State Must Close \$250 Million Gap

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District
Now that our protracted
1966 sessions are over, we
can catch our breaths and tike
retrospective looks at the results we achieved. During the sults we achieved. During the sults we achieved. During the last hectic days of any session, it is almost impossible to keep track of any issues except those in which we are personally concerned.

All of us are much interested in how the \$4.59 billion budget for the current fiscal year will work out, and in the effect of the accrual system

on keeping it in balance. The financial experts who advised the administration, both our houses, and both groups of party members on the intricacies of the accrual method assure us that it will work as assure us that it will work as predicted, but it's a first time, and some misgivings are only natural. Accrual must close a \$250 million gap.

MANY MEMBERS and most outside observers are convinced that sizeable increases in state taxes will be needed to balance the 1967-68 budget. A deficit between income and outgo of as high as \$350 million has been forecast. The chairman of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Com-mittee has said that "some increases in taxes will be nec-essary." His assembly count-erpart, however, has said that he does not consider "a tax

he does not consider "a tax increase to be inevitable." The total budget figure of \$4.59 billion breaks down into major categories as follows. There is \$1.337 billion for current operations of state government during the year. More than \$2.313 billion is allocated for local assistance to counties, cities, school and other districts. Provision for capital outlay includes \$373 million from current funds, and \$566.3 million from variance. ous bond funds.

AMONG THE amounts ap-AMONG THE amounts appropriated for current support, the largest is that for higher education — the University and state colleges — \$404.0 million. Next is health and welfare, \$207.8 million. Third is transportation, \$203.1 million. Then comes correctional institutions at \$115.5 million. Fifth comes resources, excluding the state water project, at \$79.8 mil-

water project, at \$79.8 million.

In local assistance, far in the lead is aid to local school districts at \$1.235 billion. Health and welfare grants will come to \$560.0 million. Shared revenues, mostly the 1 percent sales tax, will account for \$456.5 million.

The largest appropriation for construction from current revenues is that for highways,

\$314.8 million, 87 percent of the total in this category.

CONSTRUCTION expenditures from various bond funds include \$181.5 million for general state building and for general state building and comprehend those for higher education. Parks and recreation will account for \$52.2 million. Expenditures planned for water development will total \$332.6 million from two sources, the state water project bond act, and the older Central Valley Project band Central Valley Project bond

Over and above these budg eted items, however, will be the expenditures which were authorized by other bills passed. A \$230 million bond issue to finance still more higher education and instituitional facilities will appear on the November ballot. Another bill, which will go into effect after it is signed, appropri-ates an additional \$42.2 mil-lion for grants to impover-ished school districts to im-prove their instructional prove their instructional standards.

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