AUGUST 3, 1966

State to Join New Educational Compact

By VINCENT THOMAS Assemblyman, 68th District Home rule has always been a basic principle in our American system of public education. But the combination of skyrocketing costs and the nowledge explosion have made it almost impossible to orighe. In the interests of improving the quality of education for all our young people, have been forced to turn to state government. Our federal government has been

drawn into the fiscal picture to an even larger extent. In-

to an even with the money comes the strings. In 1964 a noted American educator and critic of our educational policies at the elementary and secondary levels first proposed a national educational association of state government officials. He declared that collective actional problems is necessary to curtail the increasing invasion of educational affairs by the federal government. THE PROPOSAL was quickly adopted by the Governor of one of the eastern states. Together with the educator, he soon presented it to the National Governors' Conference. The idea was received with open arms, and in September, 1965, a conference attended by all 50 states and several territories was held to draft what is now called the Compact on Education. Our Governor put the mat-

Our Governor put the matter of California becoming one of the party states to this Compact on the agenda for our first special session. Because of pressure of other matters it could not be acted upon until after the first meeting of the "Educational Commission of the States." as the operating organization of the Compact is called. This commission is composed of seven representatives of each of the party states, its Governor, two legislators, and four educational members

EVEN THOUGH we had not yet joined the Compact, a full California delegation was

sent to the meeting on a nonvoting basis. Our delegation, headed by the Assembly member, participated fully in the commission discussions. It developed several recommendations for changes in Compact provisions and commission policies, which were adopted without opposition of any significance.

any significance. The first of these recommendations is basic to the organization and continuous operation of the commission. and was deliberately drafted to comulta the important

members, 10 of them Goverloss. ors, to run the operations combetween annual meetings, and did not specify the number of Legislator members The California proposal on of dopted increases this number to 32, but equalizes the number of Governors and e or-Legislators at 8 each.

opion, THE SECOND suggestion fted calls for the appointment of e of expert advisory committees to

pass on proposed studies. The third is that all state deleg tions be consulted by ma before any study is started.

The bill to authorize Callfornia to join the Compact passed late in June, but set. a two-year renewable limit on membership. Our Assembly. members said the existence of the Compact should comy a pel the federal government to seek advice from the commission before proceeding with new federal education programs, a highly desirable goal. Purple Ht being sough Lomita, Ha thorne, and become cha a new chapj Order of t of the Unite ica.' Objective ter will be EXHIBIT O Mrs, Lind dondo Bese

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