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YOUTH WINNERS . . . Two Montgomery High youth award winners proudly display their awards for Father Lawrence, Dean of Boys. The students, Barbara Dineen and Don Tetreault, were selected to receive the "Youth Appreciation Week" awards by the South Bay Optimists Club. Tetreault is student body president and Miss Dineen serves as editor of the yearbook.



APPEAR IN LONG BEACH . . . Students of the Bettie Thomas studios of Torrance presented a show at the Long Beach Civic Auditorium. Musicians and dancers from 5 to 15 years old performed. Robert Gilmore, internationally known musician and instructor at the studio, also performed. Shown here are, kneeling, Edward Thomas, Ken Brown, and Roy Kitzman, and standing, Adolph Montano and John Tyler.

Welfare and Health Bills Key Legislative Problems

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

In addition to the other major headaches with which we will have to cope during the 1966 general session, we can look forward to some knotty problems in the fields of welfare and public health. Already, public pronouncements are being made about requests for new and amended laws which will be put before us.

Lighning is still striking thunderously around the fiscal effects of Assembly Bill 59 of our 1963 general session. This is the bill which passed after considerable legislative legerdemain, and which was expected by some to save county taxpayers some \$20 million annually. It was supposed to permit transfer of many welfare cases previously supported only by county funds to the joint federal-state-county public assistance programs.

County spokesmen have declared that these savings, as estimated by the Department of Social Welfare, have failed to materialize in many counties. It was asserted that A.B. 59 had turned out to be a

horn of plenty for welfare recipients, but has proved anything but beneficial for the property taxpayer. Anticipated savings in the cost of county hospitals and county-supported general relief have not been completely realized.

ONLY RECENTLY has the general public roused itself to the hard impact of welfare costs on the county tax picture. The State Controller's office, which collects and publishes county financial data, reports the total expenditures by all counties for 1963-64 at slightly more than \$2 billion. Their total expenditures for public assistance of all kinds during this same year were almost exactly half of the total spent for all county purposes.

Skyrocketing costs of the joint public assistance programs indicate only too clearly why welfare is getting county budgets into difficulty. In the seven-year period from 1956-57 through 1962-63, expenditures for all such programs soared 87 per cent, from \$356 million to \$668 million. But during this same period, the county share of

these costs swelled 103 per cent, up from \$53 to \$108 million, and the state's share lagged behind, rising only 83 per cent.

WITH THESE facts confronting them, there can be small wonder that county governments are demanding remedial legislation. Their statewide organization has said that until the matter of welfare cost sharing between state and counties is close to solution, no liberalizing welfare legislation should be considered at the 1965 session. A tentative figure for needed additional state support which was mentioned is \$30 million, referred to as a "drop in the bucket" in our multi-billion dollar California state budget.

Some anomalies in federal welfare laws should be removed, members of the Legislature have been reminded. One denies federal payments for aged patients until the first day of the month after they are admitted to a hospital. Another denies such payments completely for aged persons suffering from

tuberculosis or mental disorders. A third denies federal aid to children placed in foster homes in the entire country.

The Social Welfare Committees in both the Senate and the Assembly will undoubtedly have a busy and interesting time trying to develop sound solutions for these problems.

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