

## YOUR LEGISLATOR AT WORK

By VINCENT THOMAS  
68th District Assemblyman

It's not an easy job to give a big-screen picture of the final week of our recent special session. Much of the time it was like a rehearsal of the Old Army Game of "hurry up and wait." But when action came, it came fast, decisively — and often surprisingly.

Like its predecessor, the 1963 regular session, the special meeting set a variety of new records, as my account will reveal. For one thing, it was the first extraordinary session called in a regular session year since 1949. For another, party caucuses interrupted regular meetings more than ever before in history.

### New Approach

When I last wrote this column, the bill to up the budget for the current fiscal year by \$114 million was still tied up in conference. The Senate and Assembly versions were \$10 million apart, and differed mostly over funds for University and state college salary raises. Pressures to provide some increases for most state employees were growing, but prospects did not seem bright.

To the astonishment of some people, when the conference version was released, it proposed a new approach to the matter of salary increases. The administration request, included in its \$114 million total, was for some \$30 million for increases this fiscal year. The conference report called for an 18-month program, with the higher education and "hardship" increases effective in January, 1964, and general increases the following year. Cost for this year would approximate \$27 million. For the following, it would be roughly \$37 million. The conference group pointed out that its proposal would keep the budget increase for this year at \$106 million, and that the long term arrangement would ease budgeting in 1954.

With this salary formula in it, the budget measure

passed the Senate with a comfortable margin.

### Different Situations

A far different situation was created in the Assembly when it took up the conference report. The Republican minority, having enough votes to block passage of the bill by the necessary two-thirds, closed its ranks tightly, and none of its members cast a vote on the measure. The Democratic leadership imposed a "call of the house," under which the chamber doors are locked, absentees sent for, and no member is permitted to leave until his vote is recorded.

The reason cited for the refusals to vote was that the Republicans wanted to learn what the conferees on the public school support bill had agreed to before voting on budget funds.

Again, a historical record was set. Both parties refused to budge, and the "call" was on for more than 28 hours, the longest since 1939. The Republicans could not leave without voting, so they stayed in the chamber, ate sandwiches and pizza pie, and caucused frequently.

### Began Voting

Finally, their leader reported that the school bill was in acceptable shape, so they began casting their votes. The budget measure was approved and sent to the Governor by a six vote margin.

The conference report on the bill for additional money to schools also surprised many. The county-wide property tax was eliminated as expected. However, the amount of extra funds to be given was reduced from \$40 million each for this and next year, to \$25 million each. The reason given was that this lower amount would do until a better allocation formula, based on teacher salaries and class size, is worked out.

Now that this memorable special session is over, all of us are very glad to be home again.



GABE ARRILLAGA  
... Gets Promotion

## Key Job Goes To Torrancite

Gabe Arrillaga of Torrance has been elected assistant cashier of Union Bank, president Harry J. Volk has announced.

Arrillaga, a former college basketball star, is with the bank's Southern California financial institutions department, located in the new 22-story Union Bank Center building at Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue. He joined the bank two years ago, and served in the accounts receivable loan department until his appointment last November as new business solicitor in the financial institutions department.

A Long Beach native, he was student body president at Inglewood High School and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley.

Arrillaga resides at 18316 Fairview Lane.

## J. Vandevanter Drills on Bridges

Marine Lance Corporal John P. Vandevanter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer P. Vandevanter of 437 W. Carson St., recently participated in special bridge construction and disassembly course with the First Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division, at Camp Pendleton.

The course covered assembly, erection, and disassembly of the floating bridge, the five-span bridge and the floating foot bridge.

The First Engineer Battalion is a combat organization which specializes in road and building construction, demolitions, and land mine warfare.

In addition to the battalion's program of specialized training, the unit is engaged in a continuous training program to help ensure the high degree of preparedness required of the Marine Corps in its role as the nation's "force-in-readiness."



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