

# Riot Control Law Keeps Legislature in Session

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District

It's now apparent that our special session will continue beyond the Fourth of July. As I write this, conferees are trying to iron out the differences between the two houses in the \$4.6 billion budget bill for 1966-67. The tax accrual bill needed to finance it is also in conference. All of us the confident that work on these matters will be wound up before the midnight deadline on June 30, so that state government operations may continue into the new year without interruption.

The Assembly - approved constitutional revision and the legislative salary increase measures have come out of the Senate Finance Committee and are awaiting floor action. The constitutional amendment, which would provide for annual general session of the Legislature, has been amended to cut out the original provision that bills could be carried over from one session to the next. It also provides that while the Legislature would be empowered to set its own salaries, no raise could exceed 5 per cent per year.

This proposed amendment would have to be approved by the voters in November. Its companion bill, which would set the legislative salary at \$16,000 per year and would set controls over conflicts-in-interest, is dependent upon the amendment by the people.

THE controversial assessment reform bill also reached the Senate floor. However, it was amended to include an appropriation to cover the first year's operation, so now requires a two-thirds vote in each house for passage. Supporters of the measure are confident there will be no real trouble in getting the necessary votes.

As anticipated, the latest addition to our long agenda ran quickly into trouble. The proposed legislation, intended to help local police authorities prevent the inciting of

riots, came before the Assembly Criminal Procedures Committee in three different bills, all essentially similar. A lengthy, acrimonious hearing ensued, but the bills stayed in committee.

Most of the bitter debate centered around the administration bill, the last to be

introduced. The Mayor of Los Angeles declared the enactment of a bill is necessary to prevent the sacking and burning of his city. He showed the group literature containing maps of the important industrial centers of his community, which he said was distributed by a "Peking-

dominated" organization. THE LOS ANGELES Chief of Police maintained that his force "is sitting on a powder keg." He asserted his intelligence units are out, that more disturbing information is known that before, and that "some of it we cannot

discuss here." He also dis- played alleged inflammatory posters. Committee members and other witnesses expressed doubts as to the need for, or enforceability of the proposed law. Finally, the committee took the measures "under submission." At that

the bill's author said he did not think it had a prayer. When asked if the committee action killed the bill, the chairman responded that this was not necessarily so, that the measure would be given serious consideration at a later executive session of the group.

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