

Assessment Reform Bill Encounters Roadblocks

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

It's certain now that our 1966 special session will drag on into the 16th week, but beyond that it is impossible to write anything with certainty about how long the session will actually last. It could be that we will have adjourned by the time you read this, but it is almost equally likely that we will still be at work.

A number of major issues are still having very rough going. The two houses are split over proposed constitutional revision, though there are indications that differences will soon be ironed out. The assessment reform bill is encountering stiff going in the Senate, though both the organized county assessors and spokesmen for industry have piously denied that they are trying to kill the measure by loading it with "helpful" amendments.

THE DISPUTE over constitutional revision is especially significant because it is apparently the key log in the jam-up which is blocking final consideration of the \$4.6 billion budget bill for next year. The Assembly has passed and sent to the Senate proposed constitutional amendments to provide for annual legislative general sessions, to establish

conflict-of-interest rules governing private activities of Legislators, and to enable statutory setting of legislative salaries. All these proposals are part of a major revision program being developed by the Constitutional Revision Commission.

Senate leaders are reluctant to put any revision proposals on the ballot this year, especially that relating to

salaries. For a while it looked as though the proposed amendments, together with implementing bills, would die in the Senate.

HOWEVER, persistence by the author of the measure and his Assembly colleagues is apparently paying off, because right now a two-house ten member team seems on its way to working out acceptable compromises. It is understood that the biggest obstacle to agreement is the conflict of interest provision. Legislation relating to it has twice previously been lost in the Senate.

The drunk driving control bill is still getting its lumps in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Previously, the administration-backed measure had squeaked out of

the Assembly Criminal Procedures Committee. The Ways and Means Chairman, an avowed opponent of the bill, was accused by one of its supporters of trying to "hijack" it with one of his proposed amendments which would make it a crime to sell or give liquor to anyone who "might reasonably be expected to become a hazard on California highways."

THE AUTHOR of this suggested change said it would extend the penalty to hosts serving liquor to friends.

The assessment reform bill, designed to overcome the scandals arising from local assessment of personal property, passed the Assembly a month ago, but has been stalled ever since in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee. Recently, it was

referred to a sub-committee for study and some hotly controversial amendments have been offered. As of now, its ultimate fate is still in doubt.

Its main feature, statewide standardization of assessment ratios, is being strongly defended, but the bill will be abandoned if it is lost.

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Armed Forces

Airman Second Class David R. Parr, son of Mrs. Arvilla M. Parr, 21114 LaSalle Ave., has been graduated from the training course for Air Force flight facilities equipment repairman at Keesler AFB, Miss. A Gardena High School graduate, Parr has been assigned to Mather AFB in California for duty with the Air Force Communications Service. He attended Harbor College before entering Air Force service.

Airman 2.C. Donald E. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Johnson of 21006 Reynolds Drive, is now in Viet Nam in the fight against Communist aggression.

Airman Johnson is a personnel specialist in the Pacific Air Forces, the nation's combat-ready air arm guarding the 10,000-mile Bamboo Curtain.

Pvt. Roy E. Muse, whose wife, Nancy, lives at 2718 W. 178th St., completed a Transportation Supply and Parts Specialist course at the Army Transportation School, Fort Eustis, Va., April 29.

The 20-year-old soldier, who completed basic training at Fort Bliss, Tex., was employed by the Douglas Aircraft Torrance Plant before entering the Army in January 1966.

Muse, a 1963 graduate of North Torrance High School, attended El Camino College. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Muse, 17303 Della Ave.

Airman Apprentice Joseph B. Dumont, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dumont of 5103 Lenore St., has reported aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, homeported in Mayport, Fla.

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