

New Tools Needed for War on Crime, Reagan Says

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

SACRAMENTO — (CNS) — In all the constructive programs offered by Governor Ronald Reagan for the betterment of California during his term of office as chief executive, his suggestions to the state legislature for the improvement of criminal justice stands out as one which may have the most impact on the lives of the citizenry.

Terming crime as California's most important internal problem, Reagan pointed out that statistics over the past 10 years show a continuing increase, which will extend into the foreseeable future without

steps being taken for crime prevention.

In fact, in California, the crime rate has grown a full 17 per cent in a year's period, and is almost twice as much as the national average. Solutions continue to decline.

"All this is especially important," the governor says, "when one takes into account that only a very minor portion of all crimes are reported to the police."

Any successful attack in the war on crime, he says, must come from a multi-disciplined approach, and victory will be achieved only through a co-ordinated attack by all agencies

of government, supported and assisted by all concerned citizens.

New laws, he explained, are necessary, to fix responsibility for individual conduct, and to improve the state's responsibility to protect the public safety. The governor points out that about a third of all Americans believe it is unsafe to walk alone at night in their own neighborhoods, and that approximately a third of the populace have firearms in their homes for protection against criminals.

"We in California have great reason for concern," he said. But the crime increase can-

not be halted by the mere passage of new and more stringent penalties for crime, but rather, an improved outlook on the causes of crime and the general attitude of the people. It is this long-range outlook that Governor Reagan has adopted, plus some immediate improvements to initiate a trend toward reduction in the activities of California's criminal element.

First, proposed legislation would curtail the crime-inciting of obscene material by prohibiting it to be sold to the youth of the state, and make convictions for violation easier in the courts, as well as to provide that matter appealing to

deviant sexual interests can be prosecuted.

He would also permit law enforcement agencies to use modern methods of surveillance through communications services.

"Organized crime," he states, uses the best and most modern scientific devices to rob, cheat and destroy. Vice operations including narcotics traffic, make widespread use of communications service. With proper safeguards, there is no sound reason why law enforcement should not be able to utilize modern technological advances in waging war against crime."

The governor would restore to cities and counties the ability to enact ordinances relating to local problems, without fear in the courts of state pre-emption.

Reagan proposed tougher control of the use of firearms during commission of crimes, withholding probation in such instances, thus strengthening penalties for illegal use of weapons without interfering with legitimate use of firearms.

Further, he contemplates strengthening of the laws concerning riot control through permitting action by law enforcement authorities and

prosecutors against rioters without the necessity of proving "specific intent" as is now required.

Halt of the flow of narcotics into California, insofar as possible, will be requested of the federal government, plus a public education campaign against drugs.

Rehabilitation program enhancement is being sought as one means of crime reduction, and special emphasis is being put on this subject.

All-in-all, Governor Reagan's requests for a concentrated attack on crime represents an outstanding effort to make California a safe place to live.

Your Right to Know
Is the Key to All Your Liberties

Comment and Opinion

C-2 PRESS-HERALD

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One Out of 4,000

Some 4,000 bills have been placed into the hopper for consideration by the state's assembly and senate during the current legislative session.

One of those bills—the only one—for tax reform has drawn more criticism in a week than all other 3,999 combined.

Gov. Ronald Reagan, reacting to what Dr. Jack P. Crowther, superintendent of Los Angeles City Schools, called a "mandate of the people" (for tax reform), has introduced legislation which would provide exactly that.

While other legislators are concerned about bills making it unlawful for a drunk mental patient to possess firearms and exempting unsold wine from inheritance and gift taxes, the governor stepped forward with a bold new program only to run into his perpetual critic, Democrat Jesse M. Unruh of Inglewood.

Unruh, traditionally, was quick to criticize—and likewise, traditionally, didn't offer a "better idea." Nor did any other of his statewide counterparts.

The people of this state have waited patiently for their representatives in government to come up with new tax reform plans. And they have waited—and waited and waited.

Meanwhile, school officials have joined the voters in calling for tax reforms to relieve their financial crisis.

Homeowners, who face mounting property tax bills annually, have lived in "financial crisis" situations for years.

We believe that before Assemblyman Unruh begins to attack an attempt to satisfy the wishes of this state, he should come up with a workable plan to offer in return.

Unruh was the foremost critic of County Assessor Philip Watson's Proposition 9 last year which would have provided sufficient property tax relief and perhaps would have made voters a little more receptive to school bond and tax override issues this year.

Instead, Unruh, in floundering haste, authored Proposition 1A, a haphazard tax relief attempt and offered \$70 a vote in the form of tax refunds to get it passed.

The only real relief provided in Proposition 1A was for the legislators as it got them off the hook for another year in finding new, reasonable methods of taxation.

But now Governor Reagan has placed the problem back where it belongs and already clouds of fear are hanging low over the capitol building. The major weapon is criticism.

Unruh says the governor's plan "declares war on the middle class" and talks of the man making \$15,000 per year — which shows he's a little bit out of touch right there.

But the middle class of this state has long been defeated by inequitable taxation.

We almost expect Unruh to come up with a "Proposition 2A" this time offering perhaps \$75 instead of \$70 (inflationary times) in refunds in order to gain sufficient votes to counteract an honest attempt to pull the homeowner out of a "poverty tax bracket."

The homeowner has too long been the taxation fall guy in this state and now he deserves a break—even from Unruh.

Other Opinions

If the government doesn't watch out it's liable to price itself right out of the postal business. Before long it will be cheaper for business firms, in some instances, to use the telephone. And the rising postal rates very likely will result in the general public corresponding less with friends and relatives.—Ocala (Fla.) Star-Banner.

The proper place to start curbing is not in the electric chair, but in the high chair.—Sequim (Wash.) Press.

An Evening at the Theater



SACRAMENTO REPORT

Fluoridation's Backers, Foes Gird for New Battle

By RALPH C. DILLS
Senator, 32nd District

An issue which has always ranked high in controversy is about to be revived in the California legislature. The subject is fluoridation of domestic water supplies, and it is anything but new to lawmakers.

One of my colleagues has announced he will introduce legislation which would provide fluoridated water to all Californians. The bill instructs the state department of public health to mandate that appropriate levels of fluoridation be contained in all California domestic water supplies.

But, the author quickly adds, the measure would also provide for a petition effort by voters of a given water service

area to oppose the fluoridation mandate and call for a special election to decide on the question. A negative vote by a majority of the voters would rescind the mandate.

Proponents of fluoridation cite the heavy costs involved when waters are not fluoridated. The bill's author quotes a state department of public health survey which estimates the annual "cost avoidance" in dental care that would result from the correction of fluoride-deficient water supplies with 200 connections or more throughout California beginning in 1970.

Supporters of the fluoridation plan say that in 30 years' time the estimated accrued savings to California taxpayers and

citizens would approach \$12 billion.

The savings quoted by the public health report include the cost of both private dental care and tax-supported services to the medically indigent which are directly caused by tooth decay. It is pointed out that decayed teeth account for over 50 per cent of the total current costs of dental services.

On the other hand, say those in favor of fluoridation, the cost involved in total capital and operating costs for a fluoridation program breaks down to about 30 cents per person per year, or even lower in some cases.

Several stands have been taken over the years in opposition to the fluoridation of public water supplies. Opponents cite socialized medicine, infringing on the sacred rights of the home, and even unconstitutionality. These opponents, at least thus far, have been effective and successful in holding back the tide of fluoridation in California. They have not been as successful in other states and communities.

Statewide fluoridation legislation has been enacted in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan, plus 25 additional states which are fluoridated from 50 to 90 per cent. California, ranking first in population, ranks 42nd in fluoridation.

San Francisco and Vallejo both have fluoridated systems, with per child costs for dental needs running \$26.35 and \$27.77 respectively. The author of the new legislation points to figures from Berkeley and San Joaquin County, neither of which has fluoridated water, where costs per child ranged upward to \$70 and \$85.55 respectively.

Whatever the outcome of the fluoridation legislation this time around, California voters may rest assured the subject will receive full and comprehensive hearing before a final decision is made.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Old-Timers Look Back On Days of 'The Big Shake'

They're going fast now — those old-timers who remember The Great Fire (and lower-case earthquake) of April 18, 1906. Friday marks the 63rd anniversary, and only a dwindling few will be able to look back over the years to the beautiful April dawn that was shattered by a catastrophe that changed Old San Francisco forevermore into The City That Was.

They seem to have been a special lot living in a special place, those True San Franciscans of '06. Today you look at their pictures and find it hard to identify with them — those severe-looking women, those hairy young men whose beards made them look old; beards today are the badge of youth. In face of destruction and privation, they were proud, brave and humorous; it was then, in the burning city of 1906, that the San Francisco spirit was born, to become famous around the world.

If it still exists — and may it never be put to so grueling a test — it is thanks to these people, of whom Maj. Gen. A. W. Greeley, the martial law administrator was able to write: "It is safe to say that 200,000 people were brought to a state of complete destitution. Yet I never saw a woman in tears, nor heard a man whine over his losses." Maybe cocky is the word for these forebears, who immediately posted signs all over the

ruined city reading "Eat, drink, and be merry — tomorrow you may have to go to Oakland." Cocky was certainly the word for the then young Larry Harris, who lost no time writing his defiant poem about "The damndest

Report from Our Man in San Francisco

finest ruins ever gazed on anywhere!"

As the pall still hung over the hills, these people vowed to build a bigger, finer city, and perhaps they did. The phoenix bird, rising out of ashes, became the symbol, and the buildings began to grow again, with remarkable speed (only nine years later, San Francisco charmed the world afresh with a glittering International Exposition. But even then the doubts were growing: had something irretrievable been lost to the flames? Will Irwin was foremost among those who thought so. As the buildings were still toppling, he lamented the death of "the most pleasuring and carefree city of the Western continent." It would be rebuilt, he said, "but it would never be the same."

What was it that died on April 18, 1906? What was this quality that, in a few decades, had transformed a Gold Rush village into a world-renowned city? What outlandish dreams

and ambitions enabled these early San Franciscans to build so grandly and so well? Even the old-timers who knew the magic are no longer sure what it was: "Well" — much rubbing of chin and watery eyes — "it was smaller, friendlier. Everybody knew everybody else. Goats on Telegraph Hill, cobblestone streets, cable lines everywhere, that sort of thing. Lots of wonderful saloons, cheap food, cheap wine. I don't know — it was like a party was going on all the time." Trying to make amends: "Of course the city is better today. Much bigger and richer" — and then the voice falters, the eyes look into the distance to whatever it was in the City That Was...

Quote

There is no magic in a number. Twenty-one as "the age of adulthood" grew out of medieval days. A man was not thought physically able to carry a full suit of armor until he reached the age of 21 — Assemblyman John Vasconcellos.

It is sad but true that under our system many people who work for a living and pay taxes can afford less medical care than those on welfare. — Senator Alfred H. Song.

THE MONEY TREE

Egg Producers Panic at Thought of New Surplus

By MILTON MOSKOWITZ

If you think eggs cost too much, blame it on our crazy-quilt economy where production has to be restrained so that prices can be maintained.

While newspapers across the country were filled recently with stories about the plight of the hungry in America, the United Egg Producers, a nationwide federation of egg suppliers, slipped an advertisement into the Wall Street Journal imploring bankers to cold-shoulder loan applications for expansion of flocks.

Judging from their ad, the egg producers are really desperate. They headlined their message, "An Urgent Plea to the Bankers of America." And they went on to state: "The Egg Industry of America needs your help in preventing a new round of disastrous over-expansion."

The egg boys explained that new flocks are being started this year "at a truly alarming rate." Flock expansion is generally underwritten by long-term credit, and the industry wants the bankers to clamp down on this credit.

Bankers were advised — warned is a better term — to ask every loan applicant this question: "Do you have guaranteed sales for this new production or will it become surplus?" Or, as they put it in the trade, "Do you have a home for the eggs?"

If the answer is "no," then, said the industry, "let the banker beware."

Here's a highly unusual fac-

tic — an industry group which goes crying to the banking establishment to cut off lines of credit to people who want to expand the industry's output.

A Look at the World of Finance

Expansion of output is obviously the last thing the egg industry wants.

What burns fiercely in the minds of the egg producers is the experience of 1967 and early 1968 when the hens outdid themselves, causing a severe slump in prices. There were emergency cutbacks of flocks to cut down on egg production. The United Egg Producers was organized in 1968 as a result of this panic situation.

The nation's hens produced 70 billion eggs in 1967, an 8 per cent gain over 1966 output. That's where the trouble started. We may have hungry people, but egg production had to be curtailed to keep the prices in line.

Behind the scenes is a basic change in the egg business. Once an agricultural sideline, it's now a highly specialized business in which huge flocks are maintained in a controlled environment.

The name of the game, as in the automobile business, is greater productivity. The average egg-laying hen in the U.S. today produces 60 per cent more eggs than she did in 1940. A healthy hen will lay more than 200 eggs in a year.

The egg industry seems to be heading in the same direction as the broiler industry, where big producers are taking increasingly larger chunks of the market. Our biggest chicken producer today is a cereal maker, Ralston-Purina. Pillsbury is another major chicken grower.

In the broiler industry, 15 companies control more than half of the production. There's nothing like that concentration in the egg industry. However, there are industry observers who predict that in 10 years 50 companies will control half of the egg-laying hens in the country.

And that might be good news for the consumer. The advent of the commercial broiler "factories" brought about a huge expansion of production and lower poultry prices.

As for eggs, our per capita consumption today is about the same as it was 30 years ago. Meanwhile, prices have more than doubled. And the United Egg Producers is doing its best to hold down the hens and keep up the prices.

Press-Herald

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Students Take Red Cross

More than 100 student leaders of Los Angeles Red Cross Youth Administration operated the various service programs throughout the community. The Southern Ice Center in Sacramento managed by And Pedro High, his manager and administrator were David and Patricia Spivey, also from High.

Torrance High Nancy Kardos and her worked as a representative and participated in a operation at the in Wilmington.

RED CROSS Secretary families was Margaret Rabelo, dro High and Kett of Carson High students Colma Lopez worked Red Cross nursing Participating in Youth activities Stern of San Pedro Lora Munoz of L Students from ern schools worked side with key Red and volunteers at gees Chapter her 1200 S. Vermont Bradley, Banning chapter manager liott, Narbonne deputy manager Jessop, San Pedro region III deputy Stanley Harmon, High, was directed to military family Fields, San Pedro Red Cross youth Barbara Wra High, was vice volunteers.

ROSIE VOIC High, was safety rector; Renee I Pedro High, was nursing program Lazo, Mary Star was on the pul staff; and Jeff rance High, was print shop. The purpose of cording to Donald Cross youth program for Los Angeles is "to provide people an opportunity by actual experience Cross serves the al and international event.

Pay Dividend Security Pacific Bank's Board of declared a regular dividend of 32 cents on the 14,000,000 standing, payable shareholders of 15.

CASH ON THE MOT BOO

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