

SACRAMENTO REPORT

Adjournment Ends Era: Power Shifts to South

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District

The Assembly completed its work at 9:30 p.m. on the evening of Thursday, July 7. The State Senate met on the morning of Friday, July 8 and then the legislature finally adjourned at noon. This means that the legislature will not be in session again until the first Monday of January, 1967. However, there is one "catch" to this. The Governor can call us back to Sacramento for as many extraordinary (special) sessions as he deems desirable.

During 1966 we were in Sacramento for the budget session and two extraordinary sessions. Taking the three sessions as one, we were in session for 21 weeks. This was the longest period of time that the legislature has been in session in the history of California.

We approved a bill for a proposed amendment to the State Constitution giving people the right to vote at the general election in November regarding our salaries and the length of our sessions. It also contains provisions to prevent any member of the legislature from using his office for private advantage. This is commonly called "conflict of interest." Curiously enough those legislators who are lawyers were the ones who insisted on this being in the State Constitution but for the last several weeks of the session they got into bitter arguments among themselves about this feature of the proposed amendment.

We approved a bill for a bond issue for construction of facilities for the various branches of the University of California and the state junior colleges.

We approved a measure which allows \$40 million from the tidelands oil reserves to be used for school construction. A total of \$3.8 million of the money from this source goes to Los Angeles County for a rapid transit system.

We passed a bill regarding inciting to riot. The existing provisions in the criminal laws of California were neither clear enough nor strong enough. This was done as an attempt to prevent, if possible, armed insurrection and riots such as those which have taken place in the Watts area of Los Angeles and elsewhere. I voted for the bill but I doubt that any law actually stops the commission of crimes.

This year marked the end of one era and the beginning of another. The reapportionment of both the assembly and the senate in accordance with mandates issued by the U.S. Supreme Court and the State Supreme Court shifts power from the rural areas of California to the big cities. Only the future can reveal whether this is good or bad. The City of Los Angeles will have more representation in the senate than any other city in California and Los Angeles County will have more senators than any other county.

It seems obvious to me that how our elected representatives vote is more important than the number of people we have in the legislature. For example, we can lose our freedom if the new people elected to the legislature this coming November vote for bills which hamstring the law enforcement officers, enact new taxes, and enact laws which encourage people to avoid work. This can happen.

There will be many new faces in the legislature in 1967. Taking the assembly as an example, the majority of the assemblymen will not return in 1967 for various reasons. One was elected to congress. Several decided that they have had enough hard work at poor pay and did not choose to run for reelection. Many other assemblymen will be elected to the senate.

The most senior in point of service is Vincent Thomas, who started his service in the assembly in 1941. Second in seniority is Lester A. McMillan, who

started in 1943. Third in seniority are John L. E. "Bud" Collier, Charles J. Conrad; and Edward E. Elliott, all of whom first took the oath of office in 1947. Fourth in seniority is Charles W. Meyers, who

came to the legislature in 1949. Fifth is Carley V. Porter, who was first elected at a special election held November 8, 1949.

In the sixth order there are three of us who were elected in November, 1950.

In addition to myself there are Frank P. Belotti and Frank L. Lanterman. This means that we are now completing our 16th year in the assembly.

Eight of us are from Los Angeles County. Charles W.

Meyers is from San Francisco. Curiously enough, Frank P. Belotti, whose home is in Eureka, has been representing Assembly District No. 1, the most northern district in the state. Included in his assembly district there have

been three senatorial districts, but in 1967 Frank Belotti and one other assemblyman will have only one senator to represent their new area. This ends my weekly report to the 46th Assembly District.

Secretaries Hear Attorneys

The Southwest Legal Secretaries Association will meet Thursday, July 21, at 9620 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, at 7 p.m. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.

Attorney Gloria Jory of the Probate Commissioner's office and Attorney Barbara Metcalf, formerly with the Inheritance Tax office, will speak. The meeting is open to all legal secretaries and their bosses in the Southwest area.

Mrs. Claude Ware will represent the local group July 24 through 28 at the annual convention of the National Association of Legal Secretaries, to be held in Louisville, Ky.

INNER DESIGN

"Your Inner Design" will be the sermon topic at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services Sunday at the Church of Religious Science, 907 Knob Hill Ave., Redondo Beach.



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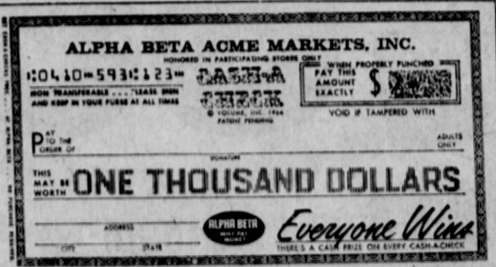
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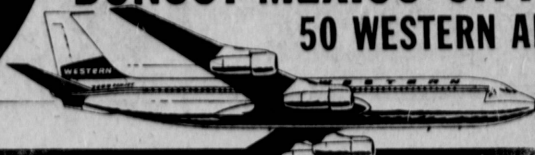
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