

# Presidential Election And Electors Explained

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District

The Electoral College consists of presidential electors. The word "College" meant originally the presidential electors gathered together at one place and at one time to cast their votes for the election of the President of the United States, just as the College of Cardinals means the assemblage of Cardinals meeting in Rome to elect a new Pope. However, today the word "College" is misleading to most people.

I know because I was a presidential elector for President Eisenhower when Goodwin Knight was Governor of California. Theoretically and legally, I was a member of the Electoral College, but the presidential electors for President Eisenhower met together in Sacramento, signed numerous documents under oath and sent them to Washington, D. C. All of us voted for Eisenhower as presidential electors. In theory, it may have been possible for any one of the California presidential electors to have cast his vote for some person other than Eisenhower, but no one even considered doing so because this would be a breach of ethics at least, and possibly a violation of law.

**THE PRESENT** method of electing a President of the United States after the General Election in November of a presidential year is described and explained in Amendment XII of the Constitution of the United States. This amendment was proposed on Dec. 12, 1803 and declared ratified Sept. 25, 1804.

You can read the U.S. Constitution in any public library or any high school library. In order to obtain your own copy at a low cost, write to the State Printer, Printing Division, State of California, North Seventh Street and Richards Boulevard, Sacramento, Calif., and ask the price of a paper-bound book titled: Constitution of the State of California and of the United States and Related Documents, latest edition. The reason I do not state the price is because the cost varies with the increase in the cost of labor, ink, paper, binding, etc. The only copy I have is dated 1963, which is the latest edition and the one you probably will obtain if you buy it during 1964.

ANY AMENDMENTS to the Constitution of the State of California are incorporated in the above-mentioned book as soon as the amendments be-

come effective and the State Printer has time and money to produce a revised edition. Prior to the adoption of Amendment XIX to the Constitution of the United States, titled "Equal Suffrage," all presidential electors (Members of the Electoral College) were men because only men were allowed to vote and be presidential electors. The 19th Amendment reads as follows:

"(Section 1.) The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"(Section 2.) Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The 19th Amendment was proposed June 4, 1919; ratified Aug. 18, 1920; and certified Aug. 26, 1920, hence, to the best of my knowledge and belief all presidential electors prior to Aug. 26, 1920, were men. When I was a presidential elector I met about as many women as men who were California presidential electors that year.

**IN THIS RELEASE,** I do not quote Amendment XII to the U.S. Constitution in full for two reasons: (1) It is comparatively long; and (2) In order to understand this Amendment it is necessary to refer back to Article II of the original U.S. Constitution, titled "Executive Department," and read at least the sub-sections titled "Appointment and Number of Presidential Electors;" "Mode of Electing President and Vice President;" and "Time of Choosing Electors and Casting Electoral Vote." Also, there are other portions of the original version of the U.S. Constitution which should be studied in order to understand the 12th Amendment pertaining to presidential electors.

Incidentally, the presidential electors not only vote for the President but also the Vice President of the United States.

**ONE OF THE** provisions in the original version of the U.S. Constitution states:

"Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector."

Among other things, this means that each State has at

least three Electoral votes because each State has two U.S. Senators and at least one Member of the U. S. House of Representatives, regardless of the population of the State. In order to calculate the number of electoral votes possessed by any State, add the number of Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to two (2) and the sum equals the number of electoral votes a State has.

The steadily increasing pressure on the Legislature has strengthened the demand for general, annual legislative sessions both among our membership in the two houses and in outside circles. The 1964 record of a futile budget session, a special session to finish the job of hammering out a spending program for 1964-65, and another special, the longest in history, is remarkable for neither efficiency nor economy. Nevertheless, the results we

# Pressure for Annual State Sessions Grows

By VINCENT THOMAS, Assemblyman, 68th District

The steadily increasing pressure on the Legislature has strengthened the demand for general, annual legislative sessions both among our membership in the two houses and in outside circles. The 1964 record of a futile budget session, a special session to finish the job of hammering out a spending program for 1964-65, and another special, the longest in history, is remarkable for neither efficiency nor economy. Nevertheless, the results we

achieved in major legislation have been widely praised. I have written earlier in this column about the problems created by the constitutional 30-day limit on the length of the even-year budget sessions. Even though the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committees are permitted to work on the budget bill during a 30-day recess in such sessions, the sheer volume of work involved makes it very difficult to reach decisions within the time limit. When major controversies arise, as they did

this year, it becomes actually impossible to pass the budget by the deadline, as has now been twice demonstrated.

**THE ACT THAT,** ever since the Constitution was amended to provide for even-year sessions the Governor has always called a special session to run concurrently with it, is strong evidence that California is growing too rapidly to keep up with its legislative needs. The number of topics put on the agenda has steadily increased, which has

required ever increasing sessions. There has also been considerable criticism over the fact that the Governor has absolute control over the matters we may act upon. It has been pointed out that this power in effect gives him two-fold control, because he already has authority to sign or veto statutes which pass both houses.

Proposals to change the Constitution to enable holding general annual sessions, in which the Legislature can initiate action on any measure, have been under discus-

sion for some years but no action has been taken on them. This year, the prolonged sessions, and the heavy burden of major legislative proposals brought strongly renewed demands for an amendment to permit general annual sessions.

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## Reduction Approved

Customers of Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Companies will save an additional \$5,321,740 a year starting July 1 as a result of policies set by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The PUC approved filings made by the two concerns reducing rates to reflect lower federal income taxes, savings in the cost of natural gas purchased from Pacific Lighting Gas Supply, and rezoning changes resulting from the annual customer density study ordered by the PUC.

The commission ruled that the savings be passed on to customers. Rate reductions of individual customers will vary according to usage.

Reductions to be made by Southern California Gas Co. will total \$3,605,740, of which \$2,983,000 results from lower income taxes. General service customers, including domestic consumers, will save \$2,430,740 a year, the balance going to industrial users.

Southern Counties' reduction will come to \$1,716,000, federal income tax cuts accounting for \$1,410,000 of that amount. Firm customers — including domestic — will save \$701,000 a year, with the

## Dental Grad Takes Honors

R. Richard Witmer, 1128 Clarion, was granted the Los Angeles County Dental Society Award for highest scholarship for four years at recent awards ceremonies conducted at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry.

Witmer's other honors included: senior class president award; Robert E. Cruse Memorial Award, as outstanding member of the senior class by his character, ideals and leadership; election to Omicron Kappa Upsilon, honorary scholarship fraternity in the top 12 per cent of the graduating class; and election to Phi Kappa Phi, national all-university scholarship society.

## Knolls Clubs Sets Outing

Members of the Knolls Travelers Club of Torrance will embark on an all-day outing to the Greek Orthodox Church, Helms Bakery and lunch at Farmers Market on June 22. Bus will leave Knolls Lodge, 23701 Western Ave., at 11:45 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m.

Plans have been made to see the 32nd annual American Legion spectacular fireworks display July 4. Bus will leave Knolls Lodge at 6:45 p.m. Bus trip and reserved seat at \$3.50, may be reserved.

To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way yourself once in a while. —Josh Billings.

## Carson Students To Get Diplomas

"For a Better America — Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men!" is the theme for the Carson Street School graduation program today at 2 p.m. Principal M. Q. Wallace will present the diplomas.