

# Virtue Is Non-Partisan, And So Is Vice, He Says

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District

In accordance with the State Constitution, there are 40 State Senators and 80 members of the Assembly, often referred to as Assemblymen, although one member of the Assembly is a lady, Mrs. Pauline L. Davis.

At the beginning of 1965, there were 16 senators who listed their occupation as "attorney." One senator, Stanley Arnold, became a judge by appointment, leaving 15 who are still in the Senate.

For some strange reason, California is the only state where lawyers usually give their occupation as "attorney," which is an incomplete designation of occupation, because the word "attorney" standing by itself means an agent. For example, attorney-in-fact is a fancy term for an agent. If a child 12 years of age is sent by his father to buy a newspaper, that child is his father's agent and also his attorney-in-fact, without the benefit of any legal training.

Of the 15 lawyers still in the Senate, one was a Superior Court judge before he was elected to the Senate. He has told me frequently that he has often regretted giving up his handsome salary as a Superior Court judge to be paid \$500 per month as a state senator.

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In the Assembly, at least 31 of the 80 members give their occupation as "attorney," "attorney-at-law," or "lawyer," with the designation "attorney" far out in front. Actually, there are 32 but the 32nd lawyer tells me that he gets more votes in his Assembly district by not advertising the fact that he is a lawyer. He may be correct.

At least one Republican lawyer who is a candidate for the California Legislature this year has arranged to have his occupation on the ballot shown as something else. The reason is that he has been a registered lobbyist for some large and powerful Texas corporations.

Now I am a Republican, but that does not mean that I am under any moral or legal duty to defend and protect all Republicans no matter what they do. Republicans seem to break some of the Ten Commandments the same as Democrats and those who register as "decline to state." Virtue is non-partisan and so is vice.

This report on the preponderance of lawyers in the California Legislature is timely because the Assembly Constitutional Amendment, which passed from the Assembly to the Senate with only one dissenting vote, and contains provisions for two regular sessions and a pay raise for all legislators also contains provisions to protect the public against lawyers in the Legislature having what is politely called "a conflict of interest." This was written into the proposed amendment to our State Constitution by lawyers in the Assembly, not by those of us who are not lawyers.

Here is one example of a conflict of interest: A lawyer who is a member of the Legislature at the same time can legally accept fees from powerful corporations for giving them legal advice, and at the same time vote for or against bills, in committees and on the floor of the Assembly and the Senate, which directly affect those corporations. At present that is sometimes regarded as not only legal but also ethical.

Samuel L. Clemens, who wrote under the pen name of Mark Twain, in his book, "Life on the Mississippi," said:

"The ethical man is a Christian holding four aces."

For the benefit of those whose card games have been confined to such innocent pastimes as "Authors" and "Old Maid," I must explain that in a draw poker game, a man who holds four aces can well afford to be both a Christian and ethical because with four aces you are the master of the situation.

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Returning to the Republican lawyer-lobbyist who will be on the ballot this June, I am not certain about his record of baptism but his four Texas corporations certainly are aces in any game.

According to Mark Twain, this makes him an ethical man.

An eastern university recently published the results of a survey of the California Legislature and reports that "there are too many attorneys." The report goes on to point out that California lawyer-legislators do not write their own bills, that these are written for them, as they are for the rest of us, by the splendid California lawyers in the office of the Honorable George H. Murphy, Legislative Counsel of the State of California, whose suite of offices is directly under my own in the Capitol.

Do not misunderstand me. I like lawyers. Many of my best friends are lawyers, but like death and taxation, enough is enough, I am glad to report.

El Camino College journalism students scored an unprecedented victory last week during the annual state convention of the Journalism Association of Junior Colleges.

Five individual first-place awards, three second-place trophies, and the convention's sweepstakes trophy and sweepstakes plaque were brought back to El Camino College.

Second-place awards were won by veteran photographer Ray Durlow, magazine writer Linda Yu, and sports writer William Polick.

A certificate of honorable mention in editorial writing was awarded to Susan Anderson, editor-in-chief of the college newspaper.

And publications advisor W. A. Kamrath was elected president of the 60-college organization.

First-place awards were garnered by Al Jacobs, who was honored for a photography series entitled "Watusi Dancer," Kent Davis, feature photography; John Emig, on-the-spot photography; Tom Buckingham, magazine layout, and Bill Packer, on-the-spot rewriting.

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