

Senators Criticize New District Lines

By VINCENT THOMAS, Assemblyman, 68th District

Introduction of a bill to re-district the Senate brought hopes of an early adjournment of our current special session. With the President Pro Tem of the Senate as the principal author, and 13 other Senators as co-authors, the measure at first was given a good chance for quick passage in its house of origin. Since the Assembly had already sent on to the Senate its bill to reapportion its districts, there seemed to be a possibility that the problem for both houses might be rapidly solved.

Leaders of both houses expressed their opinions that it might be possible to adjourn

by Oct. 29, if both bills were passed and sent to the Governor. However, when the Senate measure came up for its first hearing in the Committee on Reapportionment, obstacles to fast action were quickly tossed in its path. The bill's lead author opened the discussion by saying, "this bill will satisfy practically nobody. But I am firmly convinced in my mind this is the best we can do."

NO LESS than five Senators promptly demanded that the committee postpone approval of the measure until they were granted opportunity to propose changes. This made it apparent that further hearings would be needed.

As introduced, the bill would give Los Angeles County 14 Senate seats and part of another shared with Orange County. San Diego County two seats and part of another shared with Imperial County. Alameda two and part of another with Santa Clara, and San Francisco, two seats. The senators in the two districts wholly within Alameda County and the two in San Francisco would be elected on an at-large basis.

OBVIOUSLY, under the bill the northern end of the state will lose Senate seats. Twelve northern counties which now have four seats and part of another would have only a single senator. A

new Sacramento Valley district containing eight and a fraction counties would also be allotted one seat, as compared with the present three, plus parts of two other districts. The northwestern coastal district would embrace six counties and parts of two others, which now have three seats and parts of two others.

The protesting senators represent many parts of the state. The lone senator from Los Angeles County asked for a few days to straighten out "quite a few inconsistencies in the boundaries proposed for the 14 districts wholly within that county. Another solon from a Central Valley county complained about the inclusion of his county in a district "going clear to Oregon." Two others requested changes in the boundaries of proposed districts which include their counties.

ONE SENATOR asked the committee to rewrite the election schedules now in the bill to make things easier for certain incumbents. Under it, even though they serve four-year terms, some of their districts would be changed from even to odd. The State Constitution provides that half of the Senators shall be elected each two years, and those from the add-numbered districts are to be elected when

Supervisor Urges Water Company to Speed Work

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has again urged the Dominguez Water Company to "move with dispatch" on relocation of a water line in Carson Street and make way for a county improvement designed to improve traffic safety in the area.

Hahn said the county has had plans prepared for months to improve and widen Carson Street between Normandie and the Harbor Freeway.

The Dominguez Water Co. has had in its possession since May 14, 1965, a \$500,000 county check to pay for relocation of the water line, Hahn said.

The 17th traffic fatality of the year in the Southwest area was recorded in the Carson area last week.

"I feel the Dominguez Water Co. should have acted years ago to move this line when the county first announced its intention to improve the street," Hahn said.

Water company officials reported this week that bids will be opened to relocate the line tomorrow. The job will take approximately four months to complete.

"The motorists and pedestrians of the Carson area deserve a speed-up on that schedule," Hahn said.

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