes either giving of bribe to influence a legislative vote, or its acceptance, a fel-ony punishable by penitentiary confinement. THE LAW which requires

A request by David J. Halli-burton for a change of zone from R-3 and A-1 to C-4 and R-3 has been denied by the Regional Planning Commission.. The property is located at Fig-ueroa Street and Carson Street and contains 8.6 acres.







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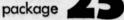
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