

# State Curtails Medi-Cal Costs

Capitol News Service  
**SACRAMENTO**—The brakes have been applied to California's Medi-Cal program of health service, according to Spencer Williams, administrator of the health and welfare agency, to the extent of some \$810 million dollars for the current fiscal year.

But the pressure will be gentle, Williams indicated in a press interview. The curtailments will be accomplished, he said, without removing any of the million and a half persons eligible from the Medi-Cal roles, and with provision of "good medical care for those who need such care."

Williams announced that in accordance with the terms fixed by the 1967 legislature, his administration is undertaking a \$600 million instead of a previously contemplated \$810 million dollar program.

**THE CURTAILED** program, he said, provides for physician's services, hospitalization, laboratory and X-ray fees, life-maintaining drugs, essential ambulance service, home health care, and a \$10 million emergency fund for other vital services in special cases.

Earlier, the program faced a deficit of \$210 million, which was reduced partially by enactment of a new accounting measure, and modification of federal nursing home requirements.

Williams said other major steps in keeping the program

- at a \$600 million expenditure level this year include:
- A roll-back on physicians fees to levels of last January, which will be made while still preserving the concept of usual and customary fees.
- Controls to prevent payment to physicians whose pattern of practice is found to be beyond the norms of accepted community standards.
- Review of nursing home admissions to eliminate those which are unnecessary.
- Restricting surgery to that necessary for treatment of injuries and life-threatening conditions.
- An eight-day limit on hospital stays in non-county hospitals. Should longer treatment be needed, patients may be transferred to county hospitals, nursing homes, or home care.
- Payment of life-maintaining prescriptions.
- Restriction of dental care to emergencies.
- Elimination of certain other care such as eye-glasses, hearing aids and special supplies.

**THE WELFARE** administrator said he thought the new restrictions would be sufficient to put the program on a sound basis, and wipe out the deficit.

Efforts to maintain as much care as possible will be made, he indicated, and if the reductions result in material savings, the care can be again extended.

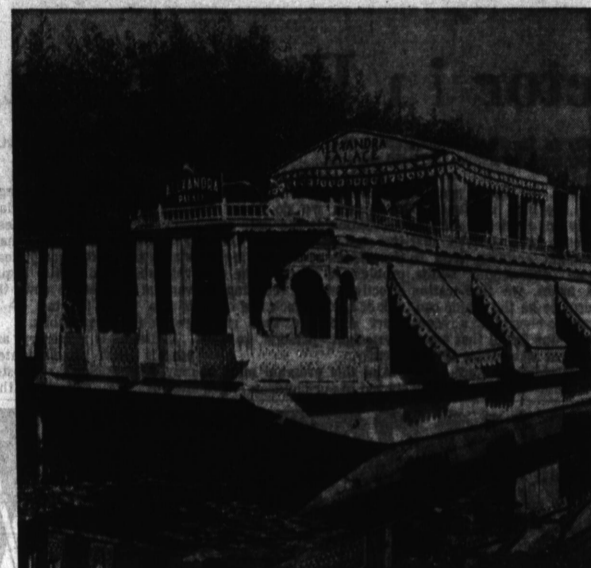
The revisions apply only to Medi-Cal, he said, and not to the Medicare program.

**REGARDING** complaints of delays in payments to both physicians and druggists, he said these are being taken care of as rapidly as possible.

He also declared he believes the new curtailments will speed up the payments process, in view of the fact that there will be fewer claims to process.

Williams has the backing of the California Medical Association, and the hospitals in the curtailments he plans. Henry Jackson, president of the California Hospital Association, appeared with him at the press conference.

**In Hospital**  
 Glenna Kroll, 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kroll of 19505 Beckworth Ave., has been admitted as a patient at Orthopaedic Hospital in Los Angeles.



**HOUSEBOAT . . .** The Alexander Palace, a houseboat moored on Lake Del in Kashmir, India, was home for Press-Herald art and travel columnist Larry Macary and his four group during their visit to the Kashmir area of India. Macary describes the beautiful Vale of Kashmir in today's "Let's Go" column.

## ...Let's Go

By LARRY MACARY

Throughout the ages, adventurers have always sought the ideal paradise in which to live. It is a Shangri-La in this real world. Many have found it—in Capri, Tahiti, Bali, Kashmir, and a few other choice places. So many of these paradises have now become overpopulated and have long catered to the curious and inquiring tourists.

My first trip, just concluded, to Kashmir, was exciting. Truly one of the places where I have not encountered either American tourists, it is the Northernmost state in India. The most unique accommodations ever offered anywhere are here. Houseboats on Lake Dal, where visitors can enjoy the crystal clear water, are the most private and luxurious that one can ask for.

The Vale of Kashmir is about 6,000 feet in altitude, about 80 miles long and 20 miles wide, and ringed with the splendor of snow-capped ranges of the mighty Himalayas. Srinagar, the capital of the state, occupies the center of the valley and is Kashmir's major attraction. This ancient city of Srinagar spreads out on both sides of the river Jhelum, which is spanned by nine bridges. Writers have long likened it to Venice because of its romantic waterways.

**KASHMIR HAS** always been a Himalayan refuge from the summer heat. All the conquerors of India—Afghan, Mogul, as well as British, have enjoyed this cool, lush valley as a vacation playground. I agree with all of the people who have journeyed there throughout the centuries. It was hot and humid in New Delhi when we left by plane for Srinagar.

Flying into the Vale of Kashmir was like entering a different world. The Vale is heavily overcast most of the time, so entering it is not always guaranteed. Much of the time, planes must return to New Delhi because of the cloudy conditions. In our case, we did not know until

the very last part of the flight whether we could land or not.

What a surprise to see Indians who resembled Europeans. Many of them are very light skinned and have blue eyes. A simple explanation—as long as 5,000 years ago—these people were submerged by successive waves of Aryans, who began pouring into India through the mountain passes of the northwest. After seeing these very handsome people of Kashmir, it becomes apparent that meeting the typical Indian may be as elusive as meeting the typical American.

**THE CRAFTSMEN** and salesmen in Srinagar are almost without equal—in quality and persistence—except perhaps, the Chinese in Hong Kong. The finest rug I saw made in Kashmir. I visited a typical rug factory and saw entire families working on one rug. The designs are the same that they have used for hundreds of years and they are still good. The prices are unusually inexpensive, but their labor is cheap—which is something that we in America do not understand.

Near the city are some of the most beautiful gardens in the world. They were laid out by Mogul Emperors to complement the breathtaking setting of the paradise called Kashmir. I visited three of these gardens and was quite taken with Shalimar—the abode of Love. How sad that the famous gardens should be in such poor condition as when I saw them. The fountains were dry and much of the masonry was in dire need of repair.

As I stood in the old summer house in Shalimar overlooking the gardens below, I remembered Henrietta Merriker's words, "I wandered where once the beautiful Nourmahal, 'Light of the Harem,' laughed and loved and danced beside the same fountains that played for me. Surely they sang: 'Tale hands I loved beside the Shalimar. Where are you now?'"

## Cityhood Gets Large Response

Petitions calling for the incorporation of the Carson-Dominguez community have been pouring into the Citizens' Committee for Incorporation's recently opened headquarters, according to John Junk, committee chairman. Junk reports a flood of citizens into the office to sign petitions and offer help in the incorporation effort. "This is Co., and Manuel Gonzales, representative," Junk told the Press-Herald, "of the desire of the residents of this area to have their own city."

## May Co. Promotes Three Men

Three personnel promotions within the advertising department of May Co. California have been announced by Cortland A. Peterson, vice president, sales promotion and publicity, for the firm.

Michael Lynn has been appointed to the position of basement advertising manager. Formerly men's fashion and home furnishings copy chief, Lynn has been with May Co. since May, 1965.

Olof Marneus, who has been with May Co. as a special assignment, copywriter since April, 1966, will assume the position of men's fashion and home furnishings copy chief.

David Hargreaves has been promoted to suburban advertising manager. He continues as media director for May Co. Hargreaves was formerly basement and suburban advertising manager. He has been with the firm for 6½ years.

## News Report Denied by Governor

**SACRAMENTO**—Was Governor Ronald Reagan's presidential slip showing? Or did the New York Times "fabricate" a story?

In any event, Reagan has issued a statement charging the Times with the latter in a story reporting an alleged request from him to Senator John Tower and Governor Claude Kirk of Florida—that they withhold support from Richard M. Nixon.

"I have not asked any of our party's leaders to support or not support any possible presidential candidate, nor do I intend to do so," Reagan said. "Neither have I indicated that I am seeking the support of our party's leaders."

"On the contrary, I have made it very clear—and I will continue to do so—that I am not a candidate for president or any other national office," he said.

"The New York Times story obviously is not designed to do our party any good," Reagan said. "It appears that its sole purpose is to attempt again the same old 'divide and conquer' effort that has been used in the past to defeat our party. This time it will not work."

## Elect Officer

Jerry Gilbert of Hacienda Heights, has been elected as assistant vice president of Great Western Financial Corp.

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## Name New Dean

Dr. Walter Arnell, 2 Chestfield Road, Rolling Hills, has been named dean of the new School of Engineering at California State College

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## Orthodox Study Group Will Meet

The Very Rev. Father Sergei Glagolev, pastor of St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Encino, will speak to a summer study group at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, 722 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Father Glagolev is founder and director of the Southern California Pan-Orthodox Choir, which is composed of members of most Orthodox churches in the Southland.

The summer study group has been meeting weekly since June under the guidance of the Rev. Father Theodore Isaia, interim priest, to learn about and discuss various aspects of the Eastern Orthodox faith.

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