

# Assembly Makes Progress, But Fails to Pass Budget

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District

Before you read this, the 1966 budget session will be just a part of history. Whether or not a budget bill for fiscal 1966-67 will be enacted before the end of that session is still a matter for conjecture as I write this. Most observers are fairly pessimistic about chances that the bill will pass the Assembly.

Nevertheless, some progress on the budget can be reported. The Assembly Ways and Means Committee has just finished its long weeks of struggle with the huge spending bill, and sent it to the

floor on a voice vote for final Assembly consideration. The committee chairman refused to speculate on whether that house will pass the bill. In order to get the necessary two-thirds vote, five votes from the minority party are needed, and they may be difficult to get.

As reported out, the total amount of the budget was still very close to the \$4.62 billion requested by the Governor. However, there were many significant changes made during the committee deliberations. Cuts adding up to \$46.8 million were made, but new or increased items totaling \$46.5 million were written into the bill, so the net reduction from the re-

quest was less than \$300,000.

ONE PARTICULARLY noteworthy last-minute addition was \$15 million to purchase the Sierra foothills site for the Atomic Energy Commission's \$375 million atom smasher, if the commission decides to locate the facility in California. All parts of the state are uniting to secure the huge installation. Even the Assembly Speaker urged the inclusion of the item, saying that "no stone should be left unturned" in efforts to bring the facility to California.

The Ways and Means group accepted the recommendations of one of its subcommit-

tees that the amount of bond funds requested for purchase of park sites be cut back. The Governor's proposal called for spending \$44 million for sites next year. The committee reduced this to \$34.5 million. In addition, the committee cut about half a million from the amount requested from the general fund for operations of the parks system.

VIGOROUS efforts were made by minority party spokesmen during the committee's closing sessions to slash the \$61.2 million asked by the Governor to set up the anti-poverty program in the Watts riot area. The program was criticized as being badly

planned, too ambitious in some respects, and inadequate in others.

The Ways and Means Committee approved funds to correct safety hazards in the Cow Palace, but knocked out a \$1.7 million item to remodel it for league ice hockey games. The committee was told the national franchise has already gone to Oakland.

A PROPOSAL to up funds for local alcoholic clinics by \$2.7 million over the \$1.8 million in the budget was rejected. Lack of qualified personnel to staff added clinics was mentioned.

If the budget bill is not passed before the deadline set

in the Constitution for the budget session, the whole matter will go into special session.

In any event, a budget for 1966-67 must be passed before midnight, June 30, otherwise our State government will grind to a complete stop at that time.

## North High Girl Leads Gym Team

Wendy Cluff, a North High School freshman, has won a major victory in AAU gymnastics competition in San Francisco.

Miss Cluff daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Cluff of 16815 Ardath Ave., led her team to its 47th consecutive victory in the Northern Pacific AAU gymnastics championship for women. The event was held at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco.

She previously had won second place in the annual Women's California Championships, held in Fresno Feb. 19. All-round honors included free exercise, balance beam, uneven parallel bars, and the side horse vault.

Miss Cluff, who hopes to become a member of the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics team, became interested in gymnastics at the age of 4. She spends a minimum of 90 minutes each morning working

out and adds at least an hour after school three times each week.

During the non-competitive summer months, she attends a summer gym camp in Washington to keep in shape.

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