

BUDGET, REAPPORTIONMENT

Lawmakers See Special Session as 'Inevitable'

By VINCENT THOMAS
 Assemblyman, 63rd District
 As our general session slowly crawls into its last weeks, it becomes increasingly apparent that our deliberations this year will not be ended by the constitutional adjournment date, June 18. Everyone concedes that a special session to follow is inevitable. But there is still much speculation as to when it will be convened, what subjects will be put on the agenda, and how long it will last.

Three major problems must be resolved in one way or another before we can terminate our labors. The state budget for 1963-66, the program of additional taxes to finance it, and reapportionment of the Senate will probably still be with us when the mandatory closing date arrives.

The tempo of our work will be further slowed by the flood of bills which were introduced just ahead of the deadline for free introduction on April 23. To add to our burdens, a special agreement between our two houses was made, under which all requests made to the Legislative Counsel by April 23 for drafts of proposed bills were honored, even though the measures could not be put physically into the hopper. As a result, a total of 55,018 bills have been introduced, up more than 250 over the total in 1962.

SOME OF THE measures which this agreement enabled

Ask Fewer Districts For Courts

Legislation to consolidate the "far flung" municipal court districts in Los Angeles County has been introduced by State Senator Thomas M. Rees (D-Los Angeles County).

"I believe this is one of the most important economic measures introduced during the present session of the Legislature," Senator Rees said. "It can only result in streamlining our judicial system and saving Los Angeles County taxpayers money."

Rees said the county has 26 municipal and justice court districts. "More than half of all municipal court cases are heard in the single district comprising the City of Los Angeles. Consolidation will mean that the caseload can be equally distributed throughout the county, giving us more efficient use of existing facilities."

"I DOUBT that consolidation will mean the closing of a single existing court room and I can foresee no lessening of service to local areas. On the contrary, it will mean economy and efficiency with a reasonable work load for each court rather than the present situation where some courts are jammed and others work on a half time basis."

"With the increasing load of litigation and the need for more judges and courtrooms, the taxpayers have a right to expect consolidation as a first step so we can make the best use of what we already have."

The senator complimented county Supervisor Kenneth Hahn for the leadership he has shown in working for consolidation.

Narbonne Boy Named To Office

Tom Tower, a student at Narbonne High School, has been elected lieutenant governor of Division 19 of the Key Club International. Truman Coggins, also of Narbonne High, was elected to represent Division 19 as a candidate for recording secretary at the state convention, to be held May 4 at Astoria.

The Narbonne High Key Club also won three awards at the meeting. The club's scrapbook was cited as the best scrapbook in the contest, while the club also won the achievement award. An outstanding service award was presented to the Narbonne Club for the Christmas basket drive.

to get under the wire were immediately recognized as explosive, with built-in hair-triggers, certainly to be pulled by some embattled group. One proposed constitutional amendment would bring the budget of the University of California under closer supervision of the Legislature. The relative freedom of the University of California from budgetary control has been a touchy topic among lawmakers for years.

Another proposed amendment would have four purposes, all of which are controversial. It would double our salaries; it would lengthen our regular sessions; it would add two years to the terms of both Assemblymen; and it would raise the number of Senate Seats from 40 to 45.

A THIRD proposed amendment would make a basic change in our legislative processes. It would provide for an automatic three-day session, to be convened after adjournment of every general session, to enable legis-

lative action on vetoes of bills by the Governor. Under existing constitutional provisions, if the Legislature is meeting, he has 10 days to sign or veto a bill, but his veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of each house. After adjournment, however, the Governor has 30 days during which to act on bills, and may "pocket veto" all he wishes, without fear of being overridden.

A Senate bill would establish a state board for community colleges, thus taking junior colleges out of supervision by the Department of Education.

Since the Governor controls the subjects that can be put on a special session agenda, there is much interest in what his call will include. Some prominent legislative leaders are urging him to limit it to major items; but others are recommending that it be left fairly open. Much horse trading for votes is expected.



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