Changes in Veterans' Tax Exemption Need New Study JA Center

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL Assemblyman, 46th District

The tax exemption for vet erans in California originated in 1911 for the purpose of persuading veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Indian Wars to come to California to live. At that that time, the exemption for veterans was not enacted in lieu of a bonus or for any purpose other than enticing veterans to move to California, It was, in effect, a moratorium on taxes until the value of each veteran's property reached a certain level. After it reached a certain value it was subject to taxe. value, it was subject to taxation the same as the property of those who were not vet-

The California State Constitution allows the veteran to own property worth \$5,000, without being taxed, but the State Constitution did not prostate constitution and not provide for problems which arose after the exemption became part of the Constitution. Under a ruling of the Attorney General of California, if a veteran is married, he is entitled to have \$10,000 in property \$5,000 of which in property, \$5,000 of which is for himself and \$5,000 for his wife.

HOWEVER, in administer ing the exemption for vet-erans, every County Assessor in California has been following the rule of using the as sessed valuation of the real property owned by the veter-an, that is, his house and lot. This means that if the County Assessor is assessing rea property at 25 per cent of the fair market value, a veteran's ome having a fair market lue of \$20,000 is assessed as \$5,000.

Some County Assessors in California have been disre-garding the veteran's person-al property, which includes his household furnishings, money in a checking and sav-ings account, stocks, bonds, etc. Other County Assessors in California have taken the position that personal proper-ty owned by a veteran should be included before the exemption is granted. These County Assessors in many counties have used the actual countes have used the actual market value of personal property, not 25 per cent or any other ratio less than 100 per cent, but 100 per cent. In other words, they not only included personal property but assessed it at its full market value. The result in thous value. The result in thou-sands of cases has been the denial of any tax exemption to the veteran. Naturally, to the veteran. Naturally, this has caused thousands of veterans in such counties to complain bitterly.

IT IS THE official and personal opinion of Philip E

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Health Center Slates Infant Care Sessions

The County Health Depart ment will sponsor a seven-session class for prospective mothers beginning Feb. 17 at the department's Torrance office 2300 W. Carson St., from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The infant care class designed for women who are under the care of a private physician, is

without charge.

Program will include: growth
of baby before birth, hygiene
of pregnancy, care and feeding
of the newborn, child safety. and motion picture illustration

Persons attending may register on the first day of the session or may call the Los Angeles County Health Department, FA 8-3310, ext. 21.

Hardie Named to **Publicity Spot**

Paul F. Hardie, 2756 Onrado St., has been appointed assoi-ate director of publicity for the Long Beach Chapter of the National Association of Ac-countants.

Hardie, chief cost accountant for Rome Cable, division of Alcoa, will direct publicity activities in the Torrance, Rol-ling Hills and Palos Verdes

Scarlet Fever Tops Contagious Diseases

Three cases of scarlet fever were reported to the Los An-geles County Health Department from the Torrance area for the week ending Feb. 1. One case each of syphilis and gonorrhea was reported also.

Watson, County Assessor of Los Angeles County, that the only solution to this problem of taxing the personal property of veterans is for the California State Legislature to enact one or more new laws which will clarify and make uniform the assesment procedures of all County As-sessors. I personally and offi-cially agree with Mr. Watson and will support such legisla-tion when it is introduced in the Legislature. I doubt that

of the several Special Sessions called by the Governor in 1964, but we will try and if we fail, we will try again in 1965 during the long General Session.

Any new laws regarding

the taxation of personal prop-erty owned by a veteran must clarify the following points: 1. Should the personal property of a veteran be considered in establishing his exemption in addition to his

clude all personal property, or only certain types of personal property?

3. Assuming that all of the other of the veteran's personal property, or any portion of it, be considered in arriving at the veteran's qualification for experience of the veteran of th emption, what uniform assess emption, what uniform assess-ment practice should be en-acted by the Legislature? Should the personal property be assessed at full, cash mar-ket value or at some percent-age of cash value, such as 25 per cent, as is the ratio for assessing real property in many counties?

UNDER THE California Statutes as they exist now, there is a distinction made between a veteran and a "California Veteran," called "Cal-Vet" for short. A veteran who is recognized as a California Veteran is entitled, subject to some restrictions to borrow money from the State for the purchase of a home or a farm under what is commonly called "the Cal-

eran and the veteran who is so designated was that California did not give a bonus to veterans after World War I but many other states did give a State bonus after World War I. The preference for the so-called California Veteran was intended to take the place of a State Bonus in California at the end of World War I.

World War I,
Finally, none of the above
remarks should be construed
that I am in any way opposed
to fair treatment for all vet-

To Visitors

The Junior Achievement business center at 1530 S. Prairie

Vistors watched the JA com panies in operation. Products manufactured this year by the youthful achievers include coaster sets, plastic key chains, blinker lights, chip and dip bowls, magazine racks, etc.

Safety Council Awards Drivers Of Top Record

Vernom Brittain, 3205 W. 178th St., was one of 20 Los Angeles City School district drivers honored by the Na-tional Safety Council for having a minimum 10-year record of accident-free driving. The 20 drivers also received

The 20 drivers also received City Board of Education cer-tificates of merit for their safety achievements. During 1963, Los Angeles

school drivers traveled 1,213,-864 miles with no fatalities or





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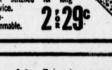
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