

Photo Ban in Court Subject of Hearing

DECEMBER 15, 1965

PRESS-HERALD B-13

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

It would seem to be a matter of elementary common sense that the people of any nation are entitled to know about the operations of their government, including its administration of justice. This "right to know" is implicitly protected by the First Amendment to our U. C. Constitution. It specifically prohibits Congress from making any law to abridge the freedom of speech, or of the press. Obviously, a free press can make that right a reality.

Our California State Constitution is equally blunt on the matter. Section 9 or Article I states "no law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press."

These broad statements of principle are the bulwarks of some of our important liberties. However, some problem areas have developed in past years, principally in connection with the administration of justice in criminal cases. More recently, pressure in these areas has been intensified by the rapid growth of radio and television news coverage. These problems have arisen between the judiciary, the legal profession, and the communications media because of the alleged difficulty of securing fair trials for those accused of crimes when there is widespread public interest in the trials.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE on Constitutional Rights of the Assembly Interim Committee on Judiciary, commonly referred to as the "Free Press—Fair Trial Committee," recently held a two-day hearing in Los Angeles on the matter. Shortly before this meeting, the State Judicial Council, a

body created by the Constitution, complicated matters by adopting, effective Jan. 1, a general rule applicable to all state courts, prohibiting the use of photographic or recording equipment in courts, not only during trial sessions themselves, but also during morning and afternoon court recesses. Reaction

to this new rule immediately became the prime topic for the subcommittee session. The 18-member Judicial Council is composed of 12 judges who sit in courts of all levels from the State Supreme Court to Justice Courts, 4 practicing attorneys and one member from each house of our Legislature, or-

dinarly the Chairman of that house's Judiciary Committee. The vote to adopt the new rule in the Council was 17 to 1, the only negative ballot being cast by the Assembly member, who is also Chairman of the Free Press—Fair Trial Committee. The Council is authorized to adopt rules of practice and procedure

for the courts not inconsistent with laws that are now or may hereafter be in force. * * *

THE COMMITTEE chairman at the meeting declared that the new rule "gags a free press," and is probably unconstitutional. He is probably after spokesman for groups

ranging from the Newspaper Publishers Association, the Association of Broadcasters, Radio and TV Newscasters, and the wire services, attacked the rule as invading the rights of people to know what the courts are doing, and as a long step toward Star Chamber justice. A district attorney, a municipal

judge, and a justice of the peace, joined the opposition for similar reasons. The chairman indicated that he might request the Governor to include the matter in his call for a 1966 special session. He also said that additional days of hearing on the controversial rule would be scheduled for San Diego and San Francisco. The dates for such hearings will be set later.

Interest Raised On Certificates

Interest on certificates of deposit will be paid at the rate of 5 per cent per annum at Centinela Valley Bank, Rowan Henry, president, has just announced.

The \$10,000 renewable certificates mature in one year. Interest is paid quarterly, Henry said.

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Farmer John, Regular or Hot
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Captain's Choice Skinless 1-lb. pkg.

Fishsticks 3 3-oz. pgs. \$1
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Narbonne Concert Scheduled

Narbonne High School will present its traditional Christmas concert tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Selections by the school band, the A Cappella Choir, Girls' Glee Club, and the Modern Dance Company will be featured. Stage design classes made the stage settings.

The program is open to all residents of the community. A special feature will be an appearance by Santa Claus.

Kenny Hamaka will serve as master of ceremonies. The Narbonne High Concert Band will perform "Toyland" by Victor Herbert, Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival," and "Auld Lang Syne" by Henry Mahnik. The band will provide the accompaniment for "Jingle Bells Rhapsody" by the Modern Dance Company.

Numbers by the A Cappella Choir will include "Christ Is Born," "Fum, Fum, Fum," "Do You Hear What I Hear," and "Carol of the Drum" in an appearance with the Modern Dance Company.

Selections by the Girls' Glee Club include "All Were There," "O Magnum Mysterium," "Shine Lovely Christmas Star," and "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

Lights Aid Prevention Of Crime

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess today urged all residents and businessmen throughout Los Angeles County to take special holiday crime prevention precautions.

Noting that December has always been the worst crime month of the year, Pitchess pointed out a basic step to prevention:

"With longer hours of darkness, we are asking every person to burn a light at night, all night, every night. In their homes and businesses. This has proven to be a positive deterrent to crime, and its effect cannot be over-emphasized.

"Business establishments should insure adequate lighting, as 95 per cent of all non-residence burglaries take place during the hours of darkness. Preventive lighting can substantially reduce this percentage," he said.

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Tangerines Jolly Sweet 2 lbs. 29¢
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Cranberries Ocean Spray 1-lb. bag 29¢
Cucumbers Long Green 3 for 25¢
Crisp Celery Large Size Stalks 1 lb. 19¢

U.S. No. 1 Idaho Russet POTATOES

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—Lucerne Quality Dairy Products—

Lucerne Egg Nog Rich and Spicy 49¢
Lucerne Salads Potato, Cole Slaw, Hearty, Macaroni 35¢
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Sno White Salt Plain or Iodized 26-oz. Pkg. 10¢
Lucerne Canned Milk A Balanced Nutrition 14-oz. Can 7¢
Pooch Dog Food Popular Brands Regulars Can. \$2.08

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Bread Donuts
Large Loaves Sugared or Plain
3 for \$1.00 Pkg. of 12 39¢

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