

SACRAMENTO REPORT

Our Form of Government Justifies Election Costs

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
 Assemblyman, 46th District
 From early in 1964 up to the primary election held on June 2, 1964, I spent \$8,190. I received as campaign donations \$7,235.42. The difference between these amounts, \$954.58, was a deficit which came out of my own pocket.

On June 3, 1964, I had to start campaigning for reelection. From then until the General Election on November 3, 1964, I spent \$11,307.34. I received in the form of campaign donations \$10,662.75, thus incurring a deficit of \$644.59 which came out of my pocket. I was re-elected on Nov. 3, and shortly thereafter filed my financial reports with the

Secretary of the State of California, and with the Registrar of Voters of Los Angeles County.

I assumed that my loss in the primary campaign, \$954.58, added to my loss in the general campaign, \$644.59, or a sum of \$1,599.17, was my total loss, but in spite of very careful accounting and auditing, an expenditure of \$200 was overlooked. I did not dis-

cover this until February, 1966, but this meant that my actual personal loss in money was \$1,799.71.

It is impossible for anyone to ever calculate the value of the time donated by the men and women who volunteer their services during any political campaign. I can only report the actual cash expenditures. Also, it is difficult to calculate the value of my own time.

In the campaign leading

up to the primary election of June 2, 1964, some of the campaign donations were as small as 50 cents per person. The United Republican Finance Committee of Los Angeles County has never donated any money for assembly candidates as far as I know, but various Republican groups did. The average donation was about \$42, but this includes people who went door-to-door, raising nickels and dimes for my

campaign. Since it is not practical to keep books on all the small amounts collected by precinct workers, saying that the average donation was about \$42 is as accurate as possible, but this does not mean that the average individual, out of his own pocket, put in \$42.

In Los Angeles County, especially in the 46th Assembly District, there are many Republican organiza-

tions which raise money and donate it for the November general election campaign expenses, but not before the June primary election. Since each organization donating is counted as one item, the average donation for my November campaign was about \$100, more than twice the average for the campaign leading to the June primary election. It must be emphasized again that the average donation does not mean the average individual.

Curiously enough, the bookkeeping and general paper work for each donation in 1964 cost about \$3.75 per donation, at least. This means that if anyone sent me \$1, there was an actual

net loss of \$2.75 on that donation. On the other hand, if only a very small per cent of the registered voters in the 46th Assembly District donated \$1 per person, and no correspondence or record-keeping was required, a one-dollar donation would be an actual net donation of \$1.

I am not opposed to the record-keeping. Quite the contrary, I wish that all candidates for all offices would file with the Registrar of Voters of Los Angeles County and with the Secretary of State financial reports which are as accurate as mine have been since I first

(Continued from Page A-8)
 ran for the 1950.
 I was active in the November election of 1950 as a member of the first oath of the 46th District from the first Monday, 1951, on the assembly in the 1 am now in
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