

Rapid Transit District Sets Travel Habit Survey

Southern California Rapid Transit District, in the interest of improving ExtraCAR service for the Greater Los Angeles area, is currently inaugurating one of the most extensive ExtraCAR travel habit surveys in the history of RTD.

This inquiry is being conducted, on RTD's ExtraCARS, by Day & Zimmermann, Inc., a traffic and transportation consulting engineering firm. Special "checkers" will hand a RTD passenger a numbered slip when boarding the bus. ExtraCAR rider, upon arriving at his destination, will then give identification slip to "checker" as he leaves

the bus. If passenger is transferring to another ExtraCAR, he should write the intersection of his destination on the slip, or ask "checker" to do it for him.

Facts obtained from this survey will be incorporated into projecting the best scheduled bus service at the most economical and feasible fares.

In addition, RTD recently introduced 225 new air conditioned ExtraCARS to Southern California. This is establishing policy of purchasing only air conditioned buses to complement plans for high-speed air conditioned Rapid Transit trains.

Sales Tax Levy Hinges on Approval of Relief Plan

By EDWIN S. CAPPS

Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — The people of California may get some tax relief this year by accident and it would be a tax-saving that all could recognize.

If the legislature does not take action before July to provide at least \$1555 million in property tax relief, the state sales tax would drop from 4 per cent to 3½ per cent. This is provided in a bill which was passed in the 1967 legislative session.

There are many around Sacramento who believe the lawmakers will fail to reach agreement on any property tax relief program by July 1 and the half-cent sales tax decrease will take place. In fact, there are some legislators who feel this should happen as the people would be sure to get reduced taxes in this manner.

IT'S NOT QUITE that simple, of course. The revenue from one-half cent sales tax for a year is just about \$200 million. Thus, if the tax remains at 4 per cent and \$155 million is provided in property tax relief, the state still would be collecting about \$45 million a year.

If the tax dropped back the half-cent on the other hand, the state would lose the \$45 million a year in revenue. In a year when the legislature will be hard-put to balance a \$5.7 billion budget for 1968-

69, a loss of \$45 million could be significant.

Governor Ronald Reagan has proposed a relatively simple plan for property tax relief. It would give the full one-half cent of the sales tax to the counties, in return for the counties taking over payment of about \$38 million in programs which the state now pays.

THE COUNTY Supervisors Association of California is all for this plan but that's about the extent of the support. Many legislators and taxpayers groups fear that the revenue from the sales tax could be returned to the counties and the property owner still would be paying the same tax rate.

The legislature has known about its July 1 deadline for providing tax relief since the session opened in early January. But at this stage, little if any progress has been made toward reaching a solution — other than the proposal of Governor Reagan. That plan, incidentally, is contained in AB149 by Assemblyman John G. Veneman (R-Modesto). The bill has been approved by Veneman's revenue and taxation committee but now faces a test before the assembly ways and means committee.

Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood) said he doesn't feel the lawmakers are ready to work for a solution to the property tax relief problem yet, Unruh said they

will have to be faced with the prospect of the loss of revenue if no bill is passed before they will be in the proper frame of mind to hammer out a program.

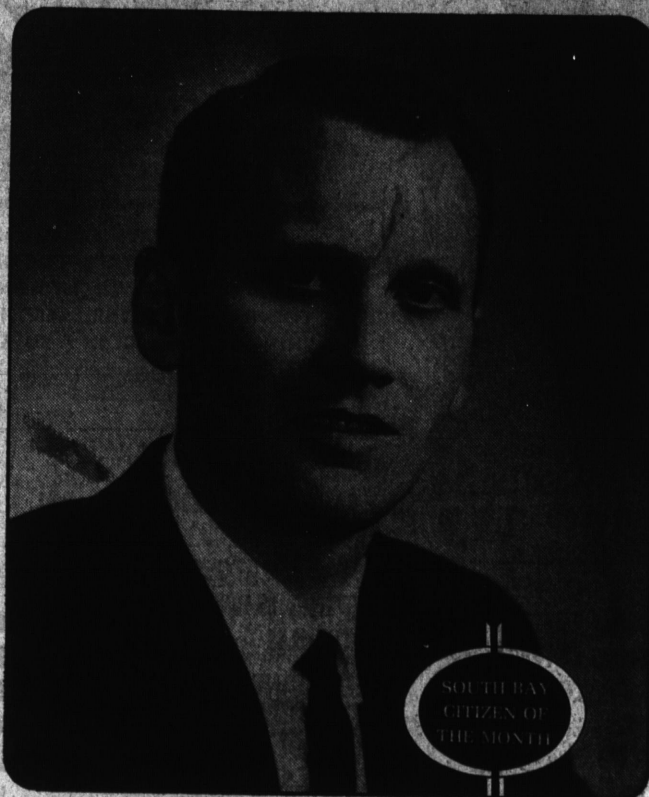
IT MAY BE possible, Unruh said, that the legislature will have to let the sales tax drop back by the half-cent

July 1, then come back in late summer or early fall to pass any major or far-reaching legislation. Most of the legislators are preoccupied with their own re-election problems, not to mention the national political scene.

The state senate has indicated it wants to pass a budget and get home. The assembly would like to take a two-

time to four-week recess for the primary election and come back and spend the summer and fall months considering legislation.

The question of whether the legislature takes a recess or not could have an important bearing on whether there is property tax relief or sales tax relief.



What special quality do those people have who act quickly and effectively in an emergency, while countless others stand helplessly by?

William Doucette probably couldn't answer that question, even though he is one of those people. A child is alive today because Doucette responded instantly to a call for help. Racing up a hill, he found a young boy buried from his head to his waist in sand, dug him out with his hands and performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until the child finally coughed, then took a breath. It is not so striking that William Doucette cares. We all care. But William Doucette acted — and that's the dividing line between a compassionate man and a committed one.



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London Bobbies To Be Honored At Police Event

The nation's largest single observance of Police Week, of the chairman of the Board May 12 through 18, will occur in Hollywood Wednesday, May 15, at a banquet to be attended by peace officers and citizens from throughout Los Angeles County—and two English "bobbies" from London.

More than 2,500 guests are expected at the second annual Police Week Recognition Dinner to be held in the Hollywood Palladium, according to the sponsoring Law Enforcement and Community Recognition Association (LECRA) of Los Angeles County.

Mayors, top-ranking public officials, and leading businessmen of the county will attend to "honor the Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles City Police Department, 46 other municipal police departments, and the California Highway Patrol," Jack Webb, honorary chairman of Police Week, said.

THE TELEVISION star, familiar to millions as "Sergeant Friday" of the "Dragnet" series, also said county marshals and state police are among the "14,000-man peace officer contingent within Los Angeles County" being honored at the dinner.

Two of the lawmen will be Constables P. S. Probert and R. E. Woods, of the police force of Metropolitan London. They are being flown here by LECRA to assist in countywide celebrations of Police Week.

The two "bobbies," incidentally, will be taken in tow by Tony Bishop, LECRA official who himself was once a town councilman in Harrow in his native England. Bishop, a specialist for TRW Systems in Redondo Beach, also is dinner chairman.

Another feature of the dinner will be the display of a unique metal plaque, 4-feet

square, bearing the signatures of the chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the mayors of all 77 incorporated cities in the county proclaiming the period May 12 through 18 as Police Week.

The plaque is unique because it represents the first time in the county's history when all city fathers have jointly signed a single document of this description.

The plaque will be presented to the Sheriff's Department in recognition of its countywide role.

The program will be open to the public. Tickets can be obtained by telephoning LECRA at 830-8833.

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